

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission

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

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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.

If there is a new RO/ERO appointment in your authority, please contact the team in Wales by e-mailing infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk

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



Issue 290 (Wales) – 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 postponed local by-elections (which will now take place between 1 March 2021 and 6 May 2021) and for the Senedd and PCC 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 elections: management information survey – reminder

As set out in [Bulletin 289](#), 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 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.

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 elections. We understand how busy you are and very

much appreciate your time in providing us with this important information.

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 infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk.

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