

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 216 (Wales) – 22 June 2018

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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 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 your [local Commission team](#) in the first instance.

Update from the Wales Electoral Coordination Board

In [Bulletin 208](#) we provided information about the Wales Electoral Coordination Board (WECB) and the introduction of a mentoring scheme for ROs and EROs in Wales.

At the WECB Board meeting on 30 May 2018, Mark James, RRO

Mid and West Wales and RO at Carmarthenshire County Council, gave an update on the Returning Officer/Electoral Registration Officer mentoring scheme. The scheme which was launched in March has already made a positive impact and its introduction has been widely welcomed.

There have been a number of new RO/ERO appointments this year in Wales and Mark has contacted each one, assigned them a mentor and sent them [a resource pack](#). The Electoral Commission has also arranged introductory meetings with each new RO/ERO and these will take place over the next few months. The Board is considering introducing a similar scheme for ESMs in 2019.

The Board is also developing a self-assessment tool that authorities will be able to use to monitor the capacity and sustainability of their election/electoral registration teams. A template and guidance note will be circulated to ROs/EROs in September.

The Board also received an update from the Assembly Commission and Welsh Government officials on the development of electoral reforms relating to the National Assembly for Wales and local government. The WECB expects to play an important role over the next few years as policies relating to electoral reform in Wales are introduced. We will continue to update you through the EA Bulletin as this work progresses.

Electoral Commission response to the Welsh Government's green paper 'Strengthening Local Government : Delivering for People'

Last week we submitted a response to this green paper consultation.

[Our response](#) concentrates on questions such as changing the date of the next local government elections in Wales and determining the parameters of electoral reviews.

Electoral Glossary

As you may know, we have now launched [The Electoral Glossary](#), which includes electoral terms in English and Welsh. It's based on terms that are regularly used by the Electoral Commission and the wider electoral community in their day-to-day work. The aim of the glossary is to ensure that all those involved in the management and running of elections are able to use the same terminology in materials for electoral events. This should ultimately result in a greater level of consistency across Wales for electoral materials.

The glossary is the product of six months' collaboration between the Electoral Commission and other stakeholders across the electoral community, as part of the Welsh Language Legislation Advisory Group's programme of work. More information about the group can be found [on our website](#).

We hope this glossary will be useful to all of those involved in our democracy in Wales and that it will help to ensure we can all continue to provide a high level of service to voters in both Welsh

Information about a vacancy and how to apply.

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.

If there is a new RO/ERO appointment in your authority please contact the team in Wales by e-mailing infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk.

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>)

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and English. We would be grateful if you could share the document with other staff in your organisation.

The glossary will be kept under review and updated as required, including as any new terminology develops.

Please get in touch with [Sioned Wyn](#), Welsh Language Adviser, if you have any comments on the glossary, or have any suggestions for inclusion.

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.

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