



Scottish Parliament Elections – 7 May 2026

**Local Guidance Notes for Individual Regional Candidates, Registered
Political Parties and Election Agents for the Mid Scotland and Fife Region**

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Regional Returning Officer
January 2026**

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Notes for the Guidance of Candidates and Agents

These notes are produced for the guidance and convenience of prospective individual regional candidates, registered political parties and election agents.

This guide can help you, but it cannot replace the law, formal Notices published by the Regional Returning Officer (RRO) or guidance from the Electoral Commission.

While every care has been taken in the preparation of these notes, they do not have any binding force and candidates are advised, where necessary, to consult the relevant statutory authorities. For the Register of Electors or qualifications for absent and proxy voting, information may be obtained from the relevant Electoral Registration Officer (ERO).

The Regional Returning Officer and their staff cannot give advice as to the conduct of the election campaign by candidates or agents, particularly in relation to the legality or otherwise of their actions.

Candidates should refer to the comprehensive guidance for candidates and agents which has been prepared by the Electoral Commission before submitting their nomination papers. A copy of this is available to download from the Electoral Commission's website:

[Guidance for Candidates and Agents at Scottish Parliament elections | Electoral Commission](#)

The RRO will be holding two online briefing sessions for individual regional candidates, registered political parties and election agents via Teams:

Pre-nomination briefing: Tuesday 17 February 2026 @ 7pm

This session will cover the nomination process

Post-nomination briefing: Monday 6 April 2026 @ 7pm

This session will cover the final arrangements for the conduct of the poll in Fife

Links

Electoral Commission: www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Fife Council Elections: www.fife.gov.uk/scottishelection

Election Management Board for Scotland: www.emb.scot

1. Contact Information

Fife Council

Regional Returning Officer	Depute Regional Returning Officer
Ken Gourlay Chief Executive Fife Council Fife House North Street Glenrothes KY7 5LT T: 03451 55 55 55 Ext 440473 E: Ken.Gourlay@fife.gov.uk	Lindsay Thomson Head of Legal & Democratic Services Fife Council Fife House North Street Glenrothes KY7 5LT T: 03451 55 55 55 Ext 430141 E: Lindsay.Thomson@fife.gov.uk
Depute Regional Returning Officer/Electoral Services Manager	Electoral Registration Officer
Shona Cameron Electoral Services Manager Fife Council Fife House North Street Glenrothes KY7 5LT T: 01592 804414 E: shona.cameron@fife.gov.uk	Lindsay Thomson Head of Legal & Democratic Services Fife Council Fife House North Street Glenrothes KY7 5LT T: 03451 55 55 55 Ext 430141 E: Lindsay.Thomson@fife.gov.uk

The Regional Returning Officer (RRO) for the Mid Scotland and Fife Region is Ken Gourlay. He is also the Chief Executive Fife Council, but that is separate from his role as RRO.

The RRO is personally responsible for certain aspects of the regional contest. For some day-to-day elements of this work the RRO has appointed Depute Regional Returning Officers (DRROs) to exercise some or all his powers.

2. Fife Council Election Team

The Election Team is based in the Election Office, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes, KY7 5LT. Please direct any enquiries to the Election Team in the first instance.

T: 03451 55 55 11, Option 2

E: election.enquiries@fife.gov.uk

If you require any assistance including large print versions of this or any other document, please use the contact details above.

3. Mid Scotland and Fife Region

The Mid Scotland and Fife Region is made up of the following constituencies:

- Cowdenbeath
- Dunfermline
- Fife North East
- Kirkcaldy
- Mid Fife and Glenrothes
- Clackmannanshire and Dunblane
- Perthshire North
- Perthshire South and Kinross-shire
- Stirling

4. Nominations

4.1 Nomination Packs

You can find blank copies of all the papers you need in the Nomination Pack, on the Council website at www.fife.gov.uk/scottishelection and on the Electoral Commission website at:

[Guidance for Candidates and Agents at Scottish Parliament elections | Electoral Commission](#)

We will provide paper copies of the forms if you need them. Please contact the Election Team on 03451 55 55 11, Option 2 or email election.enquiries@fife.gov.uk.

