

Guidance

Guidance for Returning Officers to
support the Welsh Elections
Information Platform

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1. Purpose of this guidance

1.1 This guidance has been issued by the Electoral Management Board (EMB) for Wales to assist Returning Officers and their teams in the provision of information and activities that are required for the smooth running of the Welsh Elections Information Platform.

1.2 In this guidance the word ‘must’ is used when referring to a specific legal requirement or a direction. The word ‘should’ is used when referring to recommended good practice.

1.3 The word ‘you’ is used to cover Returning Officers, Electoral Registration Officers and electoral services staff. As the administrative arrangements vary across Wales, Constituency Returning Officers are not specifically mentioned. Where the guidance only applies to a particular role, this will be specifically stated.

1.4 This guidance is issued for Senedd elections only and includes:

- Information about the functions of the Welsh Elections Information Platform
- Detail about the directions issued by the EMB including:
 - The documents that Returning Officers must send to the platform operator for publication on the platform
 - The process and the required format for submission of the documents you are required to provide to the platform operator

Contacting the Wales Electoral Management Board

You can contact the EMB by emailing - emb@dbcc.gov.wales

2. Who operates the Welsh Elections Information Platform

2.1 The Elections and Elected Bodies (Wales) Act 2024 provided for the establishment of the Welsh Elections Information Platform.

2.2 The Welsh Elections Information Platform Regulations 2025 specify that the Electoral Management Board (EMB) - established by the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru (DBCC) - is the platform operator.

3. What is the purpose of Welsh Elections Information Platform?

3.1 The Welsh Elections Information Platform provides up to date information online, all in one place to support electors to participate in elections. The platform must operate for the Senedd Cymru elections and the Principal Council elections. The regulations require the EMB to publish specific information on the platform. This includes:

- official election notices issued by Returning Officers
- location of polling stations and who is entitled to vote there
- accessibility arrangements at polling stations
- information about candidates and registered political parties standing at elections
- election addresses of political parties and individual candidates
- election results

3.2 The Welsh Elections Information Platform may also publish:

- information about the electoral system and voting process in relation to specified elections including but not limited to the devolution of specified elections
- a description and explanation of the different levels of government that exist in Wales and their respective responsibilities
- the different elections that take place in Wales and the voting systems used at each election
- information about electoral arrangements and electoral processes for specified elections including but not limited to:
 - eligibility to vote
 - registering to vote including anonymous registration and absent voting
 - the practical process of voting, including information on how, when and where to vote at polling stations, by post or by proxy.
 - accessibility rights for voters when voting
- contact details for local electoral teams which provide assistance to electors in each area in Wales
- contact details for elected representatives for each Senedd constituency or local government electoral ward in Wales

3.3 The service is available in both [Welsh \(Cymraeg\)](#) and [English](#).

4. Directions to support the running of the Welsh Elections Information Platform

4.1 The EMB under Sections 20B and 20C of the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru etc. Act 2013 (“the 2013 Act”), as amended by the Elections and Elected Bodies (Wales) Act 2024 (“the 2024 Act”) have given directions to Returning Officers (ROs) and Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) about the exercise of the officers’ functions in relation to Senedd elections.

4.2 A copy of the directions issued for the Senedd elections in 2026 can be found [here](#).

4.3 The EMB have issued 6 directions in relation to the EMB’s requirement to run the Welsh Elections Information Platform. Not all the information you provide will be published on the platform but is required for it to work effectively and securely. You will also play a role in the promotion of the platform to voters and candidates and agents.

4.4 The directions aim to ensure that content submitted is in a consistent format. This is crucial for the smooth operation of the platform and will ensure the platform can operate in the following ways:

- accessible
- easily searchable by voters
- secure.

5. Data Protection for the Welsh Elections Information Platform

Who is providing the data?

5.1 Some of the data for the operation of the Welsh Elections Information Platform can only be provided by the RO for the constituency – candidate information and count results because they will be administering the nomination process and declaring the result of the election.

5.2 Who provides some of the other data will be dependent on decisions taken about how the data is collected and shared across a constituency. This will be up to the RO to agree across the local authority areas within their constituency. Data could be provided by deputies in the other local authority areas in the constituency.

