Guidance for candidates and election agents on the process for submitting a candidate statement to The Welsh Elections Information Platform Who is this guidance for?

This guidance is for candidates standing at principal area elections in Wales and their election agents.

The guidance covers the process for submitting a candidate statement to the Welsh Elections Information Platform.

It is provided by the Electoral Management Board (EMB) to assist candidates and election agents in submitting their candidate statement to the Welsh Elections Information Platform (vote.wales) for publication online.

Contacting the Electoral Management Board

We are here to help, so please contact us if you have any questions about submitting a candidate statement for publication on the Welsh Elections Information Platform. You can contact the Electoral Management Board by emailing - emb@dbcc.gov.wales

What are principal area elections?

Principal area means a county or county borough.

A principal area election is an election to the county or county borough council. These elections are also sometimes called local council elections or local government elections.

A community or town council election is not a principal area election. The law does not allow candidates standing at community and town council elections to submit a candidate statement to the Welsh Elections Information Platform.

If you are a candidate at community or town council elections you cannot submit a candidate statement.

What is a candidate statement?

A candidate is allowed to submit a candidate statement for publication on the Welsh Elections Information Platform.

A candidate statement is campaign information that a candidate provides to the electorate to persuade electors to vote for them.

You do not have to submit a candidate statement for publication, although it is a good way to communicate your message with the voters in the ward which you are standing in.

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Your candidate statement must be prepared by you or your election agent, and meet the requirements set out in legislation. If it does not meet the requirements, it will not be published on the platform.

What information is included in a candidate statement?

Your candidate statement must:

- be no more than 180 words
- be in Welsh, English or both languages
- be about the candidate and the reasons why the candidate is seeking election

Your candidate statement must not include any material that:

- is obscene, offensive or indecent
- the publication of which would likely amount to the commission of an offence
- that amounts to advertising or could result in commercial gain
- that could mislead or confuse electors as to the electoral system in use at the election or the effect of giving their vote

You may include one photograph which must be a recent photo of the candidate and show no other person.

The Welsh Elections Information Platform Regulations 2025 put the liability for the content of a candidate statement on the candidate and election agent.

You are responsible for ensuring their candidate statement meets the requirements of the relevant legislation.

Translation of candidate statement

A candidate statement can be no more than 180 words in Welsh or English.

A translation into Welsh or English may also be provided. Any translation provided must be a complete and accurate translation.

The translation does not form part of the 180 word limit but it must be an exact translation of the statement.

If your translation is not an exact replica of the content of your candidate statement then it will be rejected.

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Who can submit a candidate statement for publication on the Welsh Elections Information Platform?

A candidate statement can only be submitted to the Welsh Elections Information Platform by you (as a candidate – political party and Independent) or your election agent.

Why has the Returning Officer asked for my email address?

During nominations, the Returning Officer will encourage all candidates and election agents to provide their email address.

Whilst providing an email address is not a requirement to be nominated as a candidate, if you wish to use the online service to submit your candidate statement, you must have provided your email address.

The Returning Officer asks for an email address so that they can contact you easily if required during the election period. The Electoral Commission has provided a resource for Returning Officers – candidate contact sheet - which they will ask you and your election agent to complete.

The Returning Officer will share your email address with the Electoral Management Board. The Electoral Management Board will use your email address:

- for the purpose of carrying out a security check when a candidate statement is submitted to the platform for publication online
- to contact you directly with information about submitting a candidate statement

Email addresses are not be published on the platform.

It will not be possible to complete the required security check to submit your candidate statement if:

- an email address has not been provided to the Returning Officer
- a different email address is used on the platform to the one provided to the Returning Officer

Change of appointed election agent

If your election agent's appointment is changed after the initial appointment deadline and your new election agent intends to submit the candidate statement, you should inform the Electoral Management Board of the name and email address of the new election agent.

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This will allow the appropriate security checks to be carried out if a candidate statement is submitted by the newly appointed election agent.

