

Baroness Drake  
Chair  
Constitution Committee  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

28 November 2023

Dear Baroness Drake,

**Re: Voter ID inquiry**

Thank you for the opportunity to give evidence to the Committee's inquiry into voter ID.

During the evidence session, I offered to follow up in writing regarding Baroness Andrews' question about data relating to the gender breakdown of ID ownership, including whether Black and minority ethnic women are less likely to have accepted ID.

As the Committee will be aware, the Commission's interim analysis highlighted evidence that some people found it harder than others to show accepted ID. We undertook further data collection and analysis as part of our full report on the May 2023 elections.

None of our research suggests there is a difference between men and women in terms of either the proportion with no ID, or their awareness of the need to bring ID.

We did find that people from a Black and minority ethnic background were less likely to be aware of the need to bring ID, and this applies to men and women equally. There is no evidence of any notable differences for either ID ownership or awareness when we consider this at a more detailed level (for example, Black and minority ethnic women), compared to the overall finding.

As we discussed with your Committee, the Commission has recommended that improvements are made ahead of future elections to improve accessibility and support those people who do not have an accepted form of ID.

We do not have detailed data on Voter Authority Certificate applications, which we understand will be published by the UK Government in due course, but may it may not be so detailed as to include demographic breakdowns.

Beyond voter ID, the Committee may also be interested in the Commission's research on the accuracy and completeness of the electoral registers, which looks at who is and is not registered to vote including breakdowns by gender and ethnicity. We published our [latest](#)

[study](#) in September, which found that in Great Britain, women are marginally more likely to be correctly registered than men. Completeness is also highest among those from a white ethnic background.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CW', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Craig Westwood  
Director of Communications, Policy and Research