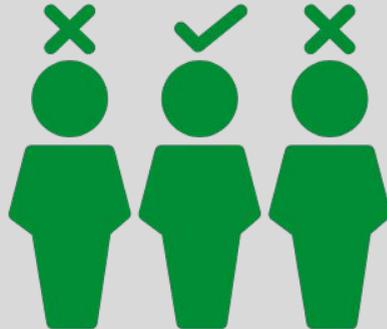


Voter Registration

It is estimated that 7.8 - 8.3 million are not correctly registered (as of December 2015).

**7.8-8.3
million**
not registered
correctly



Source:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/213377/The-December-2015-electoral-registers-in-Great-Britain-REPORT.pdf

Who is Eligible to Vote?

Citizenship	Elections			Register
	UK Parliament	EU Parliament	Local government	
British	√	√	√	Parliamentary and local government
Commonwealth*	√	√	√	
Irish	√	√	√	
European Union	×	√	√	Local government

Notes: * Citizens resident in the UK who either have leave to remain or do not require such leave.

Source:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/213377/The-December-2015-electoral-registers-in-Great-Britain-REPORT.pdf



Transition to IER

During the transition to IER (Individual Electoral Registration) the overall accuracy of the register increased (by 4pp), and the overall completeness remained stable (with a non-statistically significant decrease of <1pp).



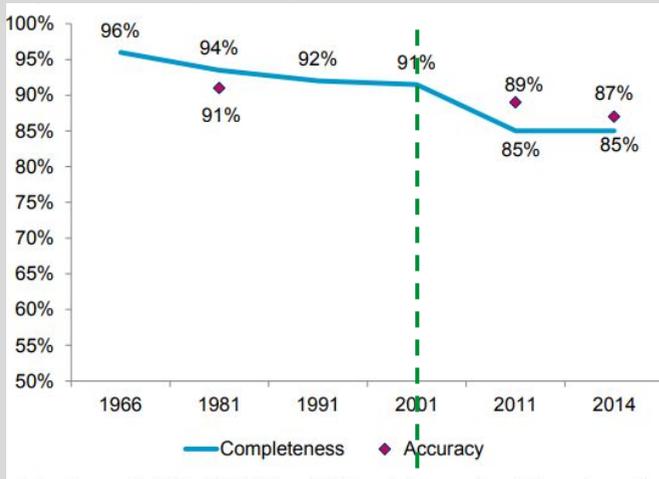
There was, however, a statistically significant drop in registration amongst younger age groups - and groups such as private renters, who consist disproportionately of younger people - which is suggestive of a genuine decline overall.

Source:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/213377/The-December-2015-electoral-registers-in-Great-Britain-REPORT.pdf

Historical Trend

Accuracy and completeness of the register



'Gradual Decline' (1966- 2000)

linked to population mobility and poll tax

'Accelerated decline' (2001-2011)

linked to decreased turnout, mobility, decrease in home ownership & changes in canvassing practices.

Source:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/213377/The-December-2015-electoral-registers-in-Great-Britain-REPORT.pdf

Online registration



Under IER
78%

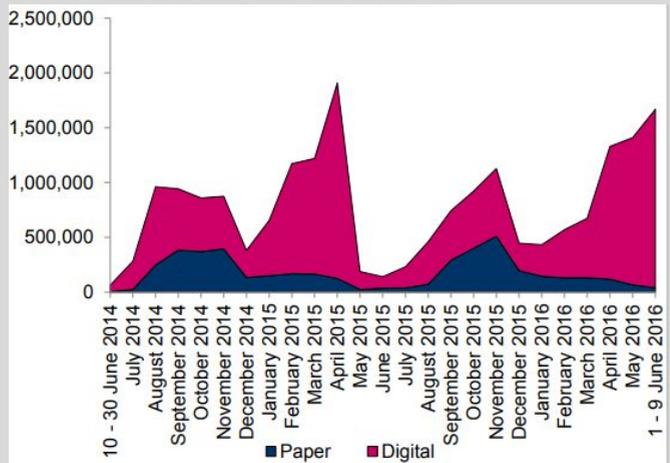
of applications
were made
online.

