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findings This report sets out what we found when we looked at the results of the May
2018 pilot schemes. It also looks beyond these pilot schemes at the implications for
the future, and what we think the UK Government should do next. Overall, the voter
identification requirements trialled in May 2018 worked well. Nearly everyone in the
five pilot scheme areas who went to vote in their polling station was able to show
identification without difficulty. The number of people who did not vote because they
couldn't show identification was very small. Our findings People in the areas where
the pilot schemes took place were significantly less likely to think that electoral
fraud took place than people in other areas with elections in May 2018. Returning
Officers and their staff in polling stations were able to run the new processes well
and without any significant problems. These pilot schemes have provided useful and
important initial evidence about how a voter identification requirement in Great
Britain might work in practice. They have also highlighted areas where further work
is needed, because there is not yet enough evidence to fully address concerns and
answer questions about the impact of identification requirements on voters. The
authorities in England that took part in the 2018 pilot schemes were not sufficiently
varied to be representative of the different areas and groups of people across the
rest of Great Britain. This means that we can't be sure whether people in other areas
would have problems showing identification. We also know from previous analysis and
feedback from other organisations such as Mencap and RNIB that some groups of people
may find it harder than others to show a passport, driving licence or travel card as
part of a photo identification scheme. We have some limited evidence from these
pilots that younger people and those who don't always vote were less likely to say
that they would find it easy to show identification. More work is needed to make sure
these people can easily get the right kind of identification to be able to vote. When
the UK Government invited local councils to run pilot schemes in May 2018, it also
said that it was open to looking at piloting in future elections. We agree that it
would be helpful to collect more evidence from further pilot schemes at elections in
2019. These pilots have shown that there may be several different ways of delivering
a voter identification scheme in Great Britain. The UK Government should now focus on
what further evidence they need to answer questions and address concerns about the
more detailed impact of a voter identification requirement, and how the design of
future pilot schemes will help to provide that evidence. We have identified some
important lessons from the 2018 pilot schemes in this report and made recommendations
for further work and future pilot schemes. These recommendations would help provide
the best possible evidence base for any decisions about identification requirements
for voters at polling stations in Great Britain. Our main recommendation is that the
UK Government should encourage a wider range of local councils to run pilot schemes
in May 2019. These should include a mixture of rural areas and large urban areas, and
areas with different demographic profiles. This would help make sure there is more
detailed evidence about the impact of voter identification on different groups of
people. Further work and future pilot schemes Further work and future pilot schemes
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