

# The Association of Electoral Administrators

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## **Statement from the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA) on publication of the report from the Joint Committee on the Fixed Term Parliaments Act.**

The Joint Committee's wish to significantly reduce the general election timetable is simply not possible within our current electoral system. As stated in our evidence, the current 25 day timetable is only just achievable, particularly in the case of a snap election.

A minimum statutory timetable with no lead-in time does not put the citizen first. A shorter timetable would risk disenfranchising electors, leaving them little time to register to vote or cast postal votes, especially those living overseas. Less time would also significantly jeopardise a Returning Officer's ability to manage poll logistics.

We also question the practicality of a working party focused on increased use of technology and year-round voter registration –which is already in place -ahead of the next general election. Voter ID and votes for all overseas UK electors, however long they have lived abroad, are already promised ahead of the next general election via upcoming legislation. These are major changes with time and cost variables that can only be estimated. There is only so much that can be done at once.

Rather than bolting on even more legislation to the current system, we call for a single Electoral Administration Act to be drafted taking on board all changes. A new Act would be the best way to introduce logical and manageable change to enable electoral administrators to deliver the service voters expect and deserve.

[Report from the Joint Committee on the Fixed Terms Parliament Act](#)

[AEA written evidence to the Joint Committee, February 2021](#)

**24 March 2021**