

electoral administration bulletin

The
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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.

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 292 (Wales) – 9 February 2021

May 2021 polls: Cabinet Office delivery plan and legislative changes

On Friday (5 February), the UK Government confirmed its intention for the Police and Crime Commissioner elections scheduled to take place on 6 May 2021 – as well as the other polls due to take place across England on that date - to go ahead. Alongside this announcement, the Cabinet Office published a [May 2021 polls delivery plan](#) which sets out the UK Government's approach to supporting the delivery of these elections.

As set out in the delivery plan, the UK Government is now bringing forward legislation to make changes to the nomination process in the context of the pandemic. A draft [statutory instrument](#) has been laid which includes provisions to reduce the number of subscribing electors that are required on a candidate nomination form for the May 2021 Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

We are currently working through the implications of the legislation on our guidance and supporting resources for Returning Officers and candidates and agents and will confirm the timeline for completing the range of necessary amendments in next week's Bulletin. In the meantime, we have temporarily removed links to the PCC nomination forms from our website to help prevent any confusion regarding the requirements to stand for election at the May polls.

As always, if you have any questions or require any further assistance, please do contact [the Wales team](#) who will be happy to help.

Postponed local by-elections: collection of signatures for nominations

The nominations requirements for the postponed by-elections in Wales that are able to take place between 1 March and 6 May 2021 have not been changed, and nominations must continue to include the signatures of a proposer, seconder and 8 assentors.

When deciding upon the date for any postponed local government by-elections Returning Officers should keep in mind the requirement for candidates to collect the signatures of subscribers and the need for nomination forms to be delivered by hand.

The Minister for Housing and Local Government has advised that prospective candidates should consider using postal services wherever possible to collect signatures for nomination papers but that where this is not possible, leaving home to hand deliver nomination forms to signatories is likely to be regarded as a reasonable excuse for the purposes of Alert Level 4 restrictions. However, in line with Alert Level 4 restrictions, a person should not enter someone's home to collect a signature.

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The Electoral Commission, Wales
Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff, CF14 3UZ
Tel: 0333 103 1929

Textphone: 18001 020 7271 0500
infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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