

**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA  
LONDON**

**THE AMBASSADOR**

**London, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

*To  
Councillor Sue Blatchford  
Mayor of Southampton,  
Southampton City Council, Civic Centre  
Southampton SO14 7LY*

*To  
Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney QPM  
Hampshire Constabulary Operational Headquarters,  
Tower Street, Winchester SO23 8ZD*

**Re: Holding elections for Bulgarian National Assembly in Southampton**

**Dear Mayor Blatchford,**

**Dear Chief Constable Pinkney,**

Allow me to bring to your kind attention the fact that General Parliamentary Elections will be held in Bulgaria on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and all eligible Bulgarian citizens, including those residing in the United Kingdom, are thereby encouraged to exercise their democratic right to vote.

Following guidance from our Government, the Bulgarian Embassy in London has sought and received the official consent from Her Majesty's Government (Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office Note Verbale No NV 002-2021 of 11/02/2021), so that overseas elections be held on the territory of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. A total number of 35 polling stations are to be opened throughout the country.

In this regard, on behalf of the Bulgarian Government and the Bulgarian community in Southampton, I would like to ask for the kind understanding and cooperation of the Municipal and Police authorities for the smooth preparation and holding of the voting process. More specifically, we would like to make sure that under UK national restrictions projected to be in force at the time of the elections, voters will not be obstructed to travel to and from the venue at the aforementioned address, which will be opened temporarily to the public for the sole purpose of voting. Furthermore, the members of the Electoral Committee will have to make the necessary arrangements at the polling station ahead of the voting and afterwards - to deliver back the election papers and ballots. To do this, they will need to travel to and from the polling station on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> as well, while some of them will also be expected to travel to other cities in order to carry out their duties. We hope and request that they will be able to do this in an unobstructed manner.

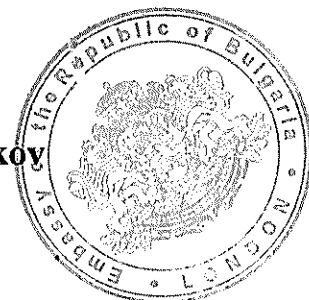
Finally, I would like to point out that the Embassy has instructed all participants in the voting process to adhere strictly to the rules and guidance related to the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, a queue with the observance of social distancing may occasionally form at some time of the day in front of the polling station and we would highly appreciate your understanding in this regard.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Embassy and we will be glad to provide you with additional information.

Please accept,  
Mayor Blatchford  
Chief Constable Pinkney  
the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

  
**Marin Raykov**



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