

# electoral administration bulletin

The  
Electoral  
Commission

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### Electoral Commission report on the Scottish Parliament election

Information on and a link to the Commission's report, which was published today (Tuesday 14 September).

### 2021 canvass: ERO survey

Information on and a link to our ERO survey.

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.

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>)

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Issue 293 (Scotland) – 14 September 2021

### Electoral Commission report on the Scottish Parliament election

The Electoral Commission has today published [our statutory report on the 2021 Scottish Parliament election](#).

Our report found that the poll was well-run, notwithstanding the significant challenges presented by the pandemic. The changes put in place by the electoral community to deal with the impact of Covid-19 helped to support and reassure voters and candidates.

Nearly all voters (95%) said they were satisfied with the process of voting in the 6 May elections, and the vast majority (94%) said this was by their preferred method. The majority of candidates (88%) also said that the election had been well-run.

Returning Officers took a number of steps to support disabled people to vote at the election. However, disabled people were still less likely to report being satisfied by the voting process, and we have recommended action to address this ahead of future polls.

While voters told us that they thought the election was well-run, electoral administrators reported challenges securing polling station venues, and finding and training staff to work on polling day. We also found that there is a reliance on a very small pool of expert suppliers for specialist election services, including ballot printing, which adds risks to the system. The difficulties faced were heightened by the need to navigate an outdated and increasingly complex electoral law framework.

We will continue to work in partnership with the Electoral Management Board, governments, EROs and local authorities to develop and deliver proposals to support resilient electoral services for the future.

Separate reports have also been published today on the:

- [May 2021 elections in England](#)

- [May 2021 elections for the Senedd and Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales](#)

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## 2021 canvass: ERO survey

As in previous years, we will once again be requesting information from all EROs, which will help us to build up a picture of how the canvass is progressing. We will be e-mailing all EROs directly this week with a link to the survey, which can also be accessed [here](#).

The information in the survey will support our engagement with EROs and their teams, and inform our reporting on electoral registration. It will also be used to support the identification and sharing of examples of good practice and to inform our guidance for EROs.

Please complete the survey by no later than **Friday 24 September**. If you have any questions relating to the survey, please contact [infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk).

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