

# electoral administration bulletin



Issue 317 (England) – 3 November 2021

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.

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## Guidance and support for electoral administrators: update

### Guidance for May 2022 polls

As there is no legislative change expected ahead of the local government elections in England in May 2022, our [core guidance](#) remains current for the forthcoming polls, as well as for any by-elections that occur in the meantime.

However, as local elections in Wales are now devolved and new rules for those will be put in place by Welsh Government, we will shortly be separating out the existing Wales content from the current version. We will publish the England only version of the core guidance later this year, once forthcoming legislation for local government elections in Wales has been made, and will update you through the Bulletin when this has been completed.

Additionally, as part of our usual post poll work, we have been considering feedback from administrators and other stakeholders on our core guidance and supporting resources following the May 2021 polls to ensure we continuously improve the support available wherever we can.

One area where we received feedback was in relation to our suite of nomination forms, particularly around the experience of candidates completing the home address form and consent to nomination form. We have considered the points raised and have been exploring what changes we can make to reflect them, while remaining within the current legislative framework. We will be publishing an updated suite of nomination forms as soon as this work is complete, and will keep you updated 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. 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 – we 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.

### **Future guidance**

We updated the Elections, Referendums and Registration Working Group (ERRWG) at its last meeting on 15 October on 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.

The first RO guidance in the new format will be for the scheduled May 2023 elections, with other versions 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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