Data controller

5.3 The EMB whilst responsible for running the Welsh Elections Information platform has requested that the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru act as data controller on their behalf. The Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer remains data controller for all the data that is collected and used for the conduct of the election.

Data processing

5.4 The regulations require the EMB to publish specific information on the platform. To do this the DBCC/EMB must process data provided by you.

5.5 When you are collecting data for your own use and collecting the same data for the DBCC, both parties remain data controllers of the data in their own right. The legal basis for the RO processing and sharing the WEIP data with the DBCC falls under legal obligation as the data sharing is covered within the directions issued by the EMB. The DBCC's legal basis for processing the data for the WEIP falls under public task.

5.6 You should discuss these new data sharing requirements with your Council Data Protection Officer (DPO). You may need to do certain activities due to the new data sharing requirements, for example you should:

- update or write a Data Processing Impact Assessment
- update your privacy notice informing the public of the new data sharing arrangements
- review data sharing agreements

An Information Sharing Protocol has been designed to formalise the data sharing arrangements between the Constituency Returning Officers and the DBCC/EMB. All Constituency Returning Officers should sign this in advance of the election.

5.7 To ensure your quality assurance processes are robust, you should consider joining [Wales Accord on the Sharing of Personal Information \(WASPI\)](#). This is a tool publicised by Welsh Government to help public service providers share relevant personal data and meet data protection responsibilities. The Information Sharing Protocol has been developed using their template and has gone through their quality assurance process.

6. Direction 1 - Returning Officers must provide their polling station and accessibility information to Democracy Club who will process the data on behalf of the EMB

6.1 To assist voters to find their polling station, legislation requires the Welsh Elections Information Platform to:

- publish the notice of situation of polling stations
- publish the accessibility information about each polling station
- for all relevant information on the platform to be searchable by constituency and post code

6.2 In order to collect the data required the EMB issued a direction to Returning Officers to provide the Democracy Club with polling station data for each constituency.

Providing data to Democracy Club

6.3 The Welsh Elections Information Platform is using Democracy Club's API to provide the post code search, polling station information and accessibility information.

6.4 You will have provided Democracy Club with your polling station data at previous polls. The process for providing the polling station data for the Senedd election will be no different.

6.5 The only difference will be the requirement to also provide Democracy Club with the completed spreadsheet containing the accessibility information for your polling stations.

6.6 We encourage you to prepare and send the data as soon as practicable after you have finalised your polling stations ahead of the election. If possible, you should provide the accessibility data for each polling station at the same time as the export of the polling station data from the EMS. We would recommend you provide the two data sets **before Friday 20 February 2026** to give Democracy Club time to complete the additional processing of the accessibility information.

Polling station data

6.7 When you have finalised your polling stations for the election, you will need to provide this updated data to Democracy Club. You should export the information from your EMS and upload it to Democracy Club: <https://wheredoivote.co.uk/uploads>. Instructions for exporting the data from your EMS are available [here](#).

Polling station accessibility information

6.8 The Welsh Elections Information Platform Regulations 2025 require us to publish accessibility information for each polling station. We are working with Democracy Club to deliver this function within their polling station finder tool.

6.9 The Democracy Club will process this data through a [spreadsheet](#) you must complete and share with them. When completing the spreadsheet you must provide the following information:

Type of information	Data required
Polling station base information (you can export this from your EMS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Address• UPRN• Identifier of each polling station
Main accessibility information (YES/NO responses only)	Is this a temporary structure? Is there nearby parking? Is disabled parking available? Is there level access to the station? If no level access, is the ramp temporary? Does the building have a hearing loop? Are there publicly accessible toilets on site?
Additional accessibility information	There are free-text boxes for additional accessibility information relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Getting to the station• At the station These are optional. If you choose to use them, please: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on information relevant to voter accessibility• Keep entries short and concise• Provide the information in Welsh and English where possible Leave these fields blank if you are not providing any additional information.

6.10 You should hold most of this information already from conducting polling place and station reviews. However, you may want to commence this work in good time before the election in case there is follow up work you need to complete with polling stations to understand their accessibility arrangements.

Notifying Democracy Club about changes to polling stations.

6.11 If you make any late changes to polling station locations, you should notify Democracy Club as soon as practicable. This is to ensure that the correct information is being provided to voters on the platform.

