

Analysis of cases of alleged electoral fraud in the UK in 2017

Summary of data recorded by police forces

2018

Translations and other formats

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We are an independent body set up by the UK Parliament. We regulate party and election finance and set standards for well-run elections. We work to support a healthy democracy, where elections and referendums are based on our principles of trust, participation, and no undue influence.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Electoral fraud and the public perception of fraud undermine democracy and weaken the United Kingdom's strong tradition of free and fair elections. They take away from individuals the right to vote as they wish, distort the results of elections and weaken the legitimacy of elected bodies, and they cause mistrust between communities. The Electoral Commission therefore takes the risk of electoral fraud very seriously.

1.2 We have worked with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC – formerly ACPO, the Association of Chief Police Officers) since 2008 to collect data from police forces about cases of alleged electoral fraud and receive monthly returns from all 45 territorial police forces across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Each year we have published an analysis of this data.

1.3 We publish data about the number, type and outcome of cases of alleged electoral fraud to provide transparency and to enable Returning Officers, police forces and policy makers to understand the nature of allegations and any trends over time.

Key findings from the analysis of cases of alleged electoral fraud in 2017

The key findings set out in this analysis about cases of alleged electoral fraud in 2017 include:

- At the time of publishing this analysis in March 2018, there had been one conviction and suspects in eight cases had accepted police cautions.
- An allegation of personation in polling stations led to one successful prosecution and conviction.
- Of the eight cautions accepted four were in relation to registration offences; one a false statement on a nomination form; two personation when voting by post; and one return of election expenses.
- The majority of cases (289), 79% of all cases, either resulted in no further action (207) or were locally resolved (82).
- Almost half of all cases of alleged electoral fraud reported were campaign offences (165 cases), the majority of which were imprint offences (96 cases).

1.4 The following sections of this paper summarise the data relating to allegations made during 2017, and are based on data recorded by police forces throughout 2017. We recognise that there is no practical mechanism to capture possible cases which have not been reported to police forces. This means that this data may not be a complete record of all activity which could involve electoral fraud offences.

1.5 We have also published a [spreadsheet](#) detailing the nature and outcome of every case recorded in 2017 at the same time as this analysis. Appendix C

of this paper also provides an updated analysis of cases of alleged electoral fraud recorded by police forces in 2015 and 2016.

1.6 We are grateful for the continued support and assistance of the NPCC and the Single Point of Contact officers (SPOCs) in each police force for their cooperation and commitment to providing the data which is summarised in this document.

Polls in 2017

1.7 Appendix B provides detailed information about the scale and nature of participation at the polls held during 2017.

2 Summary of data about cases reported in 2017

2.1 During 2017 police forces across the UK recorded a total of 336 cases of alleged electoral fraud relating to offences under the Representation of the People Act (RPA) 1983.¹ Police forces also recorded 69 other complaints about elections which did not relate to allegations of electoral fraud offences.²

2.2 Throughout the report we refer to offences under sections of the RPA (1983). A list of the most relevant ones can be found [here](#).

2.3 The number and nature of electoral events differs from year to year so it is not possible to draw reliable conclusions from a comparison of the number of cases of alleged electoral fraud recorded by police forces. The number of cases has varied from year to year, as shown in Table 1 below³.

Table 1: Cases of alleged electoral fraud reported 2010-17

| Year | Cases of alleged electoral fraud | Other complaints about elections | Total |
|------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|
| 2010 | 262 | 25 | 287 |
| 2011 | 242 | 53 | 295 |
| 2012 | 362 | 45 | 407 |
| 2013 | 148 | 31 | 179 |
| 2014 | 219 | 55 | 274 |
| 2015 | 518 | 167 | 685 |
| 2016 | 291 | 2 | 293 |
| 2017 | 336 | 69 | 405 |

2.4 The police data is a comprehensive source of evidence about reported cases of electoral fraud, but there is no practical mechanism to capture possible cases which have not been reported. This means that this data may not be a complete record of all activity which could involve electoral fraud offences.

2.5 A relative lack of awareness about whether activity might involve electoral fraud offences, and reluctance to report allegations of electoral fraud

¹ This data is based on all returns received by the police up until **31 January 2018**.

² Including allegations of: theft or damage to property, election material or vehicles; stalking; trespassing; taunting; blocking a polling station car park; malicious communications, racist comments; offensive tweets or letters; assault; intimidating canvassers; copyright infringement.

³ The cases reported in 2015 and 2016 include those we received during 2017 and therefore are not the same as the numbers in our 2016 report.

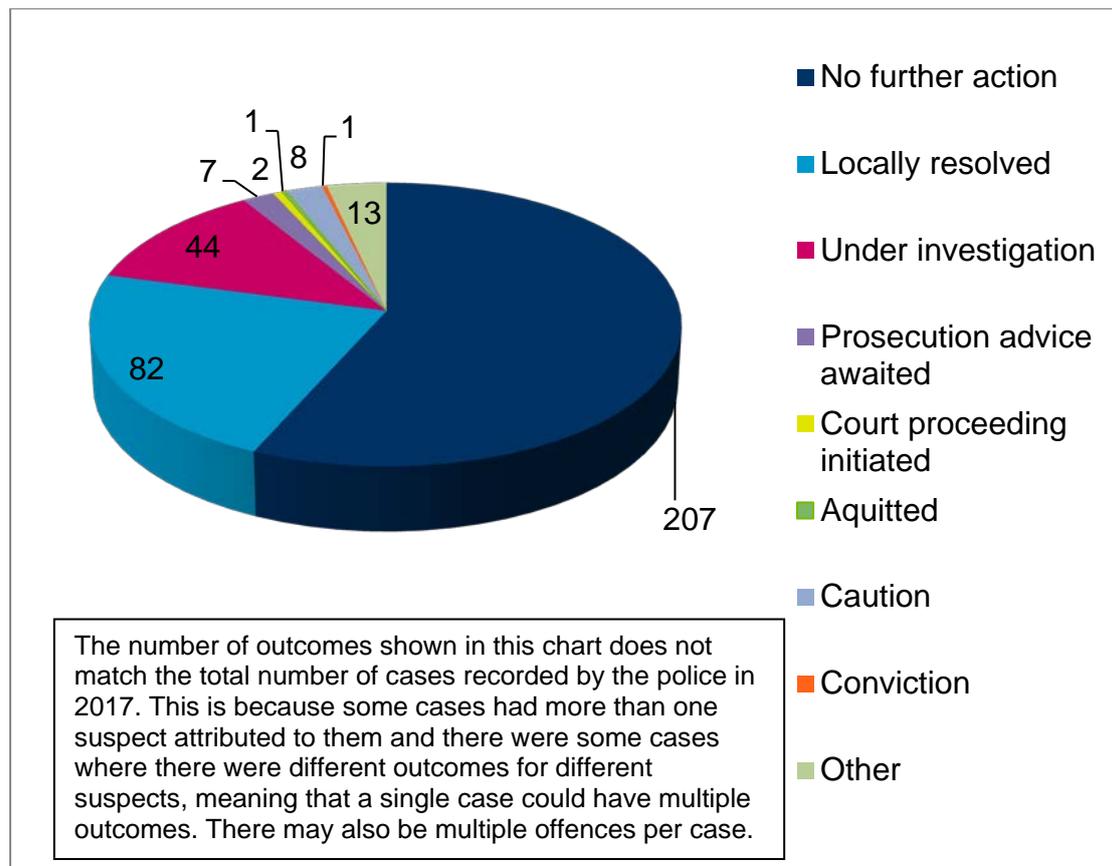
to the police, whether because of fears for personal safety or because of a lack of confidence that the complaints would be investigated, have been concerns reported in research, comments and submissions that we have heard during our work on electoral fraud. This is one of the reasons we have worked with Crimestoppers to promote awareness of their anonymous crime reporting service ahead of elections since 2015.

