

The impact of the introduction of voter ID requirements on elections

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

27 November 2023

- Voter ID requirements introduced under the Elections Act 2022 as part of the government's Electoral Integrity Programme
- All voters must show an accepted form of photo ID before they can be issued with a ballot paper
- Gov.UK provides a list of accepted forms of ID - <https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need>
- ID can be expired – but must be an original and photo must look like the voter

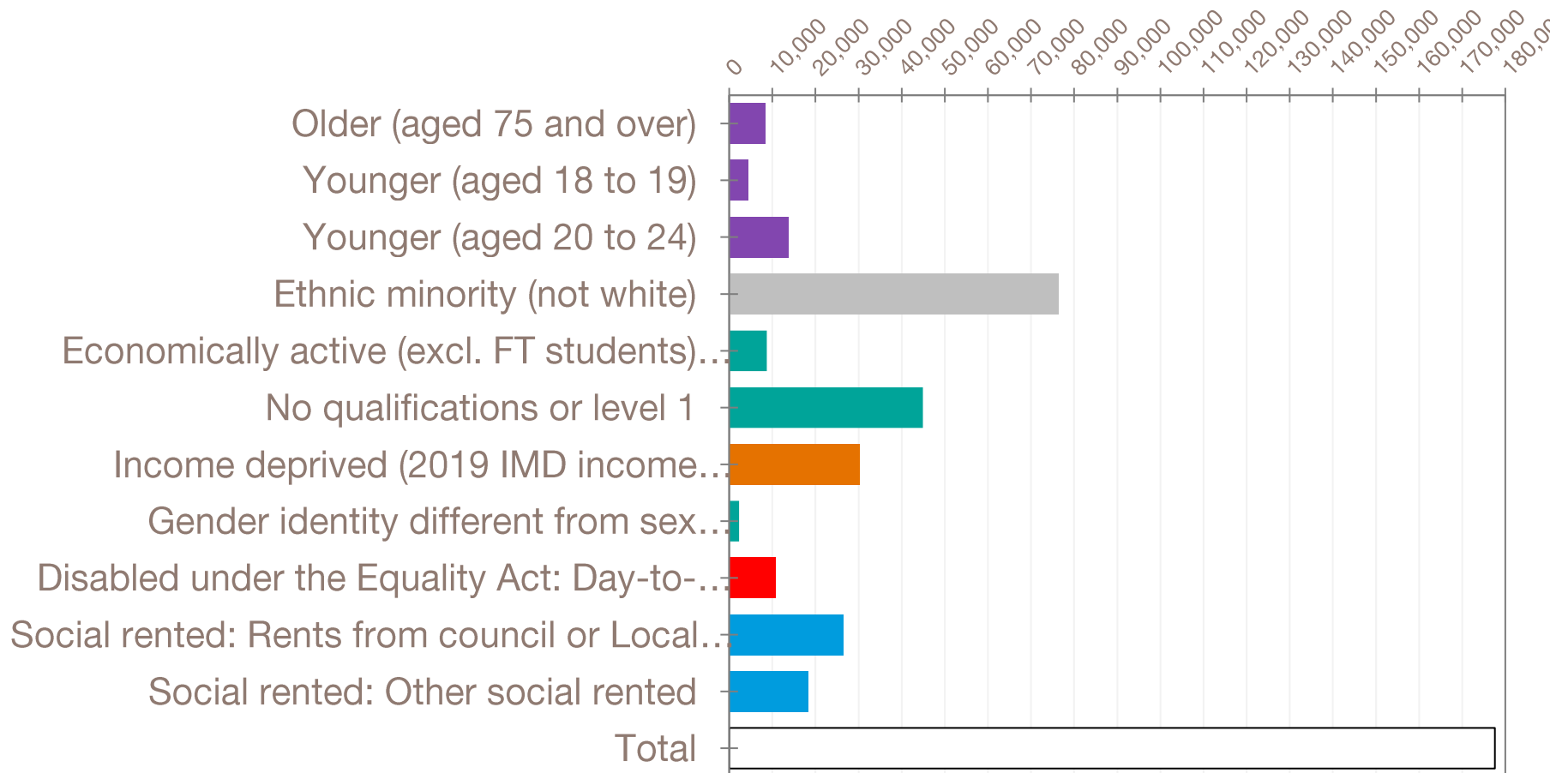
- Anyone can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate (VAC)
- Online: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>
- By Post
- In person:
 - Wood Green Library Customer Services Centre
 - Marcus Garvey Customer Services Centre

Analysis of Photo ID Possession

- Undertaken population analysis to better understand our communities and access to accepted forms of voter ID
- A study commissioned by the Cabinet Office found that while 98% of UK adults possessed at least one of the required types of ID, the figure went down to 96% for those whose photo was still definitely recognisable. The figure, the report showed, would be even lower for certain segments of the population, e.g. those with severely limiting disabilities, older people, people with lower qualifications, unemployed, people who have not voted before, etc.

