

Simon Hoare MP
Chair
PACAC
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

9 July 2025

Dear Chair,

I am pleased to provide you with copies of the Commission's [report on the May 2025 local elections in England](#) and our [annual report on electoral registration in Great Britain](#).

May 2025 polls

Our report on the May elections found that the majority of voters (79%) continue to have confidence that UK elections are well run, and the vast majority had a positive experience of voting. However, turnout was just 34%, continuing the trend of low and declining participation at local government elections in England.

We found that there is appetite from voters for more reliable information about elections and those standing in them: only half (49%) of people agreed they had enough information to make an informed choice about who to vote for, and we see that voters are also concerned about the impact of mis- and dis-information.

The whole electoral community – parties, candidates, campaigners and local authorities – has a crucial role in reaching the public with information to help them participate in future elections. The Commission will continue to run public awareness campaigns on the electoral process, and we are expanding our education offer to support teachers and young people ahead of the introduction of votes at 16.

Looking specifically at voter ID, 90% of people said they knew they needed to show ID to vote. Only a small number of local authorities collected data from polling stations, but of the 44 that did, it showed just 0.1% of voters could not be issued with ballot papers on the day because of the voter ID requirement.

We will publish data from our survey for candidates in the autumn, including on experiences of abuse and intimidation during the May elections. In the meantime, we are continuing to work with the Speaker's Conference on how we can support implementation of the recommendations made in their first report, and considering how to improve our support for candidate and campaigners ahead of next May's elections.

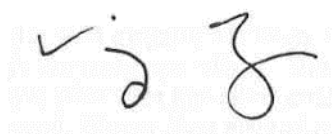
Annual canvass

Our annual report on electoral registration in Great Britain finds that the canvass is still not fully picking up ongoing population movement between major elections. Our research shows that as many as 8 million people are not correctly registered at their current address.

The number of attainers fell by 9.5% in 2024, continuing the trend of decreasing numbers of attainers in every nation since 2014. This is particularly concerning given the proposed introduction of votes at 16. This situation is unlikely to improve significantly without major changes to the current electoral registration system. The UK Government's intention to introduce automated voter registration should be a major improvement to help many more citizens be accurately registered to vote.

A healthy democracy relies on engagement, and both these research reports show clearly that more needs to be done to support voters to participate with confidence.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vijay', followed by a stylized flourish.

Vijay Rangarajan
Chief Executive