

The Electoral Commission's ability to bring prosecutions | Electoral Commission Search

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The Electoral Commission's ability to bring prosecutions You are in the Elections Act section Home Elections Act On this page Changes proposed by the government Our view Further reading First published: 5 July 2021 Last updated: 5 July 2021 Last updated These are the views we set out to parliamentarians before the Elections Act became law. We last updated these views in early 2022. Changes proposed by the government Laws introduced by the UK Parliament when the Electoral Commission was established allow us to bring prosecutions against those who break electoral law relating to parties and campaigners. The UK Government is proposing a change that would stop us from being able to bring such prosecutions. Our view Effective enforcement when the rules are broken gives voters confidence in the electoral system. The UK Government does not consider this to be an area of work we should undertake. In the public interest, in order to fill any regulatory gap, the Police and Crown Prosecution Service will need to work with us to take forward appropriate prosecutions. This means prosecuting the full range of offences, from the lower order criminal offences often brought to light through our investigatory work, right through to the more significant offences. We would welcome the government making it clear in the passage of the Bill that this will be the case. Voters have the right to expect that any political party or campaigner which deliberately or recklessly breaks electoral law will face prosecution. Further reading Further reading The Government's Written Ministerial Statement: Increasing Parliamentary Accountability in Electoral Policy Related content Elections Act about the UK Government's Elections Act and what it means for voting and campaigning About the Elections Act about the Elections Bill, including the measures it contains and which elections it applies to. Changes to legal requirements for parties and non-party campaigners about proposals to change the law affecting parties and non-party campaigners. A strategy and policy statement for the Electoral Commission about the UK Government's proposal for the Electoral Commission.