

e-Counting for the 2017

Scottish Local Government Elections

INFORMATION BULLETIN FROM THE PROJECT TEAM

Issue 05, 22nd March 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>REFINEMENT OF THE E-COUNTING SYSTEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following the User Trial sessions held in January, local authority election teams provided helpful feedback including suggestions for changes to the existing e-counting system. These suggestions were assessed and prioritised by the User Group at their meeting on 23 February. The User Group’s recommendations were then put forward to the Project Board when they met on 8 March. The Board have given their agreement, in principle, to proceed with the high-level recommendations for change, subject to cost implications and the need to ensure that any changes will not undermine the integrity or reliability of the system.• Details on the agreed system changes will be circulated in due course. <p>MOCK COUNTS – SEPTEMBER 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The next phase of the e-counting project which council election teams are invited to take part in will be the ‘Mock Count’ sessions, which are scheduled to take place in September 2016.• Dougie McGregor has been in touch with you, seeking views on your preferred format for the Mock Counts. We are aware that not all councils will wish to conduct a full-scale Mock Count, as was originally planned. Different local authorities will have different levels of experience with e-counting so there would be no sense in seeking to impose a ‘one-size-fits-all’ solution. Dougie therefore contacted all ROs with options for different Mock Count formats. Based on the feedback we’ve received, the Project Team is currently drawing up plans which will allow us to offer different formats depending on the requirements of different councils.• Earlier this month, members of the Project Team made a preliminary site visit to the Dewars Centre in Perth. The aim of the visit was to review the venue and its facilities and to discuss technical requirements and logistical arrangements with the Dewars Centre staff. This was a very productive exercise and a good relationship now exists with the Dewars staff.

FOR INFO.**ONLINE PORTAL**

- The online e-counting information 'Portal', mentioned in Bulletin 04, will shortly be made available. Apologies for the slight delay with this. The Portal will provide access to project documents and up-to-date information as well as advice and training materials.

For more information please contact a member of the e-counting Project Team:

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