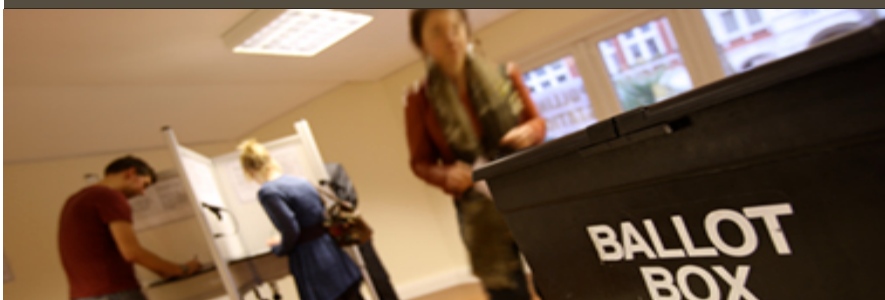


electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 237 (England) – 25 January 2019

May 2019 polls: update on changes to guidance and resources relating to candidates' home addresses

Further to [Bulletin 236](#), we are progressing with work to update our guidance and resources for Returning Officers and candidates and agents to reflect the legislation removing the requirement for candidates to have their home address published on the ballot paper and statement of persons nominated at principal area and parish council elections.

The nomination packs for principal area and parish council elections were published as planned on Friday (18 January). However, as a result of a technical issue, we inadvertently published a version of the principal area nomination pack which incorrectly retained a box for the witness to provide their address on the consent to nomination. We have now rectified this, with the correct version of the form uploaded to the website on Tuesday (22 January). You should therefore ensure that any nomination packs that were downloaded between Friday 18 January and 3pm on Tuesday 22 January are replaced with the updated version, to include the revised version of the consent to nomination. The nomination packs for parish council elections were unaffected. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

The core guidance and supporting resources remain on track to be published on our website on a rolling basis by the end of the month. We will confirm in a future Bulletin when this has been completed, and will also provide you at that time with a summary of which products have been amended.

May 2019 polls: update on the delivery of polling station handbooks and quick guides

The despatch of polling station handbooks and quick guides to those who have ordered them will commence by early March. If you have not received your delivery by Friday 15 March, please contact

Contents

May 2019 polls: update on changes to guidance and resources relating to candidates' home addresses

Information on the publication of nomination packs and an update on progress with updating other guidance and resources.

May 2019 polls: update on the delivery of polling station handbooks and quick guides

Information on when hard copies of polling station handbooks and quick guides will be despatched, and links to PDF versions.

Electoral Commission response to the Information Commissioner's Office's Call for Views

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.

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](#).

your [local Commission team](#).

A PDF of each version of the handbook and quick guide is available from the links below:

- Standalone local government elections – [polling station handbook](#) and [quick guide](#)
- Combined local government and combined authority mayoral elections – [polling station handbook](#) and [quick guide](#)
- Standalone combined authority mayoral elections – [polling station handbook](#) and [quick guide](#)

These resources can also be found under the Part C resources section on the web page for [ROs for local government elections](#). Handbooks and quick guides for combined authority mayoral elections are also available from under the resources section of the [guidance for CAROs](#).

A [polling station handbook insert](#) is also available for use where the poll at a local government election is combined with the poll at a local authority mayoral election. This resource is designed to be printed off and inserted into the standalone local government handbook.

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 campaigns.

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

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 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.

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.

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