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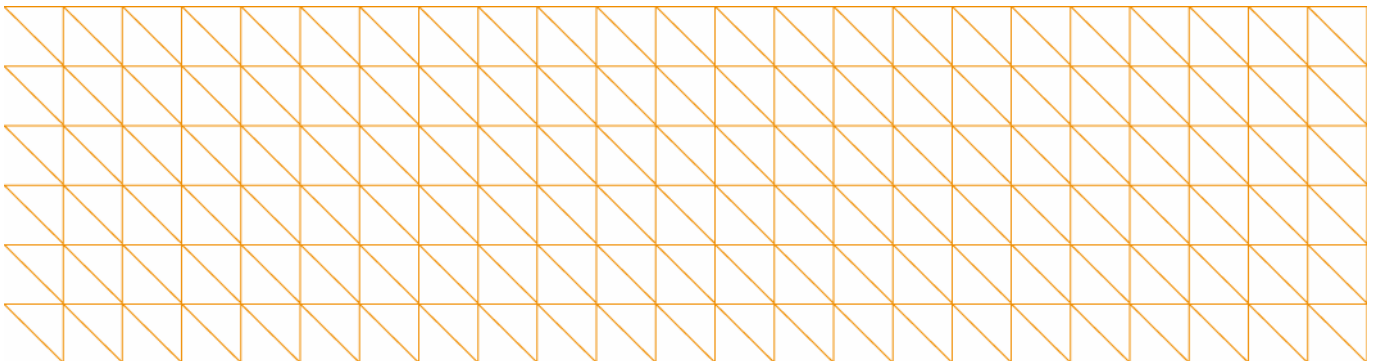
Swyddfa Cymru - Wales Office

Response to consultation on Fees for the Marked Register of Electors produced at UK Elections

Response to Consultation

CP (R) 17/07

26 July 2007





Ministry of
JUSTICE

Fees for the Marked Register of Electors produced at UK Elections

Response to consultation carried out by the Ministry of Justice.

**This information is also available on the Ministry of Justice website:
www.justice.gov.uk**

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Response to consultation on Fees for the Marked Register of Electors produced at the UK Elections – Summary of responses

Introduction and contact details

1. This document is the post-consultation report for the Ministry of Justice consultation paper, '**Fees for the Marked Register of Electors produced at UK elections**'. The consultation paper was issued on 26 July 2007 and responses were requested by 18 October 2007. A copy of the consultation was also placed on the Ministry of Justice website.
2. Responses were welcomed from anyone with an interest in, or views on the subject covered by the consultation paper.
3. We specifically consulted the Electoral Commission, Electoral Registration Officers in England and Wales, political parties, local authorities in England and Wales, Sheriff Courts, Sheriff Clerks in Scotland, Members of Parliament, Members of the Scottish Parliament, Scottish Executive, Members of the National Assembly for Wales, Welsh Assembly Government, Association of Electoral Administrators, Department for Communities and Local Government, and HM Treasury.
4. For the purposes of this consultation paper, we have grouped responses from local authorities, Electoral Registration Officers, Association of Electoral Administrators under the heading of 'Suppliers'. Responses from political parties, candidates and elected representatives have been grouped under the heading 'Customers'. Responses from members of the public and unnamed responses have been grouped together under the title of 'Other'. Finally the Electoral Commission's response has been dealt with separately.
5. This post-consultation report sets out:
 - the background to the consultation;
 - a summary of the responses to the consultation;
 - a detailed response to the options and specific questions raised in the consultation; and
 - the conclusion.

Further copies of this report and the consultation paper can be obtained by contacting **Kamla Joshi** at the address below:

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Ministry of Justice
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This report is also available on the Ministry's website: **www.justice.gov.uk**

Alternative format versions of this publication can be requested from elections@justice.gsi.gov.uk or on telephone no. 020 7210 8227.

