



Timing of Senedd and Police and Crime Commissioner Election counts – May 2021

Senedd Regional Returning Officers and Police Area Returning Officers in Wales have recently discussed the timing of the verification and count for the Senedd and Police and Crime Commissioner Election due to take place in May 2021, in their capacity as members of the Wales Electoral Coordination Board.

As a result of discussions at Board level, and following talks with Constituency Returning Officers/Local Returning Officers, the Board has reached a national consensus for all local authorities in Wales that will enable verification and count venues to be booked.

Thursday 6 May 2021

- Delivery of ballot boxes for both Senedd and PCC elections to count venue and seal the building.
- Open and validate relevant postal votes.
- Seal all ballot boxes ready for next day.

Friday 7 May

- Verify constituency and regional Senedd ballot papers.
- Verify PCC ballot papers and reseal. Store until Sunday 9 May.
- Begin to count constituency and regional Senedd ballot papers.
- Declaration of any Senedd count results completed on Friday.

Saturday 8 May

- Continue with the Senedd election count if not completed on Friday.

Sunday 9 May

- Count and declare PCC ballot papers.

The reasons for the decision are as follows:

- Due to Covid-19 restrictions that are expected to be in place in May 2021, the expectation is that the verification and count processes will require more staff and take longer to perform. It would not be practicable, therefore, to verify and count ballot papers overnight.
- Consideration will also need to be given to the space available to allow social distancing.

- The consensus that has been reached will ensure that the elections management team and count staff have had suitable rest and are able to work extended hours, including adequate rest periods, as required by law.
- Police and Crime Commissioners are sworn in 7 days from the date of Poll so holding the count on the Sunday would not impact on the role and its duties.

March 2021

Appendix A

The Senedd Regional Returning Officers / Police Area Returning Officers are:

Area	RRO / PARO
North Wales	Colin Everett (Flintshire County Council)
Mid and West Wales / Dyfed Powys Police	Eifion Evans (Ceredigion County Council)
South Wales West	Phil Roberts (Swansea Council)
South Wales Central / South Wales Police	Debbie Marles (Vale of Glamorgan Council)
South Wales East / Gwent Police	Michelle Morris (Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council)

The Wales Electoral Coordination Board was established in 2017 and fulfils a key role in the coordination of relevant electoral events and electoral activity, modernisation and reform in Wales. It also facilitates greater collaboration between Returning Officers, Electoral Registration Officers and other key partners.

The members of the Board include a selection of Regional Returning Officers and Returning Officers/Electoral Registration Officers from across Wales, together with representatives from the Electoral Commission, Welsh and UK Governments and representatives of the Association of Electoral Administrators.