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Briefing: Our evaluation of voter ID pilots You are in the section Home On
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First published: 1 May 2019 Last updated: 17 October 2019 Summary of the briefing
Date: May 2019 For: MPs Full briefing This briefing has been prepared ahead of the
pilot schemes trialling identification requirements for voters at polling stations,
which are taking place in ten local authority areas at the May 2019 local elections.
Background As in 2018, the pilot schemes have been set up by the UK Government under
Section 10 of the Representation of the People Act 2000. The RPA requires the
Electoral Commission to evaluate and report on any pilot scheme. 2018 pilot scheme
evaluation The key findings from our previous evaluation were: Overall, the voter
identification requirements trialled in May 2018 worked well and the pilots provided
useful initial evidence about how a voter identification requirement in Great Britain
might work in practice. But they also highlighted areas where further work is needed
to provide evidence which can address concerns and answer questions about the impact
of identification requirements on voters. We recommended that the UK Government
should encourage a wider range of local councils to run pilot schemes in May 2019 and
that these should include a mix of rural and large urban areas, and areas with
different demographic profiles. Our approach to evaluation We intend to collect and
analyse a wide range of data and information. Public opinion surveys These will be
our main route for assessing whether the ID requirement deterred or prevented people
from voting on 2 May. The surveys will also provide measures of the extent to which
the application of an ID requirement affected public attitudes to fraud and
confidence in the system. We will be able to compare survey results for the pilot
areas before and after the elections as well as between the pilots and other areas
running polls without an ID requirement. Data from polling stations Data on the
different ID used and the numbers unable to vote will be recorded directly by polling
station staff on 2 May and collated and analysed by the Commission. feedback We have
written to over 170 organisations and groups representing people who have additional
accessibility requirements, and who could therefore be disproportionately affected by
the pilot, asking for views and evidence. Data from police forces This will include
data on any fraud allegations and cases in the pilot areas. it is of course not
possible to know what would have occurred at these elections in the absence of the
pilots and comparisons with reported levels of fraud at previous polls or in other
areas is difficult due to differing circumstances across years. Review of ID security
We will make an assessment of the different levels of assurance provided by the
different types of ID trialled. Turnout and postal voting data We will look at
previous comparable election turnout in the pilot areas to explore any differences
relative to 2019. We will also collect detailed data on postal voting to assess any
effect as a result of the pilots. Levels of turnout fluctuate year-on-year as a
result of a range of factors, even between the same types of elections. Polling
station staff survey All polling station staff in the pilot areas will be surveyed to
gather information on their experience of administering the pilot. Interviews with
Returning Officers and electoral administrators We will interview the key staff
involved in the pilots soon after polling day to gather their views on the delivery
of the pilot and any issues they encountered. Feedback from candidates We will
provide a route for any candidate in the pilot areas to give us their views on the
pilot scheme. Observers Commission staff will observe at polling stations in each
pilot area. The Commission also accredits observers at UK elections and we will be
highlighting to each of them how they should provide any feedback on the pilots. We

intend to publish our evaluation report in July 2019. About the Electoral Commission
. The Commission was set up in 2000 and reports to the UK and Scottish Parliaments.
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