



The  
Electoral  
Commission

# Scottish Parliament Election 6 May 2021

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## About the Electoral Commission

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Electoral  
Commission

### Background

- Established by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act (PPERA) 2000.
- We are an **independent** body set up by the UK Parliament. Accountable to Speakers Committee, SP and Senedd. Our general functions and powers are set out in PERA.
- Our strategy, goals and priorities are set by our Board and **Commissioners** and reflected in our Corporate Plan.
- Reflecting devolved arrangements, we have offices in London, **Edinburgh**, Cardiff and Belfast.
- We work closely with the UK, Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish legislatures and governments.

# The Electoral Commission in Scotland

The **Scotland Team** is your first point of contact with the Electoral Commission.

- Located normally at City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh.  
*Andy O'Neill*, Head of the Electoral Commission, Scotland.  
*Sarah Mackie*, Manager, Electoral Commission, Scotland.  
*Martin McKeown*, Senior Elections and Campaigners Adviser.  
*Lindsey Hamilton*, Business Support Officer.  
*Catherine Heggie*, Partnerships and Information Officer
- Work closely our with our colleagues across the Commission.

# Our role before the election

Before the election

Before the election, we:

- Set performance standards and provide guidance and support to Returning Officers and Electoral Registration Officers, so they can run the election well.
- Give guidance to political parties, candidates and agents, and non party campaigners, so they know what the rules are.
- Run awareness raising campaigns so people know when the deadlines are for registering to vote, and applying for postal and proxy votes.
- We accredit Observers.

## Our role during the election

### During the election

During the election, we:

- Look at how well the Returning Officers / EROs are doing, and whether they are working to our performance standards.
- Provide guidance to, and answer questions from, a range of stakeholders on their participation in the election process.
- Make sure people have all the information they need to vote, including how to find their polling station and cast their votes.
- Visit polling stations on polling day, and observe how well run they are.
- Attend the counting of votes in key areas and observe proceedings.
- Monitor adherence to the rules e.g. spending, imprints.

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## Our role after the election

### After the election

After the election, we:

- Publish reports on how well-run the election was, and recommend what could improve future elections.
- Publish reports on campaign spending;
- Receive and review spending returns. Take enforcement action as appropriate if spending rules are broken.

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# Questions?