

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission

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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.

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.



Issue 397 (England) – 21 August 2024

Annual canvass resources

To support your work in delivering the annual canvass, [we have a set of resources](#) for you to use to promote the canvass in your area and encourage residents to complete the required steps.

The resources include:

- Social media graphics
- Template social media messaging
- Template press releases

The social media graphics are simple and versatile, with just an icon representing different stages of the canvass. We have also provided template social media messaging to accompany the graphics, so you can choose what will work best for you and your residents.

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Eligibility Confirmation Review – additional guidance on eligibility

With the Eligibility Confirmation Review (ECR) process underway we have received numerous queries regarding the eligibility of individuals that received their EU settled status (EUSS) after the Implementation Period Completion Date (IPCD) of 31 December 2020.

We have clarified the position of these individuals with colleagues at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and will be updating our core guidance to reflect the following information ASAP.

Providing that EUSS has been granted to the individual in their own right (and not on the grounds of being a joining family member), a grant of EU settled status is sufficient to confirm a person meets the residency requirements, no matter when the EUSS was granted. This is because having 'personal' EUSS can be taken as evidence that an individual has been resident in the

UK continuously since at least IPCD, regardless of when it was granted. Obtaining EUSS requires the individual to have been legally resident before the IPCD. This includes any individual who has a personal “settled” or “pre-settled” status – either of which can be taken as evidence they meet the new eligibility criteria.

This also means that if an individual has EUSS as ‘a joining family member’ it can be assumed that they have not been resident continuously since at least IPCD and as such would not meet the required eligibility criteria of an EU citizen with retained rights. If they had their own continuous legal immigration status since the IPCD they would have been granted their own EUSS, and not that of a joining family member. You can ask any such individuals to confirm if they gained settled/pre-settled status on the grounds of being a “joining family member” or not. If they did, they would not be eligible under the new eligibility criteria.

If you are not sure if an individual meets the new eligibility criteria for another reason, for example if the elector has informed you that they were out of the country for a period of time or arrived after the IPCD, then you have the power to request further information in order to make a determination. You can find our guidance on your power to request further information to establish eligibility [here](#).

We will provide a further update in a future bulletin once the guidance has been updated. In the meantime, if you have any questions or require any assistance, please do contact your local Commission Team.

To help EROs, local authority communications staff and civil society organisations raise awareness of the wider changes to voting and candidacy rights of some EU citizens ahead of the May 2025 local elections in England, we are developing a set of digital and printable resources. We expect these will be available on our website by the end of October and they will be shared via this bulletin when they are ready.

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