

# electoral administration bulletin

The  
Electoral  
Commission



Issue 217 (Scotland) – 19 December 2018

## A farewell message from Claire Bassett

It has been a privilege to lead the Electoral Commission for the past three years and play a part in overseeing its evolution into a modern regulator facing up to the challenges posing the electoral system in the 21st century. This has been a period of unprecedented electoral events and I'm sure that, like me, you are acutely aware of the need for electoral processes to continue to modernise in order to meet voters' expectations.

I want to pay tribute to electoral staff across the UK who ensure that polls are well-run; allowing voters to have confidence in the electoral process when they mark their ballot paper.

Things never stand still in the electoral world. For those that have them, the next set of scheduled polls will soon be upon you and that's on top of the potential for an unscheduled poll. If there's one thing I'm sure about, it's your unwavering commitment to ensuring that voters are able to have their say and exercise their democratic right.

Thank you.

## Electoral observer scheme: response to consultation and updated Code of Practice

We have today, Wednesday 19 December, [published our response](#) to the recent consultation on the UK's electoral observer scheme and Code of Practice for electoral observers.

Our revised [Code of Practice](#) has also been laid in the UK and Scottish Parliaments today.

We received responses to the consultation from a range of stakeholders. Overall, the responses were positive and welcomed the changes we proposed making to the scheme and the Code of

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A farewell message from the Chief Executive of the Commission, Claire Bassett.

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### Electoral Commission report on the cost of delivering the June 2016 referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union

Information on and a link to the Commission's report, which was published on Friday 14 December.

### Access to elections: further request to share examples of good practice

A reminder of our request to share examples of good practice around the accessibility of elections.

### New Commissioners appointed to our Board

Information about the 3 new Commissioners who have been appointed to our board.

Practice. In addition, we received a number of suggestions for other changes we could make, which have influenced the final Code.

We are now taking forward a number of actions to update the scheme. These include:

- Launching a new online application process for individuals and organisations seeking accreditation as electoral observers from January 2019.
- Redesigning the electoral observer ID badge which will be issued to all observers from January 2019.
- Developing a programme of work to improve the guidance we make available to electoral observers and those running elections.
- Introducing a voluntary feedback mechanism for electoral observers from the next scheduled elections in May 2019.

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### Electoral Commission report on the cost of delivering the June 2016 referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union

As part of our commitment to transparency we have now [published our report](#) on the cost of delivering the June 2016 referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union.

The cost of delivering the referendum was £129.1 million. This figure includes:

- The cost of administering the poll – including the running of over 40,000 polling stations, issuing and opening postal votes, and the counting of votes – totalling £94.5 million.
- Statutory grants to the two designated lead campaigners totalling £1.2 million.
- The delivery costs for the two designated lead campaigners to send a mailing to each elector or household in each referendum area across the UK, as provided for in law. This totalled almost £25.4 million.
- The cost of a UK-wide public awareness campaign undertaken by the Electoral Commission to raise awareness of the poll and provide information on how to take part, totalling £6 million.

As we acknowledge in the report, the system for allocating funds for national electoral events and claiming reimbursement is not without issue and we will be sharing with the UK Government our thoughts on how the process could be improved for future electoral events. We are grateful for your cooperation and patience as we worked to settle all claims.

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### Access to elections: further request to share examples of good practice

In [Bulletin 210](#), we shared the UK Government's [summary](#) of the

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### Job vacancy at the Electoral Commission

Information about the vacancy and how to apply.

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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>)

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responses they had received to their 'Call for Evidence on Access to Elections'. We also asked you to share with us examples of anything you are doing to improve the accessibility of elections.

Thank you to everyone who has shared examples with us so far. We will be in contact with you soon about how we could share these more widely.

If you haven't yet been in touch, please do contact the Scotland office in the first instance to tell us what you are doing in your area. For example, you might provide specific training for polling station staff, promote the support you provide to disabled people or work with local charities and groups. The Scotland office can be contacted via [infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk) or by telephone on 0131 225 0200.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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### **New Commissioners appointed to our Board**

Three new Commissioners nominated by political parties have been approved by the House of Commons to serve on the Electoral Commission Board:

- Lord Gilbert of Panteg was approved as the Conservative Party nominated Commissioner;
- Joan Walley was approved as the Labour Party nominated Commissioner; and
- Alastair Ross was approved as the Commissioner for smaller parties.

The selection process for Commissioners is conducted by the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission and the appointments have been submitted for royal assent by Her Majesty the Queen.

Further information is available in our [press release](#).

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### **Job vacancy at the Electoral Commission**

We are currently recruiting for a Senior Adviser - Electoral Guidance.

The closing date for applications is Sunday 6 January 2019.

The role is available on a fixed term contract of two years, and we would be prepared to consider a secondment. For an informal discussion about the role, please contact Mark Pascoe, Guidance Manager on 020 7271 0690.

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

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