What is the process for submitting a candidate statement?

Below are the steps to follow if you want to submit a candidate statement for publication online. Some screenshots of each of the steps are included to provide an idea of what you can expect to see as you progress through the submission process.

Candidate statements can be submitted to the platform from midday on Saturday 10th April 2026 following close of nominations a couple of days earlier.

If you want to submit a candidate statement for publication online, go to Submit an candidate statement | Vote.Wales

Before you start the process of submitting the candidate statement, make sure you:

- have finalised the text you want to include
- checked that the text meets the legal requirements and
- checked that it is no more than 180 words in Welsh or English

If you are going to submit a photo, make sure it is a recent photo of the candidate, shows no other person and is saved in the required type of file.

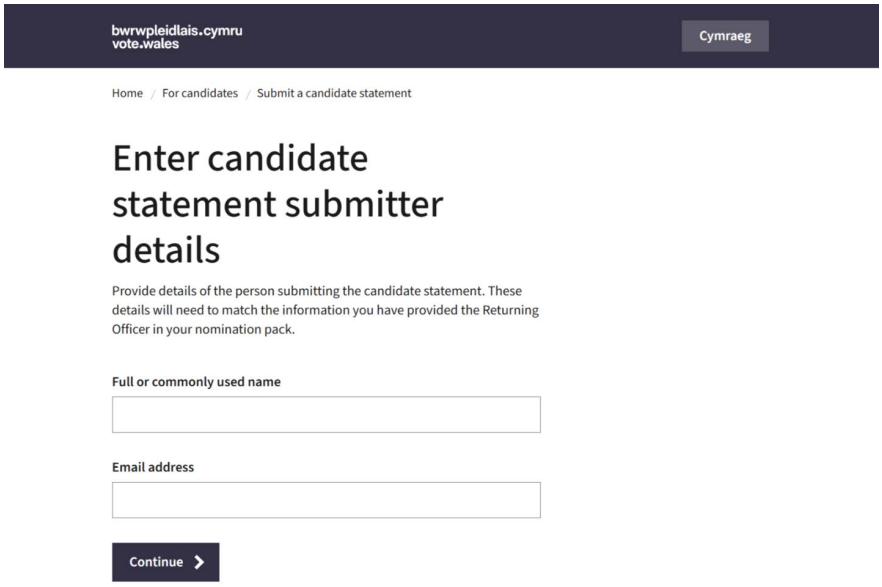
Step 1 – Click on the button – Submit a candidate statement



Step 2 – Type in the full or commonly used name of the person submitting the candidate statement. This can be you or your election agent and should match what was provided to the Returning Officer.

Enter the email address of the person submitting the candidate statement.

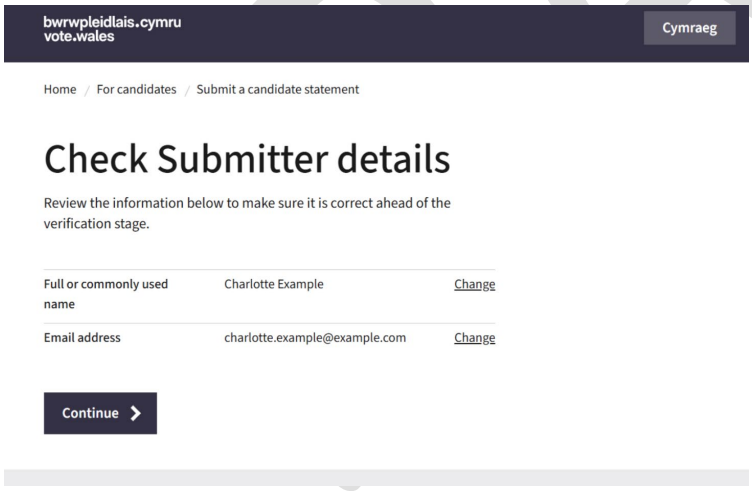
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This information is used as part of the security check.

