

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 281 (Scotland) – 17 February 2021

May 2021 election: guidance update

To help ensure that you can easily access the supplementary guidance on the Covid-specific aspects of preparations for the May 2021 election, we have added a link to where you can find this from the [front page of our website](#). We will continue to keep these documents under review and will highlight any amendments or additions to these in the change log at the front of each document.

We have now published the [updated template briefing slides for polling station staff](#) to include additional information on the public health measures that will be in place due to coronavirus. The slides also include new sample polling station layouts which reflect the additional public health requirements. These sample layouts are also included in the updated polling station handbook, which will be available on our website by the end of the week, with hard copies delivered to those who have ordered them in March as usual.

As always, if you have any questions or require any further assistance, please do contact infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk.

May 2021 election: public awareness update

We have created a range of digital and print resources to help you raise public awareness of the upcoming election, registration deadlines and different ways to vote. These include social media images, posters, template press releases, template messages and more.

Voter registration

Ahead of the May election, we are once again running our 'Got 5?' registration campaign. The [voter registration resources](#) promote the registration deadline of 19 April and use the 'Got 5?' concept to help raise awareness.

Voter information

Our [voter information resources](#) include messaging on: different ways to vote, how to cast a vote, finding the polling station and getting help at the polling station. This year we have also developed

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Information on and links to a range of public awareness resources.

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A request for information to update our polling place finder.

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Information about our plans for collecting data following the May 2021 election.

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

further COVID-19 related messaging to reassure voters on what measures to expect inside polling stations and how to help keep others safe when voting in person.

Welcome to Your Vote week

To provide schools with a focus point for political literacy and to encourage registration amongst young people, [Welcome to Your Vote week](#) will take place from 22 to 28 February.

We recently published a [briefing](#) with Education Scotland and other partners to outline the resources and support available to educators in Scotland to help them deliver political literacy sessions, including our [Welcome to Your Vote learning resources](#).

May 2021 election: call for polling place data

This year we're once again running the [polling place finder](#), in partnership with Democracy Club, to help make sure voters have access to accurate and timely information about how and where they can vote.

We need your updated polling place information to make sure voters head to the right polling place. By having this information easily available online, it should help to reduce the number of calls you'll get from voters looking for this information.

Providing your data is straightforward. You can export the data from your EMS, and email it to pollingstations@democracyclub.org.uk.

[Detailed instructions are available for each supplier](#), if you need them.

To make sure we have time to change the information, we ask that you send your polling place data as soon as possible, and by Friday 9 April.

Still linking to yourvotematters.co.uk?

As part of our website redevelopment work, we decommissioned the Your Vote Matters website in September 2019. We ask that you change any references to that URL to:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter>.

While there is currently a redirect in place, we plan to fully decommission the Your Vote Matters URL in the near future.

May 2021 election: post-election data collection

As at each set of elections, the Commission will once again be collecting key administrative data from Electoral Registration Officers and Returning Officers. This data provides important evidence to support our work in reporting on elections in the UK.

What data we are going to collect

We wanted to give you early warning of the data that we are planning to collect, so have developed a [list setting out what we will be asking you to report to us following the May 2021 elections](#). We will be collecting data at a constituency level.

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 (<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/privacy-notice>)

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, you may [unsubscribe](#) at any time.

How we will be collecting data

We intend to collect the data via the portal that we used for the 2019 UK general election.

We will update you in a future Bulletin when the data collection portal is open and will let you know the deadlines for submission at that time.

If you have any questions about the data collection, please contact research@electoralcommission.org.uk.

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