4.2 Completing your Nomination Papers

It is important that you pay particular attention to the rules for filling in nomination papers and related matters, found in Schedule 2 of the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2015. If you have any questions, you can refer to the Electoral Commission Guidance:

[Guidance for Candidates and Agents at Scottish Parliament elections | Electoral Commission](#)

The Electoral Commission have also prepared short videos to assist you in completing your nominations and these can be accessed here:

[Guidance for completing your nomination papers – regional individual candidates](#)

[Guidance for completing your nomination papers – party list nominating officers](#)

The Regional Returning Officer can also provide you with annotated nomination papers to assist you. If you would like a copy of these please contact the Election Team on 03451 55 55 11, Option 2 or email election.enquiries@fife.gov.uk.

4.3 Submission of nomination papers

Your formal nomination papers must be accurate, because we use the information from these documents for Statement of Persons and Parties Nominated and the ballot paper. If you make a mistake, or if any information is wrong, your nomination may not be valid.

Please ensure where signatures are required on any form that you submit the original signed version of each completed form and not a copy. Documents without original signatures cannot be accepted.

An informal check of nomination papers is available prior to formal submission. Please refer to 4.4 below.

Candidates are requested to make an appointment to submit their nomination papers by contacting the Election Team E: election.enquiries@fife.gov.uk T: 03451 55 55 11, Option 2. Please note that if you do not make an appointment, we cannot guarantee that someone will be available immediately to accept your papers.

While nomination papers must be submitted in person, other papers can be submitted by hand or by post but not by electronic means. Please refer to the Electoral Commission guidance for additional detail.

While in practice most people submitting nomination papers will want to wait until the RRO's team (usually a DRRO) has accepted the nomination, you are free simply to hand over your paperwork and leave.

It is a criminal offence to knowingly make a false statement on nomination papers. This includes a commonly used name given by a candidate on the nomination form which they do not actually commonly use.

The penalty for a false statement is either a fine, currently set at a maximum of £10,000 (or unlimited if convicted on indictment) and/or imprisonment.

4.4 Informal Check of Nomination Papers

You are responsible for making sure your information is correct on the nomination papers. We can help by checking it informally before you deliver your formal nomination.

Nomination papers must be checked for accuracy and conformity with statutory requirements when they are lodged. Occasionally the nomination papers cannot be accepted, and candidates or nominating officers are required to amend them to meet statutory requirements. It is therefore in the interest of candidates and nominating officers when lodging nomination papers to ensure that there is adequate time for any such amendment, as in no circumstances may the Regional Returning Officer accept a nomination paper after **4.00pm on Wednesday 1 April 2026**.

Nomination papers may be submitted to the Electoral Services Manager by email shona.cameron@fife.gov.uk for an informal check to be carried out before the formal submission of nomination papers. Any errors found will be communicated to the candidate, political party nominating officer and/or their election agent by email to allow these to be corrected before formal submission.

It is strongly advised that this is not left until the deadline day!

4.5 Deadline for the return of your nomination

Individual Regional Candidates and Registered Political Parties

You can only deliver your completed nomination papers on working days between **10am and 4pm from Tuesday 17 March 2026 to Wednesday 1 April 2026**.

You must keep to these dates. By law, the RRO cannot accept any papers received after the closing date (**4pm on Wednesday 1 April 2026**).

During the above nomination period we will be taking nominations for all 5 Fife constituencies and for the Mid Scotland and Fife Region.

Your papers must be delivered **by hand** directly to a member of the Election Team, Election Office, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes, KY7 5LT. Please report to Fife Reception on arrival and a member of the Election Team will escort you to the Election Office.

4.6 Delivering your Nomination Papers

Individual Regional Candidates

There are no restrictions on who may deliver your nomination papers. However, we recommend that you, your Election Agent or someone you trust does this, so you can be sure they are delivered to the RRO in time.

Registered Political Parties

The nomination papers should be delivered by the Registered Party's Nominating Officer or a person authorised in writing by them to do so.

4.7 Post Nomination

The confirmation of a valid nomination letter will be issued by electronic means.

5. Guidance for completing the forms

5.1 The Nomination Form

Individual Regional Candidates

The candidate's surname and all other names must be filled out in full. All candidates must provide their home address in full.

You can choose to have your commonly used forenames and a commonly used surname on the ballot paper and Statement of Persons and Parties Nominated, if these are different from your full name. We have the power to reject a commonly used name if it is obscene or offensive or if we consider that is likely to mislead or confuse electors.