Make sure it is complete and that the spelling is accurate. Incomplete or incorrect information provided at this stage may mean that the security check fails.

Step 3 – Check and confirm the details for the person submitting the candidate statement



If the details on the screen are correct, click continue.

A verification code will be sent to the email address you have provided.

A verification code is a one-time, unique, temporary code that is used to confirm your identity and ensure that the submission of candidate statements is secure.

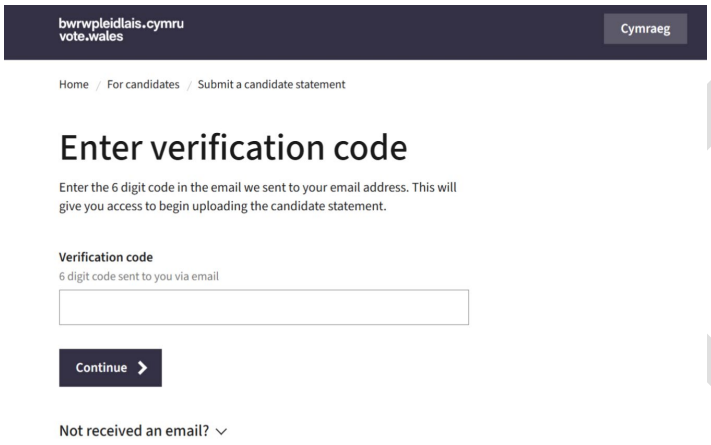
The code will be a short sequence of 6 numbers. You will need to enter this code into the website to proceed with submitting your candidate statement.

The code may take a few minutes to arrive. Check the email inbox and your spam folder for a message from the platform (vote.wales)

If you do not receive an email containing the verification code you should contact the EMB - emb@dbcc.gov.wales

Step 4 – Enter verification code

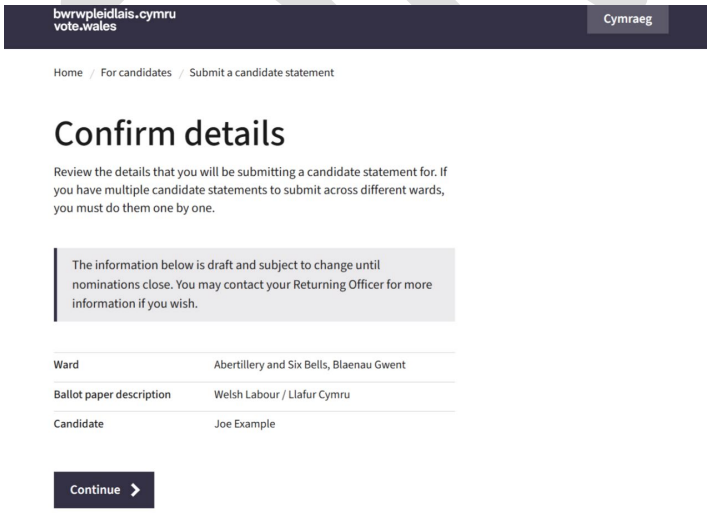
The verification code is 6 digits long.



Copy the verification code from the email you have received and enter it in the box. Once you have entered the code, click continue.

If the code matches, you will proceed to the next screen.

If the code does not match, you will see an error message and be able to re-try.

