

Armed Forces Registration toolkit

Working in partnership with the Ministry of Defence, each year the Electoral Commission delivers a voter registration campaign to encourage service personnel to register to vote in advance of elections.

May 2016 will see elections to the Scottish Parliament; the National Assembly for Wales; the London Mayoral and Assembly elections; Police and Crime Commissioner elections across England and Wales; and local government elections in many areas of England.

Ahead of these elections, the Commission is working in partnership with the HIVES and Families Federations to spread the word about the importance of registering to vote through social media and other channels. Our campaign will also include press and Facebook advertising and we will be working with British Forces Broadcasting Service to get the message out to service personnel about how quick and easy it is to apply to register to vote at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote-armed-forces.

As a Unit Registration Officer, you have an important part to play in ensuring service personnel are aware of their registration options and our toolkit is designed to help you run a Unit Registration Day event.



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Unit Registration Days

As part of the campaign Unit Registration Officers (UROs) are encouraged to deliver a Unit Registration Day within your unit between 1 February and 31 March 2016.

The Commission produces a range of resources to assist UROs to deliver the Unit Registration Day. This includes a PowerPoint presentation, a voter registration poster, links to download voter registration, postal vote and proxy voting forms and template Tweets.

Resources

Everything you need to get service personnel registered is here in this toolkit.

Now all you need to do is download and print the required amount of materials in advance of the Unit Registration Days.

The resources can be accessed by clicking on the below links.

PowerPoint presentation to use on the day

http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/_data/assets/powerpoint_doc/0010/194878/PowerPoint-Presentation-UROs-Registering-To-Vote-Presentation-2016.ppt

PowerPoint presentation to use on the day (Welsh)

http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/_data/assets/powerpoint_doc/0011/195068/PowerPoint-Presentation-UROs-Registering-To-Vote-Welsh-2016.ppt

Armed Forces Registration Poster

http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/195228/Armed-Forces-Poster.pdf

Armed Forces Registration Poster (Welsh)

http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/195229/Bilingual-Armed-Forces-poster-A4.pdf

Armed Forces Web Button

http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/_data/assets/image/0020/195230/Banner-300x250.jpg

Armed Forces Web Button (Welsh)

http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/_data/assets/image/0003/195231/Bilingual-Banner-300x250.jpg

Armed Forces Register to Vote Form (England and Wales only)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/428074/ITR-F-E.pdf

Armed Forces Register to Vote Form (Welsh)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/428091/ITR-F-W.pdf

Armed Forces Register to Vote Form (Scotland only)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/455537/ITR-F-S.pdf

Postal Vote Form

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/410338/Postal_vote_application_form.pdf

Postal Vote Form (Welsh)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/458525/Postal-vote-general-Welsh.pdf

Proxy Voters Form for Members of the Armed Forces

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/410346/Proxy_voting_form_armed_forces.pdf

Proxy Voters Form for Members of the Armed Forces (Welsh)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/459806/Armed-Forces-proxy-Welsh.pdf

Voting age lowered in Scotland

In Scotland the voting age has been lowered to 16 for Scottish Parliamentary elections held on or after 5 April 2016 and for local government elections held on or after 5 May 2016. From this time, at Scottish Parliamentary and local government elections only, a person appointed as a proxy must be aged 16 or over on polling day.

A person who is under 18 years old and living with a parent or guardian who is a member of HM Forces, provided they are living in Scotland or would be living in Scotland if their parent or guardian were not based overseas, can also use these forms to apply for an absent vote. We will update the forms and include them in this toolkit when this legislation takes effect.

Register to vote online

Service personnel are also able to **register to vote online**. To register in England, Scotland or Wales, you should direct personnel to visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote-armed-forces.

In Northern Ireland, they should visit the [Electoral Office for Northern Ireland website](#).

Tweets

Here are some example tweets that you can use, but of course feel free to compose your own.

- Member of the armed forces? Make sure you're registered for the May 2016 elections. <http://bit.ly/1xQBNvn>
- A campaign has launched to get the armed forces registered to vote before the May 2016 elections. Are you registered? <http://bit.ly/1xQBNvn>
- Know someone in the armed forces? Don't let them lose their vote in the May 2016 elections. They can register here <http://bit.ly/1xQBNvn>



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If you have any questions, please get in touch with Mark Nyack at The Electoral Commission: Mnyack@electoralcommission.org.uk.