Background

1. Following the elections in May 2007, a number of electoral administrators contacted the Ministry of Justice to pass on concerns expressed by local political parties and candidates about the new fee structure for supply of the marked register.
2. In addition, a number of MPs approached Bridget Prentice MP, Minister responsible for electoral administration at the Ministry of Justice with similar concerns. An Early Day Motion (1628) was tabled by Joan Walley, MP, on Fees for the Marked Electoral Register in the following terms:

“That this House notes that the effect of Regulation 120 in respect of Fees Re Marked Registers and Lists has effectively been to increase the cost of purchase of a marked register from £10 to in the region of £50 to £60 per ward; and asks the Government to discuss with the Association of Electoral Administrators what effect this charge has had on local democracy and what scope there might be for its reconsideration.”
3. The Electoral Commission, following the May 2007 local government elections in England, received feedback from political parties, expressing concern about the increased costs of the marked register of electors. In considering these views in its report ‘Local Government election in England 2007’ the Commission noted that the new fee structure of fees for the marked register:

“...represents a considerable expense for parties and candidates and one which is either completely new, or substantially more, than previous charges. The Commission recognises that is an unintended and unforeseen consequences of the new provisions which could have a substantial effect on the ability of parties and candidates to carry out local campaigning.”
4. Bridget Prentice wrote to all MPs on 19 June 2007, to make the Government’s own concerns known and to suggest that Members consult their relevant local authorities about the change in fees. They were asked to provide feedback on the effect of the changes.
5. Subsequently, the Government set out a number of questions in the consultation paper on which the views of electoral administrators, political parties, other interested stakeholders and members of the public were sought.

6. The consultation period closed on 18 October 2007. A total of 97 responses were received. These included responses from the Electoral Commission, Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), electoral administrators, MPs, SNPs, councillors, local political parties, election agents, academics, members of the public and anonymous respondents. A list of respondents is attached at **Annex A**.

This paper sets out the summary of responses to the options and specific questions raised in the consultation.

Summary of responses

1. A total of 97 responses to the consultation were received.
2. A summary of the key findings of the consultation is set out below:

OPTION 1: No fees for supply of the marked electoral register for candidates, political parties and elected representatives.

- The majority of respondents who have a role in the supply of the marked register i.e. EROs, local authorities and electoral administrators, are of the view that a fee for the supply of the marked register should be payable by candidates, elected representatives and political parties.
- The majority of candidates, elected representatives, political parties and election agents who have an interest in obtaining copies of the marked register feel very strongly that it should be provided free of charge or at a charge that seeks only to recover reasonable costs for photocopying.
- Prior to May 2007 local authorities and Sheriff Courts were permitted to set their own charge to recoup reasonable costs for providing the copies. It appears from the number of complaints received and the types of issues highlighted that the new fee regime put into place in 2006 increased the cost of purchase of the marked register to a level that local authorities and Sheriff Courts and EROs and Sheriff Clerks and electoral administrators had not previously charged, in a significant number of cases. Indeed, some provided these free of charge in recognition of the value candidates, elected representatives and local political parties place on the marked register as a tool in encouraging participation.
- The Electoral Commission can see a strong case 'in principle' for providing the marked register free to parties and candidates who have contested a relevant election, subject to the detailed analysis of the responses received to this review.

OPTION 2: Set fees at a lower level centrally (and additional considerations on the basis of calculation of the fee)

- Just over half of respondents, which include both suppliers and customers, are of the view that the current fees for the marked register of electors are too high.
- The Electoral Commission is in favour of a substantial reduction in the fees. It is not persuaded that copying of the marked register imposes a significant administrative burden or cost on electoral administrators. It considers that agreement on what is 'reasonable' could well result in cost of the marked registers being slightly subsidised by local government.
- The impact of the new fee charges on candidates, elected representatives, political parties and election agents has been significant and electoral administrators have noticed a reduced take up in the purchase of the marked register and increased numbers of complaints about the new fees.
- The Electoral Commission pointed out that the evidence contained in its reports on the 2007 elections and other post-election contact with stakeholders suggest that the current fees for the supply of the marked register are too high for many local parties. It feels a reduction in the fees charged would support the campaigning work of local political parties and candidates.
- There is no clear consensus from the consultation responses about what would be a reasonable level of fees for copies of the marked register. Of those respondents who expressed a view, three quarters of the customers and about a quarter of suppliers would support a fee of a maximum of £10 for a register covering 10,000 electors.
- The costs given by local authorities for production of a marked register of 10,000 electors varied between £10 and £70 plus. However, a third of such suppliers said the costs were not known and of those who knew the cost of supplying the marked register, just under a half said it was under £20; and just over half said it was £20 and above.
- The majority of respondents would like the fees for the marked register of electors to be set centrally. The Electoral Commission reiterated its view that a consistent set of fees should apply to the whole of the UK.
- On the basis of the charge, one quarter of respondents who expressed a view commented that the fee should be based on the cost of materials and staff costs and resources needed to provide the service. Just over 20% said it should be based on the number of electors.

