

# The Association of Electoral Administrators



## Response to: Technical consultation on street naming - Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)

**Organisation:** The Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA).

**Summary of Organisation:** Founded in 1987, the AEA is the professional body representing the interests of electoral administrators in the United Kingdom. We are a non-governmental and non-partisan body with just under 2,000 members, the majority of whom are employed by local authorities to provide electoral registration and election services. There are eleven branches of the Association covering the United Kingdom.

### Contact Details:

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## Street Naming

This DLUHC [consultation paper](#) outlines the UK Government's consideration of changes to introduce votes on proposed changes of street names across England.

We are concerned the proposals introduce further electoral burden on local authorities.

Local authorities are responsible for the delivery of a range of polls, including Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and Neighbourhood Planning Referendums (NPRs). Since changes introduced BIDs and NPRs, Returning Officers and their teams have already seen a dramatic increase in their year-round workload.

The electoral sector is already undergoing significant change. The Elections Act 2022 sees Voter ID being introduced along with a further raft of changes across a range of areas. In addition, the repeal of the Fixed Term Parliaments Act and implementation of the new UK Parliamentary boundaries ahead of the next general election are bringing further demands.

Local authorities do not have limitless resources. Capacity within electoral services teams is already stretched to near breaking point. Adding additional burdens increases the risk of democratic failure.

DLUHC have recognised the challenges facing the sector when planning the implementation of the Elections Act. We would urge the same government department to assess the ability of Returning Officers and their teams to deliver yet another additional poll.

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If DLUHC plan to introduce polls relating to street naming, urgent consultation is vital. It is imperative any plans do not overwhelm an already fragile sector.

**Angela Holden**

**Policy Manager on behalf of the AEA**

**6 May 2022**