

Supporting the delivery of the May 2021 polls

The Electoral Commission



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The Electoral Commission

Our objectives for the 2021 polls

We have worked with and consulted electoral administrators, political parties and governments across Great Britain to identify a shared set of high-level objectives for delivering successful elections in the current public health environment.

The objectives cover considerations specific to

- Voters
- Candidates and campaigners
- Electoral administrators

These are available in full on our [website](#) and together help to support the overarching aim that:

‘Voters should be able to participate in the polls safely and confidently, and campaigners and parties should be able to put their case to the electorate.’

Guidance for Returning Officers

All supplementary guidance developed with the the expert advice of Public Health England, Scotland and Wales, and in consultation with our working group of administrators, the AEA, Solace, SAA, LGA, Cabinet Office and Scottish and Welsh Governments

As well as updating and publishing our [core guidance](#), from September to December 2020 we released 5 new pieces of supplementary guidance to support administrators with preparing for and delivering the polls against the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic. The guidance covers:

- Planning considerations
- Absent voting
- Nominations
- Polling stations (including updated polling station handbooks)
- Verification and count

All supplementary guidance can be [found on our website](#)

Guidance for candidates and agents, parties and campaigners

Additional resources:

- [COVID survey](#)
- [May 2021 FAQs](#)
- [Spending forms and declarations](#)
- [Factsheets](#)

Published all our core guidance between September and December 2020, on the spending and donation rules for candidates, parties and campaigners. All the guidance is available on our website.

The guidance covers:

- Regulated period
- Spending limits
- Activities covered by the rules
- What donations you can accept
- Information that needs to be recorded and reported
- Reporting dates

Links - May 21 guidance

Covid-19

Please visit our website for any COVID updates to the guidance.

	Political parties	Candidates & Agents	Non-party campaigners
Scottish Parliament	Scottish Parliament party guidance	Scottish Parliament - Candidates & Agents guidance	Scottish Parliament NPC guidance
Senedd	Senedd party guidance	Senedd - candidates & agents guidance	Senedd election NPC guidance
Locals	N/A	Local elections in England - Candidates & Agents guidance	Local campaigners at LGE elections factsheet
LAM	N/A	Local authority mayoral - Candidates & agents guidance	Local campaigners at LGE elections factsheet
CAM	N/A	Combined authority mayoral elections - candidates & agents guidance	Local campaigners at LGE elections factsheet
GLA	N/A	GLA - candidates & agents guidance	Local campaigners at GLA elections factsheet
PCC	N/A	PCC - candidates & agents guidance	Local campaigners at PCC elections factsheet
Parish	N/A	Parish council elections - spending and donations guidance	N/A
Community	N/A	Community council elections - spending and donations guidance	N/A
Imprints, including new digital imprint rules in Scotland	Imprints for parties – England and Wales	Imprints for candidates – England and Wales	Imprints for NPCs – England and Wales
	Imprints for parties – Scotland	Imprints for candidates – Scotland	Imprints for NPCs – Scotland

A few things to highlights

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- Table of changes
- Leaving the EU – permissibility rules
- New spending limit – local elections in England
- Digital imprints in Scotland
- Implementation of Codes of Practice for Senedd elections

Guidance for Candidates and Agents

Supplementary
Guidance Published
March 2021

[England](#)

[Wales](#)

[Scotland](#)

- [Our core guidance for candidates and agents](#) was published last year
- Supplementary guidance:
 - Supports candidates and agents to understand what to expect at all stages of the electoral process
 - Provides guidance on how to participate in the polls safely; including changes to the nomination process and what to expect on polling day
 - What to expect at the verification and count - appreciation that events will look very different to previous years

We will be pleased to answer any
questions at the end of the session