- Joseph Rowntree Foundation own research showed that “low-income potential voters are much more likely not to have photo ID compared to richer potential voters (1% compared to 6%)”
- Runnymede Trust reported the introduction of voter ID could stop over 2M people from voting, a figure equivalent to 4% of the electorate. 11% of those unemployed, 13% of those renting from the local authority, and 12% of those renting from a housing association lacking any form of ID. Black and ethnic minority communities are amongst those most likely to be overrepresented in these groups.

Estimated size of 'at risk' segments within the Electoral Register



Electoral Register segments	Total	Scenarios of % of electors with no valid ID				
		2%	4%	6%	8%	10%
Electors with no associated risk factors (white, not disabled, mid-high quals, >24 & <65)	59,307	1,186	2,372	3,558	4,745	5,931
Rest of electors	118,259	2,365	4,730	7,096	9,461	11,826
Total	177,566					

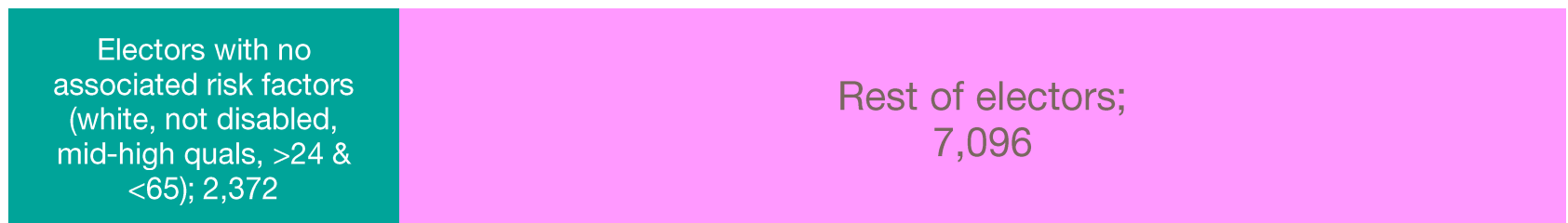
Estimated size of 'at risk' segments within the Haringey Electoral Register

Total Electoral Register: ca. 178,000



Estimated number of electors likely not to have valid voter ID in Haringey

Total: ca. 9,500



What have we done so far

- Voter Authority Certificates have gone live
 - Can apply online, in person at Wood Green and Marcus Garvey Customer Services Centres or via a paper form
- Members briefing issued in April
 - More briefings to come as more parts of the Elections Act are implemented
- No scheduled polls in London in 2023 – key elections staff went to support & observe elsewhere in England
- Examples of good practice recorded and refined for Haringey
- Annual Canvass is currently underway and includes comms about Voter ID

What have we done so far

- Implemented voter ID and trialled our accessibility work at by-elections in June and October 2023 – a good chance to test our preparedness
 - This was supported by a Communications plan that focussed on the changes especially Voter ID and accessibility
 - High-level version of our Communications plan was sent to each candidate's election agent so that political parties and their members can help spread the message whilst out campaigning
 - Our comms plan was presented to London Councils Communications leads at a recent meeting and was well received
 - Our assets are being shared as examples of good practice

The Communications plan

- New poll card wording – A4 letter (enveloped)
- All polling station voters were sent:
 - A Voter ID leaflet in with their poll card
 - An additional letter with details about Voter ID
 - Where an email address was held – two emails flagging the election and Voter ID

Voter ID is here...

The UK government has made it a legal requirement for all voters to show an approved form of photo ID when voting in a polling station at local elections.

Approved forms of photo ID include:

- ✓ a UK or Northern Ireland photocard driving licence (full or provisional)
- ✓ a Freedom Pass
- ✓ a driving licence issued by the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Isle of Man or any of the Channel Islands
- ✓ an older person's bus pass
- ✓ a disabled person's bus pass
- ✓ a UK passport or a passport issued by the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein or a Commonwealth country
- ✓ a Blue Badge
- ✓ a PASS card (National Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- ✓ a National Identity Card issued by the EU, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein
- ✓ a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)
- ✓ a Defence Identity Card (MOD form 90)
- ✓ an Oyster 60+ card
- ✓ an Anonymous Elector's Document (AED)

Your vote is important. Don't lose it.

If you don't have an approved form of photo ID, don't worry – you can still cast your vote – but you will need to apply for a **Free Voter Authority Certificate (VAC)** to take with you to the polling station instead.

