

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 274 (Wales) – 10 June 2020

Electoral registration: performance standards for Electoral Registration Officers

As you will know, we carried out [a consultation on new performance standards for Electoral Registration Officers](#) (EROs) earlier this year, with the aim of establishing a new set of standards which can be used by EROs and the Commission throughout the year to understand and improve their performance, ensuring ultimately that registers are as accurate and complete as possible, enabling everyone who is eligible and wants to, to be able to vote.

Overall, the feedback we received has been positive and respondents welcomed the changes we proposed. On the whole, respondents agreed that the standards – with some minor amendments – along with the proposed tools and templates to be provided by the Commission, will support EROs with understanding and improving their own performance.

However, as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic, we recognise that not everyone who would have wanted to respond to the consultation was able to do so.

We have therefore decided to defer finalising the standards for a year, to enable further feedback to be provided.

However, although we are not formally launching the standards this year, we nevertheless still believe it is important to make them and the accompanying tools and templates available as they form a key part of our guidance and support package which aims to assist EROs with planning for and delivering well-run electoral registration services across Great Britain.

The [performance standards](#) have now been published on our website, alongside our [response to the consultation](#), which summarises the comments we received during the consultation period and gives our response to the points that were made. It also sets out how we will use the standards over the next year.

In addition, we will be making available a range of additional tools and resources to support you with using the standards to

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EA Bulletins are issued on a regular basis. They are one of our key channels for communicating with Returning Officers, Electoral Registration Officers and their staff. Past issues of Bulletins for England, Scotland and Wales are available [here](#). You can also [subscribe to the EA Bulletins](#).

Please [keep us informed](#) of any staff changes within your team. This will help us to keep our mailing lists up-to-date.

If there is a new RO/ERO appointment in your authority, please contact the team in Wales by e-mailing infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk

understand and improve your own performance. These will be available from the end of June and we will confirm in a future Bulletin when they have been published.

As always, if you have any questions, please do contact infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

Job vacancies at the Commission

As set out in [Bulletin 273](#) we currently have the following vacancy in our Wales team:

- Communications Officer

The closing date for applications for this post is today, 10 June 2020. If you would like to discuss the role, please contact Cath Uphill on 02920 346802.

We are also currently recruiting for a Partnerships and Information Officer to join our Scotland team.

The main aim of the role is to develop partnerships to target under-registered groups and those who may face barriers to voting in the lead up to the 2021 Scottish Parliament election and the 2022 council elections. Secondments will be considered.

The closing date for applications for this post is 5 July 2020.

If you would like an informal discussion about the role, please contact Sarah Mackie on 0131 225 0204 or smackie@electoralcommission.org.uk.

For further information or to apply for either of these vacancies, please visit the [recruitment page](#) of our website.

Publication of the revised register: update from Cabinet Office

Cabinet Office have (yesterday) provided an update for Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) on two pieces of legislation relating to the annual canvass and the use of electoral data in boundary reviews, which they have asked us to bring to your attention.

The UK Government, along with the Scottish and Welsh Governments, intend to bring forward legislation to extend the deadline for EROs in Great Britain to publish their revised registers for 2020 from 1 December 2020 to 1 February 2021. Cabinet Office have emphasised that, while EROs should be aware of the intent to bring forward this legislation, until the legislation is made and comes into force, you should continue to work towards the 1 December deadline. We will continue to provide you with updates as the legislation progresses, and will provide guidance on its effect in due course.

On boundaries, under current legislation, the next parliamentary review is due to be based on the electoral register as at 1 December 2020. You may already be aware that legislation concerning the conduct of boundary reviews was introduced in the UK Parliament in May, and the UK Government have now announced that they will be bringing forward an amendment to the

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Bill to make provision for the next boundary review to be based, on a one-off basis, on the number of registered electors at 2 March 2020.

Cabinet Office have explained that this approach aims to represent the most up-to-date electoral registration data available from the point before the impacts of coronavirus became widespread, and have said that the March 2020 data will be collected from EROs and published by ONS in the same way as for the 1 December register. Cabinet Office will contact EROs with support and guidance on how to submit your March 2020 register, and will provide further updates on the Bill as it progresses through Parliament.

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