- A majority believed that the fees for the marked register should not mirror those for the supply of the unmarked full register.
- Over 70% of respondents agreed that there should be separate and different fees for printed and data copies of the marked register.
- Just over a half of respondents expressed the view that an administration fee for the supply of the register should be retained.

OPTION 3: Make no change to fee levels (and views on other matters raised in the consultation)

- Over 80% of respondents want a change to fees for the marked register of electors introduced under the Electoral Administration Act 2006.
- The majority of respondents want the same fees to apply to the Electoral Commission and Government departments.
- Over two thirds of those who expressed a view want candidates, elected representatives and political parties to be able to manually input data from the marked register into a laptop computer or other similar electronic device whilst inspecting it.

Responses to specific questions

OPTION 1: No fees for supply of the marked electoral register for candidates, political parties and elected representatives.

Q1. Do you think there should be no fee payable by candidates, elected representatives and political parties for supply of the marked electoral register?

Just over 60% of all respondents believed that a fee should be payable by the Customer group for the supply of the marked register.

However, the Customer group deems the marked register as having an important role in the democratic process. For this reason, the majority of responses (over three quarters) from this category advocate no fee at all: “Ideally there should not be a fee. Knowledge of the results of an election is an important tool in the democratic process and financial constraints should not become an obstacle in that process”.

The Customer group’s view is supported by the Electoral Commission, which considers the information contained in the marked register is of benefit to parties in their campaigning as well as of value to the operation of democracy in general. It believes there is a strong ‘in principle’ case for providing the marked register free of charge to parties and candidates who have contested a relevant election, subject to the findings of this review. However, if a fee is to be charged, the Commission thinks they ‘should be considerably lower than those currently in place’. It also points out that any charge should be ‘affordable for smaller political parties and independent candidates as well as major political parties’.

OPTION 2: Set fees at a lower level centrally

Q2. Do you support the current level of the new fees or do you think they are too high given the work involved?

Of all the respondents who expressed an opinion almost 70% were of the view that the fees for the supply of the marked register are too high. Almost a third said the fees were not too high and only a few respondents said that they are not high enough.

Of the supplier group, over 40% of those who responded on this point have the view that the new levels of fees are too high but over half say that these fees are not too high.

Almost 90% of ‘Other’ respondents responded to say that current levels of fees for the marked register are not too high.

The Electoral Commission points to the evidence it has from the May 2007 elections and other post-election contact with stakeholders that suggest that the current fees for the supply of the marked register are too high for many local political parties and that it would support a substantial reduction in the fees.

Q3. What impact has the change in the fees structure had?

The impact of the new fee charges on the customer group has been significant. Of those who expressed concerns, nearly three-quarters said that they had reduced their take-up. Around a quarter said it will have a significant detrimental impact on local democracy, as the marked register is a key tool for local parties and candidates to judge the effectiveness of their campaigns.

Suppliers report a reduced take-up of the marked registers compared to previous years with more candidates and parties taking advantage of supervised access to make their own hand-written notes. One MP noted “in my constituency we have stopped buying it (the marked register) because of the high cost”. The Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA) felt the responses from individual respondents would give a better picture but were expecting this to reveal complaints about the new fees and a fall in the number of marked registers purchased.

The Electoral Commission supports a reduction in the fees to ‘support the campaigning work of local political parties and candidates’.

Q4. What do you think would be a reasonable cost for the marked register for a ward of say 10,000 electors?

Of the Customer group, the majority showed a preference for the marked register to be free (refer to Question 1). If a charge were necessary, this group’s overwhelming view is that the marked register should be provided at a modest cost or at cost price: “It should be continually borne in mind that this is a mere photocopying exercise. The cost of preparing the register should not be transferred to those who wish to study the results of an election. If a charge has to be made it should be a nominal one, not a prohibitive one”. As a consequence, within this group, three quarters of the responses showed a preference for the fee to be £10 or less for a ward of 10,000 electors.