2.6 Conversely, the cases of alleged electoral fraud recorded by police forces each year include a significant proportion where police investigations are unable to identify evidence or find insufficient evidence that a crime has been committed or that it was not in the public interest to prosecute (see the analysis of case outcomes below). The total number of cases of alleged electoral fraud reported is not, therefore, an accurate reflection of the scale of electoral fraud in the UK.

Outcome of cases in 2017

2.7 Chart 1 below illustrates the outcome of cases of alleged electoral fraud reported during 2017.

Chart 1: Outcome of cases of alleged electoral fraud reported in 2017



2.8 At the time of publishing this analysis in March 2018 eight suspects had accepted police cautions. There was one conviction following investigation by the police. More detail about each of these cases is provided below.

2.9 An allegation of personation in polling stations led to one successful prosecution and conviction. Of the eight cautions accepted:

- Four were in relation to registration offences.
- One was in relation to a false statement on a nomination form.
- Two were in relation to personation when voting by post.
- One was in relation to the return of election expenses.

2.10 Police forces were awaiting prosecution advice in relation to a further seven cases, in two cases court proceedings had been initiated and one case resulted in an acquittal. Forty four cases remained under investigation.

2.11 In total 82 cases (representing 22% of all cases) were locally resolved by police forces, with informal advice given either by the police or the Returning Officer.

2.12 In 207 cases (representing just over half of all cases of alleged electoral fraud) the police took no further action following the conclusion of their investigations. This included cases where the activity involved was not in fact an offence (74 cases), where there was no evidence that an offence had been committed (52 cases), or where there was insufficient evidence to identify an offender (65 cases). It also included cases which, following investigation, were found not to have involved electoral fraud offences (15 cases). There was an additional case where the police reported 'no further action' with no explanation as to why.

2.13 Based on the data recorded by police forces, there is currently no evidence of any large scale cases of proven electoral fraud relating to the polls held during 2017. We will continue to monitor the outcome of those cases which are still under investigation or awaiting prosecution advice, in order to identify any significant cases which might result in prosecution or a police caution.

Convictions and cautions for electoral fraud in 2017

2.14 The conviction and cautions highlighted show that the actions taken by Returning Officers, police forces and prosecutors to respond to these allegations that they treat electoral fraud with the seriousness which it deserves and ensure that where appropriate offenders are punished.

Metropolitan (UK Parliamentary election, Waltham Forest) – Voting - Personation/legal incapacity to vote/multiple voting (i) Polling station (60-62 and 62A)

Following the general election, an allegation was reported to the police in relation to a social media post by an unknown person on Twitter who openly declared that they had voted twice, once by post and a once in person.

The police undertook enquires which confirmed that the Twitter user had voted twice in the election after they were registered twice at their home address with a minor variance of their name.

The Twitter user was interviewed by the police under caution and following consultation with the Crown Prosecution Service they were subsequently charged.

The Twitter user appeared at Thames Magistrates Court where they pleaded guilty to the offence of multiple voting.

The Twitter user was fined £150, ordered to pay £200 costs and a £30 victim surcharge. They were also banned for 3 years from registering and voting in any election in the UK and are not permitted to being elected to the House of Commons or holding any such elected office.

Derbyshire (Local election, Erewash) – Campaigning - Return of expenses (75-85)

A candidate submitted their expenses outside of regular time limit by the police and the council but failed to do so.

This resulted in a criminal investigation and the offender refused to submit his expenses without any reasonable explanation.

After Crown Prosecution Service advice the candidate was given a formal police caution for failing to submit their expenses which they accepted.

Dyfed-Powys (Local election, Carmarthenshire) – Nomination - False statement (nomination form)(65(A) 1 (i))

The candidate's agent forged the signatures of two electors on the nomination form purporting them to be the true signatures of two nominating electors, both of whom were unaware that their details were being used to nominate the candidate.

This was noted by the electoral administrator who reported it to the police.

Following subsequent investigation, the offender received an adult caution having admitted the offence.

Leicestershire (Local election, Leicester City) – Registration - other registration offences (4 / 12 / 49)

This case was referred to Leicestershire police by Leicester City Council after they received a large number of applications to join the electoral roll at two addresses in Leicester. Both addresses were multi occupancy student addresses however the number applying for registration was suspicious.

Enquires were conducted and the main suspect was identified at another Leicester address. The suspect was arrested and his premises searched during which time two illegal immigrants were found, who have since been deported.

During a search of the main suspect's room evidence was found connecting him to the two premises where the multi-registration applications had been made. He admitted that he had gained access to these addresses for the purpose of setting up frauds and had supplied the local council with false names to set up the registrations. A police caution was given.

Metropolitan (Non-election specific, Hackney) – Registration - False information (13D (1))

A local authority canvasser allegedly provided the election team with a number of false registration forms.

Although the canvasser denied completing the forms incorrectly to the election team, remuneration for the canvassing was not paid.

This matter was then referred to the police and an investigation was initiated. The police conducted interviews at 15 households which showed that the canvasser had not actually visited any of the properties.

The canvasser was interviewed by the police and admitted that the forms were completed fraudulently.

The canvasser was given an adult police caution.

Metropolitan (Non-election specific, Tower Hamlets) – Voting - Personation/legal incapacity to vote/multiple voting (i) Postal vote (60-62 and 62A)

The police were informed by a member of the public that they were concerned about a message that a Facebook user had posted prior to the general election.

The Facebook poster made a plea to their contacts asking them if they did not intend to vote themselves that they should consider letting the Facebook poster use their vote instead.

The police undertook enquires which led to interviewing the Facebook poster who fully admitted posting the post.

The Facebook poster was subsequently issued with a police adult caution.

South Wales (Local election, Cardiff) – Voting - Personation/legal incapacity to vote/multiple voting (i) Postal vote (60-62 and 62A)

An allegation was made that the subject completed three other family members' postal votes as well as their own and submitted them to Cardiff Electoral Services department for inclusion in the election process. A statement was obtained from Cardiff Council together with the postal voting statement and application for each of the postal votes.

