

# 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](mailto: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



Issue 335 (Wales) – 7 December 2022

### **New performance standards for ROs and updated performance standards for EROs**

We have today (7 December) published [new performance standards for Returning Officers](#) and [updated performance standards for Electoral Registration Officers](#). The standards form a key part of our guidance and support package for electoral administrators in planning for and delivering well-run electoral services across Great Britain.

Earlier this year we carried out a [consultation](#) on the draft standards and we are grateful to all those who commented and gave feedback.

Overall, respondents to the consultation agreed that the standards – with some minor amendments – cover the range of responsibilities of the RO and, alongside our guidance, will be effective in supporting them with planning for and delivering elections.

The new RO performance standards will 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 the delivery of elections at a local level and across Great Britain. They address the changes arising from the Elections Act, as do the updates we have made to the ERO framework, which was previously reviewed in 2021, to reflect the new responsibilities on EROs as a result of the Act.

Alongside publication of the standards, we have published our [response to the consultation](#), which summarises the comments we received during the consultation period and gives our response to the points that were made. It also sets out how we will use the standards over the next year.

### **Elections Act: consultation on updated accessibility guidance**

On Monday 5 December we launched the statutory phase of our consultation on draft guidance for Returning Officers on assistance with voting for disabled people.

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 disabled voters 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 ran an initial six-week public consultation on the draft guidance, which received 67 responses from members of the public, electoral administrators, and a wide range of charity, civil society and third sector organisations. We have now updated the guidance building on this feedback. You can find the latest version of the draft guidance, alongside information on the feedback received and how we have changed the guidance as a result, on our [website](#).

The statutory consultation will run until 16 January 2023 and you can respond by [filling in this form](#), emailing your views to [EAConsultation@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:EAConsultation@electoralcommission.org.uk) or writing to us at: Electoral Administration Guidance Team, The Electoral Commission, 3 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8YZ.

Your feedback will inform the further development of the guidance. We will finalise and publish the guidance as soon as we can after the consultation has concluded.

If you have any questions, please get in touch on 0333 103 1929 or [infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk).

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