In contrast, half of the supplier responses supported a fee of less than £30, and the other half supported a fee of over £30.

The AEA recognise that their members are best placed to give a view, though would advocate a cost analysis of the work involved in providing photocopies of the marked register. The Electoral Commission is of the view that it is not convinced that providing copies of the marked register does or does not involve a substantial cost for local authorities. Nonetheless, the Commission accepts that political parties and electoral registration officers are best placed to provide the detailed information. It expected a broad range of opinions being put forward and the need for the Government to arrive at a compromise.

An equitable solution, in its view, “will necessarily result in a reduction in the charges for the marked register”.

Q5. Local authorities are asked to comment on the costs to them of producing marked registers. What is the cost for producing the marked register for a ward of say 10,000 electors?

This question was aimed at EROs in England and Wales and Sheriff Clerks in Scotland as the suppliers of the marked register of electors. A range of responses was received. The costs of producing the marked register for a ward of 10,000 electors varied between £10 to over £70. However, a third of suppliers said the costs were not known; of those who knew the cost of supplying the marked register, just under a half said it was under £20; and just over half said it should be £20 and above.

The AEA responded to say that all aspects of the work involved and not just photocopying should be covered by the fees. The Southern branch of the AEA further pointed out that the cost can vary from authority to authority.

Q6. Should the fees for supply of the marked register continue to be set centrally, but at a lower level?

The majority of respondents (over 70%) want the fees for the marked register to be set centrally.

The Electoral Commission, in accordance with its recommendation in its report ‘The marked electoral register’, urges the Government to continue to set a standard fee for the supply of the marked register to ensure a consistent fee regime across the whole of the UK.

Q7. On what basis do you think the fee for copies of the marked register should be calculated?

A range of views was received. A quarter of all respondents thought that the charge should be based on the cost recovery of material, council time and resources.

Just under a third of suppliers think the fees charged should be based on the number of electors. The AEA commented that a fee per 1,000 electors is satisfactory as it can be applied to printed and data versions of the marked registers.

The Electoral Commission recommended that a fee for the supply of the marked register be calculated on the basis of the number of electors to ensure greater consistency of costs for both data format and marked copies of the register from polling stations.

Q8. Should the fees for copies of the marked register mirror those for supply of the unmarked full electoral register?

Over 60% of total respondents believe that the fees for the marked register should not mirror those of the unmarked full electoral registers. This view was endorsed by nearly 60% of the supplier group and 70% of the customer group.

The AEA made the point that the fee for the full, unmarked register should be at the higher rate that recognises the ‘market value’ of those documents.

The Electoral Commission noted that following the measures introduced by the Electoral Administration Act 2006, restricting the supply of the marked register for the purposes of research or electoral issues is a sensible one in that it reduces the risk of the marked register being purchased for marketing or other unauthorised purposes in preference to the unmarked full register.

Q9. Should there be different fees for printed and data copies of the marked register?

Over 70% of all respondents wanted different fees to apply to printed and data copies of the marked register.

The AEA and its Southern Branch agree that there should be different fees for printed and data copies of the marked register to take into account the differences in the costs involved. However, the London Branch of the AEA took the view that they should be the same.

The Electoral Commission considers that the current arrangement, whereby data copies of the marked register of electors are less expensive to purchase than paper copies, should be retained as data files are cheaper to supply than paper copies.

The Commission also noted that encouragement of local authorities to scan copies of the marked register from polling stations, so that it may be available as data in a PDF format to reduce the local authority workload and the environmental impact of elections, was desirable in its view.

Q10. Do you think there should be an administration fee for supply of the marked register?

The response to this question is polarised between the supplier and customer group. Of the supplier group, just over 70% agreed that there should continue to be an administration fee for the supply of the marked register. However, from the customers’ perspective, just under 80% believed there should be no administration fee.

The AEA and its Southern Branch expressed the view that the administration fee is appropriate. The London branch of the AEA felt a ‘proper costed

analysis by independent auditors' could result in fees being set at a higher level and may or may not mean the addition of an administration fee.

The Electoral Commission considers that an administration fee for the supply of marked registers should be retained to deter enquiries for limited amounts of information which could reasonably be met through the public inspection of a marked register.

