

Report electoral fraud | Electoral Commission    Search    Report electoral fraud    You are in the Voter section Home Voter Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. On this page Report electoral fraud What happens when you report electoral fraud What we're doing First published: 23 July 2019 Last updated: 24 August 2021 Overview Your vote belongs to you. It doesn't belong to anyone who intimidates you, or tries to bribe you, or anyone pretending to be you. When someone deliberately tries to cheat at an election in this way, it could be electoral fraud. Electoral fraud can include: making false statements about the personal character of a candidate offering an incentive to someone to get them to vote, to vote a certain way, or to stop them from voting interfering with postal votes including false statements or signatures on a candidate's nomination forms registering to vote under a false name or without someone's consent influencing someone to vote against their will pretending to be someone else and using their vote Election fraud undermines the democratic process. It is a serious issue and offenders can be sent to prison. Report electoral fraud If you believe you have witnessed electoral fraud, or are concerned that it may be taking place, you should report it. You can report electoral fraud by: calling the police on 101 contacting Crimestoppers anonymously online , or by calling 0800 555 111 If you're unsure whether certain behaviour is allowed, you should contact the Electoral Registration Officer or Returning Officer for your local area. They are responsible for running the election or referendum and will have plans in place to identify suspicious behaviour. What happens when you report electoral fraud Reporting electoral fraud to the police If you report electoral fraud to the police, you should ask for the Election Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for your area. Election SPOCs are trained in electoral law, and we provide them with advice about preventing and detecting election-related crimes. The SPOC will ask for details about the electoral fraud you have witnessed or the concerns you have, including any evidence you have that electoral fraud has taken place. You should be prepared to make a statement and to provide evidence to support your allegation. They will also ask for your contact details, in case they need to contact you for more information and so they can let you know the outcome of their investigation. The SPOC will investigate, and determine if there has been an election-related crime. They may work with the Electoral Registration Officer or the Returning Officer for the election, or ask us for information about the rules. Reporting electoral fraud to Crimestoppers If you report electoral fraud to Crimestoppers, you will be asked for details about the electoral fraud you have witnessed or the concerns you have. Reporting to Crimestoppers is anonymous, so you won't have to give your details if you don't want to. What we're doing We work closely with other organisations to prevent, detect, and take action against electoral fraud, including: local authorities police prosecuting authorities Royal Mail political parties and campaigners We produce guidance for people involved in an election or referendum. This guidance helps everyone to follow best practice and stay within the law. Throughout the year, police across the UK send us data about allegations of electoral fraud that they receive and investigate. Take a look at the data Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content Register to vote All you need to register to vote is 5 minutes and your National Insurance number. Elections in your area Enter your postcode to find your electoral services team at your local council. You need to send your postal and proxy vote application forms to them. Voting in person Voting in person on polling day?

Learn more about what to expect when you go to the polling station. Electoral law is out of date. Find out where we want to see improvements