



**Law
Commission**
Reforming the law

1st Floor, Tower
52 Queen Anne's Gate
London
SW1H 9AG

Kevin Foster MP
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

t: 020 3334 5476
f: 020 3334 0201
e: nicholas.paines@lawcommission.gov.uk

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Dear Minister

Law Commissions' electoral law project

Thank you for your letter of 17 July 2019, in relation to our discussions of the way forward for the electoral law project that we have conducted jointly with the Scottish and Northern Ireland Law Commissions. I have shared your letter with colleagues at those Commissions.

We agree that the best route forward for the project is to focus on publishing a final report, which will reflect the lessons that the Law Commission has learned from exploring possible reform through secondary legislation. In particular we expect the report to consider the balance between primary and secondary legislation in electoral regulation. In tandem with the report, the Law Commission will publish the draft statutory instrument that we have been working on. We aim to publish the report around the end of this year.

We of course wish our final report to produce benefits for governments and the wider electoral community, and are happy to continue discussing with you recommendations that could be implemented in the near future to target particular problems. Ultimately, however, we expect to remain of the view that electoral law is in need of holistic and structural reform, and to maintain our recommendations in that regard in the final report.

The challenges facing the electoral law world have evolved since 2016; we have seen growing concern over matters such as digital campaigning, interference in elections, and intimidation of candidates and campaigners. Our final report will note these developments, so far as they are within its scope, and we shall consider whether any of our recommendations should change in view of developments since 2016.

We are grateful for the support that the Cabinet Office has given us throughout this project, and for your assurance of future regular meetings to assist us in finalising our work.

Yours sincerely

Nicholas Paines QC
Law Commissioner