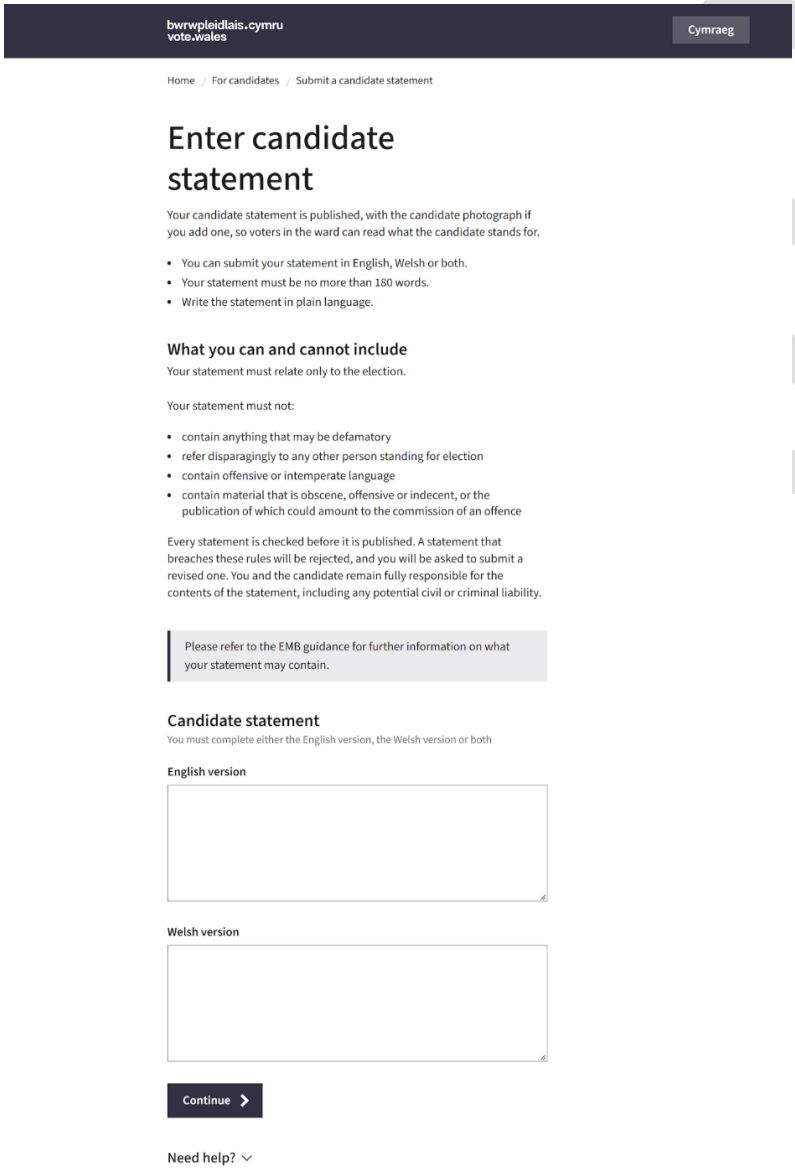


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Review the details on the next screen and check they are for the person who is submitting a candidate statement. If correct, click confirm. If the information is not correct, you should contact the EMB – emb@dbcc.gov.uk.

If you are appointed as an election agent for multiple of candidates and submitting candidate statements on their behalf, for each candidate statement must be uploaded individually. You will need to select the candidate name and the relevant area for each candidate statement you are submitting.

Step 5 – Adding your candidate statement to the platform



The next stage of the process is:

- Type the text of your statement into the text boxes provided

- select the language(s) the candidate statement is written in – Welsh, English or English and Welsh.

Your candidate statement must:

- be no more than 180 words
- be in Welsh, English or both languages
- be about the candidate and the reasons why the candidate is seeking election