OPTION 3: Make no change to fee levels

Q11. Do you think there should be any changes to the new fees for supply of the marked register introduced under the Electoral Administration Act 2006, or should they remain the same?

Of the respondents who expressed a view over 80% said they would support a change in the level of the fees. Only 19% advocated keeping them as they are now.

The AEA agreed that the fee should be changed to reflect the costs involved.

The Electoral Commission, as noted above, point to the evidence it has that suggests that a reduction in the fees for the supply of the marked register to a reasonable figure is required to support the campaigning work of local political parties and candidates.

Supply of marked register to Electoral Commission and Government Departments

Q12. Do you think there are any justifications in favour of introducing different fees related to the identity of purchasers of the marked register? Or, should any changes arising from this consultation to the fees payable by candidates, elected representatives and political parties for supply of the marked register also apply to fees paid by the Electoral Commission and Government Departments?

60% of all respondents believed that the fee payable for the marked register should be the same for the Electoral Commission and Government Departments.

The AEA suggested that in the interest of simplicity, consistency and to reflect costs involved, it would like all purchasers to pay the same level of fees.

The Electoral Commission supports a consistent pricing regime for the supply of the marked register.

Q13. Should the Regulations be amended to include a form of words covering the use of a laptop or other electronic device to manually key information recorded on the marked register?

Over 70% of respondents who expressed a view would support a change in the regulations that would permit the use of a laptop or other electronic device to manually key in information from the marked register.

The AEA think it acceptable to allow the use of laptops, provided it is limited to those who may obtain the full marked register. However, a number of administrators have concerns around practical issues and security of data which need to be more fully explored before a decision is made.

The Electoral Commission would also support a change, provided it is restricted to the use of laptop computers. It would prefer electronic access through other devices such as handheld scanners or similar technology to be delayed until issues in relation to safeguarding of data and appropriate access have been adequately explored.

Conclusion and next steps

From the analysis of the consultation responses, it is clear that there is a wide variation among local authorities on the question of how much it actually costs to produce the marked register. Of those local authorities who responded to the consultation, a third put the cost at below £20 for producing the marked register for the equivalent of up to 10,000 electors whilst another third gave figures that varied from just over £20 to over £70. The remaining third did not provide any specific data on the costs.

When asked what a reasonable cost for copies of the marked register would be for up to 10,000 electors the results also varied significantly in the supplier group with a few arguing they should stay the same and others split over a range from below £10 to over £60. These views compared with all customers who gave a substantive response suggesting that that between £10 and £30 was reasonable.

That said, and taking into account key policy considerations (such as whether there should be a charge – on which a significant majority of almost two thirds of all respondents were in favour), it was possible to draw some conclusions from the responses. These are that:

- (a) on balance, elected representatives and political parties should be charged a fee for the supply of the marked register of electors;
- (b) the new fees introduced by the Representation of the People (England and Wales) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2006 are too high and are disproportionate for the work involved in producing copies of the marked register;
- (c) no overall consensus on what would be a reasonable level of fee was put forward;
- (d) the consultation on fees for the marked register showed clear differences of view between political parties and local authorities on the principle of charges for the register, and no agreement amongst the local authorities themselves on what would constitute a reasonable charge.

Subsequent work

As a consequence of the lack of consensus on what would constitute a reasonable cost, and in light of the need to balance recovery of the costs of production of copies for local authorities and set fees at a level that support the parties and candidates in making use of marked registers, the Ministry of Justice undertook further work to identify the actual costs of production. We

re-examined the information originally received from the consultation and requested further detail from a sample of ten local authorities that responded (and subsequently spoke with some others), to understand in more depth the resources and costs involved in production of copies.

This additional information confirmed a variation of costs between authorities ranging from £8 to £65 at the extremes with the majority of responses reflecting costs from just under £14 to just over £35 for a copy of the marked register covering 10,000 electors. The ‘outliers’ have peculiarities such as low staff costs and use of couriers for transfer of information within the authority, and so those were put aside. Within the remaining authorities the costs were below £30 for all but two.

What this also showed was how the costs were split and the need to take account of how varying volumes and staff costs meant that both an administration fee and a graduation fee structure for copies best suited the nature of and different customer’s entitlement to the information being provided.

