

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 354 (England) – 30 March 2023

Publication of report on electoral registration in Great Britain in 2022

We have today (Thursday 30 March) published a [report on electoral registration in Great Britain in 2022](#). The report looks at how the canvass was run and considers the ongoing impact on the electoral registers of the changes to the annual canvass process introduced in 2020.

Our analysis of data relating to the 2022 canvass suggests that the reformed canvass processes may not be sufficient to ensure that the registers keep pace with population movement. This is consistent with our findings from 2020 and 2021. Specifically:

- Some households continue to be allocated to the ‘wrong’ route due to imperfections in the data matching process and/or the lag between matching and canvassing. Almost a fifth of responses from households allocated to Route 1 (where the data matching process suggested there had been no change in household composition) reported significant changes to electors’ details.
- Necessary changes to electors’ details may not be reflected on the registers. Around 2.4 million households, or one third of those allocated to Route 2 (where a change in household composition was expected), did not respond to the canvass.
- The number of registered attainers continues to fall, possibly as a consequence of the reduction in contact that EROs now make with Route 1 households. The decline in the number of registered attainers began after the introduction of individual electoral registration (IER) in 2014. It continued in 2022, although the number fell at a much lower rate than in 2021.

While we know that new registration applications are most readily driven by large scale electoral events, it is nevertheless important that the canvass and other year-round registration activity supports accurate and complete registers. This can help to reduce the large volumes of registration applications received immediately in

Contents

Publication of report on electoral registration in Great Britain in 2022

Information on and a link to the Commission’s report, which was published today (Thursday 30 March).

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

Update on recent changes to the register of political parties.

May 2023 elections: reminder of a pre-election webinar and advice surgeries

Reminders of a pre-election webinar the Commission is hosting for candidates and their agents and of advice surgeries for them to discuss specific issues relating to spending and donations.

Guidance update

Information on and links to updated guidance and resources for PCC elections and UKPGE by-elections.

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.

advance of major polls, when EROs' staff capacity is already stretched.

We cannot draw definitive conclusions on the impact of the changed canvass process on the registers from this analysis alone. Our research studies into accuracy and completeness allow us to produce reliable estimates of the quality of the registers. The results of our next study will be published in September 2023 and will enable us to robustly evaluate the impact that the canvass reforms have had.

We have regularly highlighted our concern that the registration system, including the canvass, is unlikely to be sustainable in the longer term and have recommended that the UK's governments should reform the system, including to make better use of data to keep the registers up to date and to explore more automated registration processes.

Over the next year we will continue to support and challenge EROs, and work with you to ensure we all make full use of the data that is available. This should help to provide a better understanding of the impact of particular practices within the current framework and support us with identifying and sharing good practice.

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

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 353](#):

- [Local First](#)

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](#).

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.

Emblem Zip file

A [Zip file](#) of emblem images is available on our website and was last updated on 21 March 2023. **You should not use any Zip files downloaded before this date for any purpose.**

While the Zip file can be used by your printer to prepare ballot papers, it is the information on the Commission's register of political parties that should be used for confirming which emblem and description to print on the ballot papers. You should therefore ensure that you and your printers only download and use the Zip file once nominations have closed.

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 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.

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

May 2023 elections: reminder of a pre-election webinar and advice surgeries

Candidate and agent webinar – Tuesday 11 April

As set out in [Bulletin 252](#), we are hosting another pre-election webinar for candidates and their agents taking part in the upcoming elections. We included a copy of the invitation in that Bulletin, which you can share with those standing for election in your area, particularly independent candidates.

Surgeries for candidates and agents

We are also offering 15-minute appointments with an expert advisor at the Commission to discuss specific issues relating to the spending and donation laws, and to answer any queries candidates and agents might have. The appointments after the election will provide practical support with spending returns. Virtual appointments will be available using Microsoft Teams throughout the following days, on a first come, first served basis:

Tuesday 18 April
Tuesday 25 April
Wednesday 26 April

Tuesday 23 May
Wednesday 24 May
Friday 25 May

Please feel free to share this information with those standing for election in your area. To request an appointment, candidates and agents should [complete our form](#) and can contact Stuart Butler on sbutler@electoralcommission.org.uk if they have any further questions.

Guidance update

We have now republished in HTML format our core guidance for the following:

- [Local Returning Officers at a Police and Crime Commissioner election](#)
- [Police Area Returning Officers](#)
- [\(Acting\) Returning Officers at a UK Parliamentary by-election](#)
- [Combined Authority Returning Officers](#)

The guidance has been updated to reflect the Elections Act provisions which come into effect for these types of polls from 4 May onwards, relating to voter ID, accessibility measures and the change to the voting system for PCC and combined authority mayoral elections. We have also updated all relevant supporting resources for these election types.

In addition, we have updated our candidates and agents guidance for:

- [Police and Crime Commissioner elections](#)
- [UK Parliamentary by-elections](#)
- [Combined Area Mayoral elections](#)

Again, these changes reflect the Elections Act provisions which come into effect for these types of polls from 4 May onwards.

Should you require any further support, please contact [your local Commission team](#) who will be happy to help.

.....
The Electoral Commission

3 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8YZ

Tel England: 0333 103 1928

infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

© The Electoral Commission 2023