

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 330 (Wales) – 21 September 2022

Contents

Electoral Commission report on the May 2022 local government elections in Wales

Information on and a link to the Commission's report, which was published today (Wednesday 21 September).

Electoral Commission report on the May 2022 local government elections in Wales

The Electoral Commission has today (Wednesday 21 September) published a report on the May 2022 elections in Wales. We found that overall people were confident that these elections were well-run and were highly satisfied with the process of registering to vote and voting. These findings are a testament to the hard work of electoral administrators.

Turnout at these elections was lower than at previous comparable elections and was lowest for voters under 35 years of age. Further education and engagement is recommended to support newly enfranchised voters to understand and participate in Welsh elections.

The late introduction of legislation making changes to the rules for running the elections brought significant additional challenges for Returning Officers and electoral administrators. All relevant Governments need to consider the impact of legislative changes on the administration of elections and commit to legislation being clear at least six months before it is required to be implemented or complied with.

The report also highlights that a notable proportion of candidates told us that they experienced some form of abuse or intimidation. While robust political debate is part of a healthy democracy, sometimes things go too far and cross the line into threats, abuse and intimidation. We will work with Welsh Government, the police and the wider electoral community to make sure we understand what is driving candidate abuse and intimidation, and to ensure this issue is addressed as a matter of urgency.

You can read the [full report and our recommendations on our website](#).

Separate reports have also been published on the elections in [England](#), [Northern Ireland](#), and [Scotland](#).

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

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