



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

The Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP
Speaker of the House of Commons
Houses of Parliament
London

2 March 2026

Dear Sir Lindsay,

EC AND LGBCE MAIN ESTIMATES 2026-27

1. My officials have advised me on the Electoral Commission and Local Government Boundary Commission for England Main Estimates for 2026-27. I am writing to you in my advisory role in the Estimates process.
2. The EC seeks a £4.8m cash uplift (10%) comprised of £2.1m CDEL and £2.7m RDEL at Main Estimates 2026-27, compared to Mains 2025-26. This is to support increased election campaign activity, delivery of its five-year corporate plan, and continued IT and cyber security upgrades.
3. The LGBCE seeks a £0.3m cash uplift (8%), comprised of £0.2m CDEL and £0.1m RDEL at Main Estimates 2026-27, compared to Mains 2025-26. This is to support work around local government reorganisation, website redevelopment and digital upgrades.
4. I note that the Electoral Commission returned a 7% material underspend at Supplementary Estimates 2025-26 and that the LGBCE returned a 14% material underspend. I would like to take the opportunity to emphasise the importance of robust forecasting and clearly deliverable implementation plans. This ensures that funding requests remain taut and realistic and that public money can be made available for wider public services.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to be 'J Murray', written over a light grey circular watermark.

**RT HON JAMES MURRAY MP
CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY**