

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



Issue 297 (England) – 9 December 2020

May 2021 elections: publication of supplementary guidance

Further to our last update in [Bulletin 294](#), we have now published the fourth 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 polling stations](#).

The guidance, which has been developed with the expert advice of our national public health bodies, and in consultation with the Elections, Referendums and Registration Working Group (ERRWG), AEA, Solace and Cabinet Office, 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 polling station voting safely and effectively.

It is intended to be read alongside Part C of our core guidance for Returning Officers. Further detailed guidance on the processes to be followed within polling stations on polling day itself will follow with the publication in early 2021 of updated versions of the polling station handbook, and this will also be reflected in updated template polling station staff briefing presentations.

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 [your local Commission team](#) who will be happy to help.

May 2021 elections: survey of parties, candidates and campaigners

To better understand the challenges that parties, candidates and non-party campaigners are facing as they campaign during the coronavirus pandemic and to help us to better support them, we

have launched [a survey](#) asking for their feedback on what campaigning queries they have in the context of COVID-19.

This feedback will be used to create an FAQs page on our website, providing answers on matters affecting political parties, candidates and non-party campaigners, which will be kept updated throughout the campaign period. The page will also include the [FAQs](#) we have already published on digital political party conferences and the voiding of candidacy for candidates who stood at the postponed May 2020 elections.

We have shared the survey with parties and non-party campaigners for them to complete, but we would be grateful if you could also, wherever possible, highlight the survey with candidates and parties locally.

The deadline for responses is Friday 15 January 2021, and we will update you in a future EA Bulletin when we have published the resultant FAQs page on our website.

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