Outcome

Having factored this additional targeted information into that coming from the consultation responses, and whilst recognising there is some polarisation of responses between ‘customer’ political parties and ‘supplier’ local authorities, and the disparity of costs among local authorities, it is, as the Electoral Commission predicted in its response, necessary for a compromise to be reached. In seeking that we have aimed to both reduce costs to customers whilst also recovering the costs of production for suppliers.

We have also decided to retain the existing fee structure in the main in order to take account of the information being available in two formats, that are often mixed to obtain the overall marked register information for a given area.

On that basis the following proposed fee structure is being put forward:

- customers would pay a single administration fee per request of £10, rather than two separate fees as now;
- customers would be charged £2 [rather than £5] for each 1,000 entries (or part of) in printed format, and £1 [rather than £1.50] for each 1,000 entries (or part of) in electronic format;

- the changes would apply for Westminster Parliamentary elections in England, Wales and Scotland, and local government elections in England and Wales; and to the supply of marked registers and lists produced at a Welsh Assembly election.

Depending on the mix of paper and electronic data provided in a given case, this would produce fees for marked register information on 10,000 electors of between £20-30 (and information for 70,000 electors – equivalent to an average “constituency” of between £80-£150) with the lower figure representing the cost for an entirely electronic dataset and the higher figure for an entirely paper version.

Consultation Co-ordinator contact details

If you have any complaints or comments about the **consultation process** rather than about the topic covered by this paper, you should contact Gabrielle Kann, Ministry of Justice Consultation Co-ordinator, on 020 7210 1326, or email her at consultation@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Alternatively, you may wish to write to the address below:

**Gabrielle Kann
Consultation Co-ordinator
Ministry of Justice
5th Floor Selborne House
54-60 Victoria Street
London
SW1E 6QW**

If your complaints or comments refer to the topic covered by this paper rather than the consultation process, please direct them to the contact given on page 4.

The consultation criteria

The six consultation criteria are as follows:

1. Consult widely throughout the process, allowing a minimum of 12 weeks for written consultation at least once during the development of the policy.
2. Be clear about what your proposals are, who may be affected, what questions are being asked and the timescale for responses.
3. Ensure that your consultation is clear, concise and widely accessible.
4. Give feedback regarding the responses received and how the consultation process influenced the policy.
5. Monitor your department's effectiveness at consultation, including through the use of a designated consultation co-ordinator.
6. Ensure your consultation follows better regulation best practice, including carrying out a Regulatory Impact Assessment if appropriate.

These criteria must be reproduced within all consultation documents.

Annex A – List of respondents

List of Respondents

Members of Parliament

Dr Roger Berry MP, Kingswood

David Cairns MP, Inverclyde

Ian Cawsey MP, Brigg and Goole

David Clelland MP, Tyne Bridge

Jim Cunningham MP, Coventry South

Paul Flynn MP, Newport West

Linda Gilroy MP, Plymouth Sutton

Rt Hon Peter Hain MP, Neath

John Healey MP, Wentworth

Rt Hon Michael Jack MP, Fylde

John Leech MP, Manchester Withington

Jim McGovern MP, Dundee West

Andrew Miller MP, Ellesmere Port and Neston (2 responses received)

Julie Morgan MP, Cardiff North

Elliott Morley MP, Scunthorpe

Alison Seabeck MP, Plymouth Devonport

David Tredinnick MP, Bosworth

Members of Scottish Parliament

Fergus Ewing MSP, Inverness East

Stewart Stevenson MSP, Banff & Buchan

Local Councillors

Councillor Louise Baldock, Liverpool City Council

Councillor Chris Blakeley, Wirral Council

Councillor Michael Coleman, Stoke on Trent City Council

Councillors Colin Hayfield and Mick Stanley, North Warwickshire Borough Council

Councillor John Illingworth, Leeds City Council

Councillor Ann James, Leader of City Independent Group, Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Councillor David Jonas, Wealden District Council

