

eCounting Project Bulletin #7 (October 2026)

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Key Messages



- Stage 3 testing concluded successfully.
- eCounting system approved for use in elections by the Project Board.
- One colour printer to be provided at each count centre.
- Local authority training schedule has been circulated

Upcoming dates



Print Working Group (Meeting 3) - 30 September (2 p.m. – online)

User Group (Meeting 4) – Wednesday 28th October (2 p.m.) and Tuesday 3rd November 11 a.m. (online)

Final UAT / System Acceptance

Final User Acceptance Testing was held in Dunfermline on 25 and 27 August.

Representatives from five Councils – City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Fife, Highland and Moray - submitted feedback on the system and recommended that the Project Board accept the eCounting system for use.

The meeting of the Project Board on Wednesday 16th September considered that recommendation and agreed to accept the system for use in next year's elections.

We are grateful to Linda Johnstone from Highland Council for collating the Interim and Final UAT reports.

Colour Printing at Counts

Following feedback from both the Initial and Final UAT, we have agreed with CGI that they will provide one colour printer at each count centre so that the amended Candidates Votes per Stage report is as clear as possible.

Use of New Software in By-Elections

Two pilots have been agreed to use the final version of the new software at by-elections in October:

Highland: Ward 3 - Wick and Caithness (1st)

Aberdeen City: Ward 7 - Midstocket / Rosemount (8th).

For all other by-elections, the existing contract with Fujitsu is still in place and we expect it to be used for the remainder of the contract period until end January 2027.

Returning Officer Engagement

Project kick-off meetings and count centre site visits with the CGI Regional Project Managers for each Council have now started and will continue throughout the remainder of the month into October. If you have any queries regarding this process, please contact your nominated RPM.

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Project Progress

Stage 3 testing and the Final User Acceptance Testing completed successfully.

Introductory sessions with CGI Regional Project Managers and ROs have all been concluded.

Software approved by the Project Board for use in the 2027 election on 16 September.

Software to be piloted in two Council by-elections in October.

Next edition

The next edition of the Bulletin will be issued in October.

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Local Authority Training

The schedule of dates based on Councils' submission of preferences was sent out on Wednesday 16th September.

Following several changes of date requested by Councils, the free dates for anyone else wishing to change dates are as follows:

Edinburgh: Thursday 18th / Friday 26th February
Glasgow: Tuesday 23rd / Friday 26th March

Development of the online elections training and the Elections Delivery Manual continues and has become a focus for the project following the completion of stage 3 testing.

System Demonstrations

60 representatives from 23 councils attended the demonstrations and Final UAT at the Carnegie Conference and Events Centre, Dunfermline in August.

The sessions were based around a demonstration by Joanne Campbell from Idox of the system and the improvements as well as an overview of issues that could arise at a live count.

The sessions were well received by the Councils attending.

Print Workstream

Joanne Campbell from Idox will shortly be writing to all Returning Officers with the Print timetable for next year's election, and details of EasyPrint training.

The third meeting of the Print Working Group will take place on **Wednesday 30 September** at 2 p.m.

Project User Group

The next split meeting of the User Group will be held online on **Wednesday 28th October at 2:00 p.m.** and **Tuesday 3rd November** at 11 a.m.