

THE GENERAL ELECTION 2010

A General Election must be held in the United Kingdom on or before 3 June 2010 when the five year term of the present Government comes to an end. The election is being held to elect Members of Parliament to the House of Commons, the lower house of the Parliament of the United Kingdom. The number of seats will rise from 646 to 650, 59 of which will represent Scottish constituencies. In the Highlands, there are three parliamentary constituencies covering a total of 171,587 electors:

CAITHNESS SUTHERLAND AND EASTER ROSS

47,263 electors

ROSS SKYE AND LOCHABER

51,934 electors

INVERNESS NAIRN BADENOCH AND STRATHSPEY

72,390 electors

RETURNING OFFICER

Responsibility for organising the elections in the three Highland constituencies is that of the Returning Officer, Alistair Dodds, Chief Executive of The Highland Council. He is actively preparing for the elections within the three constituencies. Approximately 660 people will be employed to operate the 330 polling stations across the three constituencies. He has also to recruit staff to administer the election and to count the postal and proxy votes and those cast at the polling stations. You need to be on the electoral register to vote in this election.

VOTING

Voting will take place between 7am and 10pm on the day of the election.

COUNT VENUES

The counts will take place at the following venues:

Caithness Sutherland and Easter Ross

- The Assembly Rooms, Wick

Ross Skye and Lochaber

- Dingwall Leisure Centre

Inverness Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey

- Inverness Leisure, Bught Park

WHO CAN VOTE?

You need to be on the register of electors to vote in any election. Those eligible to vote in a general election for the UK Parliament are UK, Irish and qualifying Commonwealth citizens, aged 18 and older on polling day.

AM I REGISTERED?

You can check that you are registered as an elector, or get further advice, by telephoning **0800 393 783**. Calls are free.

HOW DO I VOTE?

This varies according to the type of election but at a general election you have a single vote and simply place an 'X' against the name of the candidate of your choice on the ballot paper.

BALLOT PAPER

The ballot paper will contain the names of the individuals and parties seeking election.



HOW CAN I VOTE?

- In person at a polling station. A poll card will be sent telling you where to go to vote.

Or if an application has already been granted:

- By post
- By choosing a proxy to vote on your behalf

POSTAL OR PROXY VOTING

Anyone registered who wishes to vote by post or proxy, and has not already applied, can do so **now**. Just telephone **0800 393783** to request an application form.

To ensure the security of a postal vote you will need to provide a specimen signature and your date of birth on the application form. These are then checked at election time against the signature and date of birth provided on a separate statement which you send in together with your sealed vote. Special provisions apply if you are unable to sign in a consistent way.

Complaints

If you want to make a complaint about any election related matter you can do so by:

- Visiting any of the Council's 37 Service points.
- Telephone the Council's Customer Services Centre on: **01349 886606**
- E-mail: **customer.service@highland.gov.uk**

There are three stages to resolving your complaint.

STAGE ONE:

The Depute Returning Officer for each of the three constituencies within The Highland Council area will seek to resolve your complaint.

CAITHNESS SUTHERLAND AND EASTER ROSS

Ian Hargrave, Depute Returning Officer
Area Office, Market Square, Wick KW1 4AB

ROSS SKYE AND LOCHABER

Bob Cameron, Depute Returning Officer
Council Offices, High Street, Dingwall IV15 9QN

INVERNESS NAIRN BADENOCH AND STRATHSPEY

William Gilfillan, Depute Returning Officer
Town House, Inverness IV1 1JJ

STAGE TWO:

If it has not been possible to resolve your complaint at constituency level you can refer the matter to the Senior Depute Returning Officer.

Michelle Morris, Senior Depute Returning Officer
Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX

STAGE THREE:

If you still remain dissatisfied you can then refer the matter to the Returning Officer who will review your complaint and the way it has been dealt with.

Alistair Dodds, Returning Officer
Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX

Further Information

For local information about registration:

Electoral Registration Officer
Moray House, 16-18 Bank Street,
INVERNESS, IV1 1QY

Tel: 0800 393 783

Fax: 01463 703301

Email: ero@highland.gov.uk

For local information about the Election and the Election Process:

John Bruce, Elections Manager,
The Highland Council

Tel: 01463 702017

Email: elections@highland.gov.uk
www.highland.gov.uk/yourcouncil/elections

For information on electoral matters:

The Electoral Commission
Scotland Office, 28 Thistle Street,
Edinburgh, EH2 1EN

Tel: 0131 225 0200

Fax: 0131 225 0205

Email: infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk
www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Further information about voting:

www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

Further information about the UK Parliament:

www.parliament.uk

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Make Sure Your Vote Counts