There is no need to add a title (e.g. Mr, Dr, Cllr, etc.). If you do add a title, it will not appear on either the Statement of Persons and Parties Nominated or the ballot paper.

The candidate may, if desired, use a description or may leave this line blank to indicate that they do not want to use a description. If a description is to be used, then it must be "Independent."

The form must be signed and dated by the candidate and witnessed. The witness must sign and date the form and provide their full name and address.

Registered Political Parties

To stand as a registered political party, the party must be registered on the Electoral Commission's register of political parties at [Search - The Electoral Commission](#) and be listed as allowed to field candidates in Scotland.

The description and party name must exactly match that given on the Electoral Commission's register of political parties. If it does not, we must by law reject your nomination.

If the registered name of a Party is used, then this may be preceded by the word "Scottish" in terms of rule 4(7).

If you write the description in capital letters it will be shown in small letters on the ballot paper itself, unless it is in capital letters on the Electoral Commission's register.

The use of the party name, and, where applicable, description must be authorised by a certificate issued by or on behalf of the Nominating Officer of the registered political party.

The regional party list submitted by a registered political party's Nominating Officer must set out the names and home addresses, in full of each candidate on the list in the order they are to be elected, up to a maximum of 12 candidates. Candidates also have an option to ask for a commonly used name to appear on the Statement of Persons and Parties Nominated and the ballot paper – see Individual Regional Candidates above.

5.2 The Consent to Nomination Form

Individual Regional Candidates and Registered Political Parties

All candidates, including those on a party list, must formally give their consent to being nominated. In signing this form, the candidate also declares that they are not disqualified from being an MSP.

Again, you can find more guidance on the Electoral Commission website at

[Guidance for Candidates and Agents at Scottish Parliament elections | Electoral Commission](#)

The form must be signed and dated by the candidate and witnessed. The witness must sign and date the form and provide their full name and address.

5.3 Registered Political Parties only - Certificate of Authorisation and the Request for a Party Emblem Forms

In order that the party's registered description and emblems can be printed on the ballot paper the registered party's Nominating Officer will need to complete a Certificate of Authorisation and a Request for a Party Emblem forms.

The Certificate of Authorisation and Request for a Party Emblem form must be delivered as part of your nomination papers and **by 4pm on Wednesday 1 April 2026**.

These should be signed by the registered party's Nominating Officer, or someone authorised by them to act on his/her behalf.

5.4 Withdrawal of Nomination Form

If an Individual Regional Candidate or a candidate on a Regional List decide to withdraw their nomination, they must deliver a **Notice of Withdrawal** to us before the closing date (**4pm Wednesday 1 April 2026**). It must be signed by both the candidate and a witness.

It is also possible for a registered party to withdraw any or all its candidates included in a Regional Party List. For this to be effective the Notice of Withdrawal must be signed by the registered party's Nominating Officer.

5.5 Your Deposit

Individual Regional Candidates and Registered Political Parties

Whether as an Individual Regional Candidate or on behalf of a Regional Party List you must pay a **Deposit of £500** to stand for election.

We must get your Deposit by the Closing Date (**4pm Wednesday 1 April 2026**). If you use an electronic, online or BACS payment, it is your responsibility to make sure that your deposit is actually in our bank account by the deadline (**4pm on Wednesday 1 April 2026**).

5.6 How to pay your Deposit

Individual Regional Candidates and Registered Political Parties

You can pay by legal tender (cash), banker's cheque (where the drawer is a UK bank), or an electronic transfer of funds.

The RRO's preferred method of payment is by the electronic transfer of funds.

Certified cheques and banker's cheques should be made payable to "The Returning Officer"

Electronic, Online or BACS Payments

If you wish to pay your deposit by electronic, online or BACS payment please use these bank account details:

Bank:	Royal Bank of Scotland
Account Name:	Fife Council
Sort Code:	83-22-37
Account Number:	00197588
Reference:	Please use reference SPE (followed by candidate or party name)

Make sure your payment reference is clear and shows your name or the party name. If your reference is not clear then the payment might not be accepted, which would cause problems with your nomination.

Your deposit is only accepted when the money arrives in the Council's bank account. It is not enough for you to show us a receipt. It is your responsibility to make sure that we have your deposit in our account by the closing date (**4pm Wednesday 1 April 2026**).