The offender was interviewed and statements were obtained from the Electoral Services manager and the husband, son and daughter.

The offender was given a police caution for the offence of making a false instrument contrary to section 1 of the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981.

West Mercia (Non-election specific, Shropshire Council) - Registration - False information (13D (1))

The offender was found to have repeatedly attempted to register himself individually at an address he did not occupy but that had once been owned by his grandparents. The offender applied to register online and was matched to that address by the DWP on several occasions.

After being alerted by the homeowner of this address the offender admitted in an interview with the police that he had no connection with the address he was registering at and was subsequently given a police caution.

West Yorkshire (UK Parliamentary election, Leeds) – Registration - False information (13D (1))

The offender was working as an Electoral Registration Visiting Officer whose role involved conducting door to door enquiries and requesting that the occupants complete Household Enquiry Forms.

It is alleged that the offender did not carry out these visits or attend any of the required properties and instead falsified electoral documents by signing them in the names of the occupiers.

The offender's explanation for this was that they had misunderstood their training and believed that they were able to sign the forms on behalf of the occupier if they had refused to do so themselves. They also claimed that some occupants signed next to the names of former occupants of the property. Additionally, they claimed that their 8 year old son had signed one of the forms.

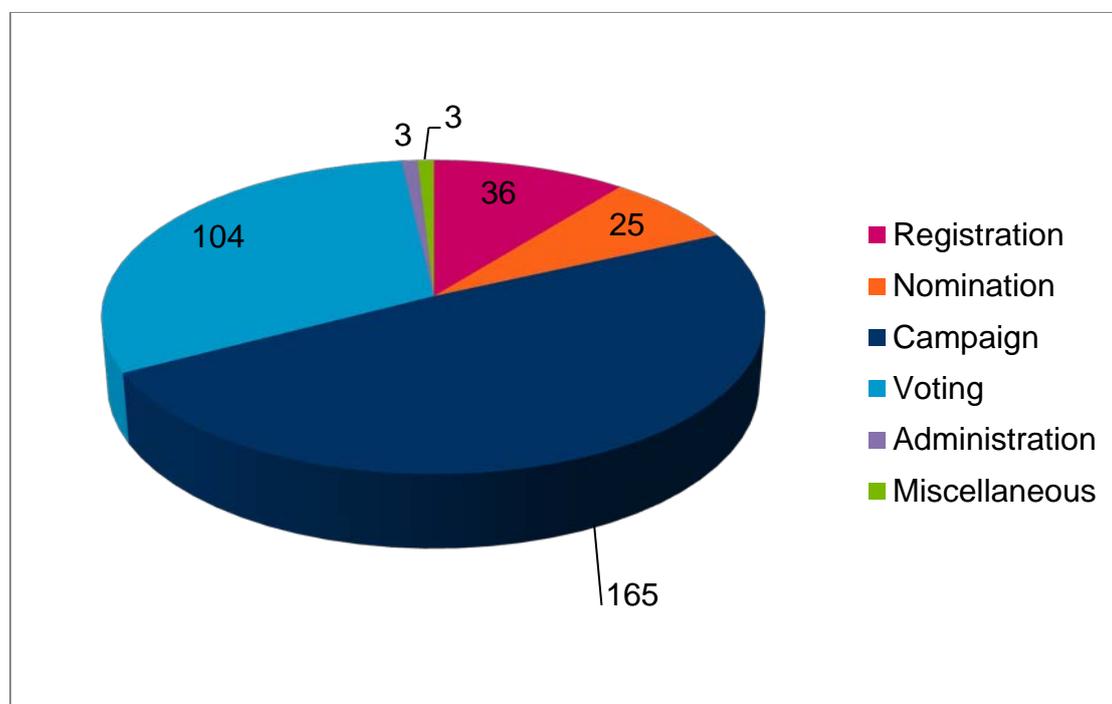
All of the above explanations were rejected by the Electoral Services Manager and the offender was interviewed and given a conditional caution for fraud by false representation.

Categories of cases reported in 2017

2.15 As shown in Chart 2 below, the number of cases in each category of alleged electoral fraud offences recorded by police forces during 2017 were:

- **Voting** – 104 cases, accounting for 31% of all reported cases
- **Campaign** – 165 cases, accounting for 49% of all reported cases
- **Nomination** – 25 cases, accounting for 7% of all reported cases
- **Registration** – 36 cases, accounting for 11% of all reported cases
- **Administration** – 3 cases, accounting for 1% of all reported cases
- **Miscellaneous** – 3 cases, accounting for 1% of all reported cases

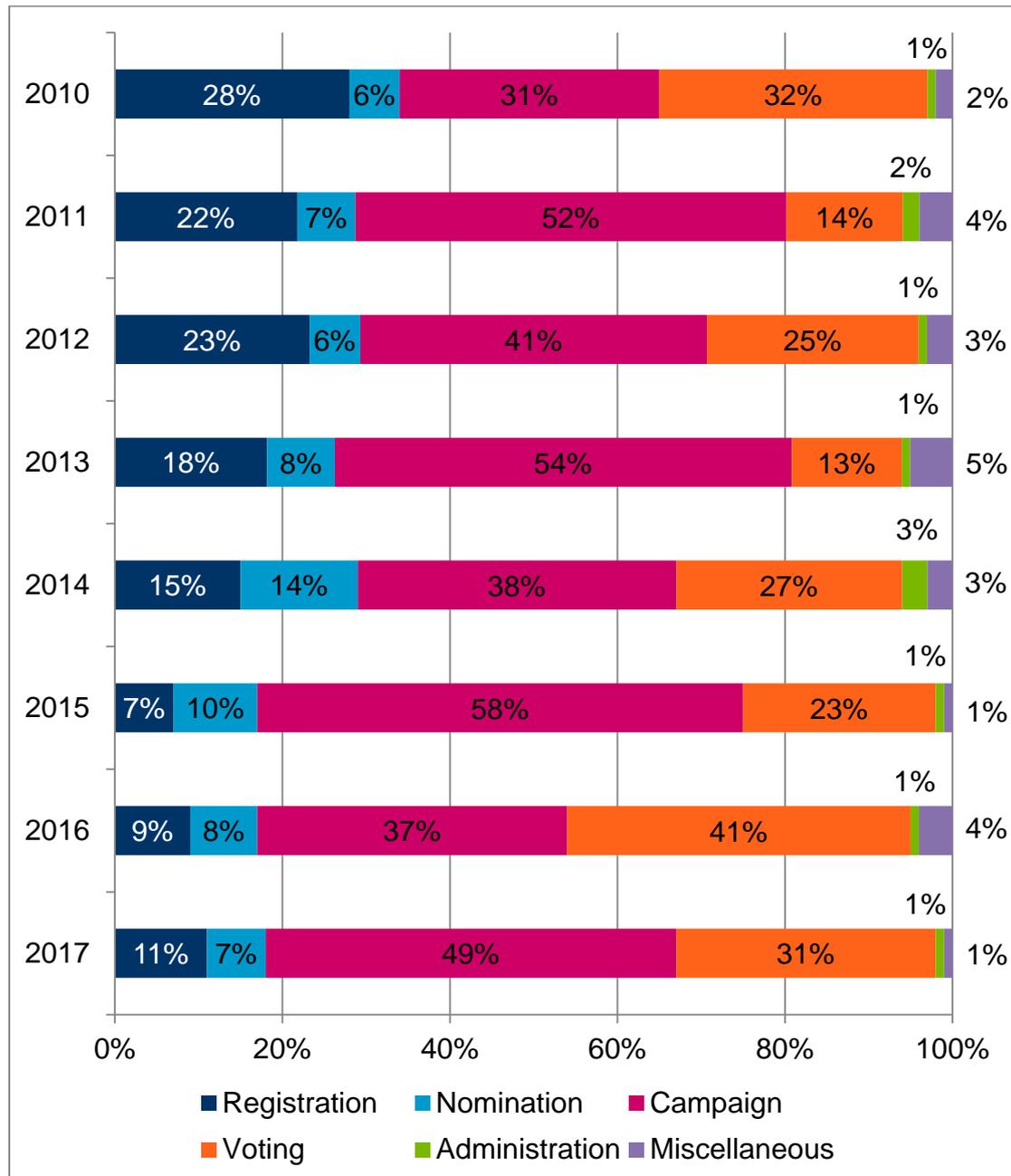
Chart 2: Number of cases in each category of alleged electoral fraud offences reported in 2017