For more information about Voter ID, including the full list of approved documents and how to get your free VAC, visit:

www.haringey.gov.uk/voter-id



Translations

This leaflet outlines the new Voter ID requirement. It explains how you will need to show photo ID to vote in a polling station, what the acceptable forms of photo ID are, and how to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate if you don't have suitable photo ID. If you would like this leaflet translated, please email translationandinterpreting@haringey.gov.uk

Turkish

Bu broşür yeni Seçmen Kimlik ID gerekliliğini genel hatlarıyla vermektedir. Bir oy verme yerinde oyladığınız için fotoğrafı KİM ID gerekliliğiyle nasıl ihtiyacınıza olacağına, fotoğrafı KİM ID ile kullanabileceğiniz diğer adayları, eğer uygun bir fotoğrafı KİM ID için, ya da bir Voter Authority Certificate (Seçmen Yetki Belgesi Sertifikası) için nasıl başvurduğunuzla ilgili ayrıntıları verir. Bu broşürün yeni tercüme ve yorum taleplerinizi, lütfen e-posta adresine translationandinterpreting@haringey.gov.uk yazınız.

Polish

Niniejsza ulotka zawiera informacje na temat nowego wymogu dotyczącego identyfikacji wyborców. Wyjaśnia, że w celu oddania głosu w lokalnych wyborach należy okazać dokument tożsamości ze zdjęciem oraz jakie dokumenty tożsamości są akceptowane, a także jak złożyć wniosek o wydanie upoważnienia dla wyborcy (Voter Authority Certificate), jeżeli wybrana nie posiada się odpowiedniego dokumentu tożsamości ze zdjęciem. Aby uzyskać tłumaczenie ulotki, należy wysłać wiadomość na adres translationandinterpreting@haringey.gov.uk

Spanish

Este folleto describe el nuevo requisito de Documento de Identidad (DI) del Votante. En él mismo se explica cómo será necesario que usted muestre su Documento de Identidad (DI) con fotografía en un colegio electoral, cuáles son las formas aceptables del Documento de Identidad (DI) con fotografía, y cómo presentar una solicitud para obtener un Certificado de Autorización del Votante, para el caso de que usted no cuente con un Documento de Identidad (DI) con fotografía adecuado. Si usted desea obtener este folleto traducido, por favor, envíe un correo electrónico a translationandinterpreting@haringey.gov.uk

Portuguese

Este folheto descreve o novo requisito de identificação do eleitor. Ele explica como será necessário mostrar uma identificação com foto para votar em uma seção eleitoral, quais são os tipos aceitáveis de identificação com foto, e como solicitar um Certificado de Autorização Eleitoral se você não tiver uma identificação com foto adequada. Caso desira uma tradução deste folheto, favor enviar um e-mail para translationandinterpreting@haringey.gov.uk

Greek

Αυτό το φυλλάδιο περιγράφει τη νέα απαίτηση Ταυτότητας Ψηφοφόρου. Εξηγεί πώς θα χρειαστεί να δείξετε την ψήφο ταυτότητα με φωτογραφία για να ψηφίσετε σε ένα εκλογικό κέντρο, ποια είναι τα αποδεκτά είδη ψήφο ταυτότητα με φωτογραφία και πώς να ζητήσετε ένα Ταυτότητα Ψηφοφόρου (Voter Authority Certificate) εάν δεν έχετε κατάλληλο έγγραφο ταυτότητας με φωτογραφία. Εάν επιθυμείτε αυτό το φυλλάδιο μεταφρασμένο, στείλτε email στο translationandinterpreting@haringey.gov.uk

Somali

Bu broşür jirteban waa uu qeeybaha dhurucida ah aqoonsiga Codsiyaha kuula. Waxay sharayaa sida ad ay u dhahsan tahay naad fudud aqoonsiga kuwaha iyo sida ay u ogaadaan qoobka codsiyaha, iyo sida ay aqoonsiga sameyn karaan la aqbali karo ay yihiin, iyo sida loo codsado Shaqaadada Hey'adda Coo-kuwaha hadsi samaha iyo aqoonsiga sawir ah oo ku haboon. Hadii aad jirteban lahayd iyo buuq-jirteban lahayd, fadhiin imay u dir translationandinterpreting@haringey.gov.uk

Digital advertising



We ran three different creatives across Meta and Display advertising.

You need photo ID to vote at a polling station.



If you don't have an approved form of photo ID, don't worry - you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate.

www.haringey.gov.uk/elections YOUR VOTE MATTERS DON'T LOSE IT 

Hermitage and Gardens by-election
Thursday 29 June 2023



"We're voting in the by-election, are you?"

#HaringeyVotes 

YOUR VOTE MATTERS DON'T LOSE IT 

Are you ready to vote? Check that...



