

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 359 (Wales) – 17 January 2024

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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.

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

Update on overseas voter forms

Further to [Bulletin 357](#), 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](#).

May 2024 elections: guidance update

We want to take the opportunity to remind you of recent updates to our guidance and resources to support your preparations for the PCC elections in May, and to highlight when you can expect to see the remaining updates required to reflect the changes introduced by the Elections Act 2022.

Guidance for Electoral Registration Officers

In September 2023, we published updates to the [core ERO guidance](#) to support the updated absent vote application processes which came into force on 31 October last year.

Guidance for Returning Officers

As set out in [Bulletin 352](#), the [core guidance](#) and [planning resources for LROs](#), such as the election timetable for the PCC elections on 2 May 2024, the project plan and the risk register were published in November 2023.

The remaining supporting resources are being updated to reflect the changes that will be in effect for the May 2024 polls, including the postal vote handling and secrecy provisions. These are being published on a rolling basis, with the final updates on track to be completed by early February. This will include publication of a web only version of the polling station handbook and 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 we are publishing in advance to support administrators in planning their training for polling station staff. As in previous years, hard copies of the polling station handbook will be distributed in March.

Candidate and agent guidance

We have published our updated [guidance and resources for candidates and agents](#) in the new web-based HTML format, including the publication of updated nomination forms for the PCC elections in May 2024. We are currently further updating this guidance to reflect the new postal vote handling rules and this will be completed by early February.

May 2024 elections: management information survey – reminder

As set out in [Bulletin 358](#) last week, as part of our approach to monitoring the May 2024 polls, we are collecting management information from all Returning Officers with scheduled elections relating to how the polls will be managed in their area.

We understand how busy you are and very much appreciate your time in providing us with this important information.

Thank you to those who have already completed and submitted their response. If you haven't already done so, we would be grateful if you could complete the survey by no later than Friday 19 January 2024. If you have any questions please contact infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk.

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