2.16 A detailed analysis of each of these categories of offence can be found in appendix A.

2.17 Chart 3 below shows the different categories of cases of alleged electoral fraud recorded by police forces since 2010, as a proportion of the total recorded each year.

Chart 3: Categories of cases of alleged electoral fraud recorded by police forces since 2010⁴



2.18 Chart 3 shows that there has been a reduction in the proportion of cases of alleged electoral fraud which related to voting offences, after an increase in 2016, although this is still higher than in previous years.

2.19 There was also a decrease in the number of cases relating to allegations of personation in polling stations from 2016 when there had been an increase

⁴ The information in this chart includes updated figures for 2015 and 2016.

– there were 21 cases in 2014, 26 in 2015, 45 cases in 2016 and 28 cases in 2017.

Allegations of double voting

2.20 In the days following the June 2017 UK general election, a number of people on social media claimed they had voted twice at the general election. We received a significant amount of correspondence referring to these social media posts – our report on electoral registration at the 2017 UKPGE noted that at the time of publication we had received 1,013 emails and 15 telephone calls from members of the public referring to media reports about these claims.

2.21 To date, we have received 60 letters from 47 MPs raising constituents' concerns on this issue.

2.22 The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) has collated information from police forces across the UK about the current status of their investigations into allegations of double voting. In December 2017 we reported that a total of 17 individual allegations of double voting had been identified from claims made directly to the police or indirectly via elected representatives, the press or social media.

2.23 By the end of January 2018, we had received notification of five allegations of electoral fraud which related to double voting from police SPOCs.⁵

2.24 As detailed above one of these cases resulted in a conviction. Two cases resulted in no further action following the conclusion of police investigations; one was classed as 'other' and deemed not in the public interest to prosecute; and the remaining case is still under investigation.

Geographical distribution of cases of alleged electoral fraud

2.25 Table 2 below shows the number of cases of alleged fraud recorded by each force during 2017. This number does not include complaints made to the police which did not involve an RPA offence.

2.26 Eight forces recorded no cases of alleged electoral fraud during 2017 or had not returned information by 31 January. These forces were:

- Bedfordshire Police
- City of London Police
- Dorset Police

⁵ The remaining 12 allegations may not have been recorded by police forces, or could have been included in the data returns which had not been submitted to us by 31 January 2018.

- Essex Police
- Gwent Police
- North Wales Police
- Surrey Police
- West Midlands Police

2.27 A detailed breakdown by police force (of the number of cases and allegations in 2017, with details of the RPA offence and their outcomes) is on [our website](#).

Table 2: Number of cases of alleged electoral fraud recorded by UK police forces in 2017

| Police Force | Number of cases |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Metropolitan Police Service | 57 |
| West Yorkshire Police | 29 |
| Devon and Cornwall Constabulary | 21 |
| West Mercia Police | 21 |
| Lincolnshire Police | 16 |
| Northumbria Police | 15 |
| Nottinghamshire Police | 14 |
| Durham Constabulary | 13 |
| Police Service of Northern Ireland | 10 |
| South Wales Police | 10 |
| Warwickshire Police | 10 |
| Hertfordshire Constabulary | 8 |
| Staffordshire Police | 8 |
| Cambridgeshire Constabulary | 7 |
| Gloucestershire Constabulary | 7 |
| Lancashire Constabulary | 7 |
| Police Scotland | 6 |
| South Yorkshire Police | 6 |
| Avon and Somerset Constabulary | 5 |
| Cheshire Constabulary | 5 |
| Cumbria Constabulary | 5 |
| Derbyshire Constabulary | 5 |
| Greater Manchester Police | 5 |
| Hampshire Constabulary | 5 |
| Leicestershire Constabulary | 5 |
| Norfolk Constabulary | 5 |
| Cleveland Police | 4 |
| Humberside Police | 4 |
| Sussex Police | 4 |
| Kent Police | 4 |

| Police Force | Number of cases |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Merseyside Police | 4 |
| North Yorkshire Police | 3 |
| Thames Valley Police | 3 |
| Dyfed-Powys Police | 2 |
| Northamptonshire Police | 1 |
| Suffolk Constabulary | 1 |
| Wiltshire Police | 1 |

2.28 Our analysis of the data reported by police forces shows that in relation to the majority of individual local authority areas, only one or two cases of alleged electoral were recorded.

2.29 Police forces recorded more than ten cases in only five individual local authority areas:

- 11 cases were recorded in relation to Northumberland
- 13 cases were recorded in relation to County Durham
- 14 cases were recorded in relation to Bradford
- 14 cases were recorded in relation to Cornwall
- 16 cases were recorded in relation to Tower Hamlets

2.30 Bradford and Tower Hamlets are both areas where we have previously identified a higher risk of allegations of electoral fraud, and where the respective Returning Officers and police forces have already taken steps to put in place additional actions to tackle electoral fraud which go further than the plans we would normally expect to see in areas with a lower risk of fraud allegations.

Cases of alleged electoral fraud by election type

2.31 Table 3 below shows the number of cases of alleged electoral fraud broken down by election type. This number does not include complaints made to the police which did not involve an RPA offence.

