



Department for Levelling Up,
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IMPLEMENTATION OF VOTER IDENTIFICATION: PROGRESS ON EVALUATION

The Government committed in legislation to evaluating the impacts of the introduction of voter identification at the May 2023 local elections and at the first two UK Parliamentary general elections which followed the introduction of the legislation. I am pleased to inform the Committee that today I have published the Report of the first year of this evaluation.

IFF Research was appointed in May 2023 as the external research agency to conduct this first evaluation. The report examines key findings relating to the introduction of voter identification at the May 2023 English local elections as well as findings on the enhanced support for disabled voters at the May 2023 local elections in both England and Northern Ireland. IFF has used data gathered at the polling stations, supplemented by public opinion survey results, the Electoral Commission's data and report on the May elections, surveys with the electoral sector and qualitative research as its evidence base to provide a full picture of the impact of implementation.

While the Government recognise those areas where improvements may still be made, the evaluation paints an overall picture of a smooth roll out of these new measures. We are pleased with the successful delivery of these important reforms and grateful to the hard work and dedication of local authority elections teams across the country, without whom the realisation of these measures would not be possible. Alongside the EIP Evaluation Report, I have also published today the Government's response to the Electoral Commission's Report on the May 2023 local elections in England. The Government welcome the views of the Commission and has considered its recommendations carefully. We look forward to continuing to work with the Commission and other partners as further Elections Act changes are delivered.

The Government is committed to ensuring UK elections remain secure, fair, fit for purpose, and transparent. This evaluation report marks a significant step in both realising these aims and enhancing our understanding of how the measures in the Elections Act 2022 operate in practice.

I hope you find this information useful and I look forward to discussing the report further with the Committee on 6 December.

Yours sincerely

SIMON HOARE MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local Government