

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 285 (England) – 24 June 2020

2020 canvass

Template press releases

To support Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) with the delivery of the 2020 canvass, we have added template press releases to the [democratic engagement resources package](#) on our website. The press releases include messaging that will assist EROs looking to explain to residents how the canvass is being conducted this year, and what they need to do as part of this process.

We will also be making available further materials, including template social media content, in due course and we will confirm in a future Bulletin when they have been published.

In addition, in anticipation of questions from members of the public, and to help EROs manage any queries they may receive locally, we have added text to [our website](#) to explain what the canvass is and that it has not been postponed and will run from 1 July.

Guidance

As set out in [Bulletin 284](#), the UK, Scottish and Welsh governments have all indicated that they intend to bring forward legislation to extend the deadline for the publication of revised registers to 1 February 2021. The UK government's [legislation](#), applicable to parliamentary registers across Great Britain and local government registers in England, has now been laid in Parliament.

In light of this, we have now updated our additional [guidance note for EROs](#) on managing the specific circumstances of the 2020 canvass to include key considerations to support EROs in deciding when to publish their register.

Should you have any queries on this, or require any further support, please contact your [local Commission team](#).

CSPL review of electoral regulation

The Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) opened a review of electoral regulation on 8 June 2020. The independent committee has launched a [public consultation](#) inviting views on the way

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Information on and a link to template press releases for EROs to promote the canvass in their area, and a link to updated guidance on key considerations for the 2020 canvass.

CSPL review of electoral regulation

Information about the CSPL review of electoral regulation and a link to their public consultation.

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.

We are sending you this newsletter as it contains important information about the Electoral Commission's work which is relevant to you. The newsletter forms part of the Electoral Commission's public task which has its basis in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. We will manage your personal information and contact details in line with the General Data Protection Regulation and UK data protection legislation as outlined in our privacy notice (<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/privacy-notice>)

donations and campaign expenditure by candidates, political parties and non-party campaigners in election and referendum campaigns are regulated and enforced by the Electoral Commission, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the Police.

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As set out in the [terms of reference](#) for the review, one of the strands looks at whether the Electoral Commission's regulatory powers should be expanded to include the enforcement of political finance laws for candidates. Electoral administrators may be particularly interested in this aspect given their role relating to candidate spending returns.

We welcome the review and consider it to be a timely opportunity to look at whether and where the regulatory framework needs to change. We have published a [blog](#) where we talk in more depth about the opportunities this review presents.

The consultation closes at 5pm on Friday 31 July 2020. Anyone with an interest may make a submission.

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