

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 221 (Wales) – 5 September 2018

Call for Evidence: access to elections – UK Government response

In September 2017, the Minister for the Constitution launched a [Call for Evidence](#) asking for views on the experience of disabled people of registering to vote and voting.

256 responses were submitted from individuals with a variety of disabilities, disability organisations and charities, health professionals, legal organisations, local authority elections teams, the AEA and the [Electoral Commission](#).

On Thursday 30 August, the UK Government published its [response](#).

The response summarises the findings from the Call for Evidence and also sets out a number of actions to be taken forward to improve the accessibility of registering to vote and voting.

Actions which relate specifically to Returning Officers include:

- Ensuring effective training of polling station staff and the use of checklists developed in conjunction with national and / or local disabled persons groups to identify issues from the viewpoint of disabled people.
- Considering equipment at polling stations for people with manual dexterity issues.
- Ensuring that all polling station staff know how the Tactile Voting Device (TVD) works and that it is readily offered to those who need it.

The Commission welcomes the findings from this report and looks forward to working with the Cabinet Office-led Accessibility of Elections Group, electoral administrators, disability organisations

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Call for Evidence access to elections – UK Government response

Information on and a link to the UK Government's response to a Call for Evidence on the experience of disabled people of registering to vote and voting.

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

and political parties to drive the actions forward.

We would be interested to hear from you about anything you are already doing to improve the accessibility of elections, and would be keen to share examples of good practice in this area. Please contact the Commission's [Cardiff office](#) in the first instance

The Electoral Commission, Wales

Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff, CF14 3UZ

Tel: 0333 103 1929

Textphone: 18001 020 7271 0500

infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk

[**www.electoralcommission.org.uk**](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk)

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