

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



Issue 315 (Scotland) – 5 October 2022

Elections Act: guidance update

Following discussions at the AEA Seminar on the implementation of the Elections Act – particularly the voter ID provisions - we wanted to update on our guidance plans to support you in delivering the new measures.

Firstly, further to [Bulletin 312](#), we have updated our [key planning considerations guidance](#) to reflect the detail confirmed since it was published in August, including updates from UK Government on funding. This guidance will remain a living document as further detail emerges, and it now includes a change log. We will also update you on changes through the Bulletin as usual.

Now that the UK Government has confirmed it will lay the secondary legislation covering voter ID measures in early November, we have been able to progress our plans for the associated guidance. We are taking a phased approach to this, given the scope of the measures and the limited time available, aiming to get you what you need as swiftly as possible in the order you will need it, and to reduce the time between having sight of the final legislation and making guidance available. Our initial focus is on core guidance for EROs to support the Voter Authority Certificate application process. We aim to publish the first sections of this in mid-November, ahead of further guidance, especially in relation to RO planning and polling station processes.

Reminder of consultation on draft accessibility guidance for Returning Officers

As set out in [Bulletin 313](#) on 5 September we launched [a consultation on draft guidance for Returning Officers on assistance with voting for persons with disabilities](#).

The Elections Act includes provisions relating to assisting disabled people to vote, and introduces a duty on the Commission to provide guidance for Returning Officers (ROs) on the requirement to provide reasonable equipment to assist voters with disabilities in polling stations. ROs must have regard to this guidance.

The changes made by the Act have provided a timely opportunity to review our existing guidance to help ensure everyone can vote independently and confidently. There should be no barriers to voting for disabled people, and everyone should have the right to vote on their own and in secret.

We are grateful for the feedback we've received to date. The consultation closes on 17 October and we want to hear from as many people as possible. You can respond by filling in [this form](#) or emailing your views to EAConsultation@electoralcommission.org.uk.

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If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, you may [unsubscribe](#) at any time.

Voter ID: public awareness campaign

Voter ID campaign: update

Ahead of the English local elections in May 2023, the Commission will be launching a new voter ID campaign in England in January 2023. The campaign will subsequently be rolled out across Scotland at the next relevant poll.

Public awareness

We know, from research carried out by the Cabinet Office in 2021, that 96% of people in Great Britain hold some form of recognisable photo ID, with passports (91%) and driving licenses (81%) being the most commonly held forms. This means most people simply need to know about the voter ID requirement and to be reminded to bring their ID on polling day. This group will be effectively reached by our mass media and digital advertising campaign.

Working in partnership

Research also tells us that some demographic groups are less likely to have a form of eligible ID. These groups are also more likely to face significant or compounding barriers in engaging with the new requirement:

- People over 85
- Trans and non-binary people
- Disabled people
- Ethnicities with low ID ownership, including people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities
- Homeless people and those in refuges
- Anonymous voters

We're working closely with civil society organisations in England to produce communications resources to raise awareness of the change and support people to understand what types of ID are eligible, how and where to apply for free voter ID, and what to expect at the polling station.

We will use our learning from the 2023 English local elections campaign to inform our plans for the campaign in Scotland.

In the case of any UK Parliament by-election after the changes have come into effect, we would work closely with the local communications team and support the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer to raise awareness amongst voters about the new requirement.

We will share more detail on plans for the campaign in due course.
If you have any questions, please contact us at
infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk.

2022 canvass: ERO survey

As in previous years, we will once again be requesting information from all EROs, which will help us to build up a picture of how the canvass is progressing. All EROs should have received an email directly last week with [a link to the survey](#).

The information gathered from the survey will support our engagement with you as well as informing our reporting on electoral registration. It will also be used to support the identification and sharing of examples of good practice and to further inform our guidance for EROs. Please complete the survey by no later than Wednesday 12 October.

If you have any questions relating to the survey, please contact us at infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk.

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