Table 3: Number of cases of alleged electoral fraud recorded by UK police forces in 2017

| Election type | Number of cases |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Northern Ireland Assembly | 1 |
| Local government – England | 129 |
| Local government – Wales | 11 |
| Scottish Council | 3 |
| Combined Authority Mayoral | 0 |
| Local mayoral | 10 |
| UK Parliamentary general election | 148 |
| UK Parliamentary by-election | 7 |

| Election type | Number of cases |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Parish | 6 |
| Local by-election | 1 |

2.32 A further 20 cases were recorded as non-election specific, such as rolling electoral registration.

Appendix A: Analysis of cases of alleged electoral fraud reported in 2017

Here we provide an analysis of cases of alleged electoral fraud reported in 2017 as defined in the Representation of the People Act 1983 (RPA 1983). The RPA 1983 defines most offences for UK Parliamentary general elections, English local government elections and for electoral registration and postal voting issues across the UK. Details of these can be found on our [website](#).

Most offences under the RPA 1983 are classified as corrupt or illegal practices. Corrupt practices are indictable with a maximum penalty of imprisonment for one year and/or a fine, except for the offences of personation and making a false application to vote by post or proxy, where the maximum penalty is imprisonment for up to two years and/or a fine. Illegal practices are summary offences and subject to a fine.

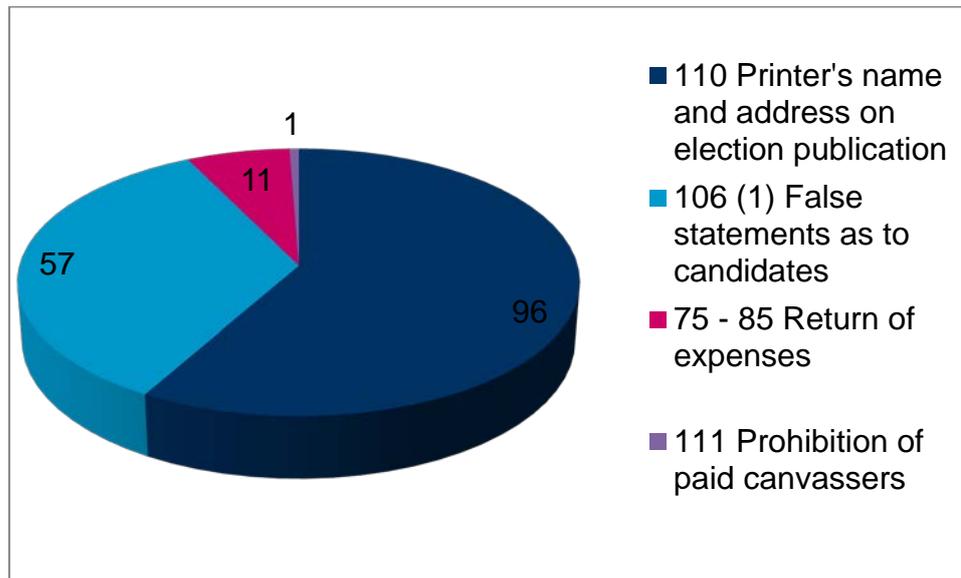
Campaign cases

Almost half of all reported cases of alleged electoral fraud (165 cases, representing 49% of the total) related to campaigning offences.

As shown in the chart below, the most frequently reported types of campaign case related to the offence of failing to include details about the printer, promoter and/or publisher on election material, referred to as an 'imprint' (96 cases). The offence of making false statement of fact about the personal character or conduct of a candidate was the second most reported campaign offence (57cases).

Of the remainder, 11 cases related to candidate election expenses offences and 1 to prohibition of paid canvassers.

Chart A1: Breakdown of cases of alleged electoral fraud relating to campaign offences



The number of offences does not match the number of campaigning cases as there were four cases with more than one suspect and multiple outcomes.

In the majority of cases of alleged electoral fraud relating to campaigning offences the police took no further action following the conclusion of their investigations – 89 cases. In 34 of these cases this was because it was clear that no offence had been committed, while in a further eight cases the police identified that the alleged offence did not involve electoral fraud. In 27 cases the police found insufficient evidence to conclude their investigation, and in a further 20 cases it was not possible to identify a suspect.

Sixty one cases were locally resolved by police forces, with advice given either by the police or the Returning Officer.

A further 22 cases remain under investigation; one is awaiting prosecution advice; and one where court proceedings have been initiated. There were eight cases where the police reported an outcome of 'other'.

A police caution was accepted for a return of expenses case.

Voting cases

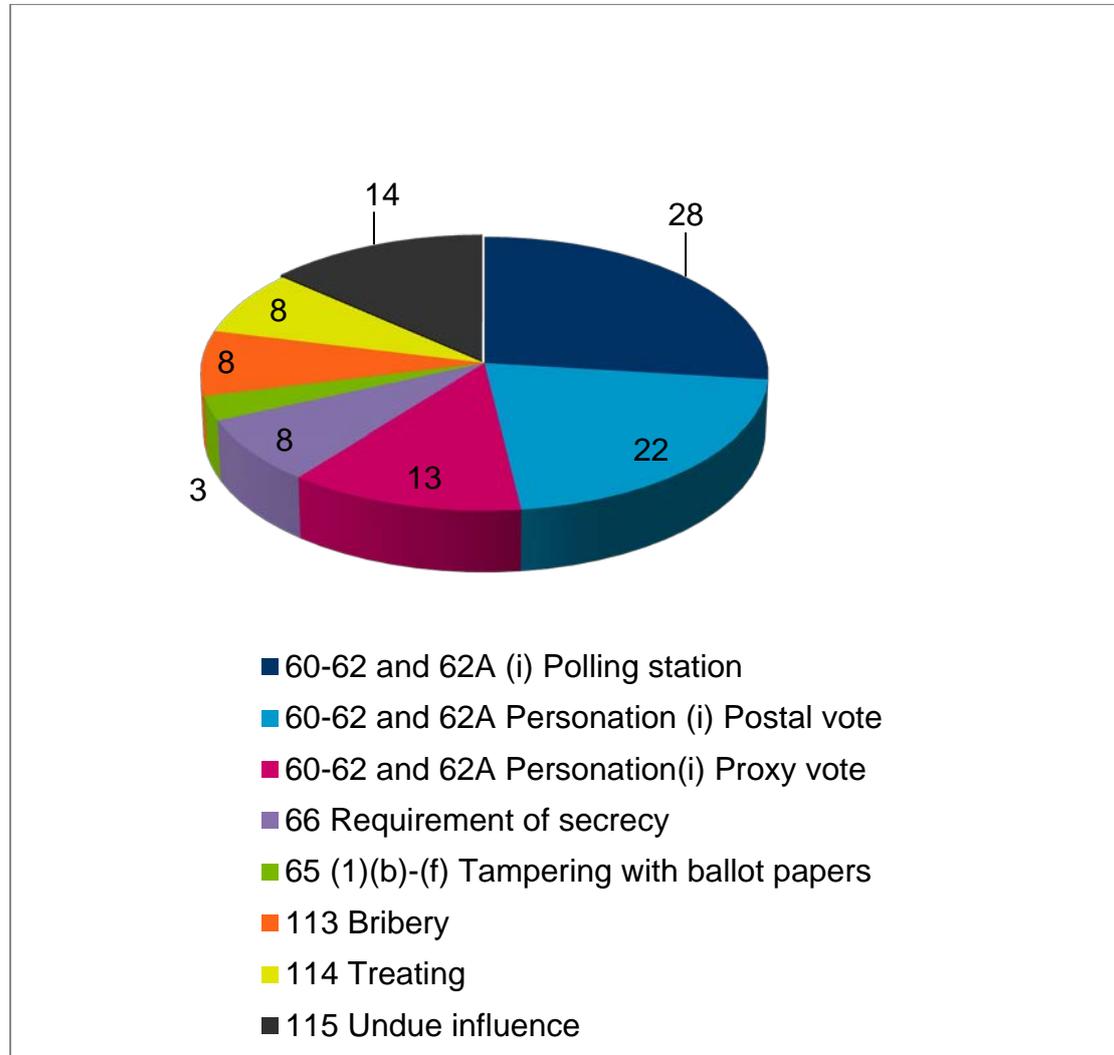
Our analysis shows that 31% of all reported cases of alleged electoral fraud (104 cases) relate to alleged voting offences.

