

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 324 (Scotland) – 14 June 2023

Elections Act: guidance update

In line with our approach to supporting Returning Officers and Electoral Registration Officers with the implementation of the first phase of Elections Act changes, we have now published a second [key considerations guidance document](#) to inform preparations for the next phase of changes.

These include absent voting, overseas electors and EU citizens' franchise changes, as well as changes to postal vote handling and secrecy, commonly used names and the offences of undue influence and intimidation.

This guidance is based on our current understanding of the UK Government's implementation plans. The detail of the secondary legislation is still to be confirmed, and so there are a number of areas where the guidance is based on our understanding of the policy or draft secondary legislation.

We will update the planning guidance as needed when the detail is confirmed, and will update you on any changes in future EA Bulletins.

We are continuing to develop our plans for the production and publication of the updated core guidance and resources you will need to support you with implementing the changes.

The draft regulations for the [changes to absent voting](#) have now been published and we are working on updating our guidance with the detail of that legislation. We aim to publish this guidance by early September ahead of the legislation coming into force on 31 October.

We will provide more details on the publication of updates to our guidance for the remaining provisions in a future Bulletin.

If you have any queries on any of this, or need any further support, please contact infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk

Contents

Elections Act: guidance update

Information on and a link to a new key considerations document to support ROs and EROs with planning for the next phase of Elections Act changes.

2023 canvass resources

Information on and a link to resources for EROs to use to promote the canvass in their area.

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

2023 canvass resources

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

We have developed a number of digital [resources](#) to help you promote the annual canvass in your area.

These resources include:

- Social media graphics
- Template social media messaging
- Template press releases

We have also produced an [A5 voter ID insert](#) you can include with your canvass communications to raise awareness of the requirement amongst your residents.

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