

# 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.

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 307 (Wales) – 3 November 2021

## Update on guidance and support for the electoral community in Wales

### Guidance for May 2022

As local elections in Wales are now devolved and new rules are being put in place by Welsh Government, we will shortly be publishing separate guidance for local elections in Wales for the first time.

We are currently liaising with colleagues at Welsh Government on the draft legislation and understand that they intend for the rules to come into force in mid-December. We are working to ensure that the core guidance for ROs can be published as soon as possible after that time. We will continue to update you on this work through the Bulletin.

We have also started work to address the challenges highlighted again at the May 2021 elections relating to the resilience and capacity of electoral services.

This has been a focus of discussion at recent meetings of the Wales Electoral Coordination Board (WECB) and with AEA colleagues, and work is already underway to help prepare the electoral community for the local government elections in May 2022. An all-Wales seminar for ROs and ESMs took place last week which was led by the WECB and also involved the Commission and the AEA. The WECB has also created a [risk assessment template](#) intended to help ROs and ESMs with assessing the risks to the safe delivery of the local elections and plan local mitigating actions.

At a UK level we have been working closely with representatives of the Electoral Coordination and Advisory Board (ECAB) – which brings together Regional Returning Officers from across the UK, as well as representatives from the UK, Scottish and Welsh Governments, the AEA and Solace – and have established sub-groups to look at suppliers, staffing resilience and capacity, and venues. The first two groups have already met to consider the scope of the challenges faced by administrators in these areas and to start to identify potential short and longer term mitigations that

could be taken forward. We will keep you updated on this work as it progresses through future editions of the EA Bulletin.

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### **Future guidance**

We are also continuing to develop our plans to continue the transition of our guidance from PDF format to web-based html content. Our ERO guidance is already available in this way, and we are now progressing our plans to do the same for our core guidance for ROs and candidates and agents. As always, we will consult with the Wales Electoral Practitioners Working Group during this process.

The first RO guidance to be produced in the new format will be for the scheduled May 2023 elections in England, with versions for other elections, including those planned for Wales, to follow on a rolling basis.

As was the case with transforming the ERO guidance, the substantive content of the guidance will not change except as needed to reflect changes to legislation, such as to support the implementation of new measures introduced through the Elections Bill. The guidance will otherwise continue to reflect the guidance provided in the previous PDF documents, but with stylistic amendments to improve accessibility, navigation and presentation, whilst retaining features that we know are important to you, such as the ability to print hard copies of sections of the guidance.

As always, we will keep you updated on our progress with this work through future Bulletins.

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### **Job vacancies at the Electoral Commission**

We are currently recruiting for two Senior Advisers (Electoral guidance) for the Electoral Guidance Team.

The closing date for applications for both posts is 21 November 2021.

If you would like an informal discussion about the roles, please contact Mark Pascoe, Electoral Registration Guidance Manager on 020 7271 0690.

For further information or to apply, please visit the [recruitment page](#) of our website.

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