You've registered to vote ✓
You have approved photo ID, and take it with you when you go to the polling station ✓

www.haringey.gov.uk/elections YOUR VOTE MATTERS DON'T LOSE IT  

Offline

Posters

Put up posters in and near council housing in the Hermitage and Gardens ward

HERMITAGE AND GARDENS BY-ELECTION
Thursday 29 June 2023

"We're voting in the by-election, are you?"

YOUR VOTE MATTERS
DON'T LOSE IT

Haringey LONDON

This poster features a grid of 15 diverse people's faces. It includes a QR code and the Haringey London logo.

Posters

Put up posters in and near council housing in the Hermitage and Gardens ward

You need photo ID to vote at a polling station.

Approved forms of photo ID include:

- a UK or Northern Ireland photocard driving licence (full or provisional)
- a driving licence issued by the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Isle of Man or any of the Channel Islands
- a UK passport or a passport issued by the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein or a Commonwealth country
- a PASS card (National Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- an Oyster 60+ card
- a Freedom Pass
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- a Blue Badge
- a National Identity Card issued by the EU, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein
- a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)
- a Defence Identity Card (PROD form 90)
- an Anonymous Elector's Document (AED)

If you don't have an approved form of photo ID, don't worry - you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate.

For more information about photo ID, including the full list of approved documents and how to get your free Voter Authority Certificate, scan the QR code.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS
DON'T LOSE IT

Haringey LONDON

This poster features a list of approved photo IDs and a QR code. It includes a small graphic of a pinned note.

Clearchannel

Ran an ad about Voter ID on our clearchannel sites across the borough

You need photo ID to vote at a polling station.

If you don't have an approved form of photo ID, don't worry - you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate.

For more information about photo ID, including the full list of approved documents and how to get your free Voter Authority Certificate, scan the QR code.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS
DON'T LOSE IT

Haringey LONDON

This ad features a pinned note graphic and a QR code. It includes the Haringey London logo.

Social Media

- We promoted the by-election across Twitter and Facebook
- We focused on encouraging people to register to vote and reminding people of key dates (e.g., deadlines for proxy and postal vote)
- We also raised awareness of Voter ID, how to get a free VAC, and the opportunities to vote independently in our polling stations

Haringey Council @haringeycouncil

You'll need to show photo ID to vote in person at the Hermitage and Gardens by-election on 29 June.

Take a minute to check you have the right photo ID.

If not, you can still apply for a free voter authority certificate by 5pm on 21 June.

More info: [haringey.gov.uk/voter-id](https://www.haringey.gov.uk/voter-id)



Haringey Council @haringeycouncil

From wheelchair accessible booths to magnifiers, these are just some of the ways we are making our polling stations accessible for the Hermitage and Gardens by-election.

Find out more about all the ways you can vote independently: [haringey.gov.uk/local-democrac...](https://www.haringey.gov.uk/local-democrac...)



Haringey Council @haringeycouncil

The Hermitage and Gardens ward by-election is taking place on 29 June 2023.

If you need a postal vote, make sure we've received your application before 5pm on Wednesday 14 June.

Find out more: [haringey.gov.uk/elections](https://www.haringey.gov.uk/elections)



Online

Internal

We did a snapcomms announcement to inform staff of the by-election.

We featured both the announcement and the results of the by-election on the intranet.

Email marketing

We featured the by-election twice in our weekly e-newsletter HPX.

Have your say – use your voice and vote next Thursday

There's less than a week to go until the Hermitage and Gardens ward by-election on Thursday (29 June 2023).

If you live in Hermitage and Gardens, don't miss your chance to have your say – your vote matters!

You will need to show an approved form of photo ID to vote in person at a polling station.

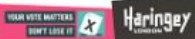
[See more information about voter ID, including the full list of approved documents](#)

Hermitage and Gardens by-election • Thursday 29 June 2023



"We're voting in the by-election, are you?"

#HaringeyVotes
www.haringey.gov.uk/elections



Other e-newsletters

Included information about the by-election in the Bridge Renewal Trust e-newsletter.

Hermitage and Gardens by-election

A by-election will be held in the Hermitage and Gardens Ward on Thursday 29 June 2023. If you live in Hermitage and Gardens, don't miss your chance to have your say – your vote matters!

You will need to show photo ID at polling stations to vote. If you don't have an approved form of photo ID, don't worry – you can still cast your vote - but you will need to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) to take with you to the polling station instead. The deadline to apply is 5pm on Wednesday 21 June 2023.

[Find out more](#) →



Website

Promoted the by-election and the results on the website homepage carousel.

Digital

We raised awareness of the by-election through an advertising banner on our website.