As shown in chart A2 the most frequently reported types of voting case related to the offence of personation (voting as someone else) either at a polling station (28 cases), using a postal vote (22 cases) or using a proxy vote (13 cases). A further 14 cases related to the offence of undue influence.

The remaining voting cases related to attempts to tamper with ballot papers (three cases), breaches of secrecy requirements (eight cases), alleged bribery

(eight cases) and treating – providing food or drink to influence a voter to vote in a particular way (eight cases).

Chart A2: Breakdown of cases of alleged electoral fraud relating to voting offences



The number of offences does not match the number of voting cases as five cases consisted of more than one suspect with differing allegations.

In the majority of cases of alleged electoral fraud relating to voting offences (a total of 74 cases) police forces took no further action following the conclusion of their investigations. In 22 cases this was because it was clear that no offence had been committed, while in four cases the police identified that the alleged offence did not involve electoral fraud. In 23 cases the police found insufficient evidence to conclude their investigation, in 24 cases it was not possible to identify a suspect and in a further 4 cases it was found not to be a RPA offence. In the remaining case the police did not record the reason for no further action.

A total of 16 cases relating to alleged voting offences were locally resolved by police forces, with advice given either by the police or the Returning Officer. A further 11 cases are under investigation and three are awaiting prosecution

advice. There were five cases where the police reported an outcome of 'other'.

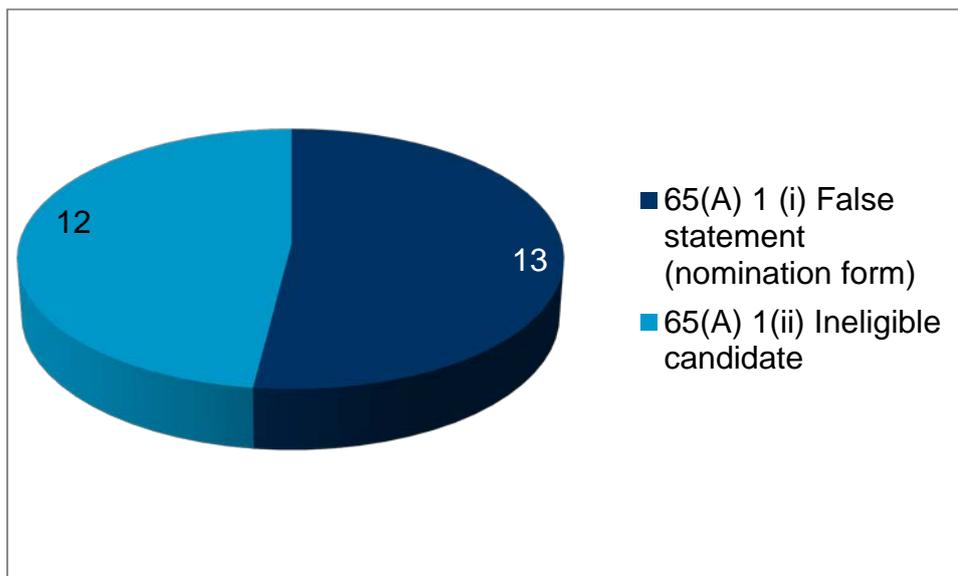
One case resulted in a conviction, relating to personation at a polling station. Two cases relating to alleged postal vote personation resulted in police cautions.

Nomination cases

Cases of alleged electoral fraud relating to nomination offences accounted for 25 cases, seven per cent of the total number of cases reported.

As shown in the chart below, the most frequently reported type of nomination case related to the offence of making a false statement in a nomination form (13 cases). A further 12 cases related to allegations that a candidate was ineligible to stand.

Chart A3: Breakdown of cases of alleged electoral fraud relating to nomination cases



The number of offences does not match the number of nomination cases as one case consisted of two suspects with differing allegations.

In the majority of cases of alleged electoral fraud relating to nomination offences (a total of 18 cases) police forces took no further action following the conclusion of their investigations. In nine cases this was because it was clear that no offence had been committed. In seven cases the police found insufficient evidence to conclude their investigation. In two cases it was not possible to identify a suspect.

One case relating to alleged nomination offences for an ineligible candidate was locally resolved by police forces, with advice given either by the police or the Returning Officer. A further four cases remain under investigation and two are awaiting prosecution advice.

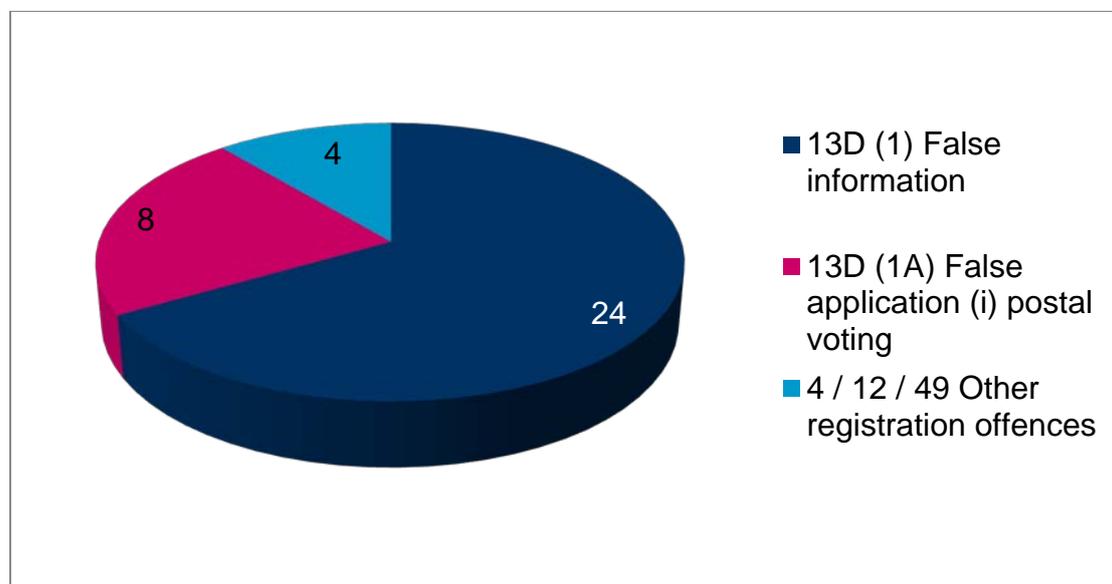
One case relating to allegations that a false statement was made on nomination papers for a local government election resulted in a police caution.

