

# electoral administration bulletin

The  
Electoral  
Commission



Issue 326 (Scotland) – 12 July 2023

## Polling district and polling place review guidance

The next compulsory polling district and polling place review period will commence on 1 October 2023, with all local authorities being required to review their UK Parliamentary constituency polling districts before 31 January 2025.

This review will also take place alongside the introduction of revised UK Parliamentary constituency boundaries, which have now been published by the Boundary Commissions for [England](#), [Scotland](#), [Wales](#) and [Northern Ireland](#), and which are expected to come into force at the next UK Parliamentary general election.

To support you with preparing for and delivering the review, we have republished our longstanding [polling district and polling place review guidance](#) in web-based HTML format. The guidance has also been updated, in consultation with the Elections, Registration and Referendums Working Group, to include specific considerations for the 2023-2025 compulsory review period.

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## Elections Act: guidance update

As set out in [Bulletin 324](#), we are in the process of updating our core guidance to support you with the delivery of the next phase of changes arising out of the Elections Act 2022.

We have already published [our second key planning considerations guidance](#) resource, to support you in your preparations to deliver these measures, and we can now update you on our approach to providing the core guidance. We are again taking a phased approach to this, to reflect the order in which the legislation is scheduled to come into effect and when you will need to take steps to implement it.

Our initial focus is on the core guidance for EROs to support the changes to absent voting, including the introduction of online applications. We aim to publish this guidance in early September 2023, ahead of the [legislation](#) coming into force on 31 October 2023.

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### Polling district and polling place review guidance

Information on and a link to our polling district and polling place review guidance.

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### Elections Act: guidance update

An update on the Commission's plans for guidance for the next phase of the Elections Act 2022 changes.

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.

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We then expect to publish updates to the core ERO guidance to support the changes to overseas electors' voting rights in November 2023, ahead of the legislation coming into force in January 2024.

We will also be producing new guidance for EROs to support the delivery of the Registration Confirmation and Review (RCR) process for EU citizens, as a result of the changes to EU citizens' voting rights. We expect to publish the guidance by the end of this year, in advance of the process commencing post-May 2024.

The updates to guidance required as a result of the other measures, such as postal vote handling and secrecy and changes to the commonly used name requirements, will be included in updates to the relevant core RO guidance.

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