



## Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee

**John Pullinger CB**  
**Chair**  
**Electoral Commission**  
**3 Bunhill Row**  
**London**  
**EC1Y 8YZ**

26 April 2023

Dear John,

### **Collection of data on numbers turned away outside polling station due to lack of voter ID**

We have been reviewing the implementation of voter ID in connection with the upcoming local elections on 4 May 2023 as part of its [on-going inquiry into electoral registration](#). We are aware that a significant number of local authorities plan to use meet-and-greeters stationed outside polling stations to support the implementation of voter ID.

At our most recent session for the inquiry on 17 April 2023, Peter Stanyon, Chief Executive of the Association of Electoral Administrators, informed us that:

“The returning officers are required where they have a meeter-greeter to report those they have advised at the door and turned away, and those at the desk as well. They will be reported as two separate things...The base standard is it is at the desk, because that is where the ballot papers will be and that is where the question is asked. Where there is a meeter-greeter, the commission is asking for that statistic and the Government are asking for that statistic as well.”<sup>1</sup>

However, in direct contravention to what Peter Stanyon told us, it has been brought to our attention that the Electoral Commission will not be asking returning officers to record data on the number of individuals who have been turned away for not presenting the necessary voter ID by meeter-greeters outside polling stations. An article published by *The Guardian* on 25 April 2023 stated: “these greeters will not take a note of the number of people who leave when told about the requirements, the Electoral Commission has confirmed, meaning the total number of potentially disfranchised voters may never be known.”<sup>2</sup>

We are deeply concerned that data relating to voter turnout will not be accurate if the Electoral Commission is only to record the number of individuals turned away at the desk. This is because it is possible that a significant number of individuals will have been turned away before the point of collecting a ballot paper. This presents a clear risk to the credibility of any recorded data and therefore any assessment of the true impact of voter ID on voter turnout at the forthcoming local elections.

**Please could you confirm that the Electoral Commission will be collecting data on the number of individuals turned away outside of the polling station by the meeter-greeters (in addition to voters turned away at the desk)?**

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<sup>1</sup> Peter Stanyon, Association of Electoral Administrators, [Oral evidence](#), 17 April 2023, Q102

<sup>2</sup> [Election greeters mean voter ID impact may not be known, Labour says, The Guardian](#), 25 April 2023

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Given the importance of this issue, the Committee would welcome clarification from the Electoral Commission by 28 April 2023.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clive Betts'.

Mr Clive Betts MP  
Chair, Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee