

# electoral administration bulletin

The  
Electoral  
Commission

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Information on updates to our suite of voter-facing Overseas Voter forms, and a link to our draft application form.

Links to partner resources for communicating the change in overseas voting rights.

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.

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



Issue 357 (Wales) – 5 January 2024

## Elections Act – the Eligibility Confirmation and Review process

Further to [Bulletin 344](#) we have now published guidance on managing the [Eligibility, Confirmation and Review \(ECR\) process](#) as provided by the [Representation of the People \(Franchise Amendment and Eligibility Review\) Regulations 2023](#). This guidance is to support EROs implementing the Election Act 2022 changes to the franchise of EU citizens.

In Wales the right of European Union citizens to register, vote and stand in Police and Crime Commissioner elections will be removed, taking effect from 7 May 2024. This change does not affect the franchise for Senedd or local government elections.

The guidance includes what you should consider when planning and delivering the review; how the review processes, including both the data based and correspondence review, must be delivered; the possible outcomes of the review processes; and the requirement to provide data to us for the purpose of evaluating the change.

EROs will be required to undertake the ECR process from 7 May 2024 and it must be concluded by 31 January 2025.

Please contact [infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk) if you have any questions about the guidance.

## Elections Act: updates to overseas voter forms and partnership resources

### Updating our forms

The Elections Act 2022 introduced a number of changes to our electoral system, including removing the 15-year limit on the voting rights of British citizens living overseas.

In line with this change we have updated our overseas voter application forms.

The updates to our existing suite of forms are being made in line with our best practice principles for form production, to ensure they

are easy for voters to use and understand while capturing the new legislation accurately. During the form production process, we have discussed and consulted with the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Election, Referendums and Registration Working Group to ensure that the views of the wider electoral sector are also taken into account.

A sample of the [draft application forms](#) can be viewed now on our website to give you early sight of the form content, prior to the legislation coming into effect on Tuesday January 16 2024.

The full set of forms will be published on our voter-facing webpage, on the legislation go-live date, and we will update you via the Bulletin once this is completed.

Please note that the sample forms are not final and must not be shared with the public or used to submit applications.

### **Partner resources**

People living in the UK can play a crucial role in raising awareness of these changes by telling friends or family members living abroad they can now vote in UK Parliament elections – and we need your help to encourage them to do so. To support you to do this, we have produced the following communications resources:

- A flyer
- Posters
- Social media graphics and template posts
- Web banners
- An email signature
- Web/newsletter copy
- An FAQ
- A Press Release

### [Download these resources](#)

Our campaign will formally launch on 16 January, when these changes are expected to come into force. We will publish updated information on these changes on our website on that date, alongside these resources. We would therefore encourage you to hold off on sharing these resources publicly until then.

If you would like more information on these resources, please contact Ella Downing, Senior Communications Adviser at [EDowning@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:EDowning@electoralcommission.org.uk).

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