Electoral registration cases

Cases of alleged electoral fraud relating to electoral registration offences accounted for 11% of the total reported in 2017 (36 cases).

As shown in the chart below, the most frequently reported type of registration case related to the offence of providing false information in an electoral registration application (24 cases). Eight cases were related to the offence of providing false information in a postal voting application, and a further four cases were categorised as 'other registration offences'.

Chart A4: Breakdown of cases of alleged electoral fraud relating to registration cases



In the majority of cases of alleged electoral fraud relating to electoral registration offences (a total of 20 cases) police forces took no further action following the conclusion of their investigations. In six cases this was because it was clear that no offence had been committed. In eight cases the police found insufficient evidence to identify an offender, one other case was found not be a RPA offence and in a further five cases it was not possible to identify a suspect.

A total of four cases relating to alleged electoral registration offences were locally resolved by police forces, with advice given either by the police or the Electoral Registration or Returning Officer. A further seven cases are under investigation. There was one case where the police reported an outcome of 'other'.

Three cases relating to an allegation of providing false information in a registration application and one 'other' case accepted police cautions.

Other complaints about elections

In addition to cases of alleged electoral fraud, police forces also recorded 69 other complaints about elections which, although allocated to an offence category in the police returns, did not relate to allegations of electoral fraud. These included allegations of: theft or damage to property, election material or vehicles; stalking; trespassing; taunting; blocking a polling station car park; malicious communications, racist comments; offensive tweets or letters; assault; intimidating canvassers; and copyright infringement.

Appendix B – Summary of polls held in 2017

Table B1: Participation at electoral events during 2017

| Election | Date | Number of seats contested | Electorate | Votes cast | Turnout |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Northern Ireland Assembly election | 2 March | 90 | 1,254,709 | 812,783 | 64.8% |
| English local government elections | 4 May | | 18,800,046 | 6,583,306 | 35.0% |
| Combined Authority Mayoral elections | | 6 | 6,827,015 | 1,895,781 | 27.8% |
| Scottish council elections | | 1227 | 4,110,790 | 1,927,149 | 46.9% |
| Welsh local government elections | | 1161 | 2,279,216 | 895,943 | 42.0% |
| Mayoral – North Tyneside | | 1 | 154,506 | 52,921 | 34.3% |
| Mayoral - Doncaster | | 1 | 221,789 | 65,104 | 29.4% |
| UKPGE | 8 June | 650 | 46,835,433 | 32,294,928 | 69.0% |
| UK Parliamentary by-elections: | | | | | |
| Copeland | 23 Feb | 1 | 60,602 | 31,108 | 51.3% |
| Stoke | 23 Feb | 1 | 57,701 | 21,200 | 38.2% |

Appendix C: Updated data on outcomes from cases reported in 2015 and 2016

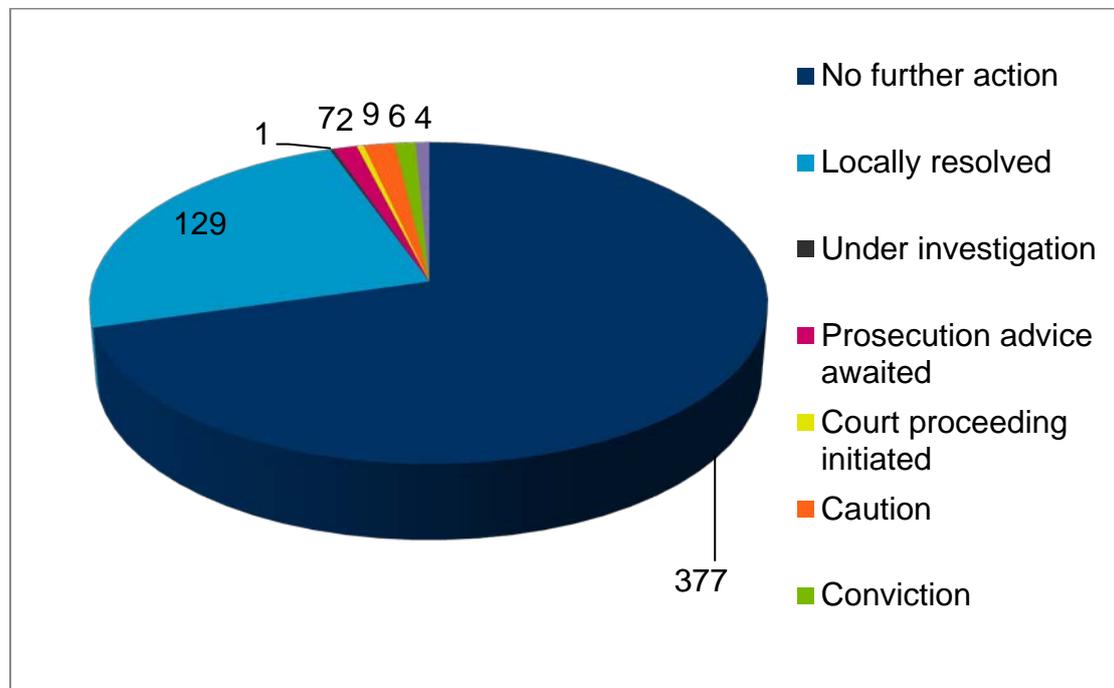
2015 cases update

Our March 2017 analysis of cases of alleged electoral fraud in 2015 reported that police forces had recorded 481 cases of alleged electoral fraud offences, and 184 other complaints.

Since the publication of this report, further cases and complaints have since been reported by the police in relation to 2015 polls. This means that there is now a total of 518 cases of alleged electoral fraud offences and 167 other complaints.

Chart C2 illustrates the outcome of cases of alleged electoral fraud reported for 2015. Only one case remains under investigation from 2015 which relates to a false statement on a nomination form.

Chart C2: Outcome of cases of alleged electoral fraud reported in 2015



The cases that resulted in no further action included cases where the activity involved was not in fact an offence (188 cases), where there was no evidence that an offence had been committed (133 cases), or where there was insufficient evidence to identify an offender (39 cases), and where, following

investigation, they were found not to have involved electoral fraud offences (11 cases). In four cases there was insufficient evidence to proceed and in two cases the reason was not specified.

