

# Electoral administration – the Government's approach

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**AEA Seminar**  
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# The MoJ's objectives (1)

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Our goal is “to deliver an electoral system that has the confidence of citizens”

Not just elections, but whole system including political party funding and governance of the Electoral Commission

# The MoJ's objectives (2)

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In the electoral administration field, this means:

- elections are accessible and secure
- legal framework and administration is robust
- partnership working – with administrators and the Electoral Commission

# The context – elections and issues

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- GLA and local elections May 2008
- European Elections 4 June 2009 – combination and boundaries?
- General Election - ?

## Issues

- Supplier capacity
- Postal Vote Identifiers and data matching
- Boundaries for the European elections
- Elections in the canvass period

# What we told you in February

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- No legislation unless “essential” - what do we mean by that?
- help bed down EA Act change
- help you to address supply issues
- controlled innovation - the future of e-voting and e-counting

# What has our response been?

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Political Parties and Elections Bill – target Spring 2009 – provision on elections in the canvass period and boundaries for European elections

RROs appointed for EP elections – monthly meetings with MoJ and EC, with a supplier sub group

Legislation in place 6 months before the poll, except where there's a clear case

# CORE

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## *Why?*

- **Political Parties Elections & Referendums Act (2000) placed obligations on parties to check donations**
- **Electoral Registration Act (2006) introduced preventative measures to reduce potential fraud**

## *Benefits?*

- **effective donation checking**
- **helping with fraud checking**
- **basis for any future improvements to the registration system?**

# CORE

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## *How CORE is progressing*

- **Implementation of electoral registration data standards – Electoral Commission recommendation, SoS direction April 2008, guidance July/August**
- **Excellent progress so far. Deadline December 2009**
- **Requirements gathering - CORE workshops - 12 regionally. Defining what system will do and how. Will listen to your messages – even the negative ones....**

# The context - wider Government policy (1)

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“Governance of Britain” agenda – raising participation:

- Weekend voting consultation – closes 24 September
- Youth Citizenship Commission – Votes@16?
- Citizenship and the franchise

# The context - wider Government policy (2)

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- an elected House of Lords
- Walport-Thomas review – the edited register
- access to the full electoral register
- security of postal voting
- DCLG agenda - “voting incentives”
- elected policing representatives

# Electoral administration – the future

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- Govt articulating its approach to administration - a strategy? Considering EC examination
- Performance standards
- Looking hard at individual registration
- Consolidation of electoral law