

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.

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



Issue 328 (Wales) – 23 August 2022

Elections Act: implementation

As highlighted in [Bulletin 327](#), Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) officials have confirmed their intention that measures relating to voter identification in the Elections Act will apply for all scheduled and unscheduled UK Parliamentary and PCC elections from May 2023, and that the application process will go live from January 2023.

Whilst much remains unclear on how the provisions will work in practice, we have now published some initial [planning guidance](#) to highlight key areas that you can start to take forward now, even in the absence of the detail on how the provisions will work.

This guidance is based on our current knowledge of UK Government implementation plans. We are still awaiting the detailed timings for, and full content of, the secondary legislation from DLUHC, and so there are a number of areas – such as the voting process and funding decisions – that remain unclear at this stage. We will update the guidance as needed when clarity as to the detail emerges, and will update you on changes in future EA Bulletins.

We would have preferred to be able to provide more comprehensive guidance by this stage, but we can only develop and publish guidance once the legislation is clear. We fully appreciate the challenges that the uncertainty around the detail creates. However, given the short time available before the UK Government plans for the new provisions to come into effect, we know you will be thinking now about what the changes mean for you – even in the absence of scheduled polls in May 2023 - and that you will need to start taking steps soon to get ready for them; this guidance aims to support you with that early thinking.

Additionally, a sub-group of the Wales Electoral Coordination Board is being set up to look specifically at the impact of the Act on Wales and to discuss what actions can be taken to mitigate any issues. Updates on this work will be included in future Bulletins.

We are continuing to develop our plans for the production and publication of the updated core guidance and resources you will need to support you with implementing the changes. We will update you on what you can expect from us and when via the Bulletin as soon as we have the information we need from the UK Government to be able to finalise our plans.

If you have any queries on any of this, or need any further support, please contact your [local Commission team](#).

Consultation on draft performance standards for ROs and updated performance standards for EROs: reminder

As set out in [Bulletin 325](#) we are undertaking [a consultation](#) on draft performance standards for ROs and updated performance standards for EROs.

We want both sets of standards, along with our guidance and support, to provide a robust framework for the delivery of well-run elections, support the effective and consistent implementation of legislative changes, and enable transparent reporting on delivery and good practice at a local level and across Great Britain.

Thank you to all those who have already shared their thoughts with us. The consultation closes on **26 August** and we want to hear from as many people as possible. You can respond by filling in [this form](#) or by emailing your views to performancestandardsinbox@electoralcommission.org.uk.

The Electoral Commission, Wales
Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff, CF14 3UZ
Tel: 0333 103 1929

infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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