

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 222 (Scotland) – 18 March 2019

Canvass reform: interim statement of policy on canvass reform and guidance on data testing

On 12 March, Cabinet Office issued an [interim statement of policy on canvass reform](#) to EROs.

The document provides an overview of planned reforms to improve the annual canvass of electors undertaken each year by EROs across Great Britain.

There is a statutory requirement for the Commission to be consulted on the proposals, and we expect this to commence in w/c 25 March. Cabinet Office have noted that as part of this consultation the Commission may recommend changes to the policy, and as a result of this and also continuing discussions with the devolved governments in Scotland and Wales on the application of the reforms, the policy set out in the statement is still subject to change.

In preparation for the reforms, EROs will be required to undertake certain steps to ensure they are prepared for the national data test, which is expected to take place in January 2020, and for the discretionary local data matching.

To help EROs prepare, the Cabinet Office have produced guidance to support EROs through the data testing process, which can be accessed via the following links:

- [Part I: Data Test Preparation](#)
- [Part II: Testing local data](#)

If you have any questions in relation to the statement or guidance, please contact mrd-engagement@cabinetoffice.gov.uk.

Exclusion of disability-related expenses for candidates

Legislation has been made which excludes disability related expenses from the candidate spending limits at UK Parliamentary

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Canvass reform: interim statement of policy on canvass reform and guidance on data testing

Information on and links to the Cabinet Office's interim statement of policy on canvass reform and guidance to support EROs through the data testing process.

Exclusion of disability-related expenses for candidates

Information on legislation allowing the exclusion of disability related expenses from the candidate spending limits.

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

general elections and by-elections.

The [Representation of the People \(Election Expenses Exclusion\) \(Amendment\) Order 2019](#) has been signed by the Minister for the Constitution and is now in force. The exclusion also applies to candidates at other elections in England and Northern Ireland.

The EnAble Fund for Elected Office for disabled candidates

The UK Government Equalities Office has set up an interim fund to support disabled candidates at some elections taking place up to March 2020, including any UKPGE by-elections.

For more information on the EnAble Fund and the elections it applies to, please contact the [scheme administrator](#).

Scottish Parliamentary and local council elections

Disability related expenses are already exempt from candidate spending limits for Scottish Parliamentary and local council elections.

Inclusion Scotland administers the [Access to Elected Office Fund](#) which provides financial assistance to disabled candidates standing for election, and you can find more information on their [website](#).

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