

# electoral administration bulletin

The  
Electoral  
Commission



Issue 230 (Wales) – 25 January 2019

## Response to the Information Commissioner's Office's Call for Views

In November 2018 the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) issued a [Call for Views](#) on a Code of Practice for the use of personal information for political campaigning.

We [issued a response](#) to the Call for Views ahead of the deadline of 21 December 2018. Our response welcomes the ICO's focus on the use of personal data for political campaigning, and highlights some key points for their consideration as they develop the Code. For example:

- The Code should uphold both the rights of voters to have their data protected and know how their data is used, and the rights of campaigners to use certain data for campaigning purposes.
- The ICO should be clear about the harms that the new Code is addressing, and how the Code will deal with them.
- The Code should clearly set out the definition of political campaign activities. The ICO should also consider broadening the definition beyond political campaigning relating to an election or referendum.
- The content of the Code should seek to complement electoral law, our proposed spending Codes for political parties and candidates, and our Code of Conduct for campaigners.
- The Call for Views paper proposed that a future Code could cover the use of personal data from the electoral registers. We see this as an important step that will increase transparency for voters, and believe that campaigners and EROs will benefit from further clarity on the manner in which they should make the electorate aware of how their data is being used. We want to feed in to that aspect of the Code as it is being developed.

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Information about and a link to our response to the ICO on a Code of Practice for the use of personal information for political campaigns.

### Electoral Commission seminar on maintaining confidence in elections and democracy in the digital age

Reminder of the event and how to reserve your place.

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](mailto:infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk).

We are sending you this newsletter as it contains important information about the

The ICO is planning to consult on a proposed Code at a later stage, which we will be responding to and would encourage others to do the same. Once the consultation has been published we will make you aware of it - and of how to respond – in a future Bulletin.

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### **Electoral Commission seminar on maintaining confidence in elections and democracy in the digital age**

As highlighted in [Bulletin 229](#), as part of our series of seminars on democracy, we will be holding a seminar on 20 February on maintaining confidence in elections and democracy in the digital age.

The Chair of the UK Electoral Commission, Sir John Holmes, will discuss the key priorities for the Commission and its partners in 2019 at a vitally important time for democracy in Wales and the United Kingdom.

The event will include a welcome from Elin Jones AM, the Llywydd of the National Assembly for Wales, and a question and answer session chaired by Elan Closs Stephens CBE, Electoral Commissioner Wales.

The seminar will take place at the Senedd at 18:30. Refreshments will be provided and simultaneous translation will be available.

Please book your free place via [Tocyn Cymru](#).

This event is sponsored by Elin Jones AM, Llywydd.

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