

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE ELECTORAL REGISTRATION AND ADMINISTRATION ACT 2013

Further Call for Evidence

Introduction

The House of Lords Select Committee on the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 was appointed to carry out post-legislative scrutiny of the Act and to make recommendations to the Government. Following the 2019 Parliamentary election, the Committee has recently been reappointed and is required to agree its report by 23 June 2020.

The individual electoral registration system introduced by the Act, along with the ability to register online, has changed the way people register to vote and led to an “event-driven” registration cycle, with significant increases in applications to register during major election periods.

Since the Act was first implemented there have been a higher than usual number of major elections. These have included the UK Parliamentary elections in 2015, 2017 and 2019, as well as the 2016 EU referendum. While these elections have led to increases in registration levels, they have also meant increased work pressures for electoral administrators. The Committee published an initial call for evidence last year; following the recent Parliamentary election, the Committee is now issuing a further call for evidence to explore the key issues and challenges arising from this election in relation to electoral registration and administration.

A list of questions is set out below. Respondents who are able to answer all of the questions are welcome to do so. However, **there is no obligation to answer every question** and the Committee welcomes evidence that addresses any of the subjects raised, even if you only feel able to respond to one of the questions on the list below.

The Committee encourages respondents to interpret the questions broadly and to provide as much information as possible that may be of use to its inquiry. The Committee is particularly keen to hear from electoral administrators and others who were closely involved in the 2019 UK Parliamentary election, but the call for evidence is open to everyone with an interest in the inquiry and alternative perspectives are also very welcome.

Diversity comes in many forms and hearing a range of different perspectives means that committees are better informed and can more effectively scrutinise public policy and legislation. Committees can undertake their role most effectively when they hear from a wide range of individuals, sectors or groups in society affected by a particular policy or piece of legislation. We encourage anyone with experience or expertise of an issue under investigation by a select committee to share their views with the committee, with the full knowledge that their views have value and are welcome.

**This is a further call for written evidence to be submitted to the Committee.
The deadline is 4pm on Wednesday 4 March 2020.**

QUESTIONS

Electoral administration of the 2019 UK General Election

1. Do you think the 2019 UK General Election was well run? What were the key issues with regard to registration and administration at the election?
2. Do you have concerns about voting fraud or related offences taking place during the 2019 UK General Election? What new measures are needed to tackle these, if any?

Electoral registration

3. There were again a significant number of registration applications during the election period, as well as high levels of postal and proxy voting. What issues does this create for the electoral process?
4. What further changes might be needed to improve the registration process for voters and administrators? Are there examples of good practice in supporting and facilitating new registrations, and of improving the overall accuracy of registers?
5. In the light of the 2019 UK General Election and other recent electoral events, has the individual registration process met its objectives successfully? Is there a case for further reform or modernisation to improve the quality of registers?

Public engagement

6. What were the main challenges around raising public awareness and encouraging eligible electors to register ahead of the 2019 UK General Election? How might these challenges be addressed?

Guidance for making submissions

Written evidence should be submitted online using the submission form available at www.parliament.uk/electoral-registration-act-committee-submission-form or emailed to hlelecregact@parliament.uk

If you do not have access to a computer, you may submit a paper copy to:

Clerk to the Select Committee on the Electoral Registration and Administration Act
2013,
Committee Office,
House of Lords,
London SW1A 0PW

The deadline for written evidence is 4pm on Wednesday 4 March 2020. Short, concise submissions, of no more than six pages, are preferred. A longer submission should include a one-page summary. Paragraphs should be numbered. Submissions should be dated, with a note of the author's name, and of whether the author is acting on an individual or corporate basis. All submissions made through the online submission form will be acknowledged automatically by email.

Personal contact details supplied to the Committee will be removed from submissions before publication but will be retained by the Committee staff for specific purposes relating to the Committee's work, such as seeking additional information.

Submissions become the property of the Committee which will decide whether to accept them as evidence. Evidence may be published by the Committee at any stage. It will normally appear on the Committee's website and will be deposited in the Parliamentary Archives. Once you have received acknowledgement that your submission has been accepted as evidence, you may publicise or publish it yourself, but in doing so you must indicate that it was prepared for the Committee. If you publish your evidence separately, you should be aware that you will be legally responsible for its content.

You should be careful not to comment on individual cases currently before a court of law or matters in respect of which court proceedings are imminent. If you anticipate such issues arising, you should discuss with the Clerk of the Committee how this might affect your submission.

Certain individuals and organisations may be invited to appear in person before the Committee to give oral evidence. Oral evidence is usually given in public at Westminster and broadcast online. Persons invited to give oral evidence will be notified separately of the procedure to be followed and the topics likely to be discussed.

Substantive communications to the Committee about the inquiry should be addressed through the Clerk, whether or not they are intended to constitute formal evidence to the Committee.

This is a public call for evidence. Please bring it to the attention of other groups and individuals who may not have received a copy direct.

You can follow the progress of the inquiry at: <https://www.parliament.uk/electoral-registration-act-committee/>