

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 205 (Scotland) – 22 June 2018

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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 registration: prisoners released on temporary licence

Following the UK Government's proposals to the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers to introduce a package of measures on prisoners' voting rights in response to the long-standing European Court of Human Rights judgment in the case of Hirst in 2005, the Ministry of Justice has stated that those prisoners released on temporary licence (RoTL) are no longer automatically disqualified from voting under Section 3 of the Representation of the People Act 1983, and may therefore be eligible to register to vote.

This change relates only to prisoners released on temporary licence; other convicted prisoners detained in penal institutions are unaffected. It also remains the case that those released back in the community on licence using an electronic tag under the Home Detention Curfew scheme are eligible to register and vote.

HM Prison Service issued guidance to this effect to prison governors and prisoners in England and Wales on 22 June. We understand that guidance will be issued by Scottish Prison Service later in the year and we will update you via a future Bulletin when this has happened.

We have also updated our core guidance for EROs at paragraphs 3.40 and 3.87 of [Part 2: 'The registration framework'](#) to address this issue.

As with any application to register to vote, as ERO it is your decision whether to allow an application based on the specific facts of each individual case. We are, however, available if you require any further support in relation to this - please contact the Scotland office in the first instance. We can be contacted via infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk or via telephone on 0131 225 0200.

2018 canvass and National Democracy Week: template public awareness resources

2018 canvass

We have produced a [template press release](#) and [template social media posts](#) to help you promote this year's annual canvass. We hope you and your communications team find these helpful.

National Democracy week - new resources to promote voter registration

We have produced some [new voter registration resources](#) to coincide with National Democracy Week, which is taking place between 2 and 8 July 2018. These resources can be used throughout the year to promote voter registration. We have also created [template social media posts](#) to use during National Democracy Week itself.

Stay up to date

You and your communications teams can stay up to date with public awareness information by subscribing to our voter registration newsletter, [Roll Call](#). Previous issues of Roll Call are available on our [website](#). We will also continue to provide updates of our work to promote and support public awareness activity through the EA Bulletin.

Job vacancy at the Commission

We are currently recruiting for a Senior Adviser - Electoral Guidance. The deadline for applications is 23:45 on 8 July.

If you would like further information or would like to apply, please visit the [recruitment page of our website](#).

For an informal discussion about the role, please contact Martin Lord, Head of Guidance, on 020 7271 0542.

The Electoral Commission
City Chambers, High Street
Edinburgh, EH1 1YJ
Tel: 0333 103 1928
Textphone: 18001 0131 225 0200
infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk
www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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