In 2015, **60%** of the additions to
the roll were made
**outside of the
canvass period**

25% within **5 weeks** of
the general election

Of applications made
in the run-up to the
2015 general election,

58%
were from
the
under-35s



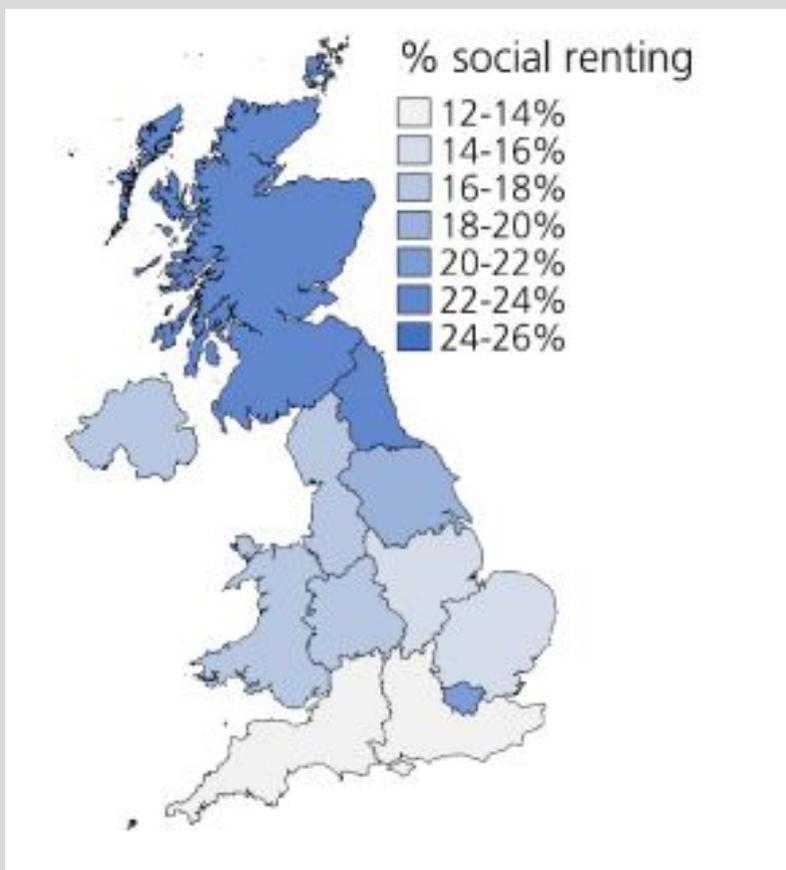
Applications to register to vote under IER

Source:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/213377/The-December-2015-electoral-registers-in-Great-Britain-REPORT.pdf



