

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission

Contents

Guidance update

Information on and a link to updated nomination packs, and information about the British Nationality (Eswatini, Gabon and Togo) Order 2023 and extension of voting rights to citizens of Gabon and Togo.

Commission website: changes to information architecture

Information about changes to our website structure, which are designed to make it easier to navigate.

Updated code of conduct for campaigners: postal vote handling and secrecy

Information on and a link to the updated code of conduct for campaigners at reserved elections to reflect the new postal vote handling and secrecy provisions.

Sharing Good Practice: recruiting temporary staff

Information on and a link to our Sharing Good Practice resource, which details different approaches to recruiting polling day staff.

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

Issue 356 (Wales) – 22 December 2023

Guidance update

Nomination pack templates

Following the changes to legislation on commonly used names, undue influence, and the introduction of the new offence of intimidation, nomination packs for [UK Parliamentary](#) and [Police and Crime Commissioner](#) elections have all been updated to reflect the new measures.

These changes take effect from 2 May 2024.

In addition to the changes above, the UK Parliamentary pack also includes a change to the home address form. The changes included apply to UK Parliamentary elections taking place from 2 May 2024.

Togo and Gabon: updates to ERO guidance

In line with the [British Nationality \(Eswatini, Gabon and Togo\) Order 2023](#) which amends the British Nationality Act and came into force on 15 December, citizens of Togo and Gabon are now able to register to vote as Commonwealth citizens. We have updated [our guidance](#) and any relevant resources to reflect this change.

Please contact infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk if you have any questions.

Commission website: changes to information architecture

We're always looking for ways to make [our website](#) better, so that it's easier for you to find and understand the information you need.

We've been working on a project to improve the structure, navigation and menu of our website. Our data shows that it's not always easy to find certain information, and we know this can be confusing and sometimes frustrating.

We've now reached the end of this project, and the changes launched on 19 December.

The changes are to the website's main navigation. We have moved away from the 'I am a' and 'Who we are and what we do' menu structure to have seven options to choose from. One of these options is 'Our guidance'. By selecting this option, you can select the guidance you need, as you used to do from the 'I am a' dropdown menu.

The guidance itself, and how you navigate it, has not changed as part of this project. Any links that you might have saved to specific webpages will continue to work.

Updated code of conduct for campaigners: postal vote handling and secrecy

The Elections Act 2022 makes it a criminal offence for political campaigners to handle another person's postal voting documents, with exceptions for close family members, spouses, cohabitees or people they provide care for.

It also makes it an offence for anyone to try to obtain or communicate any information on a voter's postal ballot or who they have voted for. These changes apply in Great Britain at UK Parliamentary elections, English local and mayoral elections, and Police and Crime Commissioner elections in England and Wales.

We have updated the [Code of Conduct for Campaigners for reserved elections](#) to reflect the legal changes.

Although the new offences will apply for the first time at scheduled polls in 2024, the previous Code already recommended that, to avoid perceptions of electoral fraud, parties should not handle completed ballots or take postal ballot packs from voters.

Sharing Good Practice: recruiting temporary staff

We have today published a new [resource](#) designed to share different approaches to recruiting polling day staff.

One of the recurring themes of our engagement with electoral administrators has been about the challenges of recruiting polling day staff. Across Great Britain teams have responded in many ways to secure staff.

This resource reflects the experiences of a small number of local authorities in England, who have developed approaches that have helped them, and which we hope, may help others. The examples outlined highlight some of the practical ways that recruitment challenges have been overcome. We intend to add further examples to this resource from authorities in Wales in the coming months.

We welcome further examples of different approaches and successes from administrators, on this and other topics, that could be shared. Please contact infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk to help us share more good practice.

The Electoral Commission, Wales
Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff, CF14 3UZ
Tel: 0333 103 1929

infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk

[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.

If there is a new RO/ERO appointment in your authority, please contact the team in Wales by e-mailing infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk.

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.

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

© The Electoral Commission 2023