

electoral administration bulletin



Issue 340 (Scotland) – 17 January 2024

Update on overseas voter forms

Further to [Bulletin 338](#), the overseas voter registration forms have now been updated to reflect the Elections Act changes that came into effect on 16 January.

The new suite of forms include an overseas voter registration form, a separate form for those who could have made a declaration of local connection on the date they left the UK, and an overseas voter renewal form.

The forms have now been published and can be downloaded at [Registration forms and letters | Electoral Commission](#).

Elections Act: postal vote handling and secrecy

Although there are no scheduled polls in May 2024 in Scotland, we would like to advise you that supporting resources for Returning Officers for the scheduled May 2024 polls in England and Wales are currently being updated to reflect the new postal vote handling and secrecy requirements introduced as part of the Elections Act 2022.

This update will assist you by providing insight for the postal vote handing requirements during early preparation and planning for the forthcoming UK Parliamentary general election (UKPGE).

The updates for the May 2024 polls include publication of the polling station handbook and related resources, including the updated template briefing slides for polling station staff. Please note that this will not be the final print-ready version of the polling station handbook, but a final text version reflecting the postal vote handing in process, which is being made available to support administrators in planning their polling station training.

Updates to the similar guidance and resources for the UKPGE will follow and we will advise this via our bulletin when it is available.

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Information on updating supporting resources for Returning Officers to reflect the new postal vote handling and secrecy requirements.

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>)

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