



25 January 2021

Dear Stakeholder,

**Re: Police and Crime Commissioner Election (South Wales Police Area) – 6 May 2021**

As the Police Area Returning Officer (PARO) for the South Wales Police Area, I am writing to provide key information and relevant dates for the Police and Crime Commissioner Elections (PCC) on Thursday 6 May 2021.

**Introduction**

In Wales there are four police areas South Wales, Gwent, Dyfed Powys and North Wales. South Wales covers the administrative areas of seven Unitary Authorities - Bridgend, Cardiff, Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Election process is governed by the terms of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Police and Crime Commissioner Elections Order 2012 and various other legislative requirements and guidance. I will be assisted in my duties by six Local Returning Officers (LRO's) from the other Local Authorities who are also subject to national legislative requirements and guidance.

**PARO Role**

As PARO I am responsible for the overall conduct of the PCC election for the South Wales Police Area, and for liaising with the LRO's in the South Wales Police Area, I am also responsible for giving notice of the election, the nomination procedure,

encouraging participation, ensuring that the candidates election addresses requirements and the procedures for submitting those addresses are complied with, the collation of local totals and calculation of the result and finally the declaration of the result.

### **LRO role**

LROs are responsible for ensuring the election is administered effectively in their voting area including the provision of polling stations, the printing of ballot papers, appointing polling station staff, the conduct of the poll, managing the postal vote process, the verification and count in their voting area and transmission of the local totals to the PARO.

### **Combined Election**

In Wales, the 2021 PCC Elections will be combined with the Senedd Elections, in respect of which I have been appointed Regional Returning Officer for the South Wales Central Region.

### **Key Dates**

| <b>Date</b>   | <b>Event</b>  |
|---|---|
| Wednesday 24 February 2021  | Candidates & Agents briefing session                              |
| Monday 22 March 2021  | Notice of Election  |
| Tuesday 23 March 2021 to Thursday 8 April 2021 (Between 10 am and 4pm on any working day) | Delivery of nomination papers.                                    |
| Thursday 8 April 2021 (By 12 Noon)  | Delivery of Election Address                                      |
| Friday 9 April 2021   | Statement of Persons Nominated and publication of Notice of Poll. |
| Monday 19 April 2021  | Deadline for receiving applications for registration.             |
| Tuesday 20 April 2021 (5pm)   | Deadline for receiving or amending postal vote applications       |

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 27 April (5pm)                | Deadline for receiving proxy applications    |
| Thursday 6 May 2021                   | Poll Day                                     |
| Friday 7 May 2021 (Commence by 10 am) | Verification for Senedd Cymru and PCC        |
| Sunday 9 May 2021 (Commence by 10 am) | PCC Count followed by declaration of results |

The Electoral Commission's combined timetable for the PCC and Senedd elections is attached. <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-10/Senedd%20PCC%20Timetable.doc>

### **Candidates and Agents**

A dedicated website is available, providing essential information for Candidates and Agents, and will be updated in due course with downloadable forms (including the nomination pack) and PARO updates. Please visit

[https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our\\_council/Council-Structure/Elections/Police-and-Crime-Commissioner.aspx](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/Council-Structure/Elections/Police-and-Crime-Commissioner.aspx).

On Wednesday 24 February 2021 at 18:00 via Microsoft Teams a representative from the Electoral Commission, the Chief Executive of the South Wales Police Commissioner's Office, and I will be hosting a Candidate and Agents briefing session and providing an overview of the role of Police and Crime Commissioner. The briefing session will provide vital information for potential Candidates and their Agents including the nomination procedure, polling information, the verification and count process, candidate spending and election expenses and finally the role and responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner and arrangements for the declaration of acceptance of office for the elected candidate.

### **Covid-19 Measures**

A number of measures will be put in place that will make this election look and feel different. You can expect to see many of the changes you've become used to over recent months in banks, shops and other indoor spaces.

In polling stations and the verification and count centres individuals will be expected to use the hand sanitiser provided when you enter and leave and wear a face covering at all times (unless you are subject to an exemption).

Other social distancing measures may also be in place such as one-way systems, queue management and the use of clear safety screens designed to ensure the protection and safety of all stakeholders involved in the election process.

### Useful links and contacts

- PARO website, Police and Crime Commissioner Election (South Wales Police Area) - [https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our\\_council/Council-Structure/Elections/Police-and-Crime-Commissioner.aspx](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/Council-Structure/Elections/Police-and-Crime-Commissioner.aspx)
- The Electoral Commission - <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/>
- <http://www.southwalescommissioner.org.uk/>
- Debbie Marles [DMarles@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:DMarles@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) (PARO for the South Wales Police Area and LRO for the Vale of Glamorgan)
- Mark Shephard [Mark.shepard@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.shepard@bridgend.gov.uk) (LRO for Bridgend)
- Paul Orders. [Paul.orders@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.orders@cardiff.gov.uk) (LRO for Cardiff)
- Ellis Cooper. [Ellis.cooper@merthyr.gov.uk](mailto:Ellis.cooper@merthyr.gov.uk) (LRO for Merthyr)
- Karen Jones [K.jones3@npt.gov.uk](mailto:K.jones3@npt.gov.uk) (LRO for Neath Port Talbot)
- Andrew S Wilkins [Andrew.s.wilkins@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.s.wilkins@rctcbc.gov.uk) (LRO for Rhondda Cynon Taf)
- Phil Roberts. [Phil.roberts@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:Phil.roberts@swansea.gov.uk) (LRO for Swansea)
- Gary Ennis [Gary.ennis@bridgend@gov.uk](mailto:Gary.ennis@bridgend@gov.uk) (Group Manager for Business Support for Bridgend)
- Rebecca Light [Rebecca.light@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:Rebecca.light@cardiff.gov.uk) (Electoral Services Manager for Cardiff)
- Ann Taylor [Ann.taylor@merthyr.gov.uk](mailto:Ann.taylor@merthyr.gov.uk) (Democratic Services Manager for Merthyr)
- Rhys George [r.j.george@npt.gov.uk](mailto:r.j.george@npt.gov.uk) (Elections Manager for Neath Port Talbot)
- Alison Watkins [Alison.m.watkins@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.m.watkins@rctcbc.gov.uk) (Senior Elections Officer for Rhondda Cynon Taff)
- Alison O'Hara [alison@ohara@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:alison@ohara@swansea.gov.uk) (Electoral Services Manager for Swansea)
- Gareth Fuller [GFuller@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:GFuller@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) (Electoral Registration Manager for Vale of Glamorgan)

