

# electoral administration bulletin

The  
Electoral  
Commission



Issue 195 (Scotland) – 21 February 2018

## Delivering modern guidance

As set out in [Bulletin 190](#) we have been looking at how to update the presentation of our guidance in line with modern practice and evolving technology, and we are grateful to those of you who have shared your views on this with us. We can now share our initial plans for taking things forward.

We have decided to move from the current PDF and text-based documents to a web-based approach. This work will form part of the wider redevelopment of the Commission's website.

As part of the new format there will be clear signposting and messaging so that users know where they are in the guidance suite, how to find more detail, and how to return to key points. There will also be more use of flowcharts, visual aids and tables. It will still be possible to work through the election process end to end, and to print off copies of guidance.

This does not mean losing or simplifying content, but instead aims to make it easier to find. The format will therefore be different, but the quality and comprehensiveness will be the same.

Implementation will be phased and we intend for it to start in 2019. Over the next few months we will be drawing up a detailed roadmap for change including the timing and sequencing of producing guidance in the new format and the architecture and design of the new approach.

We are keen to continue to work closely with users of our guidance and so have set up a user group who will be closely involved in the development of the roadmap. We will also test emerging proposals more widely, including with those of you who have already been in touch and said you would like to be involved in some way.

If you'd like to know more or get involved in testing the emerging

## Contents

### Delivery of modern guidance

Further information on the Commission's project to modernise its guidance, including information on how you can get involved.

### Electoral registration: nationals of the Gambia

Reminder that Gambian nationals resident in the UK are not currently eligible to register to vote.

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.

proposals, please email [Dr Carol Sweetenham](mailto:Dr Carol Sweetenham).

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**Electoral registration: nationals of the Gambia**

Following recent reports that the Gambia has re-joined the Commonwealth we have received a number of enquiries as to whether Gambian nationals are now eligible to register to vote.

Before Gambian nationals can be registered to vote, an amendment will need to be made to Schedule 3 of the British Nationality Act 1981. Unless and until this is completed, a Gambian national resident in the UK is not a qualifying Commonwealth citizen with rights to register and vote at UK elections.

We are in contact with both the Cabinet Office and the Home Office and will update you via a future Bulletin if and when the legislation is amended.

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