

*Laid before the Scottish Parliament by the Scottish Ministers under section 4 of the Scottish General Election (Coronavirus) Act 2021
April 2021*

SG/2021/no

POSTAL VOTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION ON 6 MAY 2021

Section 4 of the Scottish General Election (Coronavirus) Act 2021 requires the Scottish Ministers to report to the Parliament on the uptake of postal voting for the 2021 Scottish Parliament election as at 7 April 2021 (the day after the final deadline for applications to vote by post at the election to be received by Electoral Registration Officers (EROs)). The section requires the report to be published and laid before the Parliament by Ministers as soon as reasonably practicable after 7 April 2021.

Section 4 requires that the report set out:

- a) the number of persons who are registered to vote at the 2021 election;
- b) the number of persons who have been granted a postal vote at the election;
- c) the number of number of applications for a postal vote for the election which have been received but not determined; and
- d) any funding provided by the Scottish Ministers to local authorities for the purpose of ensuring that EROs have adequate resources to deal with any increase in applications for postal votes resulting from the pandemic.

Registered electors and postal votes

The attached Excel spreadsheet details the data described in points (a) and (b) above as at close on 7 April 2021 (recorded on the spreadsheet as at 8 April). It also contains data for 1 February, 1 March and 31 March 2021 for comparison purposes.

Pending applications for a postal vote as at close on 7 April 2021

The spreadsheet (at Column N) also contains data for point (c): postal vote applications received but not determined as of close on 7 April. This comprises of postal vote applications received by the deadline (5pm on 6 April) and which have yet to be processed and postal vote applications where the applicant's registration to vote has not yet been finalised.

Funding provided by the Scottish Government to local authorities for the purpose of ensuring that EROs have adequate resources to deal with any increase in applications for postal votes resulting from the pandemic

ERO	Local Authority areas	Total
Grampian	Aberdeen Aberdeenshire Moray	£320,843
Tayside	Angus Perth and Kinross	£148,403
Dunbartonshire, Argyll and Bute	Argyll and Bute East Dunbartonshire West Dunbartonshire	£158,274
Central Scotland	Clackmannanshire Falkirk Stirling	£166,860
Dumfries and Galloway	Dumfries and Galloway	£86,669
Dundee City	Dundee	£78,221
Ayrshire	East Ayrshire North Ayrshire South Ayrshire	£211,698
Lothian	East Lothian Edinburgh Midlothian West Lothian	£487,812
Renfrewshire	East Renfrewshire Inverclyde Renfrewshire	£194,976
Fife	Fife	£206,576
Glasgow City	Glasgow City	£334,200
Highland & Western Isles	Highland Na h-Eileanan Siar (Western Isles)	£151,553
Lanarkshire	North Lanarkshire South Lanarkshire	£362,118
Orkney & Shetland	Orkney Islands Shetland Islands	£25,536
Scottish Borders	Scottish Borders	£66,262
Total	Scotland (total)	£3,000,000

Payments totalling £1.1 million were also issued to EROs to fund the issuing of a Household Notification Letter setting out who was registered to vote in each property and whether they had a postal vote.