Social Rental Sector

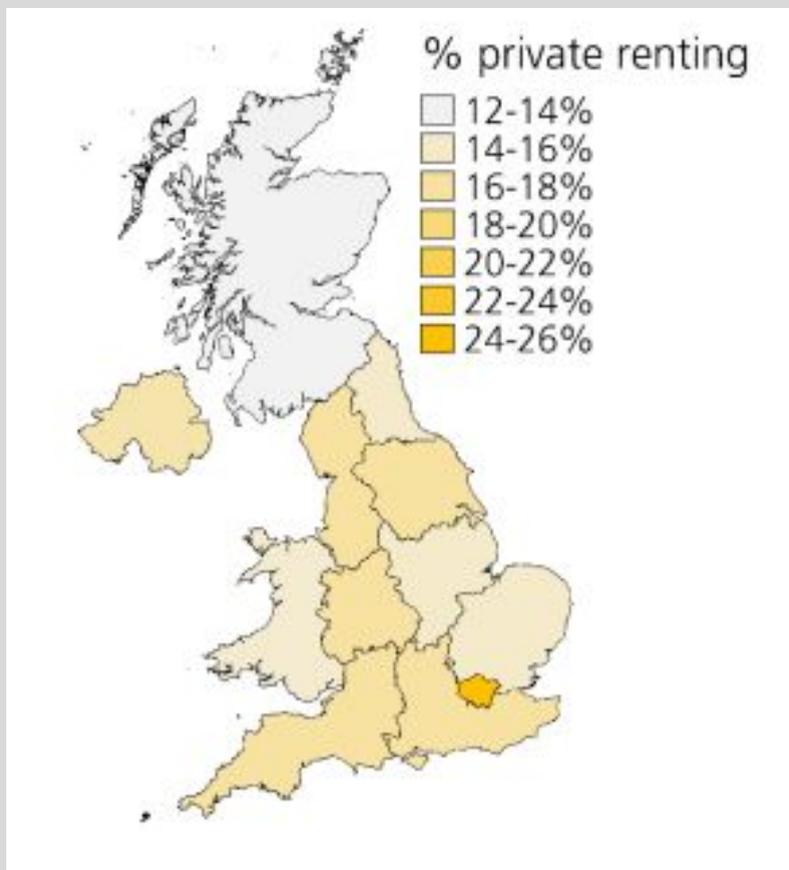


Social renting

Source:

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7706/CBP-7706.pdf>

Private Rental Sector



Private renting

Source:

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7706/CBP-7706.pdf>

Housing Tenure by Age Group

Tenure	Age group	Number of households	% of households in age group		Number of households	% of households in age group	
Owner-occupied	16-24	86,000	10%		White	15,935,000	66%
	25-34	1,501,000	39%		Mixed or multiple	95,000	44%
	35-44	2,660,000	58%		Indian	358,000	67%
	45-54	3,727,000	68%		Pakistani	174,000	60%
	55-64	3,421,000	74%		Bangladeshi	57,000	44%
	65-74	3,188,000	78%		Other Asian ¹	170,000	48%
	75 and over	2,821,000	75%		Black ²	209,000	29%
Private rented	16-24	539,000	65%		Other	119,000	32%
	25-34	1,615,000	42%		White	3,805,000	16%
	35-44	1,036,000	23%		Mixed or multiple	62,000	28%
	45-54	694,000	13%		Indian	131,000	24%
	55-64	388,000	8%		Pakistani	67,000	23%
	65-74	202,000	5%		Bangladeshi	31,000	24%
	75 and over	158,000	4%		Other Asian ¹	125,000	35%
Social rented	16-24	184,000	22%		Black ²	151,000	21%
	25-34	674,000	17%		Other	143,000	39%
	35-44	809,000	18%		White	3,972,000	16%
	45-54	950,000	17%		Mixed or multiple	54,000	25%
	55-64	737,000	16%		Indian	40,000	7%
	65-74	658,000	16%		Pakistani	46,000	16%
	75 and over	698,000	19%		Bangladeshi	43,000	33%
				Other Asian ¹	53,000	15%	
				Black ²	344,000	48%	
				Other	97,000	26%	

Source: LFS Household Dataset, Q4 2016

Notes: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding.

Source:

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CB-P-7706/CBP-7706.pdf>



Who is most likely to be unregistered?



The young
(18-34)



Recent
movers



Private
renters

These 3 factors are largely responsible for the other indicators affecting enrollment, such as:

Gender

M 83%
F 85%

Disability

Mental 76% Physical 90%
Other 90% None 83%

Ethnicity

White 85% Asian 80%
Black 76% Mixed 77%
Others 73%

Nationality

UK/Irish 86%
Commonwealth 61%
EU 52%

SES

AB 88% C1 83%
C2 86% DE 80%

Number of adults in the household

6+ 75% 3-5 83%
2 85% 1 82%

Educational level

Higher degree 87%
Undergraduate 86%
BTEC 84%
A-Level/Higher 80%
GCSE 83%
Other 83%
None 87%

Urban 84%
Rural 86%

Local authority type

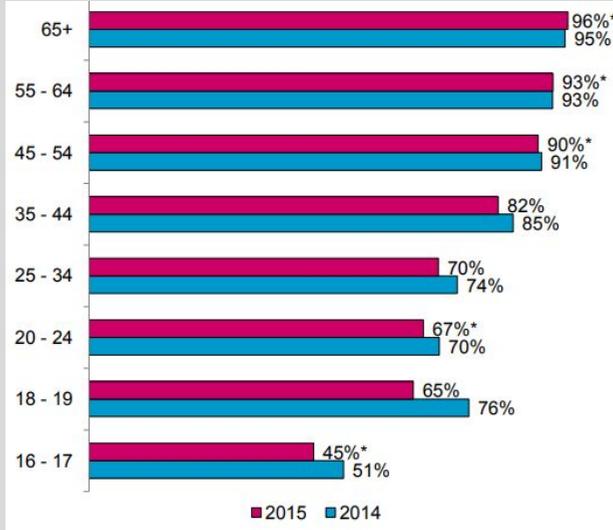
District 86%
London borough 81%
Metropolitan borough 83%
Unitary authorities 84%

Source:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/213377/The-December-2015-electoral-registers-in-Great-Britain-REPORT.pdf



Significant Factor #1: Age



*Completeness of the register by age
(pre- and post-IER)*

In the past

Those aged 18-19 have had higher completeness than 20-24.

