



# Referendums (Scotland) Act 2020

## 2020 asp 2

*Information, guidance, advice and encouragement*

### **25 Information for voters**

- (1) The Electoral Commission must take such steps as they consider appropriate to promote public awareness and understanding in Scotland about—
  - (a) the referendum,
  - (b) the referendum question, and
  - (c) voting in the referendum.
- (2) Each Scottish public authority must take such steps as it considers appropriate to—
  - (a) encourage people entitled to vote in the referendum to register to vote,
  - (b) promote public awareness and understanding in Scotland about—
    - (i) registering to vote,
    - (ii) the manner of voting, including how and when to vote, and
    - (iii) any such other matter about voting in the referendum as it considers appropriate.

### **26 Guidance**

- (1) The Electoral Commission may issue guidance to the Chief Counting Officer about the exercise of the Chief Counting Officer's functions under this Act.
- (2) The Chief Counting Officer may issue guidance to counting officers and registration officers about the exercise of their respective functions under this Act.
- (3) The Electoral Commission may, with the consent of the Chief Counting Officer, issue guidance to counting officers about the exercise of their functions under this Act.
- (4) The Electoral Commission may issue guidance to permitted participants and persons who may become permitted participants about the provisions set out in schedule 3 of this Act.
- (5) Guidance issued under subsection (4) must include information on what may constitute a common plan or other arrangement for the purposes of paragraph 21 of schedule 3.

**27 Advice**

The Electoral Commission may, if asked to do so by any person, provide the person with advice about—

- (a) the application of this Act,
- (b) any other matter relating to the referendum.

**28 Encouraging participation**

- (1) The Chief Counting Officer must take whatever steps the Chief Counting Officer considers appropriate to—
  - (a) encourage participation in the referendum, and
  - (b) facilitate co-operation among officers taking steps under this section.
- (2) A counting officer must take whatever steps the counting officer considers appropriate to encourage participation in the referendum in the local government area for which the officer is appointed.
- (3) A registration officer must take whatever steps the registration officer considers appropriate to encourage participation in the referendum in the area for which the officer acts.