

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



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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.

May 2021 elections: legislation and guidance update

We have now completed work on updating our guidance to reflect the changes from the [Welsh Elections \(Coronavirus\) Act 2021](#) (which has now received Royal Assent) and the [Senedd Cymru \(Representation of the People\) \(Amendment\) Order 2021](#) (which came into force on 18 March).

The Order amends the deadline for receipt of nominations at the Senedd election to 4pm on the nineteenth day before the day of the election. The Order also amends the home address form so that a candidate who does not want their home address to be made public can provide the Senedd constituency which their home address is located in or, if their address is outside Wales, the UK Parliamentary constituency. The home address form has been amended accordingly.

We have also updated our supplementary guidance for campaigners to include a link to the Welsh Government's [guidance for persons undertaking election campaigning activities in Wales during the Coronavirus pandemic](#), which covers leafleting, canvassing, collection of postal ballots and behaviour at polling stations.

May 2021 elections: update on party names, descriptions and emblems

As per our approach to providing updates on changes made to party names, descriptions and emblems set out in [Bulletin 295](#), below is a summary of the updates we have made since then.

As you will see, there have been a number of recent changes to the register and whilst not all will be relevant to candidates standing in your area, it is important that you read the list of updates to parties carefully to ensure that you are aware of changes that may impact on those standing in your area:

- [A Better Way to Govern](#)
- [Alliance EPP \(European People's Party\) UK](#)

- [Alliance for Democracy and Freedom](#)
- [Alliance for Green Socialism](#)
- [Common Sense Party](#)
- [Communist Party of Britain](#)
- [Freedom Alliance- Integrity, Society, Economy](#)
- [Gwlad](#)
- [Harmony Party UK](#)
- [Independent Green Voice](#)
- [Interactive Democracy](#)
- [Justice For Men & Boys](#)
- [Labour Party](#)
- [Liberal Democrats](#)
- [National Health Action Party](#)
- [National Liberal Party - True Liberalism](#)
- [Official Monster Raving Loony Party](#)
- [Plaid Cymru - The Party of Wales](#)
- [Reform UK](#)
- [Socialist Labour Party](#)
- [The Local Party](#)
- [Time Party](#)
- [Women's Equality Party](#)

No parties have been deregistered since the previous Bulletin.

You can find full details of what amendments have been made in our [list of recent decisions to approve or reject applied-for party names, descriptions and emblems](#). On our website you can also find a [list of applications we are currently considering](#).

When receiving nominations, Returning Officers must check that the party name or any description given on a nomination form, as well as the requested emblem, is registered on [the Commission's register of political parties](#) and that the details provided match the registration. To ensure that you are viewing the most up-to-date information, you may need to delete your browser history or refresh the page. If you are unsure how to do this, your IT team should be able to advise you.

Should you have any questions about the registers, please do not hesitate to [contact us](#).

..... May 2021 elections: guidance on the management of paper

We have received a number of queries on working with and handling paper at the May polls, and we thought it would be helpful to reiterate our advice in this area, which has been informed by our national public health bodies.

Advice from our national public health bodies remains that as long as all those working with or handling paper take care to only be present if well, avoid touching their faces, and regularly and frequently clean their hands, there is no need to quarantine ballot papers before commencing the verification or count process. This guidance is reflected within the update to our supplementary verification and count guidance which was highlighted in [Bulletin 295](#).

Should you want to discuss your local arrangements for the management of the verification and count - or any other element of

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 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.

the polls – further, please do get in touch with infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

May 2021 elections: further call for polling station data

As set out in [Bulletin 293](#), we are once again running a 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.

If you haven't already done so, please share your updated polling station information to help 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.

To make sure we have time to change the information, we ask that you send your polling station data as soon as possible, if you've not already done so.

We are aware of an export issue affecting some councils that use Xpress EMS. We encourage such users to check that their file contains the expected number of rows before sending it to Democracy Club. If in doubt, please contact Civica or [Democracy Club](#) directly.

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