

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 353 (England) – 22 March 2023

May 2023 elections: voter ID data collection – VIDEF and BPRL forms

Data on the impact of the new voter ID requirement on voters will be collected in polling stations in May using a combination of several new forms, including the Ballot Paper Refusal List (BPRL), the Voter Identification Evaluation notes sheet and the Voter Identification Evaluation Form (VIDEF).

There is currently more than one version of these forms available for use. The Commission developed templates that we made available alongside our polling station guidance, and we know that suppliers have also produced and distributed forms as part of their polling station packs. While we recognise that suppliers want to support ROs and their teams, the Commission and DLUHC are asking that the suppliers' forms are not used.

The Commission, working with DLUHC, will be formally requesting the data collected by these forms after the elections. Our request will use the wording and specific data fields (including reference numbers) set out on our VIDEF template. It will therefore be significantly easier to complete the data request, as required by the regulations, if the data has been collected and collated using the Commission forms.

This data is crucial for both the Commission and DLUHC's assessment of the impact on voters and we expect there will be significant interest in the figures. We are therefore very keen to ensure accurate and consistent data is available after the elections.

Further details on our approach to and timings for this data collection will be circulated shortly.

If you have any questions on this, please get in touch with us at research@electoralcommission.org.uk.

May 2023 elections: update on party names, descriptions and emblems

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Guidance on the forms to be used for the collection of data in polling stations.

May 2023 elections: update on party names, descriptions and emblems

Update on recent changes to the register of political parties.

May 2023 elections: voter information resources

Information on and links to voter information resources.

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 data protection legislation as

As per our approach to providing updates on changes made to party names, descriptions and emblems set out in [Bulletin 351](#), below is a summary of the updates we have made since [Bulletin 352](#).

outlined in our privacy notice (<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/privacy-notice>)

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

As you will see, there have been a number of recent changes to the register and whilst not all will be relevant to candidates standing in your area, it is important that you read the list of updates to parties carefully to ensure that you are aware of changes that may impact on those standing in your area:

- [Active for Plymouth](#)
- [East Devon Alliance](#)
- [Mansfield Independents](#)
- [Reform Derby](#)
- [UK Independence Party \(UKIP\) GB](#)

No parties have been deregistered since the previous Bulletin.

You can find full details of what amendments have been made in our [list of recent decisions to approve or reject applied-for party names, descriptions and emblems](#). On our website you can also find a [list of applications we are currently considering](#).

When receiving nominations, Returning Officers must check that the party name or any description given on a nomination form, as well as the requested emblem, is registered on [the Commission's register of political parties](#) and that the details provided match the registration. To ensure that you are viewing the most up-to-date information, you may need to delete your browser history or refresh the page. If you are unsure how to do this, your IT team should be able to advise you.

Please [contact us](#) if you have any queries about the information contained on the registers.

May 2023 elections: voter information resources

We have updated a range of informative social media graphics, social media post templates and posters. In our partner pack you can also find template press releases to help you raise awareness of voter registration, as well as voter ID, with your residents.

[These resources](#) are designed to help you reach as many people as possible with the essential information voters need to cast their vote with confidence.

You'll find graphics covering everything from the location and opening times of polling stations to the support that is available for voters, as well as the different ways people can choose to vote.

The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8YZ
Tel England: 0333 103 1928

infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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