We recommend you contact the Election Team by e-mail **before** making the payment to tell us:

- Date money to arrive in the council's account.
- Amount of money.
- Payment Reference.
- Name of Party /Candidate; and
- Contact point in the party if there is a query.

If you do not tell us in advance, your payment may be difficult for us to trace, and this may cause a delay in processing your nomination.

Paying by Cash

If you wish to pay cash, please contact the Election Team in advance so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

Individual Regional Candidates

The deposit must be delivered by an individual regional candidate (or someone acting on his/her behalf who must give their name and address unless appointed as the candidate's election agent).

Registered Political Parties

The deposit must be delivered by the registered party's Nominating Officer (or someone acting on their behalf who must give their name and address unless appointed as the party list election agent).

5.7 Returning your Deposit

Individual Regional Candidates and Registered Political Parties

The deposit, made by or on behalf of any individual regional candidate or registered party list that has polled more than one-twentieth (5%) of the total number of valid votes cast at the Regional Election, will be returned by the RRO by the next working day following the declaration of result.

The deposit will also be returned if a regional list or individual regional candidate is allocated a seat, even if they have not obtained more than 5% of the valid votes cast. In all other cases the deposit is forfeited.

If you do not get the necessary number of votes, your deposit will not be returned but will, instead, be paid to the Scottish Government.

We will refund the money by the next working day after the day on which the result of the election is declared. So, if the result is declared on Friday 8 May 2026, the refund of funds will be made on Monday 11 May 2026.

We will request confirmation of the details of the account you want the deposit to be returned to when you submit your nomination.

6. Your Election Expenses

Please refer to the Electoral Commission's guidance for candidates and agents for detailed information on the rules on spending and donations in the run up to the Scottish Parliament election.

Individual Regional Candidates

Candidate spending and donation rules apply during the regulated period. The regulated period is divided into two periods; the "long campaign" and the "short campaign" and each period has its own spending limit. For independent regional candidates, the short and long campaign spending limits are shown below:

Long Campaign	Short Campaign
The total of the limits for each constituency in the region for the long campaign	The total of the limits for each constituency in the region for the short campaign

The “long campaign” begins on 7 January 2026 and ends on the day you officially become a candidate. The earliest date you can become a candidate is Thursday 26 March 2026. The “short campaign” begins on the day after you officially become a candidate and ends on polling day.

In both the long and short campaigns, the spending limit is calculated by adding a base amount and a variable amount based on the number of electors in the constituency in which you are standing on the last day for the publication of the notice of election (Wednesday 25 March 2026) – the electorate figure will be provided in due course.

Election agents must, within 35 days on the day on which the result of the election has been declared make a return of election expenses on the appropriate form, together with all bills and receipts for expenses over £20. At the same time that the election agent transmits that return or within 7 days afterwards, the candidate must submit a declaration as to their expenses.

A copy of the Electoral Commission’s candidate spending return along with the appropriate declarations which must be completed are available to download from the Electoral Commission’s website.

Registered Political Parties

All spending incurred promoting party list candidates and by party list candidates constitutes party campaign spending and is regulated and reported under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). Each party has a regional spending limit. Party list candidates are also subject to separate limits on their personal expenses and must complete and submit a return to the RRO.

Queries about election expenditure are best directed to the Electoral Commission as they monitor and regulate this area. Our role is to collect the records from you after the election and make them available for inspection.

7. People you can appoint to help you in the election

7.1 Election Agent

Individual Regional Candidates and Registered Political Parties

Each individual regional candidate and registered political party submitting a regional party list must appoint an election agent by the closing date (**4pm Wednesday 1 April 2026**) by completing and returning the Notification of Election Agent Form in the nomination pack.

Individual regional candidates can be their own election agent, or it can be someone else. A candidate on a party list can be appointed as the election agent for that party’s list.

If no election agent is appointed by the above time, an individual regional candidate is automatically deemed to be their own election agent and the candidate who is first on the party’s list is deemed to be the election agent for that party’s list.

An election agent must have an office address. The declaration notifying the RRO of the appointment of an election agent must include the office address. There are no restrictions on where the office can be located, but it must be a physical address to which any legal notices can be delivered – PO boxes or similar mailboxes cannot be used.

The agent's office address could be the local party office, an office set up for the election or their home address.

If the agent is using their home address as their office address and has made a request for a correspondence address to be published on any public notice instead of their home address, only the correspondence address will be published.

