

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 246 (England) – 29 April 2019

May 2019 local elections: guidance and support available throughout election week

In [Bulletin 241](#) we provided you with details of our out-of-hours telephone advice service to deal with urgent electoral administration queries in the run up to and immediately following the May 2019 local elections.

We will continue to be available to provide you with any guidance and support you may need throughout election week, and the following is a reminder of how you can contact us between 2 and 6 May.

Polling day (Thursday 2 May)

Between 6:30am and 8:30am – please call 0207 271 0613.
Between 8:30am and 5:30pm – please call 0333 103 1928.
From 5:30pm – please call 0207 271 0613. This number will be staffed throughout the night for urgent queries.

Friday 3 May

Between 8:30am and 5:30pm – please call 0333 103 1928.
After 5:30pm – please call 0207 271 0613.

Saturday 4 May, Sunday 5 May and Monday 6 May

Please call 0207 271 0613. This number will be staffed throughout the weekend for urgent queries.

We also wanted to take this opportunity to wish you all good luck for the next few days, and to thank you and your staff for all the hard work you have put in to prepare for the polls.

We appreciate that it has not always been easy – particularly given that at the same time as preparing for and delivering these elections, you have also had to start to prepare for the delivery of the European Parliamentary election.

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European Parliamentary election: public awareness update

Information on the Commission's public awareness campaign, including links to resources.

European Parliamentary election: post-election data collection

Links to forms and accompanying guidance for the submission of data following the European Parliamentary election.

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

It's very easy to take our democracy for granted but none of it would be possible without the efforts of all those involved, in whatever way, in ensuring that we can all cast our vote, and that those votes are then counted in a way which delivers results that are accurate and can be trusted.

May 2019 local elections: accredited observers - reminder of changes to badge design

Ahead of the polls on Thursday and further to [Bulletin 245](#), we wanted to remind you that the design of the badges we issue to accredited electoral observers has been [updated](#).

The new designs are also reflected in [the polling station handbooks](#) we have made available for the elections, and we would encourage you to draw the attention of staff working at polling stations and count venues to the updated badges.

The names of all accredited individual observers and organisations can be found on [our website](#).

Our [Code of Practice](#) highlights to observers that providing advance notification of where they intend to observe can assist them in making more effective observations. However, electoral observers are not required to give advance notice of where they intend to observe and are free to make unannounced visits.

European Parliamentary election: public awareness update

As highlighted in [Bulletin 245](#), ahead of the European Parliamentary election, we are running a voter registration campaign to encourage applications before the deadline of Tuesday 7 May.

In case you haven't see it, our 'Got 5?' campaign concept asks people if they've got five spare minutes in a day that they could use to register to vote – because whether you're running a bath or waiting for your laundry, five minutes is all it takes. This creative has already been used in different parts of the UK in 2018 and 2019.

We have developed a set of resources to help you raise awareness of the 7 May registration deadline. In this, you'll find:

- A4 poster
- A5 flyer
- 2x social media images

[Download your resources now](#)

Key messages to share:

- To vote in these elections, anyone who has never registered or has recently moved must register by 7 May. The quickest and easiest way to register to vote is online at [gov.uk/register tovote](#).
- EU citizens wishing to cast their vote in the UK must be registered to vote and also submit a declaration form by 7 May. More information on this can be found on our [Your](#)

[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.

[Vote Matters website.](#)

- People must re-register if they've changed address, name or nationality.
- People only need to register once – they do not need to register separately for every election.

We launched our digital advertising last week, up-weighted to those areas not holding local elections in May – particularly Scotland, Wales and London. This activity will also target under-registered groups (including students, recent movers and some BME communities), as well as overseas citizens.

TV advertising will launch this week, targeting a broad adult audience across the UK to maximise awareness.

European Parliamentary election: post-election data collection

We have now published our [data collection form](#) for the European Parliamentary election, which includes the statutory statement as to postal ballots as well as requests for the declaration of results and additional data. We require both Form R (statement as to postal ballots) and the additional data to be provided at a local authority level.

The data collection form can also be found under the resources section of [Part F](#) of our guidance for Returning Officers. We have developed an accompanying [guidance note](#) which provides information on what should be returned.

The completed form should be returned to research@electoralcommission.org.uk. Please return all forms **no earlier than Tuesday 4 June and by no later than Thursday 27 June 2019.**

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