

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 244 (England) – 10 April 2019

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Link to the Order which sets the date of the poll, and a reminder of the guidance and support that is available from the Commission.

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Information about our public awareness campaign for the May 2019 local elections, which is now in its final stages.

May 2019 local elections: 'How to vote' video

Information on and a link to a video about how to vote at a polling station.

Voter videos

The second in a series of videos about accessible voting.

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.

European Parliamentary election: update

An [Order to set the date of the poll](#) for the European Parliamentary election in the UK was made on 8 April and comes into force on 10 April. This Order appoints the day of the poll as 23 May 2019.

Last week, we e-mailed all Local Returning Officers and Electoral Registration Officers to remind them of the guidance that we've made available and to set out what you can expect from the Commission over the coming period. We thought it would be helpful to reiterate this here.

Regional Returning Officers

The Regional Returning Officer for your electoral region should now have been in touch with you to outline their approach to managing the election. A list of the UK's RROs and their contact details can be found on [our website](#).

Guidance and resources

We have published a full suite of guidance and resources for a European Parliamentary election, and they are available on [our website](#). The election timetable is available [here](#).

In addition, we have produced a [short guidance note](#) to highlight some key considerations for Electoral Registration Officers and Local Returning Officers, particularly recognising the proximity of the local elections in parts of England on 2 May 2019.

Orders for polling station handbooks and quick guides

On 8 April, we sent an e-mail to all Local Returning Officers with a link to an [online order form](#) for hard copies of polling station handbooks and quick guides.

The deadline for completing the online order form is Monday 15 April 2019.

Please note that once you have submitted your order form, you will not be able to amend your order yourself. If you need to make any changes to your order, please contact your [local Commission team](#).

We expect that delivery will commence from 13 May 2019 and should be completed that week; if you have not received your order by 17 May 2019, please contact your [local Commission team](#).

A PDF version of the handbook and of the quick guide will be published on our website shortly, and we will confirm in a future Bulletin when these are available.

Support from the Electoral Commission

We appreciate that this is a challenging time and we are grateful for all the hard work that you and your teams are once again putting in to ensure the delivery of a well-run election. If you have any questions, or if we can provide any further support, please contact your [local Commission team](#).

We will not be seeking to actively monitor Returning Officers' performance against the performance standards during the election period, but we will continue to use the standards as a framework to provide support and challenge during the election period, working closely with the RROs, and to support our statutory reporting after the election.

We have, however, issued a [short management information survey](#) seeking information to cover key aspects of how you will manage the poll in your area. The deadline for completion of the survey is **Monday 22 April 2019**.

We appreciate that this comes at a busy time, so we have tried to make this as straightforward to complete as possible. The information you provide is vital to help build up a clear picture of the arrangements that have been put in place across Great Britain for the delivery of the EPEs and will also provide key statistics which can be used with the media and other enquirers both reactively and proactively.

May 2019 local elections: public awareness update - 'Got 5?' voter registration campaign

With just two days to go until the voter registration deadline on Friday 12 April, our 'Got 5?' campaign for the May 2019 local elections is now in its final stages.

As set out in previous Bulletins, we have produced resources to help promote voter registration in the run-up to the deadline. All these resources are available to [download from our website](#).

Thank you for your support for the 'Got 5?' campaign so far. Please help us keep momentum up by sharing our posts on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

In addition to the voter registration resources, we have also produced a suite of voter information resources which aim to provide further information to voters up to and on polling day. These

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.

resources are also available to [download from our website](#).

May 2019 local elections: 'How to vote' video

Our Winter Tracker research, which will be published shortly, has found that while 89% of people say they are confident they know how to cast their vote, this is significantly lower amongst younger people and renters.

We have developed a short, new video that aims to raise awareness of how to cast your vote at a polling station. The video includes a visual representation of what the ballot paper might look like and how to mark it.

Please share our '[how to vote](#)' video with your audiences ahead of Thursday 2 May.

Voter videos

As set out in [Bulletin 242](#), the Commission is 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.

The next video in our series has been developed with the RNIB. [Hugh](#), who has sight loss, tells us about his experience of voting in a polling station and how he thinks it could be improved for people with a visual impairment.

Hugh emphasises how important it is that polling station staff familiarise themselves with how to use the tactile voting device before polling day. He also highlights how helpful it is for the enlarged hand-held copy of the ballot paper to be available for voters to take into the polling booth for reference when marking their ballot papers.

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