The impact of voter ID

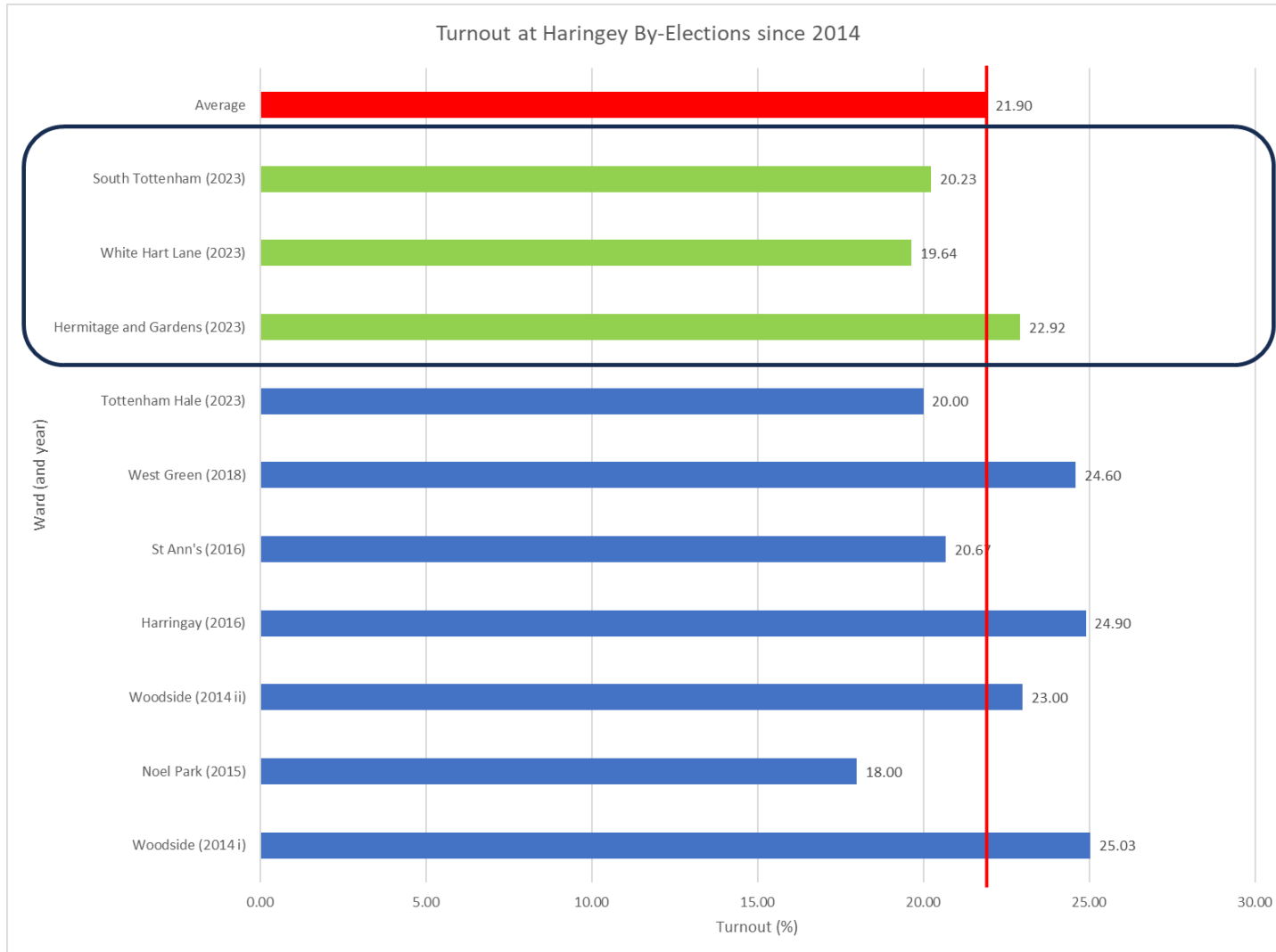
Difficult to say:

- Local government by-elections - usually only the more engaged participate
- Low turnout makes analysing any data difficult
 - One by-election slightly above average turnout
 - Two by-elections slightly below average turnout
 - Tottenham Hale by-election (March – before voter ID in force) had lower than average turnout

Turnout at recent by-elections

Ward	Turnout (%)
Woodside (2014 i)	25.03
Noel Park (2015)	18.00
Woodside (2014 ii)	23.00
Harringay (2016)	24.90
St Ann's (2016)	20.67
West Green (2018)	24.60
Tottenham Hale (2023)	20.00
Hermitage and Gardens (2023)	22.92
White Hart Lane (2023)	19.64
South Tottenham (2023)	20.23
Average	21.90

Turnout at recent by-elections



The impact of voter ID

- Statutory forms used to collect data in polling stations are complex, time-consuming to complete and could be improved
- Small number of voters turned away

The impact of voter ID

- Initial analysis:
 - 186 Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) applications received since January 2023
 - Less than 0.1% of the polling station electorate, which is less than 1% of those who turned up to vote, were turned away due to not having any ID / not having an accepted form of ID
 - Less than 0.01% of the electorate, which is less than 0.06% of those who turned up to vote, were refused a ballot paper for having valid ID but it not matching the name on the register / likeness to the voter

What are we doing next?

