

# electoral administration bulletin

The  
Electoral  
Commission



Issue 377 (England) – 17 January 2024

## Update on overseas voter forms

Further to [Bulletin 374](#), 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 May polls, and to highlight when you can expect to see the remaining updates required to reflect the changes introduced by the Elections Act 2022 that will apply for the forthcoming polls.

### 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 370](#), the [core guidance](#) and planning resources for ROs, such as the election timetable for scheduled 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

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Information on and a link to the updated forms.

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Reminders of recent guidance updates and resources to support preparation for May polls.

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Reminder to complete the survey.

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

will not be the final print-ready version of the polling station handbook, but a final text version reflecting the postal vote handling 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.

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

### **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 scheduled polls 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.

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### **May 2024 elections: management information survey – reminder**

As set out in [Bulletin 376](#) 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 [infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk).

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