

# electoral administration bulletin

The  
Electoral  
Commission



Issue 329 (Scotland) – 6 September 2023

## Elections Act: publication of absent voting guidance

As set out in [Bulletin 326](#), 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 now published updated [core guidance for EROs](#) to support the changes to the absent voting process for UK Parliamentary elections, which we expect to come into force on 31 October 2023.

It has been developed in close consultation with colleagues from across the electoral community, including the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA), Scottish Assessors Association (SAA), Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (Solace), the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and the Elections, Registration and Referendums Working Group (ERRWG).

Until the new provisions come into force, the current rules continue to apply so we have published the updated guidance alongside the existing absent voting guidance. The titles of the updated guidance pages indicate clearly that they apply post-commencement of the new legislation, to help you distinguish between the two different sets of guidance.

Once the new legislation comes into force, the existing guidance will be removed from the website.

If you have any questions about any of this, please contact [infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk).

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## 2023 canvass: ERO survey reminder

As in previous years, we are once again requesting information from all EROs, which will help us to build up a picture of how the canvass is progressing and how you are preparing for the implementation of the next phase of Elections Act provisions.

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### Elections Act: publication of absent voting guidance

Information on the publication of updated core guidance for EROs to support changes to the absent voting process.

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### 2023 canvass: ERO survey reminder

Reminder to complete the survey by Friday 8 September 2023.

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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>)

All EROs should have received an email directly last week with the relevant links and pdf versions of the questions. Please complete the survey by no later than Friday 8 September.

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

The information gathered from the survey will inform not only how we work with you but also our reporting on electoral registration. It will also be used to support the identification and sharing of examples of good practice and to inform our guidance for EROs.

If you have any questions relating to the survey, please contact [infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk).

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