ISSUED BY EMAIL 24 MAY 2024

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL RETURNING OFFICERS,**

**ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICERS AND THEIR STAFF**

**UK PARLIAMENTARY GENERAL ELECTION (UKPGE), 4 JULY 2024**

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CONVENER OF THE EMB**

For reserved polls such as the UKPGE in which the Convener of the EMB has no power to issue Directions, the practice has been for a set of ***Recommendations*** to be made, to assist in achieving consistency in the voter-facing elements of Elections and to support effective contingency measures.

For the UK Parliamentary General Election on 4 July the timetable is very tight indeed, and to support ROs and EROs and to promote consistency wherever possible, primarily around key dates, I propose to make the recommendations below. Consistency of dates allows an effective public awareness campaign to be undertaken, aligned with these agreed dates.

Following discussion with the ERO representatives on the EMB and engagement with print suppliers I therefore **recommend** the following:

* Notice of Election to be published on **Friday 31 May**
* First issue of Poll Cards/Letters to be handed to Royal Mail on either **10 or 11 June\***;
* First Issue of Postal Votes to be handed to Royal Mail on either **18 or 19 June\***;

\*traditionally we recommend/direct a two-day window for dispatch of poll cards/postal packs to give some tolerance for printer and delivery schedules.

For the publication of the Notice of Election I am recommending a date of **Friday 31 May.**  The Notice of Election must be published no later than 4pm on Tuesday 4 June 2024. However, Returning Officers can publish the Notice of Election immediately following receipt of the writ, on the same day, 31 May.    Nominations can only be received between 10am and 4pm on any working day after the publication of the Notice of Election.  Publishing the Notice of Election on Friday 31 May will allow nominations to be received from 10 am on Monday 3 June until 4pm on Friday 7 June, giving the maximum possible period for receiving nominations, which may reduce pressure on RO teams and on candidates.  This remains a *recommendation* but **is a date on which consistency would be helpful across Scotland to avoid unhelpful comparisons among ROs being made by candidates.** In any event the Notice of Election should be published no later than Monday 3 June.

In terms of subscribers, the Register that the RO should use for checking will be the **June Register**, which is the Register in force on the last day for publication of the Notice of Election. With nominations being taken from Monday 3 June ROs will need to confirm with their ERO that they have access to the June update at that point.

With respect to a date for the Second Interim Election Notice of Alteration (SIENA), 25 June would allow the maximum number of electors to be included in the final issue of poll cards.  EROs would then take a view on whether they wished to upload data from 19 June (start of the objection period).   These dates should all be achievable for ROs, EROs and printers and other contractors, and would produce consistency across Scotland.

I have already issued recommendations with respect to [basic accessibility measures](https://links.uk.defend.egress.com/Warning?crId=665099e48519445bec142189&Domain=edinburgh.gov.uk&Lang=en&Base64Url=eNpdjctugzAQRb8m7Ay28bMSqgBRqYt2UVVVdhFx3NoV2IhxQPn7Oll2c--Z0RmNS2mBp6q6rpMo59FPY7jFYMtgUwVmDMGuz3NDoP1wXwhj3OMF1W_FpWEH2d_9A33ROAeRRHDGKH4M__zs-iBcLi4tOQtFM5KaK830A6lQEmOVUQiOBRs45YoRVTPdSj203UCHbqhVR4rY5AeLS_uhbjPtCcy8l6mEaM_rnjfB5xiThTG3mZK-l-UIfJxT9AG5bVkRSjYf2NFM4L0Bi3yy32i6RQjRJ1NAI3_I-y8K_ealgO2kX4-uv3yKqzrCH2evXRk%3D&@OriginalLink=url6.mailanyone.net) that should be applied for this Election.

The EMB will meet next week with a focus on the delivery of the 4 July polls.   If you have any issues which you wish to have discussed in that meeting please raise them as soon as possible with Chris Highcock, Secretary of the EMB.   He, the Board and I will aim to support and assist you with any issue in the coming six weeks.   Despite the short timescale I am confident that the close and supportive community of ROs and EROs will deliver sound and trustworthy elections with results in which there can be full confidence.

With best wishes for the coming six weeks

*Malcolm*

**MALCOLM BURR**

Convener of the Electoral Management Board for Scotland

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