

HIGHLAND AND WESTERN ISLES VALUATION JOINT BOARD

23 September 2022

Agenda Item	9
Report No	VAL/14/22

Elections Act 2022

Report by the Electoral Registration Officer

Summary

This report provides an overview of the Elections Act 2022 from the Electoral Registration Officer's perspective.

1. General

The Elections Act 2022 received Royal Assent on 28 April 2022 and introduces a number of changes. The Act seeks to:

- require voters to show photo ID at polling stations before a ballot paper is issued. This change will require Electoral Registration Officers to issue free voter authority certificates, temporary voter authority certificates or anonymous electors documents to those without a valid form of photo ID
- require postal voters to reapply for a postal vote every three years, replacing current rules of refreshing their signature every five years
- further limit the number of people someone may act as proxy for
- allow all British citizens living overseas to vote in UK Parliamentary elections, regardless of when they left the UK.

These changes apply to UK Parliamentary Elections in Great Britain. Elections to the Scottish Parliament and all local elections in Scotland are devolved and will not be affected by these changes.

2. Policy and secondary legislation

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) are still developing policy and secondary legislation. No further information can be provided to Members at this time however, updates will be provided at future Board meetings.

3. Proposed timetable

The proposed timetable for implementation of changes is attached at Appendix 1. As the timetable may be subject to change, any update will be reported at future Board meetings.

4. Funding

It is anticipated that some level of funding will be made available to EROs to implement changes brought about by the Elections Act. The funding allocation will

be a mixture of grants, justification led bids or hybrid funding. EROs should receive a letter of comfort from DLUHC by the end of September 2022. Grant determination letters will be issued by the end of October 2022 with New Burdens funding in place by the end of November 2022.

5. Future planning

The timelines for implementation remain subject to change. Two members of the management team are attending an Elections Act conference in Birmingham on 12 September 2022. The conference will provide further insight on how some of the policy may work in practice.

6. Recommendation

The Board is invited to comment and otherwise note the contents of this report.

Designation: Electoral Registration Officer

Date: 9 September 2022

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APPENDIX 1

2022	
From July 2022	Secondary legislation in Parliament
2023	
January 2023	Electoral Commission Strategy and Policy Statement laid before Parliament
	Voter identification statutory instruments made (voter identification will be required in polling stations for polls held from May 2023 onwards)
	Go live of application service for electoral identity documents
June 2023	Electoral Commission Strategy and Policy Statement takes effect
July 2023	Postal Voting rule changes statutory instruments made and changes take effect
	Proxy Voting rule changes statutory instruments made and changes take effect
	Overseas Electors statutory instruments made and changes take effect
	Online Absent Vote applications statutory instruments made and take effect
	Online Absent Vote Applications Service Go Live