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research Electoral fraud data On this page Case outcomes with convictions or cautions  
Types of allegations Data by police force Types of allegations since 2010 First  
published: 23 July 2019 Last updated: 31 March 2021 Overview There is no evidence of  
large-scale electoral fraud relating to the 2018 local elections. Of the 266 cases  
that were investigated by the police, four led to convictions and two suspects were  
given police cautions. Outcomes of cases where the suspect was either convicted or  
accepted a police caution A conviction for false information on a nomination paper  
The Metropolitan Police received a report that a Conservative party election agent  
(who also stood as a candidate) had submitted nomination forms with false signatures  
for local elections in the London Borough of Hackney. The police investigation found  
that a number of these forms contained the names and signatures of voters who had  
either been misled into believing they were signing for a different candidate, or  
where their name had been entered on the nomination form with someone else's  
signature. Following a police investigation the suspect was found guilty on 11  
September 2020 and: sentenced to 6 months in prison, suspended for 18 months ordered  
to complete 200 hours of community service ordered to pay a £2,000 fine and court  
costs A conviction for false information on a nomination paper In June 2018, the  
Metropolitan Police received a report that a councillor elected in the May elections  
for the London Borough of Redbridge had made a false declaration about his home  
address on his nomination form. He did not live in the council area, but pretended he  
did so he could run as a Labour councillor for the area. Following a police  
investigation he was found guilty on 19 October 2020. On 24 November 2020 he was:  
sentenced to 17 months in prison ordered to pay £18,368 compensation he received in  
expenses as a councillor since May 2018, £10,000 towards the costs of running the by-  
election in 2021 to replace him, and £10,000 towards prosecution costs barred from  
standing for election for the next 5 years A conviction for false information on a  
nomination paper Norfolk police received a report that a Conservative party election  
agent for Norwich City council elections had submitted nomination forms that included  
forged signatures. Following a police investigation the suspect was found guilty and:  
fined £300 ordered to pay victim surcharge of £30 pay costs of £85 A conviction for a  
nomination offence At the local elections in 2018, a Peterborough Green Party  
candidate pleaded guilty to forging all signatures on his nomination form so that he  
could stand in the election. When police questioned him, he admitted it and withdrew  
his papers before the close of nominations. He didn't appear on the ballot paper. He  
was sentenced to two months in prison, suspended for 12 months. He was also given 100  
hours of community service, and a £200 fine. A caution for false registration and  
voting (by post) more than once At the local elections in 2018, a Labour Party  
candidate seeking re-election registered to vote at two different addresses in  
Rochdale. He applied to vote by post at both addresses and voted twice in the  
Rochdale council elections. It is an offence to vote more than once in the same local  
election area. The candidate was interviewed by police and admitted he had voted  
twice. He accepted a caution from police. A caution for using someone else's postal  
vote by mistake West Yorkshire police received a report that a postal vote cast in  
the 2018 local elections appeared to have been completed and returned by someone who  
had died. Police interviewed the deceased elector's widow. She had been his sole  
carer and often did his paperwork. It appeared to be a genuine mistake in the midst  
of grief. The widow accepted a conditional caution and wrote a full letter of apology  
to the Returning Officer. An unsuccessful election petition An election petition is a

legal challenge to the result of an election. An unsuccessful candidate at the local elections claimed that the successful candidate had accused him of being a liar and had circulated election material without an 'imprint' - details about the printer, promotor, or publisher on election material. There wasn't enough evidence to prove the imprint allegation, or that the election material had been produced by the candidate. False statements about a candidate must relate to the personal character of the candidate and not their political character. This allegation was based on a difference of opinion and not related to the candidate's personal character or conduct. Outcome of all reported cases Outcome Number No further action 204 Locally resolved 57 Conviction 4 Caution 2 Types of electoral fraud allegations More than half of all reported cases were about campaigning offences. Most of these were allegations about: someone making false statements about the personal character or conduct of a candidate not including details about the printer, promotor, or publisher on election material - an 'imprint' This table shows the number of cases, and types of offences that were investigated in 2018. Type of offence Number Campaigning 128 Voting 57 Nomination 41 Registration 39 Administration 1 Allegations data by police force 2018 Use this table to search for data from specific police forces, by category of offence or outcome. Electoral fraud cases - 2018 If you require this information in another format, please contact us Types of electoral fraud allegations since 2010