



Our Ref: MFC/2497

Cat Smith MP
House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA

22 July 2019

Dear Cat,

Subject: Publication of Voter ID Evaluation

Today, the Government published its evaluation of the voter ID pilots conducted across 10 local authorities at the local elections in May this year. In parallel, the Electoral Commission also published a separate evaluation into the same pilots, in line with its statutory duties.

The Government's evaluation is an important tool that will help to inform how best to progress towards making the presentation of ID before voting a national requirement.

This year's voter ID trial was a success. It built on the positive results of last year's pilots, and showed an increase in important measurements, such as voter confidence in the vote casting process. In particular, the 2019 evaluation found that:

- The overwhelming majority of people who came to polling stations were able to cast their vote: between 99.5% and 99.8%, depending on the type of ID required.
- People asked to present a poll card or a combination of photographic and other (mixed) ID were significantly more confident in, and remain satisfied with, the process of casting their vote.
- 100 voters across Pendle and Woking, testing the photographic model, presented a form of photo ID produced free-of-charge by their councils.
- Woking piloted voter ID for a second year and found the number of people who did not return after being asked to present ID decreased from 2018. Their electoral services teams surmised this could be due to local electors viewing the requirements as 'the new normal'.
- Perceptions there were sufficient safeguards in place to prevent voter fraud at polling stations increased by between five and six percentage points among those asked to present photographic or mixed ID.
- People surveyed in areas using the photographic ID model were also more likely to disagree that there could be enough fraud at polling stations to influence an election result - with disagreement with that view increasing by five percentage points from before to after polling day.

These results show an overall high level of success and very small levels of disruption for all types of ID used, including where voters were asked to present photo ID.

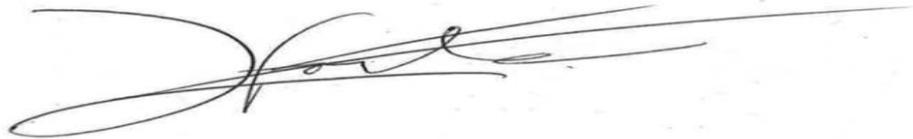
Our next steps will be first to consider the evaluation, and continue to work closely with important stakeholders such as local authority chief executives and a wide range of community representative groups. Consulting them has enabled us to develop voter ID measures that take account of individual voters' needs, to make sure there is sufficient awareness in local communities and to design measures that are practical for electoral administrators to deliver on the ground.

After consideration of the evaluations, we will then look to decide which types of ID should be accepted as valid when voter ID becomes a national requirement, and prepare legislation to implement this requirement.

I have published a written ministerial statement today to announce the publication of our evaluation and its main findings. This letter and a copy of the Cabinet Office Evaluation of Voter ID Pilots 2019 will also be deposited in the libraries of both Houses.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Foster', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin Foster MP