

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

Dumfries and Galloway Council is undertaking a review of Polling Districts and Polling Places in the Dumfries and Galloway area.

Dumfries and Council agreed to start its review on 4 October 2023. The Returning Officer is obliged to make comment on the proposals and her response will be available [here](#) within 30 calendar days of receipt. The timescale for the review is:

Publish Notice of review	9 October 2023
Public Consultation closes	17 November 2023
Consideration by Dumfries and Galloway Council	14 December 2023

The review is intended to take account of experience and feedback from recent elections and any recent changes in circumstances. Polling places must be well located and accessible to all electors, including those with a disability, so far as practicable.

Representations on the proposals are invited from elected representatives, political parties, electors within the Dumfries and Galloway Council area and persons or organisations with particular expertise in respect of access to premises for people with different forms of disability. Those making submissions are welcome to propose alternative venues for polling if they have concerns about current and proposed provision.

Representations should be made by e-mail to the address below or by submitting comments on [our Council's Website](#). The deadline for receipt of representations is **5pm Friday 17 November 2023**. Any representations received will be posted on Dumfries and Galloway Council website and available for public inspection. After this deadline, and consideration of all representations received, a report containing the final proposals for polling districts and polling places will be submitted for consideration at the 14 December 2023 meeting of Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Election Co-ordinator
Dumfries and Galloway Council
Governance and Assurance
Council Offices
English Street
Dumfries DG1 2DD
Tel: 01387 260039
Email : electionsoffice@dumgal.gov.uk

All responses should be submitted on or before 17 November 2023.

Proposals

List of polling places and polling districts

In considering the suitability of potential premises to be used for polling purposes, the guidance issued by the Electoral Commission has been used. Polling places must be accessible for voters with disabilities and should have either level access, a permanent ramped access or be capable of having a temporary ramp installed. They require to have adequate internal and external lighting. They should have sufficient space to display guidance notices and for a wheelchair to be able to turn around. All polling stations already have both high level and low level polling booths. It is preferable if there is space for designated vehicle parking for disabled people. The premises also require to have kitchen and toilet facilities for the staff on duty on polling day. The premises need to be available, usually exclusively, on polling day.

The Report and Appendix considered by Dumfries and Galloway Council on 4 October 2023 laying out the criteria for the Review and the full proposals is here ([link](#)).

Next scheduled poll

The next scheduled polls are for the UK Parliamentary Election (date to be confirmed)

Note: By-elections may occur at any time and the poll usually takes place within three months of the date of the vacancy occurring.

Appeals against the decision of Dumfries and Galloway Council

An appeal can only be made on the grounds that the local authority's review did not:

- meet the reasonable requirements of electors in the constituency
- take sufficient account of disabled access to polling stations

Right to appeal

Following a local authority's review, certain persons have a right to appeal:

- Not less than 30 electors in the constituency, in which the polling district and/or polling place that is the subject of the appeal is situated;
- a person who made representations during the review under Schedule A1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983;
- a person who is not an elector in a constituency in the authority's area but who the Commission thinks has sufficient interest in the accessibility of disabled persons to polling places in the area or has particular expertise in relation to the access to premises or facilities for disabled persons.

Appeals should be made directly to the Electoral Commission.

If you are one of the persons mentioned above and would like to make an appeal which falls within one or both the grounds mentioned above, you can send your appeal to:

Legal Team
Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London EC1Y 8YZ
Tel: 0333 103 1928
Email: appeals@electoralcommission.org.uk

On the outcome of an appeal, the Electoral Commission may:

- direct the local authority to make any alterations to the polling places designated by the review
- make alterations themselves, if the authority fails to make the alterations within two months of the direction being given

Read more [information on making an appeal](#) in paragraph 7 of the [Electoral Commission's guidance](#).