

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



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Publication of our interim analysis of the implementation of voter ID

We have today published our [interim analysis of the implementation of the voter ID requirement](#) at the May 2023 local government elections in England.

Our report provides information and evidence about how the new voter ID requirement was implemented and how voters found taking part. It looks at evidence from large-scale public opinion research carried out before and after the elections, and polling station data from the majority of local authorities that held polls this year.

Key findings highlighted in the report include:

- Our public opinion survey found 4% of all people who said they did not vote at the elections on 4 May listed the ID requirement as the reason. 3% said they did not have the necessary ID, and 1% said they disagreed with the new requirement.
- Of those that went to polling stations on 4 May, 0.25% of people who tried to vote were not issued with a ballot paper because of the new voter ID requirement. The data suggests that approximately 14,000 voters who went to a polling station were not able to vote as a result of not being able to show ID.
- There were high awareness levels of the new requirement (87% immediately before the poll, and 92% immediately after). However there were lower levels of awareness among those without ID (74%).
- Awareness of the Voter Authority Certificate was at 57% both among the overall population and those who said they did not already have photo ID.
- 89,552 people applied for a Voter Authority Certificate before the deadline and approximately 25,000 certificates were used as a form of ID on 4 May. The number of certificates issued

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EA Bulletins are issued on a regular basis. They are one of our key channels for communicating with Returning Officers, Electoral Registration Officers and their staff. Past issues of Bulletins for England, Scotland and Wales are available [here](#). You can also [subscribe to the EA Bulletins](#).

Please [keep us informed](#) of any staff changes within your team. This will help us to keep our mailing lists up-to-date.

We are sending you this newsletter as it contains important information about the Electoral Commission's work which is relevant to you. The newsletter forms part of the Electoral Commission's public task which has its basis in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. We will manage your personal information and contact details in line with the General Data Protection Regulation and UK data protection legislation as outlined in our privacy notice (<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/privacy-notice>)

and used was low compared with estimates of the number of voters who might not have any other accepted ID.

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- At least 0.7% of people who tried to vote at a polling station were initially turned away but around two thirds of those people (63%) returned later in the day and were able to vote.
- The data also suggests that disabled people and those who are unemployed were more likely than other groups to give a reason related to ID for not voting. Where the relevant data is available, there is also some correlation between the numbers turned away and specific socio-demographic factors, such as ethnicity and unemployment.

Our report is based on data recorded by polling station staff in May, and we are grateful for the quick return of this data after polling day.

Our report recommends that data on the impact of voter ID should continue to be collected at future elections, even where there is currently no legal duty to do so. We have also recommended reviewing the data collection form and polling station procedures to help improve the process for staff and the data quality.

There are several areas where further analysis is necessary to establish a clearer and fuller picture and they are highlighted through the report. We will publish our full report on the May 2023 elections in September and that will include this additional analysis.

Our September report will also draw on a wider range of information sources, including feedback from candidates, Returning Officers, polling station staff, election observers, charities and civil society organisations and the police. It will also look at the other key changes introduced by the Elections Act, in particular the new accessibility of elections duties.

Website improvement project

We're always looking for ways to make our website better, so that it's easier for you to find and understand the information you need.

We're currently working on improving the structure, navigation and menu of our website. Our data shows that it's not always easy to find certain information, and we know this can be confusing and sometimes frustrating.

We're keen for real life website users to help us, and we'd like you to complete a [short survey](#), so we can make positive improvements to the structure and navigation of the site.

There are 10 quick tasks, and it shouldn't take longer than 5 minutes to complete them all. We'll ask you where you'd expect to find certain information on our site, and you'll be asked to choose from a list of options. There are no right or wrong answers, and what you select will help to show us what works and what we still need to think about.

The results will inform the next stage of our work. We won't be making any significant changes to the website structure and navigation without letting you know in advance. While the guidance may be accessed from a slightly different place, and will not be

through the 'I am a...' menu in the future, the functionality, structure and content you're used to within it will not be changing as part of this project.

We really appreciate your feedback, and your time.

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