

# electoral administration bulletin

The  
Electoral  
Commission



Issue 226 (England) – 5 September 2018

## Publication of May 2018 election data

After every election we collect, collate and analyse electoral data from Returning Officers and Electoral Registration Officers. We are very grateful for your continued support with this and for your efforts in submitting your data to us.

We have now published on our website the [information](#) your teams provided to us following the local elections in May this year. We have also published a [report](#) which provides an analysis of the data.

From looking at the data, we found that:

- **21.5 million** people were eligible to vote on 3 May this year
- **14,381 polling stations** were located across **150 local authorities**
- **Turnout was 34.7%** - slightly lower than at the last most comparable local government elections in 2014, at 35.7%
- **3.6 million postal ballot packs** were issued to 16.7% of electors
- Nearly **1 in 5** electors in metropolitan authorities were issued with a postal vote

## 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

## Contents

### Publication of May 2018 election data

Information on and a link to electoral data from the May 2018 local elections.

### 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.

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

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

.....  
The Electoral Commission  
3 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8YZ  
Tel England: 0333 103 1928  
Textphone: 18001 020 7271 0500  
[infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk)  
[www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk)

© The Electoral Commission 2018

Protection Regulation and UK data protection legislation as outlined in our privacy notice (<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/privacy-notice>)

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, you may [unsubscribe](#) at any time.