

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 227 (Scotland) – 15 May 2019

European Parliamentary election: guidance for candidates and agents on intimidation and harassment

Robust political debate is part of a healthy democracy but sometimes things can go too far. Police Scotland have produced a guidance document for candidates and campaigners, to help them understand when behaviour goes beyond political debate and may be unlawful.

[Guidance for Election Candidates in Scotland](#) is intended to assist candidates to recognise conduct which may or may not be considered criminal, in order to inform and assist them in any contact they have with the police and potentially the wider criminal justice system. We have shared the guide with the RRO for him to cascade to candidates and agents at the European Parliamentary election, but you may also want to share it with campaigners locally.

European Parliamentary election: voter information resources

There is now just over one week to make sure people have the information they need to be able to cast their vote in the European Parliamentary election on Thursday 23 May.

We have developed a series of posters and social media images to help you promote key messages ahead of and on polling day.

The resources include information about:

- when the elections are happening
- finding the locations of polling stations
- getting help at the polling station

[Download the resources now.](#)

Electoral Commission response to the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee's (PACAC) inquiry on electoral law reform

Contents

European Parliamentary election: guidance for candidates and agents on intimidation and harassment

Information on and a link to new guidance for candidates and agents on intimidation and harassment.

European Parliamentary election: voter information resources

An overview of and link to resources designed to assist voters.

Electoral Commission response to the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee's (PACAC) inquiry on electoral law reform

Information on and links to the PACAC inquiry on electoral law reform and the Electoral Commission's response.

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.

On 8 March PACAC launched a new inquiry examining the case for comprehensive reform of electoral law. The committee is seeking views on how urgently comprehensive electoral reform is required, what should be prioritised, and whether there is a need to go beyond the [Law Commissions' proposals](#) outlined in their 2016 interim report. Details of the specific questions can be found in their [terms of reference](#).

The Commission has responded to the call for written evidence, and would also encourage others to submit their views by the deadline of 3 June. Responses can be made [online](#). You may find our [response](#) helpful in developing your own response.

We have used our response to highlight:

- The urgent need for simplified and modernised electoral law, to underpin efficiency, innovation and voter confidence in electoral administration and campaign regulation.
- That this is not just a technical or legal problem – there are real costs and consequences for voters, campaigners and election officials.
- Our willingness to work with the UK's governments and parliaments and contribute fully to the modernisation and reform agenda of electoral law.

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