



AEA Statement - reports of EU citizens being unable to vote in today's polls

Electoral administrators and councils have been working flat out over the last two months to make sure that everyone who is eligible to can vote in an election that they had been advised would not be taking place. We know that electoral teams are concerned about reports that some EU citizens have found that they are not able to vote today when they have worked hard to enable democracy.

As soon as the Prime Minister announced on 5 April that the Government would be making the Order to set the date for today's poll, our members began to send UC1 forms out to EU citizens registered to vote in their area – even though there is no requirement in law to do so. They were also made available via Council websites ahead of the final return deadline of 7 May, and the Government added messages to the register to vote section of GOV.UK highlighting that, for EU citizens, registration for European Parliamentary Elections is a two-stage process.

In previous years, UC1 forms and reminders would have been sent from January onwards. EU citizens have been required to fill in this additional form for over 20 years every time there has been a European Parliamentary Election to vote in the UK, or alternatively choose to vote in or via the country they hold citizenship of.

It is disappointing that some EU citizens have been unable to vote today, but the electoral process is governed by a legislative framework that Council officials have to work within. Any case reported to a council will need to be looked at individually to ascertain the facts.

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