6.12 If at the time a polling station changes you cannot provide the up-to-date accessibility information, please still notify Democracy Club. It is better voters go to the right polling station location without the accessibility information than the wrong polling station.

6.13 If you make substantial changes to the polling station data, for example you realise that a street has been assigned to the wrong polling station so you have to move it, please contact Democracy Club as soon as possible so that the data can be updated. This will likely require a new EMS export.

Summary of data to be sent to Democracy Club

Data to send to Democracy Club	Format of file	How to submit	When to submit
Polling station data	Export file	Export the data from your EMS to the uploader link provided by Democracy Club https://wheredoivote.co.uk/uploads	As soon as practicable after you have finalised your polling stations and no later than Friday 20 February 2026
Accessibility data	Excel spread sheet	Email to DC pollingstations@democracyclub.org.uk	As soon as practicable after you have finalised your polling stations ahead of the election

7. Direction 2 – Constituency Returning Officers must provide to the EMB the formal notices relating to the election which Returning Officers are required to publish by Schedule 5 to the Senedd Cymru (Representation of the People) Order 2025.

7.1 The legislation states that the EMB must publish on the Welsh Elections Information Platform the following Returning Officer issued notices for each constituency:

- Notice of Election
- Statement of Parties and Persons Nominated
- Notice of Poll
- Notice of the Situation of Polling stations and the description of voters entitled to vote there
- Declaration of results

In order to do this, the EMB has issued a direction to Constituency Returning Officers to provide copies of the notices.

7.2 The EMB will republish the notices on the platform. The provision of the notices is separate and in addition to the provision of specific data that the EMB require in other directions. This is because where data is requested that overlaps with notices, it is intended for the platform to digest this data and reproduce in a more accessible format on the platform. This will be in addition to the publication of the actual notices on the platform.

How should the copies of notices be provided?

7.3 The notices must be emailed to the EMB. Please send copies of the notices to emb@dbcc.gov.wales. You should do this as soon as you have published each notice yourself and no later than 24 hours after you have published the notice yourself.

7.4 We expect the notices to be provided in PDF format or word format – if you intend to publish your notices in a different format, please contact the EMB in advance of the election.

7.5 If you amend or republish any of these notices after you have submitted them to the EMB, you must email a copy of the updated notice to the EMB as soon as possible. This is so the EMB can update the published notice on the platform.

Summary of copies of notices to be provided

Name of official notice	Format of file	How to submit	When to submit
Notice of Election	PDF or word document	Email the notice to the EMB Email address: emb@dbcc.gov.wales	As soon as practicable after publication No later than 24 hours after publication
Statement of Parties and Persons Nominated			
Notice of poll			
Notice of the Situation of Polling stations and the description of voters entitled to vote there			
Declaration of results			

8. Direction 3 – Constituency Returning Officers must ensure that candidates and election agents receive the ‘required information’ about the Welsh Elections Information Platform

8.1 Constituency Returning Officers have direct contact with political parties, individual candidates and election agents during the election process and are best placed to provide information about the platform.

8.2 The EMB has issued a direction that during the nomination process, Constituency Returning Officers must ensure that candidates and election agents receive the ‘required information’ about the Welsh Elections Information Platform.

What is the required information?

8.3 The [‘required information’](#) is a short note from the EMB that explains:

- the platform’s operation
- the election address submission process
- the data sharing arrangements between Returning Officers and the EMB.

8.4 It signposts the website address that political parties, individual candidates and election agents should access to get [specific guidance](#) on the submission process for election addresses.

When to provide the required information to political parties, candidates and election agents

8.5 This information is only needed by political parties, individual candidates and election agents after their nomination paper has been formally delivered to the Constituency Returning Officer.

8.6 You must provide the required information no later than 24 hours after the nomination paper has been delivered. You must provide the required information to the person who has submitted the nomination paper.

Format of the required information

8.7 You can provide the required information in hard paper copy or as a document in an email whichever is most convenient for you. This may be dependent on how you receive the nomination paper submission.

8.8 If you provide information for those standing for election on your website, you should also publish the ‘required information’ there too. However, only publishing the

required information on your website is not sufficient to meet the direction to issue the required information.

