[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 24 February 2023 09:06
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 008-23 - Response

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI-008-23

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 30 January 2023.

The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly and has done so within the statutory timeframe of twenty working days.

Your request is shown below followed by our response.

Please treat this as a Freedom of Information request. With regard to the new rules on photo ID:
- What assessment have you made of the potential disfranchisement resulting from this? What percentage of the population currently has no relevant photo ID? What percentage of voters do you expect to be turned away on the day? What assessment have you made of the impact across various demographics, e.g. age, race?
- Why are so many accepted photo IDs focussed on the elderly but none on younger voters, e.g. student travel cards?
- Apart from putting this information on your website what are you doing to proactively make sure that every voter is aware of this change, sufficiently in advance to get a new ID and/or to avoid wasted journeys on the day.

Our response is as follows:

We hold some of the information you have requested.

The Commission has carried out public opinion research to estimate the proportion of people that do not have any of the accepted ID types. The findings are published here on our website.

The research showed that across the UK 3% of people aged 18+ said they did not have any of the ID types and a further 1% said they did but with an unrecognisable photo. These figures varied by demographics with those in lower social grades, the unemployed and disabled people less likely to hold ID.

The Commission will be reporting on the impact of the voter ID requirement at the May 2023 elections. This report will be based on data gathered from Returning Officers as well as other research such as public opinion surveying. The data and report will be published on our website.

The Commission is running a public awareness campaign ahead of the May 2023 local elections to tell people about the new requirement to show ID as well as to highlight the Voter Authority Certificate option for those with no pre-existing ID. This campaign has been running since 9 January 2023.

The list of specified ID was proposed by the UK Government and voted on by Parliament.

The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority and I trust that this information satisfies your request.

If you are not satisfied with this response, please note that the Commission operates a review procedure, details of which can be found on the Commission website at: https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/freedom-information/make-a-freedom-information-request.

Please also note that if you have exhausted all internal Commission review procedures and you are still not satisfied you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner. Details of this procedure can be found on the ICO website: https://ico.org.uk/.

Yours sincerely

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The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk