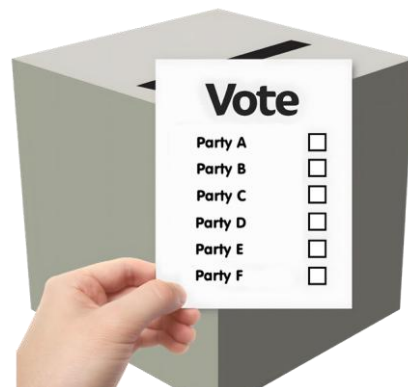


# The Electoral Commission



## Information for returning officers: Helping disabled people to vote



# What is in this booklet

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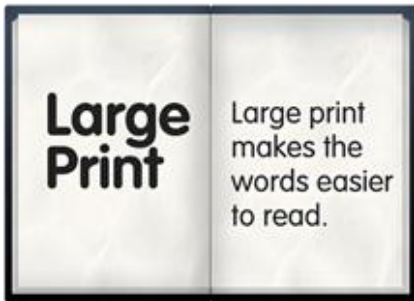
**Page 10** How to let us know what you think

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## Introduction

Everyone should have the right to vote **independently** and secretly. Independently means to do something by yourself.



Disabled people might need extra help or equipment so they can vote independently and secretly.

## The Electoral Commission

The Electoral Commission is in charge of **elections** in the UK. An election is when people pick who will be their leaders by voting.



The Electoral Commission makes information for **Returning Officers**.

Returning Officers are the people in charge of how elections are run. In Northern Ireland they are called Chief Electoral Officers.



**Support**

This information is so the Returning Officers know what they should do to help disabled people to vote.



We have updated some of the information we give to Returning Officers. This tells them how to support disabled voters at **polling stations**.



A polling station is the place you go to vote in an election.



We want to know what you think about the updated information we give to Returning Officers.



## What we did

We talked to lots of people, charities and groups.

We asked them about the things that made it difficult for disabled people to vote at polling stations.



We asked them to tell us how to make it easier for disabled people to vote.



We used what people told us to change the information we give to Returning Officers.



We hope that this will give them all the information they need to help disabled voters.



## What people said

We thought about what people said and made changes to the information we give to Returning Officers.



Here are some of examples of the things people said and what we have changed:



1. Better training for people who work in polling stations to help disabled voters



2. Returning Officers should speak to more disabled people to ask them what help they need.



3. More examples of equipment to help blind and partially-sighted voters



Even though we have already made some changes, there is more that we still need to do.



Before the elections in May 2026, we will try to:

- Make more information that Returning Officers can use on social media



- Make more information that Returning Officers can use about what other people do and equipment they provide.



Every year we will look at our information and support. We will update and add to it to keep making it better.



People who take part in this survey can say how easy or difficult it was for them to vote.



They can also say what they think about the extra help they had to vote.



### **What happens now?**

Read the updated information for Returning Officers [here](#).

It is available in [easy read](#).



We want to know what you think about the updated information we give to Returning Officers.



We will look at what people think and make more changes to get ready for the elections in May 2026.



## How to let us know what you think

This is the easy read version of the questions about the information for **Returning Officers**.



You can find other formats of the questions [on our website](#).



You can also answer the questions [online](#). These are not in easy read.



It's useful to know that if you answer the questions online you can't save your answers and come back to them later.



You can print out and post the survey to us at:

Legislation, Strategy and  
Coordination Team  
The Electoral Commission 3  
Bunhill Row  
London EC1Y 8YZ



Or you can email the survey to us at:

Accessibilityconsultation@  
electoralcommission.org.uk



You need to let us know what you think by Sunday 26 October 2025.



If you answer 'No' or 'Don't know' to any of the questions, tell us what should be changed.

We can update the information next time.



If you have any questions about the survey or need help to fill it in, you can contact us.

Please phone on 0333 103 1928.



### Question 1

Lots of things make it difficult for disabled people to vote at **polling stations**.

A polling station is the place you go to vote in an election.



Is there enough information for Returning Officers to tell them what these things are? Tick one answer:

Yes

No

Don't know



If you answered no please tell us what other information we should add here:



## Question 2

There are lots of laws about supporting disabled people.



Is there enough information for Returning Officers to understand why they have to support disabled voters?



Yes

No

Don't know

If you answered no please tell us what other information we should add here:



### Question 3

Information and equipment can sometimes help disabled people to vote independently and secretly.



Do you think the updates are enough to help Returning Officers support disabled people to vote independently and secretly?



- Yes
- No
- Don't know

If you answered no please tell us what other information we should add here:



#### Question 4

Returning Officers should let people know what will happen at the polling station and what support they can have.



Is there enough information for Returning Officers for them to make sure voters know about the support they can have?



Yes

No

Don't know

If you answered no please tell us what other information we should add here:



## Question 5

After each election, Returning Officers should look at what worked well for disabled people to vote.



They should think about what could be changed to make it easier for disabled people to vote in future.



Does the information give Returning Officers everything they need to be able to:

- Look at what worked well for disabled people to vote
- Think about what could be changed to make it easier for disabled people to vote next time



Yes

No

Don't know

If you answered no please tell us what other information we should add here:



Write anything else you'd like to say about the updated information for Returning Officers here:



## About you

We need to ask a bit about you to make sure we are hearing from all sorts of people



Tick the box that best describes you.



If you are filling in the survey for someone else, tick the box that best describes them



- Member of the public
- Returning Officer
- Electoral Registration Officer
- Electoral administrator
- Charity or third sector organisation
- Public body
- Trade association or representative body
- Government department
- Political party
- Political campaign group
- Current holder or prospective holder of elected office
- Private business Other.
- Please say here:



## Contact details

If you give us your contact details we might contact you about this survey.

You don't have to tell us this information if you don't want to.



Your name:



Your email address:



Your phone number: