

# electoral administration bulletin

The  
Electoral  
Commission



Issue 327 (Scotland) – 2 August 2023

## Elections Act: legislation and guidance update

The UK Government laid two Statutory Instruments (SIs) before Parliament that apply in Scotland on 6 July relating to Elections Act measures:

- [Representation of the People \(Postal and Proxy Voting etc.\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2023](#) – these cover the online absent vote application service and changes to postal and proxy voting arrangements (OAVA/PPVR) and contain updates to statutory forms including poll cards.
- [Mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections, Recall Petitions and Referendums \(Ballot Secrecy, Candidates and Undue Influence\) Regulations 2023](#) – these cover a range of other measures from the Act, including the new electoral sanction for intimidation.

Further to the laying of these SIs, we have updated our tranche 2 [key considerations planning guidance](#), including to reflect the absent voting transitional arrangements as set out in the OAVA/PPVR SI, which are different to those provided for in the earlier published version of the SI and which had informed our original planning assumptions. We have also included within it a link to our recently published [guidance on polling district reviews](#).

The key considerations guidance will remain a living document as further detail emerges. A change log has been added to the guidance to help you easily identify what changes have been made, and we will also highlight further amendments or additions through the Bulletin as usual.

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## Voter ID resources

We have published updated digital and printable voter ID resources so they can now be used for any election which requires photo ID to help you raise awareness of the requirement, and support voters who are less likely to have an accepted form of ID.

The [pack of voter ID resources](#) includes:

## Contents

### Elections Act: legislation and guidance update

Links to new legislation and our updated key considerations document to support ROs and EROs with planning for the next phase of Elections Act changes.

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### Voter ID resources

Information on and links to updated digital and print resources to help raise awareness of the voter ID requirement.

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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>)

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

- A guide for staff and volunteers
- A booklet for voters
- A5 summary insert (for use in mailings)
- Posters
- Web banners
- Template social media resources
- Template web and newsletter copy
- Press resources

To support disabled voters we have also produced [information in the following accessible formats](#):

- Braille
- Audio
- Plain text
- Easy read
- BSL

Additionally, we have created resources tailored to the needs of people who are [registered to vote anonymously](#), or who might benefit from doing so, such as domestic abuse survivors.

#### **UK Parliamentary by-election resources**

Should a UK Parliamentary by-election be called in your area, additional bespoke resources – including a poster, social media graphic and A5 supplement – will be shared directly with you to help you raise awareness.

If you have any questions on our resources, please contact us at [infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk).

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