

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 293 (Wales) – 19 February 2021

May 2021 elections: guidance update

Further to [Bulletin 292](#), we can now confirm our approach to updating our guidance and resources to reflect the proposed legislative changes to the nominations process for the May 2021 Police and Crime Commissioner elections. Whilst we do not yet have a fixed date for when the legislation will come into force, we nevertheless want to ensure that the necessary changes are completed and clear as early as possible, to support you with your preparations and to help those who want to stand for election.

The core guidance for Returning Officers and candidates and agents will be updated to reflect the proposed legislative changes by Monday 22 February, and a summary of the changes will be included on the change log for each document as usual. We also intend to publish the updated template briefing for candidates and agents to the same timescale. At this stage, all changes will be caveated to reflect that they are based on the assumption that the relevant legislation will be made in time for the elections.

All supporting resources, including the relevant nomination forms, will be updated by not later than 1 March. We will confirm in a future Bulletin when this work has been completed, and will also provide updates on the progress of the legislation.

We are also working through the implications of the Welsh Elections (Coronavirus) Act which is due to come into force later this week, and we will provide an update on this and our plans for completing necessary amendments to our guidance and supporting resources for the Senedd elections in a future Bulletin.

Supplementary guidance and resources

To help ensure that you can easily access the supplementary guidance on the Covid-specific aspects of preparations for the May 2021 polls, 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.

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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

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

May 2021 elections: public awareness update

We have created a range of digital and print resources to help you raise public awareness of the upcoming elections, 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 polls, 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 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

The Senedd elections on 6 May 2021 will be the first opportunity 16 and 17 year olds in Wales will have to vote. To provide schools with a focus point for political literacy and to encourage registration amongst young people, Welcome to Your Vote / Votes @ 16 week will take place from 22 to 28 February 2021.

Resources and support are available to teachers and educators to help them deliver political literacy sessions to young people who will be eligible to vote, including our new [Welcome to Your Vote learning resources](#).

More information about the week can be found on our website: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/democratic-engagement-resources/welcome-your-vote-week>.

May 2021 elections: call for polling station data

This year we're once again running the [polling station 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 station information to make sure voters head to the right polling station. 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.

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

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

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

Still linking to [yourvotematters.co.uk](https://www.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 elections: post-election data collection

As at each set of elections, the Commission will once again be collecting key administrative data from 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.

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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