### Poll Day

The poll will take place on **Thursday 6 May 2021 from 7am until 10pm**. Each LRO will be responsible for the conduct of the poll and polling stations in their voting area.

Ballot papers will be printed with a Unique Identifying Mark (UIM) individual to each LRO voting area along with an official mark set by the PARO.

### **Verification and Count**

The verification and count of the PCC Election will be conducted at local counting centres across the South Wales area with a Regional Hub based in the Memo Arts Centre, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 8NA where I shall declare the final result of the Election. The process to be followed requires local declarations of the result in each authority area followed by a collated, overall result for South Wales.

All LROs in the South Wales Police Area will commence the verification by 10:00 am on Friday 7 May 2021 for the Senedd Election followed by the Verification for the PCC election. Each LRO will be responsible for communicating the verification totals to myself. At the close of the verification each LRO will secure all ballot papers until the commencement of the count

The count for the PCC will commence by 10:00am on Sunday 9 May 2021. Details of when each LRO will be starting their count will be made available on the PARO website - [https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our\\_council/Council-Structure/Elections/Police-and-Crime-Commissioner.aspx](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/Council-Structure/Elections/Police-and-Crime-Commissioner.aspx). It is anticipated that the count will be administered using the Supplementary Voting (SV) system and therefore if one candidate fails to secure 50% plus 1 vote on the first round, a second round of counting will be required. Consequently, it is difficult to estimate how long the count process will take in the South Wales Police Area.

As PARO I will provide regular updates at the Regional Hub via social media and direct to LROs throughout both the verification and count.

I trust the above information is of assistance and sets out the initial planning towards an effective and efficient PCC election in the South Wales Police Area. Should you require any further information please visit [https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our\\_council/Council-Structure/Elections/Police-and-Crime-Commissioner.aspx](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/Council-Structure/Elections/Police-and-Crime-Commissioner.aspx) or contact Gareth Fuller, Electoral Registration Manager for the Vale of Glamorgan Council (Tel: 01446 709304 email: [GFuller@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:GFuller@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)). I am also asking LRO's to make this letter available more widely, including to Local Authority Elected Members.

Yours sincerely,



**Debbie Marles**

**Police Area Returning Officer South Wales (South Wales Police Area)**

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|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Rhydian Thomas             | Electoral Commission Head of Wales Office                           |
| Elan Clos Stephens         | Electoral Commissioner for Wales                                    |
| Colin Everett (Flintshire) | Wales Electoral Co-ordination Board                                 |
| Angharad Thomas-Richards   | Welsh Government (Local Government Elections Team)                  |
| Lee Jones                  | South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner's Office – Chief of Staff |
| Mark Shepard               | Local Returning Officer – Bridgend                                  |
| Paul Orders                | Local Returning Officer – Cardiff                                   |
| Ellis Cooper               | Local Returning Officer – Merthyr                                   |
| Karen Jones                | Local Returning Officer – Neath Port Talbot                         |
| Andrew Wilkins             | Local Returning Officer – Rhondda Cynon Taff                        |
| Phil Roberts               | Local Returning Officer – Swansea                                   |
| Gary Ennis                 | Group Manager – Bridgend  |
| Rebecca Light              | Electoral Services Manager – Cardiff                                |
| Ann Taylor                 | Democratic Services Manager – Merthyr                               |
| Rhys George                | Elections Manager – Neath Port Talbot                               |
| Alison Watkins             | Senior Elections Officer – Rhondda Cynon Taff                       |
| Alison O'Hara              | Electoral Services Manager – Swansea                                |
| Naomi Roberts              | Electoral Services Manager – Bridgend                               |
| Claire Rogers              | Electoral Services Officer – Cardiff                                |
| Matthew Phillips           | Democratic Services Officer – Merthyr                               |
| Caryn Furlow-Harris        | Strategic Manager – Neath Port Talbot                               |
| Huw Davies                 | Senior Elections Officer – Rhondda Cynon Taff                       |
| Michael Beardshaw          | Senior Electoral Services Officer – Swansea                         |
| Kelly Quigley              | Association of Electoral Administrators – Wales                     |
|                            | BBC Wales   |
|                            | ITV Wales   |
|                            | Western Mail  |
|                            | South Wales Evening Post  |
|                            | South Wales Echo  |
|                            | Welsh Labour  |
|                            | Welsh Conservatives   |
|                            | Welsh Liberal Democrats   |
|                            | Plaid Cymru   |
|                            | Abolish the Welsh Assembly Party                                    |
| Chris Franks               | Plaid Cymru   |
|                            | UKIP Wales  |

Brexit Party  
Green Party Wales  
Barry & District News  
Bro Radio  
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Wales on Line