

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission

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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.

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>)

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Issue 272 (Scotland) – 6 November 2020

May 2021 elections: publication of supplementary guidance

Further to our last update in [Bulletin 268](#) we have now published the second in our planned series of supplementary guidance to support electoral administrators with preparing for and delivering the Scottish Parliament elections in May 2021 against the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic. This document focuses on [managing absent voting](#).

The guidance, which has been developed with the expert advice of Public Health Scotland and other national public health bodies, and in consultation with the Scottish Assessors Association, Electoral Management Board for Scotland, Elections, Referendums and Registration Working Group (ERRWG), AEA, Solace, Cabinet Office and Scottish Government, supplements the core guidance for EROs and ROs by highlighting the additional challenges that you may face during the continuing public health situation to deliver the absent voting processes effectively.

As we have set out previously, the supplementary guidance documents will be living documents in recognition of the changing landscape and ongoing developments in public health advice and legislation affecting the polls. We will update them as and when there is additional information to add, and highlight when any changes are made through the EA Bulletin.

In line with this approach, we have now updated the supplementary guidance on [planning for the polls](#) to reflect the latest public health advice. You can find full information on what has changed in the change log which has been added to the beginning of the document.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do contact infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk who will be happy to help.

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