

The Political and Constitutional Reform (PCR) Committee has today published its report on the Government's proposals for Individual Electoral Registration. The Electoral Commission was grateful for the opportunity to give written and oral evidence to the Committee's inquiry, as part of the important pre-legislative scrutiny of the Government's plans. We are pleased that the Committee's report adds to the wide support for the introduction of individual electoral registration (IER), which we have been calling for since 2003.

In our [evidence](#) to the PCR Committee, and our [response](#) to the Government's White Paper, we made a number of recommendations concerning the implementation of IER, the most important of which are highlighted below. We are pleased that the PCR committee has carefully considered these recommendations and supports many of them.

The UK Government and UK Parliament:

- Should require EROs to run a **full household canvass in 2014**, which should also be used to explain to electors that the system is changing. This should be followed as soon as practicable by a separate process of collecting identifying information from each elector identified as eligible in that canvass. (PCR recommendation 10).
- **Should not pursue the proposal to "opt-out"**, to allow a person to respond to an invitation to register by indicating that they do not wish to be chased (PCR recommendation 2).
- Should publish a **detailed implementation plan** at the same time as they introduce legislation on IER to the UK Parliament (PCR recommendation 14).
- Should consider how to ensure that the **change is delivered consistently**, and that electors receive a consistent service, across Great Britain. In particular, they should consider our proposal that the Commission should be given a power to intervene where necessary, to ensure that EROs take steps to meet agreed performance standards (PCR recommendation 15).
- Should **ensure that sufficient funding is available** for the activities involved in implementing the change from household to individual electoral registration (PCR recommendation 16).

We are particularly glad to see the Committee has recognised the strength of our concerns about the proposed registration 'opt out'. We want the Government to give this cross-party report serious consideration and make improvements to the legislation before it is introduced to Parliament.

Today's PCR Committee report also made a number of additional recommendations that we support including:

- That the Electoral Commission's public information campaign for IER includes strands aimed at encouraging those in groups currently under-represented on the electoral rolls to register to vote.
- Calling on the Government in its response to the PCR committee report, to set out its position on each of the Electoral Commission's proposals for further reform of electoral administration law.