

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 278 (Scotland) – 13 January 2021

Scottish Council by-elections: Electoral Commission report on conducting elections under coronavirus restrictions

We have published a [report on our observations from the Scottish Council by-elections that took place between October and November 2020](#). These by-elections are the only electoral events that have taken place in the UK since the Coronavirus Act 2020 introduced provisions to postpone elections in response to the pandemic.

Our report draws on the experience of the Returning Officers who delivered the by-elections, and identifies key lessons learned which are relevant to Returning Officers preparing for the May 2021 polls. We have used the lessons learned to inform the supplementary guidance and resources we have issued to administrators for the May 2021 polls.

May 2021 election: management information survey – reminder

As set out in [Bulletin 277](#), as part of our approach to monitoring the May 2021 polls, we are collecting management information from all Returning Officers 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 Scotland 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.

The [survey](#) 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 election. We understand how busy you are and very much appreciate your time in providing us with this important information.

Contents

Scottish Council by-elections: Electoral Commission report on conducting elections under coronavirus restrictions

Information on and a link to the Commission's report, which was published on 8 January.

May 2021 election: management information survey – reminder

Reminder of request to submit management information relating to the May 2021 polls.

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

Thank you to those who have already completed and submitted their response. If you haven't already done so, 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 infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk.

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