Summary of required information to provide to political parties, candidates and election agents

Type of information	Format of information	How	When
Ensure political parties, candidates and agents receive the 'required information'	Hard or email copy of the 'required information'	By hand or by email	After their nomination has been formally delivered (by hand or electronically) No later than 24 hours after formal delivery of nomination paper

9. Direction 4 – Constituency Returning Officers must provide candidate and election agent data to the EMB for the purposes of the online election address submission system and for the publication of candidate information

9.1 The EMB requires the candidate and election agent data so that it can do the following:

- check that those submitting election address are authorised to do so
- ensure that election addresses are submitted securely
- publish information contained in the Statement of Parties and Persons Nominated in an accessible and postcode searchable manner
- publish the election addresses against the relevant candidate/political party standing in the election

9.2 The EMB has issued a direction that during the nomination process and following publication of Statement of Parties and Persons Nominated the Constituency Returning Officers must provide candidate and election agent data to support the process described above.

Candidate and election agent data sets A and B

9.3 The direction describes two overlapping but different data sets – data set A and data set B. Data set A contains the data to support the online submission process of election addresses and data set B contains the data to reproduce Statement of Parties and Persons Nominated on the platform. The following data will be contained in the data sets:

DATA SET A - to support the online election address submission process	
For party list candidates	For Individual candidates
Party name or registered party description	Description – Independent or Annibynnol or both or blank
For each party list candidate: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Full name or commonly used name (where provided)- Email address (where provided)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Full name or commonly used name (where provided)- Email address (where provided)
Election agent name	Election agent name

Election agent's email address (where provided)	Election agent's email address (where provided)
Other system identifiers as required	Other system identifiers as required
DATA SET B - for publication on the platform	
For party list candidates	For Individual candidates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Party name or registered party description - Registered party emblem <p>For each party list candidate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full name or commonly used name (where provided) - Home address or relevant area if home address is suppressed - Party membership statement (where provided) <p>Invalid/withdrawn party / candidate: as above with reason for invalidity/withdrawal</p> <p>Other system identifiers as required</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Description - Independent or Annibynnol or both or blank - Candidate full name or commonly used name (where provided) - Home address or relevant area if home address is suppressed - Party membership statement (where provided) <p>Invalid/withdrawn candidate: as above with reason for invalidity/withdrawal</p> <p>Other system identifiers as required</p>

9.4 In practice there will be only one export file for you to export which contains both data set A and B. This is to make the process of supplying the data as easy as possible for you.

9.5 During the nomination period, the platform will only keep/use the data required for election address process which is found in data set A. This enables candidates and elections agents to submit their election address to the EMB from two days after you publish your Notice of Election.

9.6 Once you have provided the final set of candidates and agents data both data set A and B will be used by the platform.

Exporting candidate and election agent data to the Welsh Elections Information Platform during the nomination period

9.7 **You must upload a candidate and election agent data export at the end of each working day during the nominations period** (i.e. the days that nomination papers can be delivered). This will allow the platform to hold the most up to date data which will allow candidates and election agents to commence submitting their election addresses as early as possible.

9.8 You must export the candidate and election agent data file from your EMS. We have worked with your EMS suppliers to design a specific export to take into account the requirements of both data set A and data set B. We would expect your EMS supplier to provide specific instructions on how to run the export.

9.9 You will need to upload the export to the Welsh Elections Information Platform. Each Constituency Returning Officer will be provided with the link to the upload area of the platform. You have also previously worked with the EMB to identify up to two users who are able to log into this area to provide the data. If there are any issues with these users, please contact the EMB - emb@dbcc.gov.wales.

9.10 When you upload the data into the platform during nominations:

- you must mark the file as draft in the upload process
- you must upload a new export every day regardless of if you have received additional nomination papers
- any errors in the data will be flagged to you (these will include missing mandatory data, and some basic data validation) – you will need to fix these errors in your EMS and re-export the data
- you will have the opportunity to review the data you have uploaded – please ensure the data is correct
- the latest data file will always override the previous file you have uploaded.

9.11 If after you have completed your submission, you realise there was a mistake in the data file, then you can just upload another export as it will override the previous file.

9.12 Remember the data being used during nominations is only to support the online election address submission process. This data will not be published.

