

# electoral administration bulletin

The  
Electoral  
Commission



Issue 289 (Wales) – 21 December 2020

## May 2021 elections: publication of supplementary guidance

Further to our last update in [Bulletin 288](#), we have now published the final part of 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 verification and count](#).

The guidance, which has been developed with the expert advice of our national public health bodies, and in consultation with the the Wales Electoral Coordination Board (WECB), Wales Electoral Practitioners Working Group (WEPWG), Elections, Referendums and Registration Working Group (ERRWG), AEA, Solace, Cabinet Office and Welsh 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 verification and count safely and 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 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 during all stages of the electoral processes. We are also currently updating our suite of supporting resources for the May 2021 polls. We will confirm in future Bulletins when these are available.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do contact [infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk) and we will be happy to help.

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Information on and a link to supplementary guidance on managing the verification and count.

### May 2021 elections: polling station handbooks and quick guides order form

Link to an order form for hard copies of polling station handbooks and quick guides.

### May 2021 elections: management information survey

Information on and a link to our management information survey.

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](mailto:infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk)

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## May 2021 elections: polling station handbooks and quick guides order form

We are now collecting orders for hard copies of polling station handbooks and quick guides for use at the May 2021 polls.

We will be making available a handbook and quick guide for the combined Senedd Cymru and Police and Crime Commissioner elections, in both English and Welsh.

The deadline for completing the [online order form](#) is **Friday 22 January 2021**. We will be printing to order so it is important that you provide us with your figures by the deadline.

Please note that once you have submitted your order form, you will not be able to amend your order yourself. If you need to make any changes to your order, please contact [infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk).

We will confirm the timing of the delivery of the hard copies in a future Bulletin.

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## May 2021 elections: management information survey

As part of our approach to monitoring the May 2021 polls, we are collecting management information from all Returning Officers with scheduled elections relating to how the polls will be managed in their area. Similarly to in previous years, this information will help to build up a clear picture of the arrangements that have been put in place across Wales for the delivery of the polls and will also provide key statistics which can be used with the media and other enquirers both reactively and proactively.

We have developed a [survey](#) to collect this information which covers areas such as scheduled dates of issue of poll cards and postal votes, numbers of polling stations and staff, and verification and count timings and venues. This year's survey is slightly longer than in previous years due to the inclusion of questions related to the impact of COVID-19 on preparations for the May 2021 elections. We understand how busy you are and very much appreciate your time in providing us with this important information.

We would be grateful if you could complete the survey by no later than **Friday 15 January 2021**. We have made available a [list of the questions](#) which you can use for reference before you complete the survey.

If you have any queries on any aspect of this, please contact [infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk).

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