

**ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR SCOTLAND**

**ACTION NOTE: Friday 26 May 2017 2pm**

**Chief Executive's Board Room**

**Waverley Court, East Market Street**

**Edinburgh EH8 8BG**

**Present:**

- **Board Members:** Mary Pitcaithly (MP Convener & RO), Pete Wildman (PW ERO/SAA Rep), Ian Milton (IM ERO/SAA Rep), Andrew Kerr (AK RO), Kate Crawford (KC ERO/SAA Rep)
- **Advisers:** Gillian Taylor (GT DRO/SOLAR rep) (by telephone), David Miller (DMi DRO/AEA Rep), Dougie McGregor (DMcG e-Counting Local Government Liaison), Andy O'Neill (AON Electoral Commission), Maria McCann (MMc Scottish Government), Mette Christensen (MC Electoral Commission)
- **In attendance:** Chris Highcock (CH Secretary to the Board/DRO), Andrew Fraser (AF Electoral Commission)

		<b>NOTE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1.0/ 2.0</b>	<b>Admin/Note of Previous Meeting/Matters arising etc</b>	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fran Cattanach (FC Administrator)</li> <li>• Roddy Angus (RA Scottish Government)</li> <li>• Jim Savege (JS RO)</li> <li>• Stuart Galloway (SG DRO/ERO)</li> <li>• Elma Murray (EM RO)</li> <li>• Stuart Matheson (SM Scotland Office)</li> <li>• Malcolm Burr (MB RO)</li> <li>• David Martin (DM RO)</li> </ul> <p><b>Note of Previous Meeting (21 April 2017) &amp; Matters Arising</b> The Action Note was accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>	

<p><b>3.0</b></p>	<p><b>Scottish Local Government Elections 2017</b></p>	<p><b>Scottish Government Update</b></p> <p>Ministers delighted. There were no issues reported on the day. FM in her speech in which she talked about randomisation also noted how well the e-count had gone.</p> <p>Lessons learned – Law to be reviewed, e.g. addresses on ballot papers. Alex Mowat and Dougie working on a report for Minsters. This will feed into preparation for the next SLGE elections. Note there is a question over the date for the next SLGEs, 5 year terms were to avoid clashes. With the change for the UK this might not be needed. Date can be changed with an order. DM noted that the Scottish legislation was a lot easier to work with than the UK – much more consistent and all in one place. DM also noted that address on ballot paper had caused one candidate to withdraw.</p> <p><b>Electoral Commission Update</b></p> <p>Report will be released on 6 September, in a new style. Much more concise. Surveys of candidates, agents and ROs underway. No problems to report. Overall conclusions that the elections were well-run, EMB needs to be established on a secure long term basis and some issues of regulation of campaigners need to be addressed.</p> <p>Lots of queries around STV and the voting process. Indicates some lack of understanding despite all of the comms efforts. Note however that there are significant variations across wards reflecting social economic differences. ROs were cooperative in the campaigns. In future, aim for a greater use of work with media.</p> <p>Voter confusion not helped by political parties with messages to “give us both votes”. Lots of papers with multiple Xs.</p>	
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<p>4.0</p>	<p><b>UK Parliamentary General Election (UKPGE) 2017</b></p>	<p><b>Electoral Commission Update</b></p> <p>All guidance documents and resources now published. Performance Standards questionnaires circulated with 100% response. No issues identified. Meeting next week CH, AON, PW with police to discuss integrity.</p> <p><b>Electoral Registration Officers Update</b></p> <p>Key issue is volume – over 620K on a UK level. 450K of whom were under 34yrs old. Likely to be lots of duplicates, but numbers are yet to be determined. Stats at a UK level are being compiled by Sunderland. Media has requested electorate figure but this should only be released as the final 1 June figure as the EROs will be determining registrations up until the deadline. Note concern over volume of late and unrealistic overseas applications e.g. for Australia where there is little chance of pack being sent and returned on time.</p> <p>Note that Form K requires significant input from ERO. ROs and EROs may not be aware. Also, refers to dates already passed that may confuse.</p> <p>ERS report on levels of registration unhelpful.</p> <p><b>Scotland Office Update</b></p> <p>Report attached. Note concern from ROs with respect to Claims for EU Referendum. Close scrutiny and challenge to spending claims even where claims show an underspend. UKPGE claims to be handled by Scotland Office not UK Claims unit.</p>	
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5.0	<b>EMB Financial Statement</b>	Update available at next meeting.	
6.0	<b>Regional Returning Officers' Group and associated meetings</b>	ECAB/UKPGE Teleconferences – noted.	
7.0	<b>Scottish Parliament Political Parties Panel</b>	The next meeting is scheduled for 22 June 2017.	

8.0	AOB	<p><b>Candidate Spending Returns</b> - for the SLGE election these need to be submitted to RO by 9 June. Note that if any elected Councillor fails to return them by this date then they will be subject to a fine of £50 for every day they sit/vote after that. <b>ACTION:</b> CH to write to all ROs to encourage them to remind their elected members of this deadline and the consequences of failing to meet it.</p>	CH
9.0	Date of Next Meeting	Friday 30 June	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Date of future meetings: 25 August, 29 September, 27 October and 24 November</b></p>			