Your election agent may appoint sub-agents to act on their behalf in any part of the region in which you are standing, as long as those parts do not overlap. The election agent can determine the parts into which they wish to sub-divide the region.

A sub-agent may do anything that the election agent is entitled to do within the area to which they are appointed. Election agents should use the [insert form name] form to appoint Sub-Agents. The names and addresses of sub-agents will also be published.

7.2 Polling Agents

Individual Regional Candidates and Registered Political Parties

Individual regional candidates and the election agent of each registered party can appoint polling agents to visit polling stations on polling day. Their role is to help detect and prevent the offence of “personation” (where someone votes illegally by pretending to be another person).

You must appoint any polling agents by informing us in writing by **Wednesday 29 April 2026** using relevant form. Please ensure that a polling agent's full name, home address (including postcode) and email address are provided.

7.3 Postal Vote Agents

Individual Regional Candidates and Registered Political Parties

Individual regional candidates and the election agent of each registered party can appoint **one** postal vote agent to attend the opening of the postal votes in Fife. The RRO will confirm the dates and times of the opening sessions at the Candidates and Agents meeting on Monday 6 April 2026 @ 7pm.

7.4 Counting Agents

Individual Regional Candidates and Registered Political Parties

Individual regional candidates and the election agent of each registered party can appoint counting agents to attend the counting of the votes. Again, this must be done in writing, and you need to use the relevant form. Their role is to make sure that the Count is being conducted properly, scrutinising the processes as the “eyes and ears” of the voter.

The RRO will confirm the number of counting agents you may appoint at the candidates and agents meeting on the Monday 6 April 2026 @ 7pm. All candidates/registered political parties will have the same allocation of counting agents.

You must tell us the names and addresses of your Counting Agents in writing no later than **Wednesday 29 April 2026**.

8. Useful Information for your Campaign

8.1 The Register of Electors and the Absent Voters List

Individual Regional Candidates and Registered Political Parties

Once your nomination has been accepted as valid individual regional candidates and the election agent of each registered party can request a free copy of the Register of Electors and the Absent Voters List.

It is important to note that candidates who have been supplied with a copy of the full register must not pass on a copy of the register to any other person, must not disclose any information from the register (which is not contained in the edited version of the register) or make use of such information except for electoral purposes and checking the validity of donations. Any person who is found guilty of breaching these conditions may face a fine of up to £5,000

To request the register, fill in the forms in the Nomination Pack – **Request for Register of Electors and Request for Absent Voters List**. We will sign it to confirm that you are a valid Candidate/Election Agent and then send it to all relevant Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) in the region. They will make arrangements with you directly for the delivery of the register and absent voting lists for their areas.

8.2 List of Polling Places

There is a list of all the polling places in the region in the constituency information pack.

9. Conduct and Behaviour

We cannot give you any legal or other advice about how you or your team conduct your election campaign or about how you behave during the campaign.

We only run the election, we do not “police” or regulate it. If you have any specific concerns about the behaviour of any Candidates/Registered parties or how they are campaigning then you should contact either Police Scotland or the Electoral Commission, as appropriate.

The rules regarding the erection of campaign material at polling stations in Fife is currently being finalised and will be available at the candidates and agents' pre-nomination meeting on 17 February 2026.

10. The Election Timetable

An election timetable showing all the important dates is provided in the information pack and is also available on the Electoral Commission website.

[Guidance for Candidates and Agents at Scottish Parliament elections | Electoral Commission](#)

11. Issue of Postal votes

Postal Votes for the Scottish Parliament election will be undertaken in three separate issues.

The first despatch of postal votes for the Scottish Parliamentary elections is scheduled for on or around 15 April 2026. Anyone who applied for a postal vote up to Tuesday 24 March will be included in the first despatch.

The second despatch of postal votes will be on or around Friday 17 April 2026. Anyone who applied for a postal vote between Wednesday 25 March and Friday 10 April will be included in this despatch.

The final despatch of postal votes will be on or around Monday 27 April 2026. Anyone who applied for a postal vote between Monday 13 April and the deadline for new postal vote applications 5pm on Tuesday 21 April will be included in the final despatch.