This was thought to be due to the fact that the former are more likely to be living with parents.



Post-IER

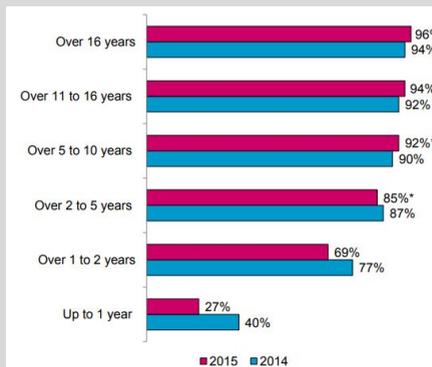
This pattern has changed, although the proportion living with parents has not.

Source:

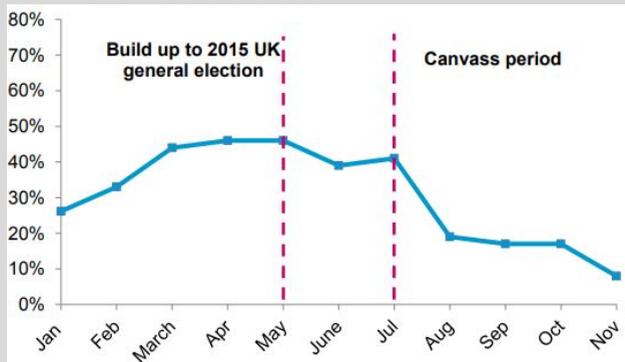
http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/213377/The-December-2015-electoral-registers-in-Great-Britain-REPORT.pdf



Significant Factor #2: Length of Residence



Completeness among those who have lived at their address for up to 1 year by month



Completeness of the register by length of residence

4.5 million

(= **20%** of population)
households **rent privately**



55% of
all recent movers are
under 34

Source:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/213377/The-December-2015-electoral-registers-in-Great-Britain-REPORT.pdf



Frequent movers & Data Sharing

The majority (69%) of EROs (Electoral Registration Officers) reported finding it easy to identify electors who had moved within their Local Authority.

More than half of EROs said they had never shared data with another LA. Of those who had, 82% had found it useful in identifying potential home movers.



Source: Home Movers Discovery Project - Next Steps Report (2017)

Partial Movers

Partial household moves are those in which some, but not all, **residents move**. This could be a child leaving the parental home, or one resident in a houseshare moving.

Partial movers are **difficult for EROs to follow up on**, since one change in the household cannot be identified through the normal mechanisms (council tax, previous address, data sharing).



Significant Factor #3: Tenure



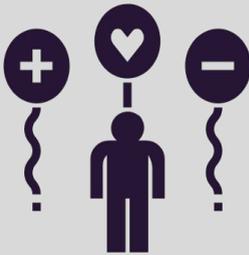
Completeness of register by tenure (2015)

Source:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/213377/The-December-2015-electoral-registers-in-Great-Britain-REPORT.pdf



The Cabinet Office has identified **3 barriers to registration** (across the population as a whole) which are well-evidence and well-understood:



Attitude

Lack of/
Outdated
Knowledge



Personal
Responsibility

The first two barriers will be explored in more detail in separate cards.

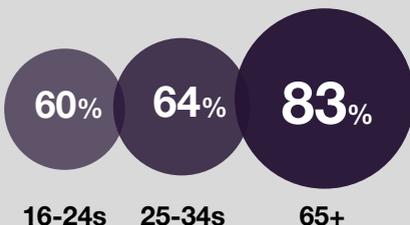
Barrier #1: Attitude (1/2)

In addition to mobility, **voter registration is also strongly linked to voting**. This is particularly the case amongst young people. In addition to being more mobile, young people are also **less likely to update their register record** after they move.

