



Dear Stakeholder,

Police and Crime Commissioner Elections (North Wales Police Area) – 6 May 2021

As the Police Area Returning Officer (PARO) for the North Wales Police Area I am setting out key information and timetable for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Election to be held on Thursday 6 May 2021.

Introduction

In Wales there are four police areas North Wales, Gwent, Dyfed Powys and North Wales. North Wales covers the administrative areas of six Unitary Authorities – Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Wrexham and Ynys Môn.

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 other legislative requirements and guidance. I will be assisted in my duties by five Local Returning Officers (LRO's) in the other 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 North Wales Police Area, and for liaising with the LRO's in the North Wales Police Area. I am also responsible for giving notice of the election, the nomination procedure, encouraging participation, ensuring that the candidates election address requirements and the procedures for submitting those addresses are complied with, the collation of local count totals and calculation of the result and the declaration of the result for the North Wales Police Area. I will also offer guidance and advice to candidates and agents on the conduct of the election, including the management of any election complaints.

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.



Further, if conduct complaints relating to candidates and/or agents are not resolved at a local level, as PARO I will be advised and provide advice.

Combined Election

In Wales, the 2021 PCC Elections will be combined with the Senedd Cymru Elections. I have been appointed Regional Returning Officer for the North Wales Region so will lead both.

Key Dates

Date	Event
Monday 22 March 2021	Notice of Election
Tuesday 23 March 2021	Prospective Candidate / Agents Briefing North Wales Police
Tuesday 23 March 2021 – Thursday 8 April 2021 (Between 10 am and 4pm on any working day)	Delivery of nomination papers
Thursday 8 April 2021 (By 12 Noon)	Candidates Address A voluntary deadline of Thursday 1 April is suggested.
Friday 9 April 2021 (4pm)	Statement of Persons Nominated and publication of Notice of Poll
Monday 12 April 2021	Candidate / Agents Briefing at 5.30 pm (Webex)
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 2021 (5pm)	Deadline for receiving proxy applications
Thursday 6 May 2021	Poll Day
Friday 7 May 2021 (Commence at 9.00 am)	Verification for Senedd Cymru and PCC
Sunday 9 May 2021 (Commence at 9.00 am)	PCC Count followed by declaration of results



The Electoral Commission's combined timetable for the PCC and Senedd Cymru 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:

www.flintshire.gov.uk/pccelectionnorthwales

On Tuesday 23 March 2021 at 2.00 pm, the Chief Executive of the North Wales Police Commissioner's Office and I will be hosting a Candidate and Agents briefing session and providing an overview of the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The briefing session will provide information for potential Candidates and their Agents including the nomination procedure, polling information, the verification and count process, candidate spending and election expenses.

A further Candidate and Agents briefing session will take place on Monday 12 April 2021 at 5.30pm. Further information will be provided in due course.

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 physical/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 (North Wales Police Area) - www.flintshire.gov.uk/pccelectionnorthwales
- The Electoral Commission - <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk>



- Colin Everett - chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk (PARO for the North Wales Police Area and LRO for the Flintshire)
- Iwan Davies – Iwan.Davies@conwy.gov.uk (LRO for Conwy)
- Judith Greenhalgh – Judith.Greenhalgh@denbighshire.gov.uk (LRO for Denbighshire)
- Dilwyn Williams – DilwynOwenWilliams@gwynedd.llyw.cymru (LRO for Gwynedd)
- Ian Bancroft – ian.bancroft@wrexham.gov.uk (LRO for Wrexham)
- Annwen Morgan – annwenmorgan2@ynysmon.gov.uk (LRO for Ynys Môn)
- Lynn Phillips – lyn.phillips@flintshire.gov.uk (Team Leader – Elections for Flintshire)
- Sian Williams – sian.williams@conwy.gov.uk (Head of Democratic Services for Conwy)
- Gareth Evans – g.evans@denbighshire.gov.uk (Electoral Services Officer for Denbighshire)
- Raymond Harvey – raymondharvey@gwynedd.llyw.cymru (Registration Officer for Gwynedd)
- Alison Davies – Alison.Davies@wrexham.gov.uk (Electoral Services Officer for Wrexham)
- Haulwen Hughes – HaulwenHughes@ynysmon.gov.uk (Electoral Services Officer for Ynys Môn)
- Stephen Hughes – Stephen.Hughes2@nthwales.pnn.police.uk (Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner)

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 for the PCC Election will be conducted at local counting centres across the North Wales area with a Regional Hub based in Sports Hall, Coleg Cambria, Kelsterton Road, Connah's Quay, Deeside, Flintshire. CH5 4BR 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 North Wales.



All LROs in the North Wales Police Area will commence the verification at 9.00 a.m. on Friday 7 May 2021 for the Senedd Cymru and PCC elections. 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 will commence at 9.00 am on Sunday 9 May 2021. 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 North 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 North Wales Police Area. Should you require any further information please

visit: www.flintshire.gov.uk/pccelectionnorthwales, contact myself (Tel: 01352 702101, email: chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk) or contact Lynn Phillips, Team Leader, Elections for Flintshire County Council (Tel: 01352 702329, email: lyn.phillips@flintshire.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Colin Everett
Police Area Returning Officer (North Wales)