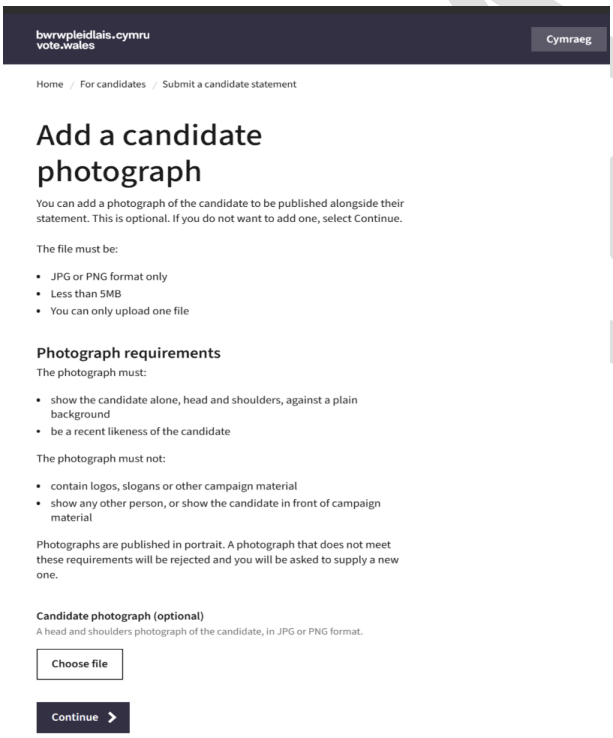
You can check the number of words in your candidate statement by typing it into a word document prior to typing it into the platform.

A translation into Welsh or English may also be provided. Go to Translation of candidate statement section for more information.

Step 6 – Adding your photograph to your candidate statement (optional)

You can add a photo to your candidate statement if you want to.

You may include one photograph. The photograph must be recent and show no other person.



You can only upload one file. The photo file must be in JPEG or PNG format and less than 15MB in size.

Click on the choose file button and browse for the location where the photo is saved. Upload the photo and click continue.

