

The
Electoral
Commission

Advocating a vision, setting the standards

Sam Younger

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A clear vision

In the United Kingdom people have the right to say who governs them. They therefore have a right to vote (or not to vote) in secret, for who they want, in a way that is easy for them, and to have their vote counted. They expect that electoral services will support the modernising and customer services agenda in public service.

- A shared vision
- Widely consulted upon over the past two years
 - Enjoys broad support from electoral administrators and political parties as well as govt officials and the Commission
 - Sets out the reasonable expectations of electors and candidates & parties
 - Directs us to set and monitor indicators that measure whether these expectations are being met

Supporting the vision

- Provides the context for the Commission's development strategy
- Informs our guidance and support materials
- Acts as a framework for assessing the impact of our work

Setting Standards

- Indicators, measures and assessments already exist:
 - Commission's 2002 indicators
 - Commission's 2004 work in Scotland
 - Commission benchmarking resource
 - NI registration assessments
- Evolution of existing indicators to fit changed times and expectations
- Learning from existing performance regimes and mindful of additional burdens

Cost of electoral services

- Agreement on a need for transparency as to the costs of our electoral process
- We will move to address this through a structured and measured approach, with expert local government finance input
- Reliant on honesty and promptness of local authority data
- Test for linkages to performance and outcomes

Registration: a national priority

- Increasing comment and concern as to the accuracy and completeness of our electoral registers
- A national issue, not specific to any one nation or region
- An important issue – registration is the foundation of our electoral process
- Agreement that we need to know more about determinants of registration and develop strategies for improvement

Phase I: standards for electoral registration

- Reflect the priority of addressing electoral registration
- Use existing data sources where possible and appropriate – eg ONS, GRO
- Develop a model for costing electoral registration services
- Full system of ERO data submission and self-assessment by 1 Dec 2007

Phase I: an indicative timetable (1)

- Sept-Oct 06
Assess existing indicators and identify data sources
- Oct-Dec 06
Consult on indicators
- Feb 07
Publish intended indicators
- Mar-Jun 07
Pilot indicators with pilot group
- Jul 07
Self assessment framework published and peer support established
- 1 Dec 07
EROs submit self-assessment

Phase I: an
indicative
timetable (2)

- Jan-Feb 08
- Mar-Jul 08
- May 08

Analysis and review
Peer support process
Report published

Costs of
registration: an
indicative
timetable

- Oct 06 Testing of financial model
- Dec 06 Publish model
- Mar 06 EROs to report 06-7 expenditure and 07-8 budget
- Dec 07 Financial data collected with self-assessment

Electoral event standards

- Still very important, but not as comparable by year or event as registration
- Limited prospect of 'status quo' elections over next three years
- Need to be in place and ready to go for next UK Parliamentary general election or European Parliamentary election, whichever is first

Phase II:
electoral event
standards

- Jan 08 Event indicators in place
- 2008 Pilots of event indicators
- Jan 2009 Assessment framework for indicators published following pilots
- Sept 09 Reports against assessment framework submitted following either an early 2009 general election or the June EPEs

Support and assistance

- Currently looking at different models of support to identify needs over the next five years
- Commission is already empowered to offer assistance to ROs and EROs
- Underpinned by guidance and advice services
- Key result of indicator pilots will be knowledge on level of support required for self-assessment process

Peer review, assessment and support

- Options on peer review:
 - All ROs/EROs within a cycle
 - All ROs/EROs but prioritised by risk
 - Sample of ROs/EROs
 - High and low performing ROs/EROs
- Will be seeking views on these options over remainder of 2006-7
- Resource implications

A partnership approach

- Stakeholder Advisory Panel
- Open consultation processes on indicators
- New development strategy to support and deliver improvement