

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 242 (England) – 27 March 2019

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

Since [Bulletin 241](#), we have made updates to the following parties:

- [Renew](#)
- [Saddleworth First!](#)
- [Save Our Beeston and Holbeck Independents](#)
- [Tewkesbury and Twynning Independents](#)

No parties have been deregistered since the previous Bulletin. You can find full details of what amendments have been made in our [list of recent decisions to approve or reject applied-for party names, descriptions and emblems](#). On our website you can also find a [list of applications we are currently considering](#).

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 on [the Commission's register of political parties](#) 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.

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

Easy read guide and voter videos

On 21 March, we launched an [easy read guide for voters with a learning disability](#) with Mencap, a charity which works with people with a learning disability. The guide has been designed to help those with a learning disability understand how to register and vote in the local elections on Thursday 2 May.

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

Update on recent changes to the register of political parties.

Easy read guide and voter videos

Information about and links to an easy read guide for voters, produced by the Commission and Mencap, and the first in a series of videos about accessible voting.

2018 electoral fraud data

Information on and a link to data on allegations of electoral fraud in 2018.

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

The Commission is also producing a series of videos to show the simple things that can be done to improve people's voting experience and help make voting accessible for everyone.

Our first videos are with Mencap. [Harry](#) (who has a learning disability and autism) and [Charlotte](#) (who has a learning disability and Williams Syndrome) tell us about their experiences of voting in a polling station and how they think it can be improved for people with a learning disability.

Harry suggested that a member of the polling station staff could wear an accessibility badge so voters know who they can ask for support. The polling station staff in Harrow asked Charlotte whether she needed support, gave her a tour of the polling station and explained to her where to put her ballot paper, which she found helpful.

We'll be publishing more videos soon – our next one will be with someone with sight loss.

Electoral fraud data 2018

Every year all police forces across the UK send us data about allegations of electoral fraud, and on 20 March we [published data on allegations of electoral fraud in 2018](#).

Our summary shows that in 2018 police investigated 266 cases of alleged electoral fraud. Of these 266, more than half were allegations about campaigning offences, such as making false statements about candidates or not including an imprint on printed campaign material.

There is no evidence of large-scale electoral fraud relating to the 2018 elections – in fact the majority of allegations were found to be unsubstantiated and resulted in no further action. There was only one conviction for a minor offence and two police cautions during the year. However, the public perception of electoral fraud can nevertheless undermine democracy and weaken the United Kingdom's strong tradition of free and fair elections.

More information, including charts showing the categories of cases, outcomes and trends since 2010, can be found on [our website](#). There are also case studies of the conviction and police cautions which demonstrate ROs, police forces and prosecutors taking allegations of fraud seriously.

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