

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 321 (Wales) – 20 April 2022

Contents

May 2022 elections: updates to proxy forms

Information on and links to updated proxy application forms.

May 2022 elections: voter information resources

Information on and links to voter information resources.

May 2022 elections: BSL videos for deaf voters

Information on and a link to a series of BSL videos for deaf voters.

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

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

May 2022 elections: updates to proxy forms

COVID-19 emergency proxy forms

We have updated the COVID-19 emergency proxy application form 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 the form to change their proxy, if their existing proxy is unable to go to the polling station due to following coronavirus advice.

Proxy and emergency 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.

May 2022 elections: voter information resources

As highlighted in [Bulletin 313](#), 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

May 2022 elections: BSL videos for deaf voters

Ahead of May's elections we have worked with the British Deaf Association to create a series of [BSL videos](#) for deaf voters. The videos provide voters with information to help them vote with confidence at this year's elections. It covers what elections are taking place, the different voting options available and what support they can expect to receive.

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