

Rt Hon Sadiq Khan MP
Shadow Secretary of State for Justice
House of Commons

London
SW1A 0AA

9 November 2011

Dear Sadiq,

The Law Commission Review of Electoral Administration Law: Our preliminary views on the scope of the review

As I am sure you are aware, the Law Commission has agreed to include a review of Electoral Law in their 11th programme.

The legal framework which underpins elections has developed into a highly complex area of law which is under strain and marked by a number of problems. We have long argued that electoral registration needs modernisation and reform, in order to make it simpler, more consistent and more coherent. We believe that this will benefit those involved in running elections, those standing for election and, most importantly, those wishing to cast their vote.

We are delighted that the Law Commission has chosen to accept our suggestion for this review and thought that you would be interested to know that they have now set out an agenda for the work. The initial task of clarifying the scope of the review is significant as there are many potential permutations in terms of the size and scale of the task - from pure consolidation of existing provisions to whole scale reform of the legislation in this area.

Given that the scoping phase represents a significant stage of the process, the Electoral Commission has, this week, submitted a paper to the Law Commission which sets out the broad issues that we believe should be included in the review, and the outcomes we want to see, and we thought that you might be interested to see our emerging thinking in this area.

As we understand, the Law Commission intends to consult on their proposed scope for the review during the second half of next year, so we will continue to consider and develop our views in more detail during this period and will keep you informed of any further submissions we may make.

I do hope that we can rely on your support for this important project of law reform and that you find this paper of interest. We would find it very useful to meet with you to discuss the review in more detail and to this end my colleagues will contact your office to try to arrange a suitable time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny Watson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jenny Watson
Chair

Approved by the Chair and electronically signed in her absence