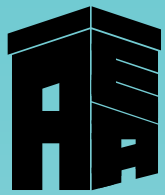




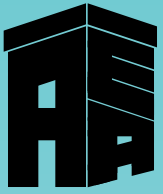
Parliamentary General Election – 2010
Where can it all go wrong and
how to avoid that being you

John Turner
Chief Executive, AEA



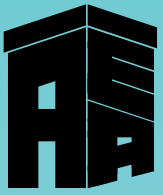
The facts, reality & questions

- **Do election petitions happen?**
- **Who do they happen to?**
- **What about investigations and reviews?**
- **What could it mean for me?**
- **How can I avoid it happening to me?**



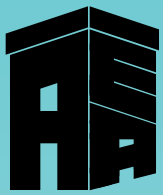
Critical Factors

- **What could go wrong? (Murphy's Law)**
- **Register**
- **Postal Votes**
- **Printing/Software**
- **Polling Stations**
- **Staff (office and activity based)**
- **The count**
- **Using intelligence**



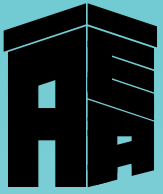
Pre-Election activity (1)

- **Consider your independent role**
- **Avoid being exposed in political issues**
- **Ensure staff avoid contentious situations**
- **Establish planning/ management group**
- **Appointment of deputies with full or specific powers**



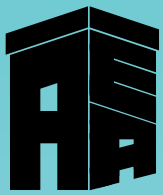
Pre-Election activity (2)

- **Consider timetable/keep diary clear**
- **Avoid enthusiast wanting favours**
- **Maintain political independence**
- **Settle accounting arrangements**
- **Check contractual arrangements**
- **Agree arrangements for cross boundary issues**
- **Plan for combination if it could apply**



Avoiding a petition (1)

- **Proper planning**
- **Use project/risk management techniques**
- **Get the basics right**
- **Leave nothing to chance**
- **Check, check and check again**



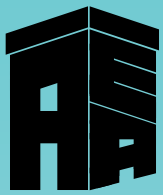
Avoiding a petition (2)

- **Take care with outsourcing**
- **Ensure proper communications**
- **Watch the fault lines:**
 - Nominations
 - Postal votes
 - Polling day
 - The Count



How not to get there

- **Attention to detail**
- **Taking personal interest and responsibility**
- **Compliance with the law**
- **Following good practice guidance**



AEA support and resources

- **Biggest bank of knowledge in UK**
 - Branch and local networks
 - Website (FAQ and CAQ)
- **The Count - Issues Paper**
- **Training (programme and bespoke)**
- **Hot line approach**
- **Consultancy**
- **You need not be alone**