

electoral administration bulletin



Issue 311 (Wales) – 7 January 2022

May 2022 elections: guidance update

Guidance for May 2022 elections

Further to [Bulletin 307](#), The Local Elections (Principal Areas)(Wales) Rules 2021 and The Local Elections (Communities)(Wales) Rules 2021 were made on 14 December, introducing a range of new provisions for local elections taking place from 5 May 2022.

We have now published guidance for local elections in Wales reflecting these rules, which you can access from this [dedicated page](#). Parts A, B, D, E and F have all been updated and published, following consultation with the Wales Electoral Coordination Board (WECB), Wales Electoral Practitioners Working Group (WEPWG), Welsh Government and the AEA.

We have also been working closely with these stakeholders to develop Part C of our core guidance and associated resources, including new nominations packs, and will publish the updated versions shortly. We'll update you in a future Bulletin as soon as these are available on our website.

If you are running a by-election and need to access Part C of the core guidance on administering the poll based on the current rules, please contact infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk

Elections during the coronavirus pandemic

As we begin the New Year, preparations for the May 2022 elections are continuing apace, with Returning Officers and their teams putting in place arrangements for the successful delivery of polls in their area, once again against the backdrop of Covid-19 and an evolving public health situation.

[Our supplementary guidance and polling station handbook from May 2021](#) remain available to support you in your planning for the May 2022 polls and in managing any by-elections in your area in the meantime. The learning and expertise you will have gained from running elections throughout 2021 will also help to inform your plans, which you will need to keep under active review in light of the

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Welcome to Your Vote week

Update on our plans for Welcome to Your Vote week, which will take place from 24 – 30 January 2022.

Electoral Commission Chief Executive

Information on the appointment of a new Chief Executive of the Commission.

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.

evolving public health context, and you should continue to liaise with local public health experts in doing so.

We are continuing to work with public health bodies, governments and others across the electoral community to ensure that our guidance and resources, including the polling station handbooks for 2022, remain appropriate to support you with the successful delivery of the May 2022 polls. We will keep you updated as this progresses through future Bulletins.

As always, if you have any questions or would like to discuss any of this further, please contact infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk

Polling station handbooks and quick guides

As set out in [Bulletin 310](#), we are now collecting orders for hard copies of polling station handbooks and quick guides for use at the May 2022 polls.

If you haven't already done so, the deadline for completing the [online order form](#) is Friday 21 January. We will be printing to order so it is important that you provide us with your figures by the deadline.

Please note that once you have submitted your order form, you will not be able to amend your order yourself. If you need to make any changes to your order, please contact infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk

We will confirm the timing of the delivery of the hard copies in a future Bulletin.

May 2022 elections: management information survey

As part of our approach to supporting the delivery of the May 2022 polls, we are once again collecting management information from all Returning Officers with scheduled elections relating to how the polls will be managed in their area. Earlier this week we e-mailed Returning Officers directly with a link to the survey, which can also be accessed [here](#).

Similarly to previous years, this information will help to build up a clear picture of the arrangements that have been put in place across Wales for the delivery of the polls and will also provide key statistics which can be used with the media and other enquirers both reactively and proactively.

The survey covers areas such as scheduled dates of issue of poll cards and postal votes, numbers of polling stations and staff, and verification and count timings and venues. We understand how busy you are and very much appreciate your time in providing us with this important information.

We would be grateful if you could complete the survey by no later than Friday 14 January 2022. We have made available [a list of the questions](#) which you can use for reference before you complete the survey.

If you have any queries about any aspect of this, please contact infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk

If there is a new RO/ERO appointment in your authority, please contact the team in Wales by e-mailing 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 (<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/privacy-notice>)

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, you may [unsubscribe](#) at any time.

Welcome to Your Vote week

We're hosting the first annual UK-wide Welcome to Your Vote week, from 24-30 January 2022, to help young people feel more confident and more prepared to head to the polling station when they are eligible to vote.

We're asking schools and youth groups and anyone who works with young people, to get involved with the week by using [our impartial resources](#) to share information about democracy and politics with young people, and to encourage them to register to vote.

We will be launching a range of resources for educators and young people, including lesson plans, videos and a series of short activities. Please help to start the conversation about democracy and politics with young people, ahead of the elections taking place in May 2022.

Teachers and educators can [sign up for updates](#) to be the first to be notified about the new political literacy resources.

Please share information about Welcome to Your Vote week 2022 with your colleagues and schools and youth groups in your area.

Electoral Commission Chief Executive

As you may be aware, last year Bob Posner announced his intention to retire this spring, and the Commission Board has been engaged in a recruitment process to find his successor.

We can now confirm that, from April, Shaun McNally CBE will take up the role of Chief Executive at the Commission.

Shaun has worked for more than 35 years within the UK justice system, previously at HM Courts and Tribunals Service and as Chief Executive of the Legal Aid Agency. He brings considerable experience of leading complex, high profile organisations. Shaun joins the Commission from the Ministry of Justice, where he currently leads on the Department's planning, preparation and response to major incidents, including the end of the EU transition period and Covid-19.

Shaun will join the Commission ahead of the May elections and at the outset of a new corporate plan for the organisation. Bob will remain in post until April and continue working on preparations for the May elections and the Commission's other priorities.

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