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Report: How the 2017 UK general election was run You are in the UK general  
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report First published: 14 June 2019 Last updated: 6 August 2019 Summary Nearly four  
in five (79%) people surveyed after the election reported they were either very or  
fairly confident the elections were well-run, and 89% of candidates were very or  
fairly satisfied with the administration of the election. The June 2017 UK  
Parliamentary general election was unexpectedly announced less than three weeks  
before polling day for the scheduled May 2017 local government elections. This  
presented significant challenges for Returning Officers (ROs) and their staff who  
were responsible for running the poll. They deserve great credit and thanks for  
ensuring that the May and June elections were well-run. Risks to well-run elections  
But this positive overall picture should not mask wider risks to the administration  
of well-run elections, which are becoming increasingly apparent. ROs and electoral  
administrators face reduced resources and a growing number of skilled professionals  
are leaving local authority elections teams. They are also increasingly reliant on a  
relatively small pool of specialist software and print management suppliers. Problems  
in some places meaning that some voters received inadequate service, and significant  
issues in Plymouth and Newcastle-under-Lyme illustrate that more action must be taken  
now to deal with the increasing challenges that ROs are facing in delivering well-run  
elections. We will continue to work with the UK's governments, Electoral Registration  
Officers and Returning Officers to collect and review evidence about the challenges  
to well-run elections and to identify changes which could help reduce these risks.  
Recommendations We also want to see progress by the UK's governments towards  
implementing recommendations that we and others have made, including: Implementing  
the UK Law Commissions' proposals to simplify electoral law and Sir Eric Pickles'  
recommendations on electoral fraud. Improving the rules for nominating candidates,  
appointing emergency proxies and making it easier for overseas voters to cast a vote.  
Making electoral registration more joined-up with other public services to make it  
simpler for the public and more efficient for EROs, and reducing the risk of people  
voting in more than one constituency. Download our full report The administration of  
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