

# electoral administration bulletin



Issue 355 (England) – 5 April 2023

## May 2023 elections: data collection

As you know, at each set of elections, the Commission collects key administrative data from Electoral Registration Officers and Returning Officers. This data provides important evidence to support our work in reporting on elections across the UK. For May 2023 we will collect data in two separate waves, using our data portal (which we have also used to collect data for previous elections):

- Data related to voter ID
- Core administrative data, including that related to postal voting, rejected votes, etc.

### What data are we going to collect relating to voter ID?

In the days immediately following the local elections we will collect data around voter ID. This will enable us to understand how many people are turned away from polling stations because of the new voter ID requirement. This data is crucial for both the Commission and DLUHC's assessment of the impact on voters.

This is largely the data that the Elections Act requires Presiding Officers to collect in each polling station and which is set out in our voter ID evaluation form ([VIDEF](#)) template.

[Here](#) is a full list of the data we will be collecting for Voter ID. The data is being requested at local authority level. The Voter Identification Regulations require the VIDEF data to be split depending on whether the polling station had a 'greeter' or not.

In addition to the VIDEF fields we are also asking for:

- the number of polling station voters on the day (see data list for full definition)
- the overall number of polling stations with and without greeters

## Contents

### May 2023 elections: data collection

Information about our plans for collecting data, including data relating to voter ID, following the May 2023 elections.

### May 2023 elections: gathering feedback

Information about our plans for gathering feedback following the May 2023 elections.

### May 2023 elections: public awareness resources

Information on and links to various public awareness resources.

### May 2023 elections: further call for polling station data

A reminder of our request for polling station data to update the polling station finder.

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

Please note that the VIDEF figures should only include data recorded at the ballot issuing desk and not any data gathered by a greeter at the entrance to the polling station.

### **What core administrative electoral data are we going to collect?**

We will then collect the same administrative electoral data as we collected last year. The full list is [here](#).

### **When are we going to collect the data?**

The deadlines for the data returns are:

- Voter ID: Friday 12 May
- Core administrative data: Friday 16 June

[Here](#) is the user guide which includes more details, including on the data we are requesting in relation to Voter ID.

From Thursday 4 May you will be able to log on to the data portal to fill in data for voter ID and the core administrative electoral data. You will receive an email to your electoral services email address with details on how to logon/reset your password on the day after the election.

### **Data collection support**

If you have any questions about the data collection, please contact [research@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:research@electoralcommission.org.uk).

We will be holding a webinar on Friday 14 April at 10.30am to talk through the data collection for voter ID. You will be able to access it on [this](#) link.

---

### **May 2023 elections: gathering feedback**

As we do each year, the Commission will be reporting on the elections in May 2023. Our reports depend heavily on the feedback and information we receive from the people who run and participate in the polls. We very much appreciate your help in either responding to or distributing these surveys.

### **Polling station staff survey**

We are carrying out a survey of polling station staff to collect feedback about their polling day experiences. The polling station handbook (hard copy and digital) features a QR code which staff can use a smart phone to scan to access the survey.

The link to the survey will go live on the afternoon of polling day. We would appreciate your help in highlighting the survey to your polling station staff.

Alternatively, in the week after polling day we will provide you with a link to the online survey, which you could e-mail to polling station staff.

If you have any queries about the survey, please contact [research@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:research@electoralcommission.org.uk).

### **Feedback from you**

We would also like your feedback. This not only informs our post-election reporting but will also help us to improve how we support

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.

you in delivering well-run elections in the future. This year it will be particularly useful to hear about your experience of implementing the voter ID changes, as well as information on the accessibility measures in place in your area.

The [survey link](#) will be made live on Friday 5 May and the deadline for completion will be Friday 9 June.

If you have any queries about the feedback survey please contact [researchsurvey@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:researchsurvey@electoralcommission.org.uk).

### **Template survey to collect feedback from voters using support at polling stations**

As requested by respondents to our consultation on the 'Assistance with voting for disabled voters' guidance, we have created a [template survey](#) that you can use to gather feedback from disabled voters. The survey is also available in [easy read](#).

You do not have to use this survey or share the results with Electoral Commission, but it may support you in evaluating the support you provided to assist disabled voters at the polling station.

---

### **May 2023 elections: public awareness resources**

#### **'My Vote My Voice' campaign resources on accessible voting**

The 'My Vote My Voice' campaign is on a mission to encourage people with learning disabilities and/or autism to vote at elections.

We're delighted to be supporting the campaign and would encourage you to do the same. They have produced [resources which aim to make voting accessible for all](#). The campaign has been developed by [United Response](#), [Dimensions](#), [Mencap](#), [Ambitious About Autism](#) and the people who draw on their care and support.

#### **Voter information accessible resources**

Ahead of May's elections we have worked with the British Deaf Association to produce an expanded series of [videos in British Sign Language \(BSL\) to support Deaf people to vote](#).

These videos including information on:

- which elections are taking place
- how to register to vote
- which forms of ID will be accepted when voting at a polling station
- how to apply for free voter ID if you need it
- how to cast your vote
- what support will be available at the polling station
- other ways to vote

These resources, complemented by our other resources on voter ID, provide voters with accessible information to help them vote with confidence at May's local elections.

#### **Press releases**

Don't forget there are a number of [template press releases](#) in the partner pack for local authorities to use in the run up to the polls. These include releases to mark the upcoming voter registration and

VAC application deadlines and reminders for voters during polling week.

---

### May 2023 elections: further call for polling station data

As set out in [Bulletin 351](#), we're once again running the polling station finder, in partnership with Democracy Club, to help make sure voters have access to accurate and timely information about how and where they can vote.

We need your updated polling station information to make sure voters head to the right polling station. By having this information easily available online, it should help to reduce the number of calls you'll get from voters looking for this information.

Providing your data is straightforward. You can export the data from your EMS, and then upload it using Democracy Club's [easy-to-use tool](#). Alternatively, you can still email it to [pollingstations@democracyclub.org.uk](mailto:pollingstations@democracyclub.org.uk).

[Detailed instructions are available for each supplier](#), if you need them.

To make sure there is time to change the information, we ask that you send your polling station data as soon as possible, if you've not done so already.

If you'd like to see the polling station finder on your own website, you can embed [our election widget](#).

---

The Electoral Commission  
3 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8YZ  
Tel England: 0333 103 1928  
[infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk)

[www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk)  
© The Electoral Commission 2023