

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 384 (England) – 10 April 2024

Elections Act: forms and letters

In line with the changes introduced by the Elections Act 2022, we have produced updates to our Invitation to Register (ITR) forms and created the new Eligibility Confirmation Review (ECR) letter templates to implement the changes to the franchise for EU citizens across England and Wales.

The most significant change to the ITR forms is the introduction of a comprehensive Historical Residency Question (HRQ). This question is a necessary legal requirement to enable Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) to determine if citizens of EU19 countries are eligible to register to vote in England.

The Eligibility Confirmation Review (ECR) letters have been created alongside the Invitation to Register (ITR) forms to ensure all legislative requirements are met across the full suite of letters and forms. The ECR letters will be sent from 7th May to some EU citizens who are registered to vote in England and Wales. The letters will ask the voter for information about their immigration status to enable the ERO to check their eligibility to remain registered in England, or to check their eligibility to vote in PCC elections in Wales.

Both the HRQ wording and ECR letters have undergone user testing and the HRQ has also undergone user research to establish the best wording for user understanding. They have also received approval from the Secretary of State.

A sample of the draft ITR forms can be viewed [HERE](#) to give you early sight of the form content, and the ECR letters can also be viewed [HERE](#), prior to the legislation coming into effect on Tuesday, 7th May, 2024. This prior notice is also to allow you to agree templates with external printers, if necessary.

The full set of ITR forms will be published on our voter-facing webpage, on the legislation go-live date. The clean versions of our ECR letters will be available on our website ([Registration forms and letters | Electoral Commission](#)) on the legislation go-live date.

Contents

Elections Act: forms and letters: Information on updates to our suite of voter-facing Invitation to Register (ITR) forms and Eligibility Confirmation Review (ECR) letters.

May 2024 Elections: Observer Scheme: Confirmation that last day to apply to be an accredited electoral observer in advance of May polls will be Thursday 18 April 2024.

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>)

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

The forms and letters have been shared with EMS suppliers to support their preparation in advance of the legislation coming into effect; however, the sample forms must not be shared with the public or used to submit applications.

May 2024 Elections: Observer Scheme

Observer Application Deadline – April 18th

Please note we have given applicants until Thursday 18 April to apply to be accredited as an electoral observer in advance of the 2 May polls.

We will publish the updated registers of accredited observers eligible to observe the 2 May polls no later than Friday 26 April.

Giving Notice of Where You Intend to Observe

Our [Code of Practice](#) highlights to observers that providing advance notification of where they intend to observe can assist them in making more effective observations. However, electoral observers are not required to give advance notice of where they intend to observe and are free to make unannounced visits.

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