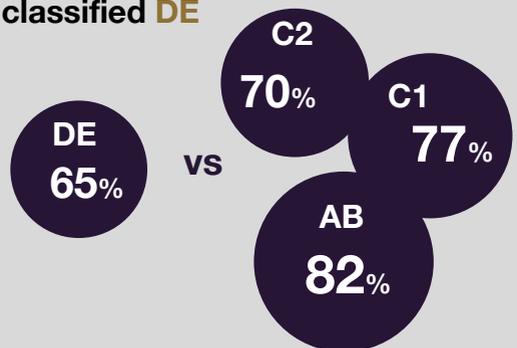


Completeness of the register by attitude towards registering

Young people are much **less likely to believe** it is everyone's duty to vote.



The same is true for those classified **DE**

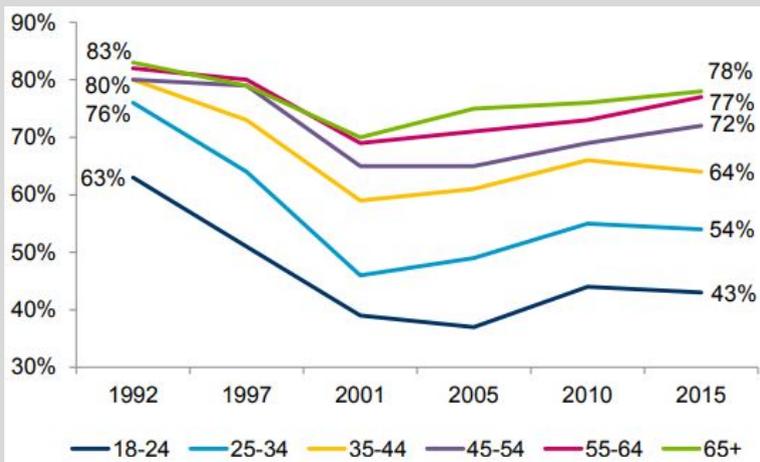


Source:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/213377/The-December-2015-electoral-registers-in-Great-Britain-REPORT.pdf

Barrier #1: Attitude (2/2)

As has been noted, level of political engagement is a relevant factor in voting. **Turnout has decreased** for all age groups in the last 6 elections:

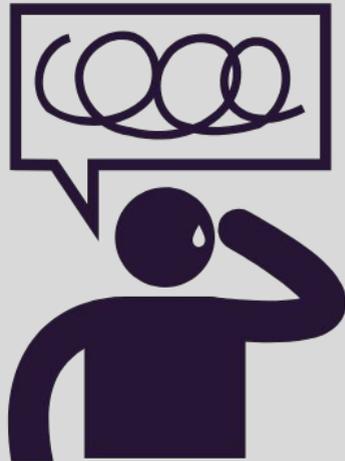


Turnout at UK general elections 1992-2015

Source: 'How Britain Voted', Ipsos Mori

Barrier #2: Lack of/Outdated Knowledge

Feedback from the EROs to the EC suggests that there is **confusion about the new two-stage process**, with some electors believing that by returning the HEF they are registering (as was the case under the old system)



Barrier #2: Lack of/Outdated Knowledge - young people



Lack of knowledge is a key barrier for young people.

Table 2. Barriers for young people based on the typologies of under-registered groups

Typology of young person	Barriers to registration
Engaged Unaware Believe in importance and relevance of politics, but lack of knowledge and understanding about the process.	Knowledge-based Lack of understanding; Unaware of eligibility
Apathetic disengaged Lack engagement with registering to vote and more widely lack interest in voting and politics.	Attitudinal & knowledge-based Poor understanding; Low motivation to learn; Feel current issues being debated not relevant to them
Frustrated cynics Low awareness of the registration process and low motivation to register and vote; Hold strongly negative views of politics.	Attitudinal & ideological Prefer anonymity; Prefer to opt out of participation; Exclusion and victimhood; disengagement or ideological opposition to voting

Source: GfK (Sood, Hollings & Chowdhury, 2012)

Barriers for Homeless People

Only **2% of homeless people** are registered to vote. There are **48 LAs** without a single person on the register, and **only 2 LAs** have more than 100.

