Security guidance for May 2021 elections

For these upcoming May 2021 elections, as with any election, there are a number of security considerations that need to be made both by those planning and those running for the elections.

This collection of guidance provides advice on good security practice for candidates and those in local authorities. Much of this advice will be relevant all year round.

For **candidates** we recommend that you read:
1. Cyber security guidance for individuals in politics - advice on how to protect against common cyber attacks seen against individuals in politics.
2. **Joint guidance for candidates in elections (attached doc)** - advice on recognising and responding to intimidatory behaviour.
3. **Online security information (attached doc)** - guidance from social media platforms to secure your account and how to report incidents of online abuse.

If you are a Returning Officer, or are helping run elections for your **local authority,** we recommend that you read:
1. Cyber security election guidance for local authorities - advice on good cyber security practices to protect systems that support elections.
2. **Election Security for Polling Stations and Counting Venues (attached doc)** - guide to assist Returning Officers with the security of buildings used in the electoral process.

In addition, the Cabinet Office has published specific guidance on COVID-secure elections campaigning. The Electoral Commission has developed guidance to support administrators with preparing for and delivering the May 2021 polls.