

2019 electoral fraud data | Electoral Commission Search 2019
electoral fraud data You are in the Electoral fraud data section Home Our
research Electoral fraud data On this page Convictions and cautions Election
petitions Types of electoral fraud allegations First published: 31 March 2020 Last
updated: 31 March 2021 Electoral fraud in 2019 The UK has low levels of proven
electoral fraud. There remains no evidence of large-scale electoral fraud in 2019.
Overview 595 cases of alleged electoral fraud were investigated by the police. Of
these, four led to a conviction and two individuals were given a police caution. This
table shows the number of cases of alleged fraud the police reported to us, for each
election held in 2019. Election Number of cases Local elections 362 UK Parliamentary
general election 164 European Parliamentary election 21 Non-election specific (for
example, electoral registration) 21 Local by-election 12 UK Parliamentary by-election
7 Mayoral election 6 Combined authority mayoral election 1 Police and Crime
Commissioner by-election 1 Cases where the suspect was convicted, or accepted a
police caution A caution for false information on a nomination paper The Police
Service of Northern Ireland received a report that a Democratic Unionist Party
candidate had submitted a local government election nomination form that included an
address that they had previously lived at and not their current one. Once contacted
by the police, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council confirmed that the nomination
papers had been accepted for this candidate, and it was too late for the address to
be removed from the notice of poll or from the ballot papers for the election. The
candidate was not elected, but following a police investigation, they accepted a
caution from police. A conviction for false information on a nomination paper South
Wales Police received a report that a candidate for a local council by-election
(Neath Port Talbot Council) submitted a nomination form that included forged
signatures. This was not discovered until after the close of nominations, and so the
candidate remained on the ballot paper. The candidate was not elected. Following a
police investigation the suspect pleaded guilty on the first day of the trial and
was: sentenced to 6 months in prison, suspended for 12 months given a 15 days
rehabilitation requirement ordered to complete 180 hours of community service ordered
to pay costs of £2,366 A conviction for false information on a nomination paper
Norfolk Police received a report that an independent candidate submitted a local
government election nomination form that included a signature from a supporter that
he knew was false. The candidate was elected, but following a police investigation he
stood down and was: fined £3,300 not allowed to stand for election for five years A
conviction for using someone else's vote at a polling station West Yorkshire police
received a report from polling station staff that a man had voted twice in the
European Parliamentary election. A polling station staff member became suspicious and
went to the police. The police then arrested and interviewed the voter. He admitted
to voting twice, once using his own name and once using his son's name. He was:
sentenced to 8 weeks in prison, suspended for 12 months given a fine of £50 not
allowed to vote for five years A conviction for tampering with ballot papers The
Metropolitan Police received a report of a disruption at a polling station within the
Erith and Thamesmead constituency at the UK Parliamentary general election. Someone
entered a polling station and after being told that they were not entitled to vote,
took hold of the ballot box to stop anyone else from casting their vote. Owing to the
individual's disruptive behaviour, police arrested the offender and took them away
from the polling station. Following a police investigation the individual was charged
with taking or interfering with a ballot box and pleaded guilty at court. He was
sentenced to a 24 month rehabilitation activity programme and ordered to pay £620 in

costs. A caution for using someone else's vote at a polling station West Mercia police received a report that someone had voted at a polling station in the European Parliamentary election, but they weren't on the electoral register. The suspect knew that he was not on the electoral register and could not vote. Instead, he gave his father's name to polling station staff and was given a ballot paper and cast his vote. A polling station staff member suspected the voter was not who he said he was. They raised their concerns with the police who interviewed him under caution. He fully accepted that he had voted using his father's name. He accepted a caution from the police.

Election petitions An election petition is a legal challenge to the result and/or the delivery of an election. There were eight petitions following elections in 2019. Six of these were made after the 2 May elections. Only two of these were successful. One petition was made following the 6 June 2019 Peterborough parliamentary by-election. Another petition was made following the 12 December 2019 UK Parliamentary general election in the East Ham Parliamentary constituency. Both petitions were unsuccessful.

Outcome of all reported cases

Outcome	Number of cases	Percentage of total
No further action	384	65%
Locally resolved	200	34%
Conviction	4	0%
Caution	2	0%
Other	2	0%
Acquitted	1	0%
Court proceedings initiated	1	0%
Court proceedings discontinued	1	0%

Two thirds of all cases resulted in the police taking no further action. This means that the cases were not investigated further by the police because there was no evidence (or there wasn't enough evidence), or no offence was found.

Types of electoral fraud allegations More than half of all reported cases were about campaigning offences. Most of these were: campaigners not including details about the printer, promotor or publisher on election material - an 'imprint' someone making false statements about the personal character or conduct of a candidate

Number of cases and types of offences investigated in 2019 The table shows the number of cases, and types of offences that were investigated in 2019

Category	Number of cases	Percentage of total
Campaigning	320	54%
Voting	142	24%
Nomination	71	12%
Registration	58	10%
Administration	4	1%

Accessible information Download this table to search for data from specific police forces, by category of offence or outcome.

2019 electoral fraud data from police forces Please contact us if you require the allegations data by police force in another format.

Types of electoral fraud reported since 2010

Description of the tableau	2019 Category	Percentage of total
Campaigning	54%	
Voting	24%	
Nomination	12%	
Registration	10%	
Administration	1%	
2018 Category	Percentage of total	
Campaigning	48%	
Voting	21%	
Nomination	15%	
Registration	15%	
Administration	0%	
2017 Category	Percentage of total	
Campaigning	49%	
Voting	31%	
Registration	11%	
Nomination	7%	
Administration	1%	
Miscellaneous	1%	
2016 Category	Percentage of total	
Voting	43%	
Campaigning	37%	
Nomination	9%	
Registration	8%	
Administration	2%	
2015 Category	Percentage of total	
Campaigning	56%	
Voting	26%	
Nomination	10%	
Registration	8%	
Administration	1%	
2014 Category	Percentage of total	
Campaigning	38%	
Voting	27%	
Registration	15%	
Nomination	14%	
Miscellaneous	3%	
Administration	3%	
2013 Category	Percentage of total	
Campaigning	54%	
Registration	18%	
Voting	13%	
Nomination	8%	
Miscellaneous	5%	
Administration	1%	
2012 Category	Percentage of total	
Campaigning	41%	
Voting	25%	
Registration	23%	
Nomination	6%	
Miscellaneous	3%	
Administration	1%	
2011 Category	Percentage of total	
Campaigning	52%	
Registration	22%	
Voting	14%	
Nomination	7%	
Miscellaneous	4%	
Administration	2%	
2010 Category	Percentage of total	
Voting	32%	
Campaigning	31%	
Registration	28%	
Nomination	6%	
Miscellaneous	2%	
Administration	1%	

Related content

- Public attitudes Read our reports about public attitudes towards voting
- Analysis of electoral registration data about electoral registration data
- Modernising elections research This qualitative research looks at public attitudes to voting and the information available around elections.

Feasibility studies: scope and approach This is part of our modernising electoral registration studies. Read about the scope and approach of the studies