In addition to a lack of engagement, homeless people may be **unwilling to provide information on their location:**



Worker at
a focus
group

“ I know, most of the people that come to Crisis, the rough sleepers, if they did manage to get to the local council office and get that form, as soon as it says ‘what street are you sleeping on?’ that would be it, it would go in the bin and they wouldn’t think about it. again.

I know people that have refused food from the food bank because you have to put down an area where you are; ‘I’d rather starve, because the police will find us and I’ve got my stuff there.’ ”

Sources:

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/dec/10/labour-urges-action-to-improve-voting-among-uk-homeless>; Your Vote Matters. Evaluation of the Pilot Project - Homeless Link



Mental illness and voting

Regarding how those affected by mental illness received information on how to register to vote, it was reported that **51% receiving information from their local authority, 10% from TV/radio/press, and 10% online.**

Respondents affected by mental illness suggested **3 recommendations to make the process easier:**

- 1. Having more help from staff including in hospitals and care homes;**
- 2. Greater use of technology;**
- 3. Automatic registration**

Sources:

Access to elections call for evidence: government response. (August 2018)

Homelessness and mental illness

80% of homeless people have reported some kind of mental health issue and 45% have been diagnosed with a mental health issue.



People with mental illness were 50% less likely to be registered, and those who were unregistered cited a lack of knowledge of their eligibility to vote or of the registration process.

Staff involved with care, such as nurses and case workers, are reported to be key sources of support.

Sources:

Homeless Link. (2014). *The unhealthy state of homelessness: Health audit results 2014.*

Access to elections call for evidence: government response. (August 2018)



Plymouth City Council

Plymouth City Council's electoral services team promoted registration at their local soup run.

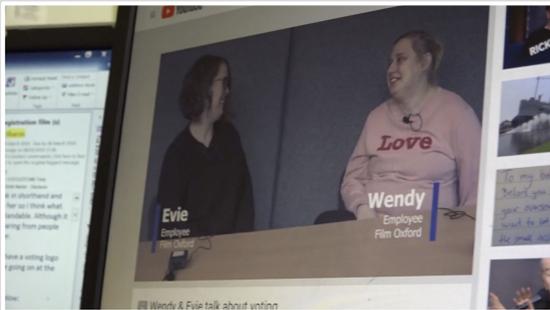


They have been collaborating with shelters with the aim to softly establish a relationship with the homeless community in their area. To instigate the collaboration, Plymouth City Council simply emailed the organisation and asked whether they could be involved.

Sources:
Policy Lab ethnography, 2019

Oxford City Council

Electoral services at Oxford City Council have worked with their city's universities to integrate registration with the university's enrolment system. Students are given an opportunity to register to vote when they complete their online enrolment for their academic year. They now have 8000 students who register via this system.



They are also creating short films with their local learning disabilities arts charity to explore how to reach those with learning disabilities. These 3 min videos are uploaded to the council's Youtube channel with relevant links.

Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust

Since 2012, CNWL have undertaken a number of promotions to increase electoral registration in their mental health service users.



These include producing a 'Trust Voting rights' policy, a film, and other guidance and educational resources for staff and patients . They have worked worked with Rethink Mental Illness and the Royal College of Psychiatrists to promote the issue of voting rights nationally.

Sources:

Access to elections call for evidence: government response.
(August 2018)

<https://www.cnwl.nhs.uk/about-cnwl/know-your-rights/>



Lancaster City Council

Officers in the Council's electoral services team translated promotional materials for their Polish community.

These materials have been distributed in local Polish shops. The Polish community is one of Lancaster's largest minority groups.



Sources:
Policy Lab ethnography, 2019
Images; www.lancaster.gov.uk, Wikipedia



Birmingham City Council

Poll cards have frequently been cited as a problem for voters with a disability. Birmingham City Council recently tested the use of email to send out information about boundary changes in the authority, and also included the data contained on poll cards.

Birmingham held email addresses for around 200,000 of its 730,000 electors but with no information as to whether any had a disability. The pilot received good feedback and Birmingham is analysing the data to determine whether there are any particular comments from disabled people to identify what their views were.



Sources:

Access to elections call for evidence: government response. (August 2018)

<https://www.cnwl.nhs.uk/about-cnwl/know-your-rights/>