Councillor David R Jones, Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

Councillor Pat Karney, Labour Group, Manchester City Council

Councillor Stephen Smith, Aberdeenshire Council

Councillor Paul Waggott, South Tyneside Council

Political parties

Cardiff North Labour Party

Andy Chase, Election Agent, York Green Party

Alan Cunliffe, Secretary, St Helens North Labour Party

Geoff Fawcett, Secretary Leeds North West Constituency Labour Party

Lindsley Harvard, Chairman, Coventry South Labour Party

Thomas James Holloway, Director of Operations, Kenilworth and Southam Conservative Association & Stratford on Avon Conservative Association

Hugh Michael Humphreys, Member of Executive & Management Committee, Taunton Deane Constituency Liberal Democrat Party

Jane Jones, Plymouth and South West Co-op Society Party Council

Michael Marra, Secretary, Dundee West Labour Party

Roger Alfred James Mills, Secretary, Gloucester Constituency Labour Party

Professor R J Moffett, Treasurer, Local Liberal Democrat Party in Ecclesall Ward, Sheffield

Peter Murrell, Chief Executive, Scottish National Party

Claire Nangle, Secretary Manchester District Labour Party

Peter Frank Charles Sabine, Political Agent, Eastbourne Conservative Association and Wealden Conservative Association

Barbara Sykes, Vice Chair Stourbridge Constituency Labour Party

Eamonn Ward, Election Agent for Sheffield Green Party

Colin Woodman, CLP secretary, Plymouth Sutton and Devonport Constituency Labour Party

Electoral Registration Officers, Sheriff Clerks & Electoral Administrators

Julie Baron, Electoral Services Manager, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

Michael Bentley, Electoral Services Manager, London Borough of Merton

Sir Howard Bernstein, Chief Executive & Electoral Registration Officer, Manchester City Council

Katherine Bescoby, Democratic and Electoral Services Manager, Swale Borough Council

Kerry Blundell, Electoral Services, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

Sue Bonham-Lovett, Electoral Services Manager, Weymouth and Portland Borough Council

Myra Brooks, Administrative and Democratic Services, Conwy County Borough Council

Linda Clarkson, Principal Electoral Services Officer, Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council

Michelle Curtis, Principal Electoral Services Officer Salford City Council

Peter Davies, Electoral Services and Administration Manager, Chief Executive's Directorate, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Steve Dunning, Assistant Director Democratic Services, Derby City Council

Dana Eynon, Elections & Democratic Services, Torfaen County Borough Council

Sue Gamalatge, Electoral Services Manager, Test Valley Borough Council

Gill Gymer, Registration Services, Maidstone Borough Council

Lesley Hales, Senior Electoral Registration Officer, Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council

John Hammersley, Principal Elections Officer, Stoke on Trent City Council

Raymond Harvey, Registration Officer, Gwynedd County Council

Mike Hickman, Electoral Services Manager, West Dorset District Council

Annie Howliston, Elections Officer, Castle Morpeth Borough Council

Julie Jevons, Electoral Services Manager, Mansfield District Council

David Kidger, Interim Elections Manager, Liverpool City Council

Paul Libreri, Electoral Services Manager, London Borough of Harrow

Joanne MacGregor, Electoral Services, North Tyneside Council

Christine Mason, Electoral Services Manager, Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

Paul Morris, Electoral Registration and Returning Officer, Poole Borough Council

William Pollock, Deputy Returning Officer, South Ayrshire Council

Joyce Redfearn, Chief Executive and Returning Officer, Wigan Council

Sally Reswick, Electoral Services Office, Melton Borough Council

Rosemary Rutins, Democratic Services Manager, New Forest District Council

Philip Secombe, Electoral Services Officer, East Devon District Council

Nigel Spilsbury, Electoral Services Manager, Plymouth City Council

Valerie Stephenson, Democratic Services, South Tyneside Council

Ian White, Electoral Services Manager, Kettering Borough Council

Jackie Pepperall, Service Director & Legal Democratic Services - Wakefield District Borough Council

Representative Groups

Keith Butler, Secretary, Association of Electoral Administrators Southern Branch

John Owen, Acting Executive Director of Policy, Association of Electoral Administrators

Peter Stanyon, Chair, Association of Electoral Administrators, London Branch

Organisations

Sam Younger, Chairman, The Electoral Commission

Members of the Public

Laura Rawlings

Mechelle Ross

Richard Taylor

Others

Dr Linda Kirk, Sheffield University

Seven responses were received from persons or organisations who did not identify themselves.

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