Collecting email addresses of candidates and agents

Whilst providing an email address is optional for nominations, the candidate/s and/or election agent must provide you their email address if they wish to submit their election address using the online submission service. This is due to security processes built into the system. You should encourage all candidates and their election agents to provide their email addresses to you and explain the reasons you are asking for it:

- so that you can contact them easily if required during the election period
- it is needed when they are submitting their election address to the platform for publication online.

The Electoral Commission have provided a resource – candidate contact sheet for [party lists](#) and [individual candidates](#)- which you can ask candidates/election agents to complete.

You will need to ensure that you input any email addresses you collect into your EMS so they appear on the export data.

You should cover the importance of providing you with their email address in your briefing for political parties, individual candidates and election agents. Email addresses are not published on the platform, they are only used for security checks when candidate/s and agents submit the election addresses.

The EMB have [provided slides](#) to use at your briefing about the importance of providing an email address and explaining if they don't provide it to you, they will be unable to submit their election address online for publication on the platform.

Remember to check your Privacy Notice and update if required to ensure candidates and agents are aware of the collection, use and sharing of their email addresses.

Providing the data from statement of parties and persons nominated to the Welsh Elections Information Platform

9.13 You **must provide a final export of the candidate and election agent data file shortly after close of nominations / publication of Statement of Parties and Persons Nominated**. This data will be used to recreate the Statement of Parties and Persons Nominated on the website in an accessible format, but also provide the final data to support the online election address submission process.

9.14 When you upload the data into the platform after close of nominations:

- you **MUST** have conducted your quality assurance checks on publishing Statement of Parties and Persons Nominated and sending off ballot paper data before exporting the data

bwrwpleidlais.cymru

vote.wales

- you will provide this data in the same way as you have the daily file during nominations
- you must mark the file as FINAL in the upload process
- any errors in data will be flagged to you (these will include missing mandatory data, and some basic data validation) – you will need to fix these errors in your EMS and re-export the data
- you will have the opportunity to review the data you have uploaded – on screen or by printing off the page - please ensure the data is correct.

9.15 If after you have completed your submission, you realise there was a mistake in the data file, then you must contact the EMB - emb@dbcc.gov.wales as soon as possible so that the data can be corrected.

9.16 Remember some of this data will be published (although not the data items only found in data set A such as email addresses). It is vital that this data is correct so that the platform is publishing the correct information on who is standing at the election.

Summary of the candidate and agent data to be provided to the EMB

Type of information	Format of information	How	When
Data set A – base information for candidates and agents	CSV export from EMS	Upload into the platform	Every day during the nomination period and final version as soon as practical after publication of Statement of Parties and Persons Nominated
Data set B – information to publish Statement of Persons Nominated	CSV export from EMS	Upload into the platform	As soon as practical after publication of Statement of Parties and Persons Nominated

10. Direction 5 – Publicising the platform

10.1 The EMB will publicise the platform with the primary purpose of raising awareness with voters that the platform is available and there to provide them with information about the election. The secondary purpose of the EMBs publicity activity is to raise awareness of the platform and the election address with all political parties and individual candidates standing for the election.

10.2 Returning Officers also play a key role in raising awareness of the platform because they have direct contact with voters, candidates and election agents during an election.

10.3 To support the publicity of the platform the EMB have directed that Returning Officers:

- must include specific wording on all poll cards
- must promote a link to the Welsh Elections Information Platform on each council's website
- must ensure voter engagement activities carried out by the Returning Officer promote the platform

Including specified wording on all poll cards

10.4 You have direct contact with every eligible elector as you are required to send them a poll card. The EMB has directed that all poll cards include specific wording about the Welsh Elections Information platform.

10.5 The following wording must be included on the poll cards issued by the Returning Officer -

I gael gwybodaeth am y pleidiau a'r ymgeiswyr sy'n sefyll yn eich ardal chi, ewch i www.bwrwpleidlais.cymru

For information of parties and candidates standing in your area, go to www.vote.wales

10.6 The EMB are not directing where the wording must appear on the poll card, that is for you to decide. You may also adjust the font, size, and layout in order to best suit the format of your poll card design. You may also chose to include the website logo in your poll card – however this optional.

