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Communicating information directly to disabled voters Communicating directly with disabled residents can be a useful way to find out more about the types of provision disabled voters need as part of your anticipatory duty under the Equality Act. Engaging with electors is an opportunity to provide information about the type of support that could be given to assist them to participate in elections and to ask about their preferred format for accessible communications, which is particularly beneficial for blind or partially sighted people who are digitally excluded. You should explore how you can work with others across your local authority who may be able to assist you with identifying disabled electors in your area, to enable you to communicate with them directly. Sight loss registers list people in the local area who have a certification of vision impairment. In England, under The Care Act 2014, sight loss registers can be used by the local authority to ensure that information about services is made accessible to that person for example to ask if support could be given to assist them to participate in electoral events. 1 The access you have to this information may vary depending on whether you have been appointed by a district or unitary authority. In Wales and Scotland you can contact the relevant adult social care departments and in Northern Ireland, the relevant Health and Social Care Trusts for advice on how you can access information from the sight loss registers held by them. Proactively using local data by seeking information from the sight loss register or by using a resource like the sight loss data tool provided by the RNIB can help you find out how many electors in your area are affected by sight loss. Knowing more about the number of electors affected can help you: anticipate the needs of blind and partially sighted people in your area for example, ensuring poll cards are sent in individuals' preferred formats enabling them to access the information on them independently comply with your duty under the Equality Act 2010 to make reasonable adjustments to assist individuals on the register to participate in elections 1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance> ■ Back to content at footnote 1 Last updated: 29 March 2023 Book traversal links for Communicating information directly to disabled voters Raising awareness about the voting process and support available Communicating the voting process and support available