

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 273 (Scotland) – 20 November 2020

May 2021 elections: publication of supplementary guidance

Further to our last update in [Bulletin 272](#), we have now published the third in our planned series of supplementary guidance to support electoral administrators with preparing for and delivering the May 2021 elections against the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic. This document focuses on [managing the nominations process](#).

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

In addition to our supplementary guidance for Returning Officers, we also plan to publish supplementary guidance for candidates, agents and political parties. This guidance will help them with understanding what they will need to do to navigate the election processes in the context of the pandemic and set out what they should expect, including in relation to the nominations process. We will confirm in a future Bulletin when this guidance is available.

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.

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

Contents

May 2021 elections: publication of supplementary guidance

Information on and a link to supplementary guidance on managing nominations.

Scottish General Election (Coronavirus) Bill

Information on and a link to the Scottish General Election (Coronavirus) Bill, which was introduced to the Scottish Parliament this week.

New political literacy resources for young people in Scotland and Wales

Information on and a link to our new political literacy resources.

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>)

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, you may [unsubscribe](#) at any time.

Scottish General Election (Coronavirus) Bill

The [Scottish General Election \(Coronavirus\) Bill](#) was introduced to the Scottish Parliament this week. The Bill as introduced allows arrangements to be put in place for the Scottish general election in response to Covid-19.

We will update you in future Bulletins as the Bill progresses.

New political literacy resources for young people in Scotland and Wales

We've produced [a new set of political literacy resources](#) for young people in Scotland and Wales, to help them feel better prepared and more confident to engage with next year's Scottish Parliament and Senedd elections.

Topics include voter eligibility, ways to vote (in person, by post, by proxy), responsibilities of representatives and institutions, the voting systems in use for the polls, and more.

The resources include:

- Interactive webpages which young people can be directed to by educators or can access independently, with short videos and quizzes to test their new knowledge
- A handbook for educators, including information about voting and democracy, and activities and games to run with young people in formal and informal educational settings
- A handbook for young people which can be downloaded and printed so educators can share information about voting and democracy with their group

Please share these resources with relevant colleagues and interested schools or youth groups in your area.

If you have any questions about these resources, please contact [Catherine Heggie](#), Partnerships and Information Officer.

The Electoral Commission
City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh,
EH1 1YJ
Tel: 0333 103 1928
Textphone: 18001 020 7271 0500
infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
© The Electoral Commission 2020