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Objective: Fair and effective electoral law You are in the Annual Report and  
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updated: 27 September 2023 What we are working to achieve Our electoral system is  
underpinned by a legal framework which establishes how elections are delivered. It  
sets out who is allowed to vote and the various ways they can cast their vote. It  
sets out who can stand for elections, who can campaign and how much they can spend,  
and it sets out how electoral administrators should deliver elections, including  
counting and declaring the results. Given its cross-cutting impact, we want to work  
with parliamentarians and governments to improve electoral law so that it is fit for  
purpose, reduces complexity, inefficiencies and risk, and enables innovation. We are  
working with others to reform electoral law by: supporting effective consideration  
and implementation of legislation in the UK's parliaments engaging with governments'  
current electoral law reform agendas, while continuing to make the case for further  
reform continuing to provide expert advice on the practicability and impact of any  
changes which could be made to improve the electoral system. Work done to achieve  
this aim Following the May 2022 polls, we published reports on elections in England,  
Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, reflecting data and evidence gathered on  
voting, campaigning and delivering the elections. These included recommendations for  
improving the system further. As the Elections Bill passed through the UK Parliament,  
we briefed members of the House of Commons and Lords to support their consideration  
of the measures. We responded promptly with accurate and impartial information to  
correspondence from elected officials. We continue to advocate for policy change in  
key areas – including modernising electoral law and protecting politics from foreign  
interference – in our engagement with stakeholders, parliamentarians and the media.  
Performance indicators Indicator Target 2022-23 Timely publication of election /  
referendum reports 100% 100% Timely responses to policy proposals and legislative  
consultations 100% 100% Responses to elected stakeholder (MP, MSP, MLA & MS)  
correspondence within 10 working days 100% 97.83% PACAC Report, October 2022 It has  
been twenty years since the Electoral Commission was established and we believe it  
still plays a fundamental role in overseeing free and fair elections and referendums  
and regulating political finance, and should continue to do so. However, its ability  
to effectively fulfil its statutory functions is directly impacted by the unnecessary  
complexity of the law governing this area. There is a consensus that the law is in  
urgent need of rationalisation and simplification. PACAC Report, October 2022 Ongoing  
and future work The Commission will share its expertise and evidence with the UK  
Government as they develop statutory instruments to provide the detail of how the  
remaining measures in the Elections Act will work. We maintain the view that  
government should ensure legislation is clear at least six months before any new  
changes are due to be implemented, so that Returning Officers, Electoral Registration  
Officers and electoral administrators have enough time to prepare. We will continue  
to recommend reforms to UK electoral law and stand ready to support governments and  
parliaments in considering how best this could be taken forward. The Commission will  
continue to advocate for modernising electoral law, which needs to be simplified to  
help electoral administrators provide the level of services that voters deserve, and  
to enable governments and legislatures to deliver their policy priorities. Navigation  
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sustainable electoral system