

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 240 (England) – 6 March 2019

Canvass reform: Cabinet Office survey

With canvass reform set to be implemented in 2020, Cabinet Office issued [a survey](#) by email to all EROs on 28 February. The aim of the survey is to help Cabinet Office understand each electoral services team's current processes, and how these may change with the introduction of a data matching step at the start of the canvass. The information you provide will also inform how the Cabinet Office plans for training to support the implementation of canvass reform.

A PDF of the survey showing the questions is available [here](#). The deadline for responses is Friday 29 March.

Once the results of this initial survey have been analysed, Cabinet Office plan to issue a follow up survey which will look to gather more detailed readiness information ahead of the start of the first new canvass.

If you have any questions in relation to the survey, or if your ERO has not received the link to the survey, please contact cg-analysis@cabinetoffice.gov.uk.

May 2019 polls: update on party names, descriptions and emblems

[Part C of our guidance for Returning Officers](#) sets out what the legislation provides for in relation to changes to and deletions and additions of party names, descriptions and emblems.

For the May 2019 polls, we have advised on [our website](#) that registration applications received after 12pm on Monday 4 February 2019 may not be processed in time to take effect for the May 2019 elections. We have also made clear that applications that did not contain the required statutory information before that date are also unlikely to be processed in time.

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Information about and a link to resources to raise awareness of and help prevent electoral fraud.

May 2019 polls: post-election data collection

Links to forms and accompanying guidance for the submission of data following the May polls.

While we aim to make all updates to the [online registers of political parties](#) by 26 March 2019, there remains the potential that the register could still be updated after that date.

As we did ahead of last year's scheduled elections, we will include regular updates of changes made to existing party names, descriptions and emblems and any new party names up to the close of nominations in future Bulletins.

In any case, when receiving nominations, Returning Officers must check that the party name or any description given on a nomination form, as well as the requested emblem, is [registered with us](#) and that the details provided match the registration. To ensure that you are viewing the most up-to-date information, you may need to delete your browser history or refresh the page. If you are unsure how to do this, your IT team should be able to advise you.

We have recently been experiencing technical problems with our online registers, but this issue has now been resolved and the public register is working correctly.

Should you have any questions about the registers, please do not hesitate to [contact us](#).

May 2019 polls: public awareness update - 'Got 5?' voter registration campaign launches on 11 March

It's now just a matter of days until the launch of our voter registration campaign for the May 2019 polls.

This year's campaign will be launching on **Monday 11 March** and, as set out in [Bulletin 238](#), it will be the second outing for our 'Got 5?' campaign, which asks eligible voters if they have just 5 minutes to register to vote now.

Using scenarios such as running a bath, doing your laundry and waiting for your nail polish to dry, we will be showing voters how quick and easy it is to register to vote before the registration deadline of 12 April.

Look out for our advertising over the coming weeks on social media, via on demand TV, in podcasts, on the radio and outdoor locations including bus stops and train stations. There will also be coverage on TV in some areas.

Please support the campaign by getting involved on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) and help share our message. We have [resources available for local authorities](#) to help drive voter registration in your area, including template press releases, posters and social media images.

We encourage you and your communications teams to join our [Delivering Democracy Facebook group](#), which is for local authority staff and provides a forum where you can connect with colleagues from across the country and share thoughts about providing voter information to your residents.

Accessibility of electoral processes: care homes good practice

Information about work being coordinated by Cabinet Office to improve the accessibility of electoral processes in care homes, and details of how you can help.

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 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.

We will also continue to update you through the EA Bulletin as we near the voter registration deadline and polling day.

May 2019 polls: public awareness update – resources available to raise awareness of and help prevent electoral fraud

A suite of resources to raise awareness of and help prevent electoral fraud are available to download from our [Your Vote Matters](#) website. These include:

- videos
- posters (available in English, Punjabi, Urdu and Bengali)
- leaflets (available in English and multi-lingual in English, Punjabi, Urdu and Bengali)
- online banners
- template social media posts and images

The campaign, which we are delivering in partnership with the charity Crimestoppers and the Cabinet Office, focuses on the message **'Your vote is yours, and yours alone'** and aims to reach people that may feel pressured into casting their vote in a certain way.

The resources highlight what constitutes electoral fraud, and aim to empower people to not let it happen to them. They also encourage people to report that may be an offence to Crimestoppers, which can be done anonymously.

Last year, a number of local authorities used our resources in imaginative ways. For example, the London Borough of Tower Hamlets produced an A4 flyer using our polling station poster which they included in their poll card mailing. They also used the polling station and postal voting artwork to create full page adverts in their mayoral booklet which was sent to all households. Barking and Dagenham Council played our videos in their council reception. [Get in touch](#) to share with us how you will help people protect their vote.

May 2019 polls: post-election data collection

We have now published our [data collection form](#) for the May 2019 polls, which includes the statutory statement as to postal ballots as well as requests for additional data.

The data collection form can also be found under the resources section of [Part F](#) of our guidance for Returning Officers.

This [guidance note](#) provides information on what should be returned. The three forms are different tabs of the data collection form (Form K - Statement as to postal ballot papers, Additional Data form and Turnout form). As usual we require the Form K and turnout data for each ward and the additional data only at a local authority level. They should be returned to research@electoralcommission.org.uk.

Please return all forms **no earlier than Tuesday 28 May** and **no later than Thursday 6 June 2019**.

Accessibility of electoral processes: care homes good practice

As part of their work to improve the accessibility of electoral processes, the Cabinet Office have sent out a request asking for examples of activities that local authorities do to support residents of care homes to register to vote and to vote in elections. This could include any collaborative work you do with, for example, the local authority adult social services department, charities, local disabled organisations or care home providers.

They are also interested in your views on what you think are the barriers to providing support to care home residents and how these may be best addressed.

By responding to their request, this will help to ensure that examples of good practice in engaging with people in care homes can be promoted and used by other local authorities. It will also help us to understand better what the barriers are and what can be done to address them.

Cabinet Office have set an initial deadline for responses of 8 March. Please send your examples to elections@cabinetoffice.gov.uk.

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