12. Opening of Postal Votes

The opening of postal votes for the five Fife constituencies will take place in Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes, KY7 5LT on the **following provisional dates**:

- Monday 27 April 2026 @ 10am (opening of covering envelopes only)
- Tuesday 28 April 2026 @ 10am
- Wednesday 29 April 2026 @ 10am
- Thursday 30 April 2026 @ 10am
- Friday 1 May 2026 @ 10am
- Monday 4 May 2026 @ 10am (contingency opening session only)
- Tuesday 5 May 2026 @ 10am
- Wednesday 6 May 2026 @ 10am
- Thursday 7 May 2026 @ 10am

The final opening session will take place at the Michael Woods Centre on Thursday 7 May 2026 commencing at 7pm.

These dates and times will be confirmed at the candidates and agents meeting.

There will be a briefing session explaining the scanning, verification and adjudication process for candidates and agents prior to the start of the first session.

At these openings we only validate the voter's identity. The Ballot Papers themselves are kept face down at these sessions - we do not count any Ballot Papers until 9.00am on Friday 8 May 2026.

Information on the **proposed** postal vote opening sessions for the other constituencies is contained in the constituency information pack. The CRO's from Clackmannanshire, Perth & Kinross and Stirling will confirm local arrangements for the opening of postal votes with you directly.

13. Counting of Votes Cast

We will provide more detailed information about the Fife constituency and regional counts at the candidates and agents meeting on 6 April 2026 @ 7pm. This will include information about the count centre facilities, procedures and the standards of behaviour that will be enforced.

The constituency and regional counts for the 5 Fife constituencies will be held in the Michael Woods Sports Centre, Viewfield, Glenrothes, KY6 2RD.

Information on the count arrangements for the other areas in the region is contained in the constituency information pack. The CRO's from Clackmannanshire, Perth & Kinross and Stirling will confirm local arrangements for their counts with you directly.

All counts will start at 9am on Friday 8 May 2026.

The following people are entitled to attend the count:

- The Regional Returning Officer's staff.
- Individual Regional Candidates and Candidates on the Regional List together with one other person chosen by each of them.
- the Individual Regional Candidate's Election Agent.
- the Registered Party's Election Agent.
- the Registered Party's Nominating Officer.
- any appointed Counting Agents.
- guests invited by the Regional Returning Officer.
- representatives of the Electoral Commission; and
- any accredited Election Observers

We will provide security passes for each of these individuals, which will be issued in advance.

There are usually representatives of the media in attendance, including TV, radio and newspaper journalists.

14. Registration, Postal and Proxy Voting Arrangements

Arrangements for registration, postal or proxy voting are dealt with by the relevant Electoral Registration Officer's across the region.

The voter registration, postal and proxy vote application deadlines for the Scottish Parliament election on 7 May 2026 are as follows: -

Applications to register to vote	Monday 20 April 2026
New applications to vote by post	5pm on Tuesday 21 April 2026
Changes to existing postal or proxy votes	5pm on Tuesday 21 April 2026
Cancellation of existing postal or proxy votes	5pm on Tuesday 21 April 2026
New applications to vote by proxy	5pm on Tuesday 28 April 2026
Emergency proxies	5pm on Thursday 7 May 2026

Candidates may encourage potential electors to apply as voters. Care must be taken to ensure that you are not handling elector's applications nor that you are encouraging voters who are already registered to submit a duplicate application.

15. Candidate mailings

If you are shown as standing nominated in the statement of persons and parties nominated as an individual regional candidate, or you are the Nominating Officer of a registered political party which has submitted a list of candidates, you will be entitled to free postage on an election address sent to electors in the region.

If a party has submitted a party list before the publication of the statement of persons and parties nominated, they are also entitled to exercise this right.

Please consult Royal Mail's guidance on candidate mailings www.royalmail.com/candidatemail. If you would like to make use of this service, please contact Royal Mail directly.

16. Requirement of Secrecy

The Regional Returning Officer is required to ensure that all persons involved in the election are given a copy in writing of the appropriate secrecy provisions of Article 31 of the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc) Order 2015.

Please ensure that anyone working or campaigning for you in or around the election is aware of these secrecy requirements.

This is a very serious matter, and breaches may be investigated by Police Scotland and could lead to fines or imprisonment.

17. Meeting of Candidates and Election Agents

The Regional Returning Officer will be holding two online briefing sessions for constituency candidates and election agents via Teams:

Pre-nomination briefing: Tuesday 17 February 2026 @ 7pm

Post nomination briefing: Monday 6 April 2026 @ 7pm