

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



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Information on and a link to our latest research in Scotland into public attitudes on voting, and an update on our plans to undertake similar research in England.

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 registration: 2021 rolling registration dates

We have [published a resource](#) containing the key dates relating to the publication of notices of alteration throughout 2021.

In addition to the dates relating to the monthly notices of alteration to the full register, the document also contains dates relating to the relevant deadlines for the receipt of a request to be included in or omitted from the edited register.

2020 canvass: information about our collection of electoral registration data

As you will know, each year the Commission collects electoral registration data from EROs following the publication of the revised electoral registers.

To reflect the reformed canvass processes, we have updated the data we will be asking for and have been working with electoral management software (EMS) suppliers to ensure the requested data is available from your systems.

We expect to be in touch directly to request the data shortly and, with the support of the EMS providers, hope to be able to confirm how the relevant reports can be generated.

This data plays an important role in informing our work, and this year will help to demonstrate how the new reformed canvass processes have worked in practice. We would like to thank you in advance for the time taken to supply it to us.

May 2021 elections: public attitudes towards voting in Scotland in the context of COVID-19

In November 2020, we asked a sample of eligible voters in Scotland about their attitudes towards voting at the 2021 Scottish Parliament election, in the context of COVID-19. The questions covered attitudes towards postal voting and other options for the safe running of the election in 2021. This was a repeat of work we first carried out in August 2020, in order to find out whether attitudes had

changed in the context of tightening restrictions to contain the spread of COVID-19 in Scotland.

Last week, we published [a report on this latest research](#). The report highlights that attitudes remain consistent with the findings from August 2020: voting in a polling place remains the preferred option among a majority of voters but we once again found that there is likely to be an increase in the proportion of voters opting to use a postal vote at the 2021 Scottish Parliament election compared to previous polls.

These findings reflect attitudes at the time of fieldwork. While they are helpful in highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on resourcing and processes for delivery of the 2021 Scottish Parliament election, they should be treated as an indicative snapshot of views, rather than a predictor of voter behaviour.

Although the findings relate to Scotland, we expect our research will also be of interest to governments, parliamentarians and electoral administrators in other parts of Great Britain. We are also planning to undertake similar research in England and Wales shortly, and will share the findings from this work as soon as they are available.

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