2015 convictions

Since our report in 2017, we have been made aware of three further convictions. No further police cautions were accepted. Details of these cases are provided below:

Northumbria (UK Parliamentary general election, Northumberland) – registration - false information (Section 13D (1))

In 2014 a house in Belford, Northumberland was purchased by new owners. They soon received several correspondences and missed postal delivery messages for an individual's company which was listed at the address but did not reside there.

The new owners contacted the police and informed them of their suspicions that someone was using their address for fraud.

The owners were also contacted by their neighbour who stated that parcels had been attempted to be delivered to the address and were taken in by them. The new owners described how a male had then attended the address to try to get the parcels and that he had noticed a female sitting waiting in a car. The owners retained these parcels and handed them to police along with the missed delivery notices.

The owners sent an email to the Senior Elections Manager at Northumberland County Council, expressing concern that the suspect was registered on the electoral roll at the address. Enquiries established that an online application had been submitted by the suspect to be added to the electoral roll at the address, and they had applied for a postal vote.

The applications were passed to the elections team as further information was required. The suspect was written to requesting documentary proof of identification, and a copy of their driving licence was provided with the Belford address attached. The application was, therefore, successful. Later, a letter was sent to the suspect informing her that if she did not contact them she would be removed from the register.

A fraud investigation commenced which resulted in the suspect being charged with sixteen counts of fraud including the electoral offence. The extent of their offending included the opening of multiple bank accounts, multiple credit cards and mobile phone accounts. It appears that the suspect had deliberately put her name on the electoral roll in relation to the Belford address and then used this to open utility accounts.

A mortgage fraud was also identified dating from a purchase of a property in May 2005 where the employment details and income declared have been false. During the course of the frauds, the suspect used many alias names.

On 31st October 2016 the suspect attended Newcastle Crown Court where they were convicted of all 16 counts of fraud.

The suspect received an eight month prison sentence suspended for 18 months for fraud by false representation and a four month prison sentence suspended for 18 months for providing false information to the registration officer.

Sussex (combined UK Parliamentary general election and local election, Brighton and Hove) - Miscellaneous

The suspect was arrested for pushing two election tellers from the Green Party whilst outside a polling station. Although not a specific electoral offence, it was recorded due to its link with the electoral process. Evidence was gathered and the suspect interviewed. The individual was charged with common assault. He was found guilty, given a 12 month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £520 criminal courts charge, £150 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

West Yorkshire (UK Parliamentary general election and local election combined, Bradford) – Campaigning, 75 - 85 return of expenses

The suspect procured funds from the Government by making false representation that the funds would be used to support workers to assist with the election. It is ascertained that no support workers were hired and, therefore, suspect acquired £5760.00 by false representation.

The suspect pleaded guilty to four counts of fraud having been committed between February and May 2015, amounting to a total of £6832.00. The complainants in this case were Digital Outreach Limited, Glossop who were running a Government based scheme to help fund and support people with disabilities with election campaigning.

They were sentenced to 12 weeks custody suspended for 12 months and were also ordered to pay back £1000 compensation.

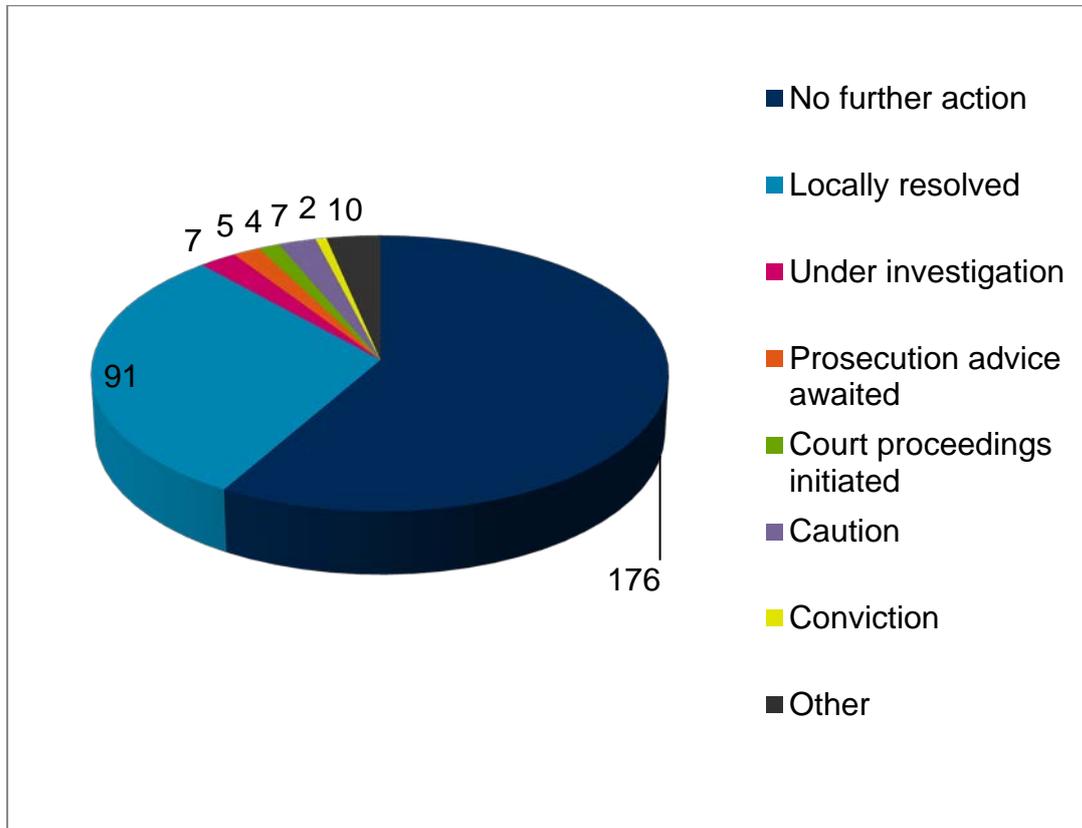
2016 cases update

Our March 2017 analysis of cases of alleged electoral fraud in 2016 reported that police forces had recorded 260 cases of alleged electoral fraud offences, and 27 other complaints.

Since the publication of this report, further cases of alleged electoral fraud have since been recorded by the police in relation to 2016 polls. This means that there are now a total of 291 cases of alleged electoral fraud offences and now only two other complaints. This is explained by the fact that police forces

have since been able to categorise some of the complaints previously recorded as RPA offences.

Chart C3: Outcome of cases of alleged electoral fraud reported in 2016



There were no further convictions reported relating to 2016 cases in 2017.

The cases that resulted in no further action included cases where the activity involved was not in fact an offence (64 cases), where there was no evidence that an offence had been committed (65 cases) or where there was insufficient evidence to identify an offender (19 cases), and where, following investigation, they were found not to have involved electoral fraud offences (23 cases). In two cases there was insufficient evidence to proceed and in three cases the reason was not specified.