- Engagement Strategy
 - Leadership Network – all senior leaders to be made aware of strategy & pledge support
 - Work with our partners, faith groups, existing networks, community groups
 - Haringey voter registration & voter ID campaign
 - Household Notification Letters – every residential property
 - In-person VAC applications at all libraries
- Members & Political Party Briefings / Drop-In Sessions

What can you do?

- Support in sharing the messaging
- Give us ideas on
 - networks, contacts, forums
 - Content and formats
- Share our engagement pack
- Direct people to our website for more information www.haringey.gov.uk/elections

Further changes to Elections & Electoral Registration

Changes already implemented

Topic	Summary of changes	Timing
Postal Voting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postal voters will have to reapply for a postal vote every three years. Currently postal voters can apply for a permanent postal vote, and they must refresh their signature every five years. 	Legislation now in place – but implementation delayed until January 2026
Online Absent Voting Applications (OAVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An online application process for absent votes was launched nationwide on 31 October 2023. Voters can still apply by post. All applications go via the Electoral Registration Officer’s Portal (EROP) and each applicant’s identity is matched against DWP records. For applicants who cannot be verified by the DWP check, there will be an exceptions process, and, failing this, an attestation process to confirm. Users applying through the online portal will be asked to upload a photograph of their signature. As yet, no working solution to allow EROs to process paper applications other than manually inputting data and scanning and cropping each signature individually DLUHC working on scanning solution and aims to have this in place for January 2024 	<p>Went live 31 October 2023</p> <p>Enhancements due in January 2024</p>
Proxy voting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of people someone may act as proxy for will be limited to four people, of which no more than two can be domestic electors. 	Commence at the end of October 2023

Other changes already implemented

Topic	Summary of changes	Timing
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provision for accessibility to elections are extended, including requiring Returning Officers to take all reasonable steps to provide support for disabled voters in polling stations.	Came into effect from May 2023 - Builds on a number of existing legal requirements
Mayoral Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change from supplementary vote to first past the post system (FPTP)	May 2023 (first time in London will be in May 2024)

Changes that are coming next year

Topic	Summary of changes	Timing
Overseas voters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All British citizens living overseas will be able to vote in UK Parliamentary elections, regardless of when they left the UK (there is currently a 15-year limit on being an ‘overseas voter’). Registration will be based on where users were previously registered, or, if they have never been previously registered, where they were last resident, verified through documentation, local authority records, or attestation. Extends the registration period from one year, to up to three years, linked to a fixed point on 1st November. 	Anticipated to take effect from January 2024 – there will be a transition period
EU Voting and candidacy rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The removal of the automatic entitlement for EU citizens to register to vote and stand for election. The following will still be able to vote: Qualifying EU citizens from Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, and Spain (due to reciprocal arrangements with the UK) EU citizens with retained rights, who were living in the UK before 1 January 2021 (before the UK left the EU) Those from Ireland, Cyprus and Malta 	Transition period will commence after May 2024 polls –fully implemented by May 2025 polls
Postal Vote Handling and secrecy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handling of postal votes will be restricted, including limiting the number of postal votes an individual can hand in at a polling station or council offices. The secrecy of the ballot rules will be extended to completing postal packs 	Take effect from May 2024 polls
Candidate addresses changes (at UK Parliamentary elections) and commonly used names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Election rules amended to allow candidates to use a commonly used name, even where names are in a different order from the names stated, to include only some of the names or to include additional names. This change will also allow candidates who suppress their home address to provide the relevant area (district, county, London borough, county borough or local government area) where their address is located instead of constituency. 	From May 2024 Polls

Future Elections

- GLA Elections in May 2024 –
 - These have different rules and are run in a very different way than other elections
 - Hand counted for the first time – will take a number of days
- Need to plan for these to be standalone but also for the potential for it to be combined with a general election
- General election – by no later than January 2025
 - Repeal of the Fixed Term Parliaments Act
 - 25 working days' notice
 - Boundary changes with changes to how the Returning Officer manages some wards for **parliamentary elections only**
- Four unscheduled by-elections so far
 - Additional unplanned work but have given us the opportunity to trial new practices