Publishing a link to the Welsh Elections Information Platform on Council websites

10.7 The EMB have directed that a link to the Welsh Elections Information Platform must be published on each Council's website alongside other information they publish about the election.

10.8 The link must be published on the website before or at the same time as the Notice of Election is published and it should promote the platform to voters to find out information of the upcoming election.

Including information about the Welsh Elections Information Platform in your voter engagement activity

10.9 The EMB have directed that you must promote the Welsh Elections Information Platform in the voter engagement activities you carry out.

10.10 For example, if you are using social media posts to promote the election, please include a promotion of the link to the platform. The EMB will provide publicity materials including [social media assets to aid the Returning Officers in their engagement activity](#).

Promoting the platform to political parties, candidates and agents

10.11 Constituency Returning Officers are already required under direction 3 to provide the candidate/s and election agent with the required information during nominations. There are other activities we would encourage Returning Officers to undertake to support further promotion:

- If you are providing information for political parties, candidates and agents on your website, you could include some content in relation to them submitting their election addresses to the Welsh Elections Information Platform.
- You should include the [EMB prepared slides](#) highlighting the WEIP in your candidates and agents briefing
- If you provide email updates to your candidates and agents during the election timetable, you should highlight and remind them of the deadlines for publication of their election addresses.

Summary of activities to support the promotion of the Welsh Elections Information Platform

Type of activity	How	When
Inclusion of platform wording on poll cards	The following wording must be included on the poll cards issued by the Returning Officer: For information of parties and candidates standing in your area, go to www.vote.wales	As required for poll card sign off

bwrwpleidlais.cymru

vote.wales

	I gael gwybodaeth am y pleidiau a'r ymgeiswyr sy'n sefyll yn eich ardal chi, ewch i www.bwrwpleidlais.cymru	
Link to platform included on Council website	The link to the Welsh Elections Information Platform must published on their Council website alongside other information they publish about the election: www.vote.wales www.bwrwpleidlais.cymru	Before or at the same time as the Notice of Election is published.
Include platform information in other election engagement activities	When conducting voter engagement activities such as social media posts the Returning Officer should also promote the Welsh Elections Information Platform.	Throughout the election
Promote election address process to candidates and agents	You should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide information on your website • include the EMB prepared slides in your candidate and agent briefing • provide a reminder of the election address deadlines in communications 	Throughout the election period

11. Direction 6 Constituency Returning Officers must provide their election results

11.1 The EMB is required to publish the results of the Senedd election on the Welsh Elections Information Platform.

11.2 In order to do this the EMB has issued a direction to Constituency Returning Officers to provide the data for the results for their constituency. This is in addition to the provision of the Declaration of Results notice as required by direction 2.

When must the election result data be provided by?

11.3 You must provide the election result data to the EMB on the day that the result of the election is declared. This is so that the platform reflects the results of the election as far as is practicable, in real time.

11.4 In certain circumstances the deadline for providing this information may be extended by up to 3 calendar days from the date the results were declared but this is subject to the prior agreement of the EMB. Please contact the EMB in advance of the election if you require additional time to provide your count results data.

Process for providing election result data to the EMB

11.5 You will manually enter your election result data directly into the platform. The data required is information that you will publish on the Declaration of results for the constituency.

11.6 After logging into the platform, the system will present to you a series of questions to collect your election results for your constituency. The platform will provide you the political party and individual candidate data for your constituency to aid the completion. You will input:

- total valid votes cast
- total number of votes given for each political party or individual candidate
- an indication of the candidates who have been deemed elected

11.7 You are not required to input the number of rejected votes.

11.8 When you provide the count data into the platform you should do the following before you submit your response:

- you **MUST** have conducted a check on the totals you have provided into the platform before you submit to identify any typing errors
- you will have the opportunity to review the data you have uploaded – on screen or by printing off the page - please ensure the data is correct.

11.9 If after uploading the election result data you find any mistakes, you need to contact the EMB asap - emb@dbcc.gov.wales so that the data can be corrected.

Summary of count data to be provided

What	Format of information	How	When
Total valid votes cast Total number of votes given for each political party or individual candidate An indication of the candidates who have been deemed elected	Web form	Complete and upload onto the platform	As soon as practical after declaration of results