

# 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.

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>)

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Issue 305 (Scotland) – 20 April 2022

## May 2022 elections: updates to proxy forms

### COVID-19 emergency proxy forms

The COVID-19 emergency proxy application form has been updated to reflect the removal of a legal requirement to self-isolate. Electors are still able to apply for an emergency proxy vote if they are unable to vote in person at their polling station because they are self-isolating as a result of government or medical advice. Electors can also use this form to change their proxy, if their existing proxy is unable to go to the polling station due to following coronavirus advice.

### New emergency proxy replacement form

The provision to replace an existing proxy has now been extended to allow for appointed proxies to be changed for reasons other than COVID-19. An elector will be able to appoint a new proxy up until 5pm on the day of the poll and the new proxy must meet the usual requirements for appointment as a proxy.

A new form has been developed to allow an elector to change their proxy, should their original proxy be unable to vote. The reason for changing the proxy must be stated on the application form.

### Emergency proxy on grounds of imprisonment

The emergency proxy form for electors detained in prison for 12 months or less has been updated to reflect a change in the regulations that enables applications to be made up until 5pm on the day of the election.

### Proxy forms for electors that have a disability

We have updated the proxy and emergency proxy application forms for electors that have a disability, to include provisions for mental health patients detained under civil powers.

The forms are broken down by situation to make it easier for electors to complete and more straightforward for administrators to identify the grounds on which an elector is applying. A new scenario has now been added to the forms which will allow mental health patients who are detained under civil powers to apply for a proxy vote if they are unable to go to the polling station. A new section has

also been added to the form to allow registered hospital managers, or their authorised representatives, to attest the application on the elector's behalf.

All proxy application forms can be found [here](#). You can find our guidance for EROs on processing proxy applications [here](#). As always, it will be important to process new applications as soon as practicable to ensure that your absent voter lists are up to date and available to candidates and political parties upon request.

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### **May 2022 elections: voter information resources**

As highlighted in [Bulletin 299](#), we have created a range of [voter information resources](#) which can be used ahead of polling day to help you communicate the essential information voters need in order to be able to cast their vote with confidence in the upcoming elections.

You'll find a range of digital and print resources covering topics including:

- Polling station opening times
- Tellers
- Support at polling stations
- Postal and proxy voting

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