

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 297 (Wales) – 31 March 2021

May 2021 elections: guidance update

Legislation to allow electors who are self-isolating and unable to vote in person at a polling station as a result of government or medical practitioner advice to apply, up until 5pm on the day of the poll, to vote by emergency proxy is now in force.

We have completed the necessary changes to our guidance and resources for the May 2021 polls to reflect these provisions and published the updated versions on our website last week.

The updates can be found in Part D of our guidance for Returning Officers and are detailed in the change log at the start of the document. We have also updated our template briefings for polling station staff and for candidates and agents, as well as our FAQs for frontline staff.

Our guidance for EROs on how to process proxy applications, which has not changed, remains available [here](#).

We will confirm in a future Bulletin when updated emergency proxy application forms for use at the Senedd and PCC elections are available. A [form](#) which can be used for local government by-elections in Wales is already available.

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 [Bulletin 296](#).

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:

- [Psychedelic Movement](#)

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

Update on recent changes to the register of political parties.

May 2021 elections: security guidance

Information on and a link to security guidance published on gov.uk.

May 2021 elections: Your vote is yours alone campaign - resources available

Information on and a link to resources to raise awareness of and help prevent electoral fraud.

Electoral fraud data 2020

Information on and a link to data on allegations of electoral fraud in 2020.

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](#).

- [Conservative and Unionist 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: security guidance

Cabinet Office have confirmed the publication of a collection of [security guidance on gov.uk](#), which provides advice on good security practice for candidates and for Returning Officers.

While the guidance has been made available for you to take into consideration for the May 2021 elections, much of the advice will be relevant all year round. In addition to supporting your own work, you might also find it helpful to draw the candidate-focussed materials to the attention of those standing for election in your area.

May 2021 elections: Your Vote is Yours Alone campaign - resources available

As part of our 'Your Vote is Yours Alone' campaign, which we are delivering in partnership with Crimestoppers to raise awareness of and help prevent electoral fraud, we have produced a suite of resources.

The resources, which feature postal voting and voting in a polling station, highlight what constitutes electoral fraud and aim to empower people to protect their vote and report any concerns to Crimestoppers.

The resources are available to [download from our website](#) and include:

- videos
- posters
- leaflets
- online banners
- template social media posts and images

The posters and leaflets are also available in Punjabi, Urdu and Bengali.

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 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.

Electoral fraud data 2020

Each year, police forces across the UK send us data about allegations of electoral fraud, and today we published [data on allegations of electoral fraud in 2020](#).

Our summary shows that in 2020 police investigated 15 cases of alleged electoral fraud. Of these, 12 resulted in either no further action or were locally resolved by police. 3 remain under investigation.

Very few polls took place in 2020, which meant that the number of allegations reported to police forces for investigation was particularly low. As this was not a normal year for elections in the UK, this data cannot be meaningfully compared with data for previous or future years.

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