

2021 electoral fraud data | Electoral Commission Search 2021

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Overview The UK has low levels of proven electoral fraud. There remains no evidence of large-scale electoral fraud in 2021. 2021 elections In May 2021, elections took place across England, Wales and Scotland: Scottish Parliament Senedd Cymru Police and Crime Commissioners (England and Wales) Local councils and local mayors (England) Combined Authority Mayors (England) Mayor of London and London Assembly Many of these polls had been postponed from 2020. There were also six UK parliamentary by-elections during 2021. 317 cases of alleged electoral fraud were investigated by the police during 2021. There was one conviction and one acquittal. Police issued cautions in one case. This table shows the number of cases of alleged fraud reported to us by the police for elections held in 2021.

Election	Number of cases
Local election	258
Local referendum	12
Local by-election	10
Non-election specific (e.g. rolling registration)	10
Senedd election	8
Mayor of London election	7
Police and Crime Commissioner election	6
UK Parliamentary by-election	3
Scottish Parliament	2
Local Mayoral election	1

Cases where the suspect accepted a police caution Kent Police issued cautions to two people for the same offence of personation. A woman used her mother's polling card to try to vote in a local government election after her father suggested doing so. The polling station staff suspected that she was not the voter named on the polling card. Father and daughter both accepted a caution after the police had obtained advice from the Crown Prosecution Service.

Outcomes of all reported cases More than half of all cases (64%) resulted in the police taking no further action. This means that the cases were not investigated further by the police because there was no evidence (or there wasn't enough evidence), or an offence wasn't found. This table and pie chart show the number and outcome of the cases that were reported to the police in 2021.

Outcome	Number of Cases	Percentage of Total
No further action	202	64%
Locally resolved	104	33%
Under investigation	4	1%
Court proceedings initiated	3	1%
Prosecution advice awaited	1	0%
Acquitted	1	0%
Convicted	1	0%
Caution	1	0%

Types of electoral fraud allegations Just over half of all reported cases in 2021 were campaigning offences. Most of these were about: s not including details about the printer, promoter or publisher on election material - an 'imprint' Someone making false statements about the personal character or conduct of a candidate. This table and pie chart show the number of cases and types of offences that were investigated in 2021.

Offence Type	Number of Cases	Percentage of Total
Campaigning	166	52%
Voting	79	25%
Registration	35	11%
Nomination	33	10%
Other	14	4%

Download this table to search for data from specific police forces, by category of offence or outcome.

2021 Electoral Fraud Cases Election petitions An election petition is a legal challenge to the result of an election. There were five petitions following the May 2021 elections, including two that involved allegations of electoral fraud. Three others involved alleged electoral administration problems. One petition that involved allegations of electoral fraud has been decided, and we have included a summary below. We are waiting for a decision on the other electoral fraud petition and will report on it once we know the outcome.

Fens and Greatham ward, Hartlepool Borough Council The petition alleged that the successful Labour candidate had made a false statement about his personal conduct in an election leaflet. The court found that the statement was about his political, rather than personal, conduct. The petition was unsuccessful, and the court certified that the Labour candidate was duly elected.

Description of the tableau 2021 Category Percentage of total Campaigning 52% Voting 25% Nomination 10% Registration 11% Other 1% 2019 Category Percentage of total Campaigning 54% Voting 24% Nomination 12% Registration 10% Administration 1% 2018 Category Percentage of total Campaigning 48% Voting 21% Nomination 15% Registration 15% Administration 0% 2017 Category Percentage of total Campaigning 49% Voting 31% Registration 11% Nomination 7% Administration 1% Miscellaneous 1% 2016 Category Percentage of total Voting 43% Campaigning 37% Nomination 9% Registration 8% Administration 2% 2015 Category Percentage of total Campaigning 56% Voting 26% Nomination 10% Registration 8% Administration 1% 2014 Category Percentage of total Campaigning 38% Voting 27% Registration 15% Nomination 14% Miscellaneous 3% Administration 3% 2013 Category Percentage of total Campaigning 54% Registration 18% Voting 13% Nomination 8% Miscellaneous 5% Administration 1% 2012 Category Percentage of total Campaigning 41% Voting 25% Registration 23% Nomination 6% Miscellaneous 3% Administration 1% 2011 Category Percentage of total Campaigning 52% Registration 22% Voting 14% Nomination 7% Miscellaneous 4% Administration 2% 2010 Category Percentage of total Voting 32% Campaigning 31% Registration 28% Nomination 6% Miscellaneous 2% Administration 1% 1. These are cases where the alleged conduct was not an electoral offence. But it concerned aspects of voting or campaigning, and so the police gave advice to the people complaints were made about ■ Back to content at footnote 1

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