

e-Counting for the 2017

Scottish Local Government Elections

INFORMATION BULLETIN FROM THE PROJECT TEAM

Issue 04, 18th February 2016

| | |
|------------------|---|
| FOR INFO. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bulletin – this is the latest Bulletin aimed at informing the electoral community of progress with the project to deliver e-counting for the 2017 local government elections. As this project develops, further Bulletins will be issued regularly by the e-counting Project Team, whose contact details are on the following page. |
| FOR INFO. | <p>TECHNICAL COMPLIANCE TESTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Since the last Bulletin was issued, good progress has been made on the project. From early December 2015 until mid-January 2016, a series of technical tests were conducted to ensure the technical compliance of the e-counting system. The tests were carried out by the supplier, CGI and their partner Idox, supported by Scottish Government, our EMB representative and the Technical Assurance Group. These tests included the timed processing of 20,000 ballots on six separate occasions. (More recently, tests of 50,000 ballots have also taken place and a further test of 80,000 ballots is scheduled for 25 February). This work took place in the count centre established at Pentland House, Edinburgh and was completed on 15 January 2016. <p>USER TRIALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The technical compliance tests were followed by the User Trials which took place over 10 days between 18 January and 29 January. The purpose was to allow ROs and their election teams to review and familiarise themselves with the e-counting system. These one-day sessions included a refresher presentation and role familiarisation as well as an opportunity to take part in an end-to-end running of a full count. Teams from 28 councils took part in the User Trials and feedback has been very positive. Thanks to all of you who took part and thanks also for your helpful feedback.• Suggestions received for refinements to the e-counting system will be considered by the User Group when it meets on 23 February. <p>ONLINE PORTAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An online e-counting information ‘Portal’ is currently being developed and will shortly be made available to all ROs and their election teams. As it develops, the Portal will provide access to project documents and up-to-date information as well as advice and training materials. More information on this in the next Bulletin. |

