

electoral administration bulletin



Issue 321 (England) – 7 January 2022

May 2022 elections: guidance update

Publication of guidance for local government elections in England

Further to [Bulletin 317](#), the new rules for local elections in Wales have now been made. We have therefore re-published an [England-only version of the core guidance for Returning Officers](#) and created separate guidance for Welsh local elections.

As there has been no legislative change for elections in England, the content of the guidance remains the same as our previous combined version, with only some minor improvements to wording based on feedback from administrators and other stakeholders.

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 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.

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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.

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

Polling station handbooks and quick guides

As set out in [Bulletin 320](#), 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 infoengland@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 England 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 infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk

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 to get involved with the week by using [our impartial resources](#) to share information about

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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.

Our resources are being designed so they can be used both in and out of election periods, so even if you don't have elections in your area this May, you can still get involved and start the conversation about democracy and politics with local young people.

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.

The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8YZ
Tel England: 0333 103 1928

infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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