



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

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Dear colleague,

**Restoring trust in our democracy: Our strategy for modern and secure elections**

Today marks a significant milestone in the delivery of the Government's commitment to strengthen our democracy. I am pleased to share with you our elections strategy, setting out the Government's plans for delivering our commitments on elections for this Parliament.

Integral to the development of this strategy has been the Government's Review of Electoral Conduct and Registration ('the Review'). As you will know and has been voiced by many in the electoral sector, there is a crucial need to strengthen and optimise the processes which underpin our elections. As set out by the Minister for Building Safety, Fire and Local Growth in his letter to the sector in October 2024, the Government, in partnership with electoral practitioners and the Electoral Commission, undertook between October 2024 and April 2025 a Review aiming to reduce risks to election delivery, streamline electoral administration and registration, and improve the experience for electors. Our mission throughout has been to fix the foundations of electoral delivery and ensure our systems and processes are fit for the future.

As those who work tirelessly to deliver our elections, I know you share my dedication to the protection and promotion of our democracy. I have seen your passion firsthand through my own experiences standing for election and more recently as the government minister responsible for democracy. I look forward to working with you over the coming years as we deliver the legislation needed to make the important enhancements to our democracy. As set out in our strategy, we will work with our partners in local government, the electoral sector and beyond as we roll out changes to our registration and conduct processes, move towards a system of automated registration, lower the voting age, improve voter ID, strengthen our political finance

framework, and tackle the issue of harassment and intimidation of candidates, campaigners and electoral staff.

Your commitment to our democracy has shone through in the assistance provided to officials throughout the Review and I am grateful to you for sharing your expertise and valued opinions. Our democracy is a fundamental part of our national identity, and you play a crucial role in its continued success.

The Review has been an important step in understanding the existing risks and challenges facing electoral delivery, and in identifying practical and pragmatic solutions to addressing them. It has resulted in a significant number of much needed recommendations for improvement, including short-term changes, longer-term initiatives, and strategies for enhancing communications and digital services. The full set of recommendations from the Review are detailed in the published strategy, and I want to highlight key proposals which will ease existing pressures on electoral administrators. The Review recommends changes within the electoral timetable to provide more time for postal votes to be issued and returned. It recommends updates to absent voting rules which will support good practice, including allowing earlier reissue of lost postal votes and more flexible cancellation where needed. It also helps to ensure Returning Officers are able to effectively call on the resources needed to deliver elections.

These recommendations are not just technical adjustments — they are practical solutions that will make a real difference. By simplifying processes, reducing administrative burdens, and improving the reliability of postal voting, the recommendations will help deliver more resilient elections. Electors will benefit from clearer communication and greater confidence in the system. Administrators will gain more time, flexibility, and tools to deliver elections effectively.

It is also fitting that the Review acknowledges the presence of remaining challenges that will need continued attention. This is the beginning of a journey to address the challenges in the whole system, from areas highlighted in the Review to wider concerns of threats to our democracy which are covered in more detail in the Strategy.

Our history is filled with pioneers who fought for their right to participate in elections, and with your help we will continue to strengthen, modernise and improve our democratic system. Key to this effort are the Review's recommendations, which provide practical solutions for progress, immediate legislative reforms, ongoing digital advancements, and comprehensive policy development. These measures are designed to address current challenges and prepare for future needs.

Yours sincerely,



**RUSHANARA ALI MP**

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Homelessness and Democracy