eCounting
2022

eCOUNTING 2022

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue 07 – 3 December 2021

Welcome to the seventh project bulletin of 2021.

You will find copies of all Bulletins on the EMB website at eCounting Bulletins 2022

Info	**General** In addition to this being circulated to the wider election community please feel free to circulate to others in your wider teams.
Info	**Engagement** • **Count Venues** – It has been highlighted to us recently that the Scottish Exam Diet (which starts on Tuesday 26 April and finishes on Wednesday 1 June 2022) is impacting on the availability of some Count Venues. Councils who are using schools (or other similar community premises) may wish to ascertain if the exam diet will impact on the use of Count Venues during the week of the poll and count, if you have not already done so. Count Visits/Surveys are progressing well - thank you for your co-operation. • **Performance Testing -** The final system performance tests, which were end-to-end test and used over 165k ballot papers took place last week. These were very successful – the system performed extremely well and all key performance requirements were met. All data extraction processes were undertaken, include production of the full suite of end of election reports and the transfer of these to portable drives for Council retention. The time taken to do this is much reduced from 2017, you will be pleased to hear. Full information on this process will be added to a future Q and A. • **Q&A No 2** Q&A No 2 accompanies this Bulletin and where new information has been added since edition No 1 this is highlighted in yellow. This will be the process used for all future Q&As so you can easily find what is new. • **Ballot Paper Account Working Group** As advised in the previous Bulletin, the Ballot Paper Account Working Group recommendations were shared with the User Group who have now agreed the recommendations as detailed in Q&A No 2.
Action	**Training** • **Face to Face Training** – Allocated training venues and dates were shared with the User Group on Tuesday 23 November 2021 with responses due **by**

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	Thursday 9 December 2021. Thanks to those of you who have already responded. Details of attendees for training will be requested early in 2022. • **Livestream Recording** (**End to End System Demonstration)** – This recording was sent to the User Group on Wednesday 1 December 2021 to allow them to share this with their eCount Team (**but not to be made public**) and is detailed on Q&A No 2. • **E-Learning –** will be rolled out in January 2022. • **Refresher Training at Count Venue** – will be scheduled for the Wednesday of the week of the poll and as agreed with your Regional Manager and detailed in your Implementation Plan.
Info	**eCount By-elections** The eCounts for the Scottish Local Government By-elections, which will all use the 2022 eCounting system, are scheduled as follows:- • Friday 3 December 2021 at 2pm – Highland Council (Fort William) • Thursday 16 December 2021 at 10pm – Argyll & Bute Council (Helensburgh) • Friday 21 January 2021 at 9am – East Lothian (Preston/Seton/Gosford) An update on the performance of the 2022 eCounting system at these By-elections will be provided in a future issue of the Bulletin.
Action	**Forthcoming Briefing Event - Thursday 27 January 2022** Reminder of the EMB Joint Seminar with the Electoral Commission for ROs and EROs on Thursday 27 January 2022 which will address a range of issues relating to your planning and delivery of the elections next year.

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