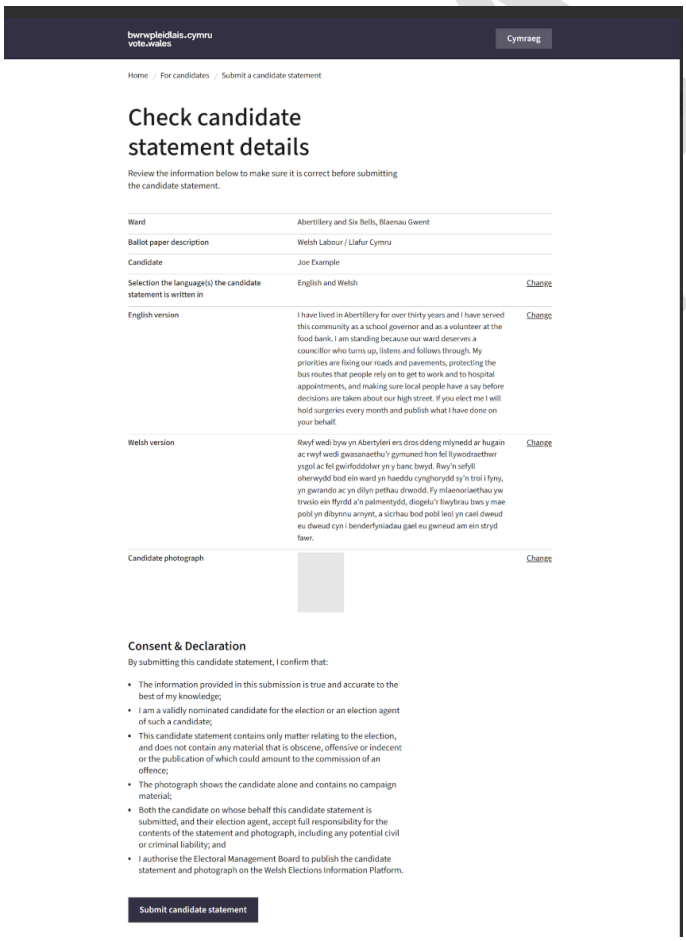
Step 7 - Confirmation and statement

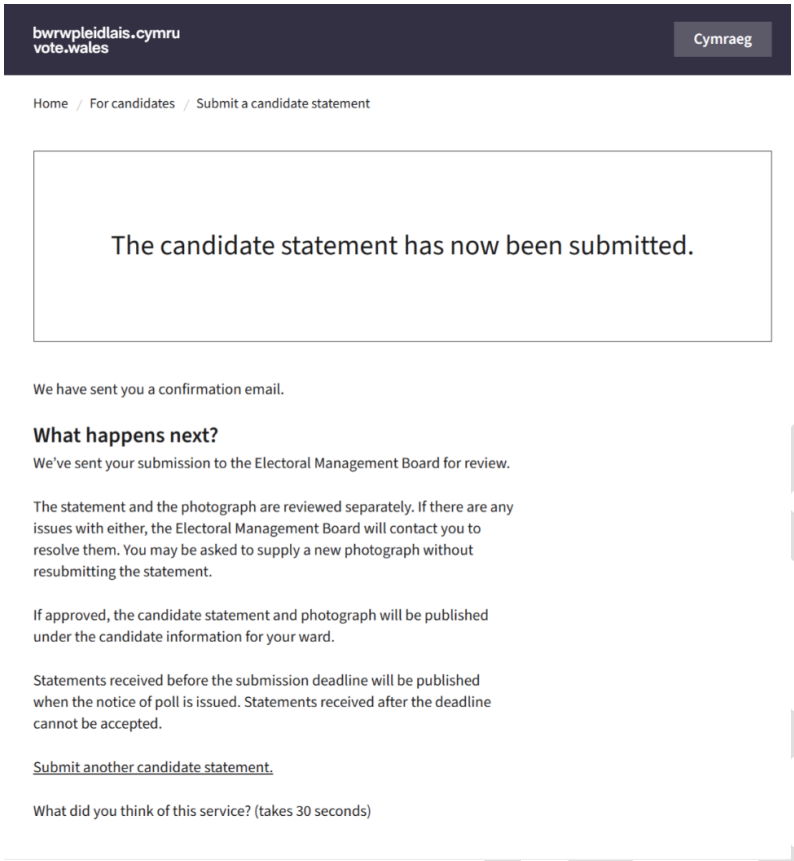
To complete your submission you will be prompted to tick a box next to your statement. By ticking the box, the person submitting the candidate statement is confirming-

- the candidate statement has been prepared by the candidate or the candidate's agent,
- the candidate statement complies with the relevant requirements, and
- the information within the candidate statement is the responsibility of the candidate or the candidate's agent.

After you have submitted your candidate statement:

- the statement and photo (if you have submitted one) will be sent to the Electoral Management Board for review





What happens after a candidate statement has been submitted?

The Electoral Management Board will review the candidate statement and check that it is valid. You will receive an email confirming that your candidate statement has been approved.

The Electoral Management Board will publish valid candidate statements on the scheduled publication dates.

If you find a mistake after you have submitted your candidate statement, you will need to contact the Electoral Management Board by emailing emb@dbcc.gov.wales

If the Electoral Management Board decides that a candidate statement is invalid, it will be rejected.

If your candidate statement is rejected the Electoral Management Board will email you to let you know. If your candidate statement is rejected, it may be possible to re-submit a revised candidate statement. This will be dependent on whether there is time to re-submit by the supplementary deadline(s).

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Deadlines for submitting a candidate statement

Deadline - received by the Electoral Management Board	**Publication**
Tuesday 13 April 2027	Thursday 15 April 2027

There will be supplementary publications for candidates who miss the deadline for the primary publication. Candidate statements will also be published on Thursday 22 April 2027 and Thursday 29 April 2027 and must be received by the Electoral Management Board two working days beforehand.

Deadline - received by the Electoral Management Board	**Publication**
Tuesday 20 April 2027	Thursday 22 April 2027
Tuesday 27 April 2027	Thursday 29 April 2027

Legislation states that the last date the Electoral Management Board can publish any candidate statement is Thursday 29 April 2027. Any candidate statement submitted to the platform after midnight on Tuesday 27 April 2027 will therefore not be published by the Electoral Management Board.

If you are unable to access or use the website, please contact us for information about submitting a candidate statement manually.

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