New Parliamentary Boundaries

Some Haringey wards are part of other Returning Officers' constituencies (at a General Election only)

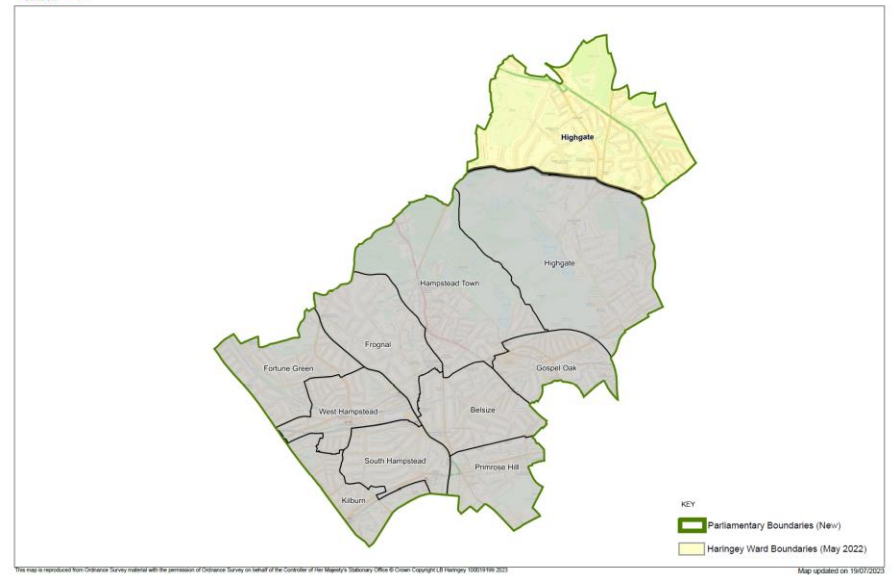
Hampstead and Highgate

Haringey wards	Part of
Highgate	Camden

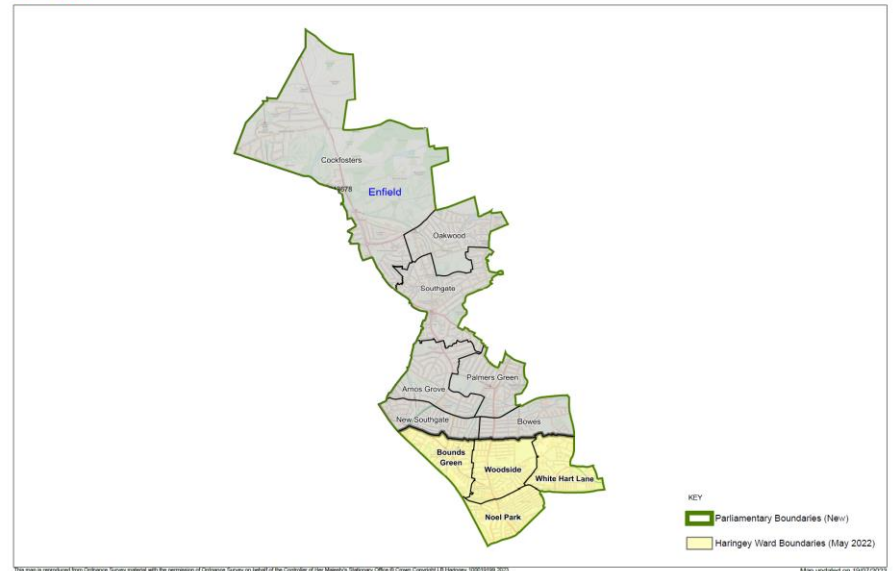
Southgate and Wood Green

Haringey wards	Part of
Bounds Green	Enfield
Noel Park	
White Hart Lane	
Woodside	

Haringey London Map of New Parliamentary Boundaries - Hampstead and Highgate Constituency

