

# electoral administration bulletin

The  
Electoral  
Commission

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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.

If there is a new RO/ERO appointment in your authority, please contact the team in Wales by e-mailing [infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto: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



Issue 306 (Wales) – 14 September 2021

### Electoral Commission report on the May 2021 elections in Wales

The Electoral Commission has today (Tuesday 14 September) published a [report on the May 2021 elections in Wales](#).

We found that the polls were well-run, notwithstanding the complex range of elections and significant challenges presented by the pandemic. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of those in the electoral community, the polls were delivered safely and successfully.

Our research with the public shows that the changes that were put in place by electoral administrators and governments helped to support and reassure voters. People were confident that they could vote safely, and the overwhelming majority were able to vote using their preferred method.

Campaigners adapted their activities in response to public health restrictions and overall were able to communicate with voters face-to-face, online and through printed material.

However, the experience of these polls has also highlighted concerns about the resilience and capacity of electoral administration structures in Wales, which are coupled with the challenges of delivering elections within an outdated and increasingly complex electoral law framework.

We will continue to work in partnership with the Wales Electoral Coordination Board, governments and the electoral community to develop and deliver proposals to support resilient electoral services for the future.

Our report makes a number of recommendations for future elections:

- Retain an emergency proxy option for isolating voters
- Welsh Government should legislate to ensure digital imprints on online campaign material

- The Wales Electoral Coordination Board should have a statutory role

More detail on the recommendations can be found in the report.

Separate reports have also been published on the polls that took place this May in [England](#) and the [elections to the Scottish Parliament](#).

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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 [infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk).

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