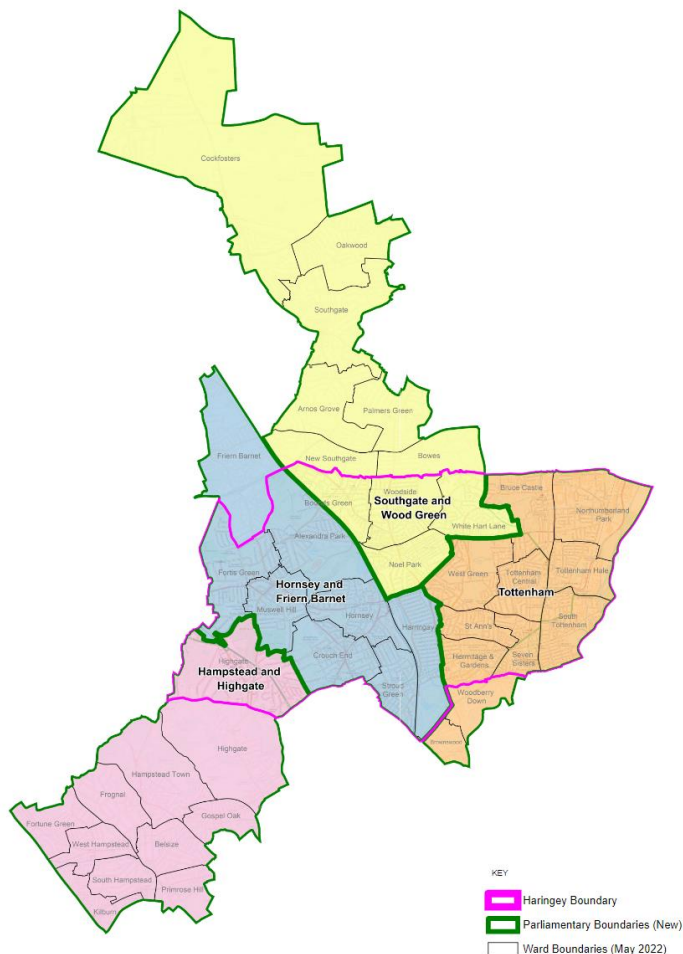


Haringey London Map of New Parliamentary Boundaries - Southgate and Wood Green Constituency



Parliamentary Boundaries

Map of New Parliamentary Boundaries - All Constituencies



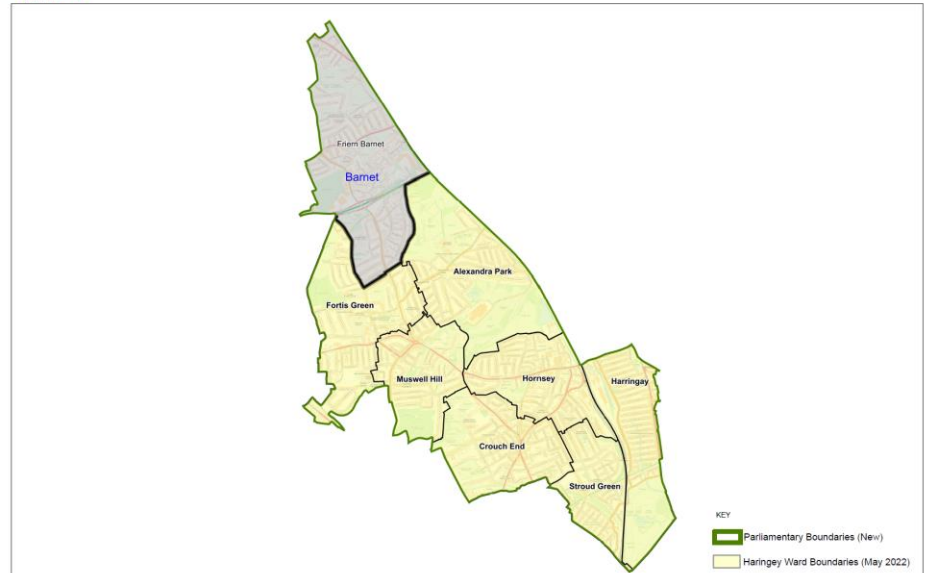
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- The Boundary Commission for England published the final set of boundaries that will be put to the Privy Council for approval
- This approval process is expected to take place in November
- Following the dissolution of the current parliament, the current Tottenham and Hornsey & Wood Green will cease to exist. They will be replaced with :
 - Hampstead and Highgate
 - Hornsey and Friern Barnet
 - Southgate and Wood Green
 - Tottenham (Amended Boundary)
- At a GE, the Haringey RO will be responsible for some wards from Hackney and Barnet, and other RO's will be responsible for some wards in Haringey. This is administratively complicated.

Some wards from other Boroughs are part of Haringey's Returning Officers' responsibilities (at a General Election only)



Map of New Parliamentary Boundaries - Hornsey and Friern Barnet Constituency



Hornsey and Friern Barnet

Haringey wards	from Barnet
Alexandra Park	Friern Barnet
Crouch End	
Fortis Green	
Haringay	
Hornsey	
Muswell Hill	
Stroud Green	

Tottenham

Haringey wards	from Hackney
Bruce Castle	Brownswood
Hermitage & Gardens	Woodberry Down
Northumberland Park	
Seven Sisters	
South Tottenham	
St Ann's	
Tottenham Central	
Tottenham Hale	
West Green	
White Hart Lane	



Map of New Parliamentary Boundaries - Tottenham Constituency



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Map updated on: 19/07/2023