



Election addresses

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An election address provides a means of conveying a candidate's policy and views to electors. A candidate at a Parliamentary election and the registered party or individual candidate at a European Parliamentary election only pays for the printing of the address; the postage is free. The name and address of the printer and publisher must appear on the face of the address.

At mayoral and the Greater London Authority elections the Returning Officer produces a booklet which includes all the election addresses of the candidates who wish to be included and this is sent to all registered voters in the area. The candidates have to contribute towards the production cost of the booklet but the postage is paid by the Returning Officer.

The election addresses of the candidates at the elections for the Police and Crime Commissioners in 2012 were made available on a central website which took the place of candidate mailings or a booklet sent out to householders. The Electoral Commission sent out a booklet to every household as part of its current awareness campaign about the elections; this booklet gave details of the website hosting the candidates' addresses.

Following the death of Bob Jones, the Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands, on 1 July 2014, a by-election will be held on 21 August 2014. This Note gives details of the provisions of the *Police and Crime Commissioner Elections (Amendment) (No 2) Order 2014* which allows the Government to trial the distribution of booklets which contain the candidates' election addresses to evaluate whether this will increase public awareness of the candidates at the PCC by-election; at the 2012 PCC elections turnout averaged 14.7% across all 41 police areas.

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1 Background

Candidates at Parliamentary elections have traditionally distributed a written statement of their political views and intentions, an 'election address', to every voter in the constituency in which they are standing for election.

The Speaker's Conference of 1918, which considered the administration and financing of elections as well as the franchise, recommended that 'a duly nominated candidate, or a number of duly nominated joint candidates, shall be allowed one free postage' at parliamentary elections.¹ The recommendations of the Conference were subsequently embodied in the *Representation of the People Act 1918*:

Any candidate at a parliamentary election shall, subject to regulations of the Postmaster-General, be entitled to send, free of charge for postage, to each registered elector for the constituency, one postal communication containing matter relating to the election only, and not exceeding two ounces in weight:

Provided that a candidate shall not be entitled to exercise the right of free postage conferred by this provision before he is duly nominated, unless he has given such security as may be required by the Postmaster-General for the payment of postage in case he does not eventually become nominated.²

The Library of the University of Bristol holds an extensive collection of election addresses for every General Election since 1892 in its Special Collections. The collection was originally established by the National Liberal Club and also includes addresses from London County Council elections held between 1889 and 1913, most of the Parliamentary by-elections between 1905 and 1919, and European Parliament elections since 1979.³

1.1 Current provisions

The provisions for free postage are now consolidated in Section 91 of the *Representation of the People Act 1983* as amended. A candidate at a Parliamentary election; the registered party or individual candidate at a European Parliamentary election; and the candidates at the elections for the Scottish Parliament, Northern Ireland Assembly and National Assembly for Wales may choose whether to send one unaddressed communication to every postal address in the constituency or one addressed communication to each elector:

- (a) an unaddressed postal election communication, containing matter relating to the election only and not exceeding 60 grammes in weight to each place in the constituency which, in accordance with those [terms and conditions], constitutes a delivery point for the purposes of this subsection; or
- (b) one such postal communication addressed to each elector.⁴

Candidates are responsible for designing, printing and, if required, addressing the communication, including the costs. Royal Mail is responsible for posting the communications. Candidates have to contact Royal Mail to make arrangements for free postage; there is general guidance for candidates, *Candidate mail: guide to best practice*,

¹ Conference on electoral reform: letter from Mr Speaker to the Prime Minister, Cd 8463, para 28 (c). For further information about the Speaker's Conference of 1918 see [Library Standard Note 4426](#), *Speaker's Conferences*

² S 33(2) *Representation of the People Act 1918*

³ [Election addresses collection](#), the Library of the University of Bristol

⁴ S91(1) *Representation of the People Act 1983*

posted on Royal Mail's website. The latest specific [guidance](#) relates to the 2014 European Parliamentary elections.

The name and address of the printer and publisher of the election communication must appear on the document; see [Library Standard Note 2174](#), *Election publications: printer and publisher details*.

1.2 Cost of postage for candidates' election addresses

The [Returning Officers' Expenses England & Wales Statement of Accounts 2010-11](#) gives information about the costs of the 2010 general election:

Under section 91 of the Representation of the People Act 1983, candidates at UK Parliamentary elections are entitled to send one mailing to each elector or household within the voting area free of charges. The main purpose of allowing candidates to send one communication free of charge is to allow the electorate to be informed of the policies of candidates/parties standing and to help them to make informed choices when casting their vote.

The Royal Mail undertakes the delivery of all these communications and is reimbursed from the Consolidated Fund according to the terms of a Service Level Agreement in place between the Cabinet Office and the Royal Mail.⁵

The cost of the UK general election in England and Wales in 2010 was £99,069,263.⁶ The cost of the conduct of the poll was £70,413,992 and the cost of the candidates' free mailings was £28,655,271.

Comparison was made in the Accounts between the cost of the general election and the cost of the European Parliamentary election in England and Wales:

Royal Mail – Candidates Mailings

The cost of sending out the Candidates Mailings for the 2010 UK Parliamentary election was £28,655,271. However, this figure could have risen to £42 million if all of the candidates who contested the election across the UK had opted to send out an addressed mailing. In comparison, the cost of distributing the candidates mailings at the 2009 European Parliamentary election was £35,602,411.

Following the European Parliamentary elections in 2009 and the significant costs arising from the delivery of elections mailings, officials worked hard to challenge Royal Mail costings and agree an SLA that included more preferential unit costs. As part of this Royal Mail developed a new product called 'Electionsort' which had a lower unit cost in return for more of the administrative sorting work being carried out by the parties using Royal Mail supplied software. As a consequence lower unit costs and a cheaper option (that appealed to parties) were achieved and reflected in the overall billing for the May 2010 polls.

The cost of Candidates Mailings represented 29% of the estimated costs of the 2010 UK Parliamentary election and 39% of the estimated final cost of the 2009 European Parliamentary elections

⁵ [Returning Officers' Expenses England & Wales Statement of Accounts 2010-11](#), December 2011, HC 1683 2010-12, p8

⁶ [Returning Officers' Expenses England & Wales Statement of Accounts 2010-11](#)

The costs of the 2010 general election in Northern Ireland and Scotland are given in separate accounts. In Northern Ireland the cost of the candidates' mailings was £682,949,⁷ and the cost in Scotland was £2,055,519.04.⁸

This gives a UK total cost of £31,393,739.04 for candidates' free mailing at the 2010 general election.

2 Mayoral and GLA elections

At mayoral elections and the Greater London Authority elections the Returning Officer produces a booklet which includes all the election addresses of the candidates who wish to be included and this is sent to all registered voters in the area. The candidates have to contribute towards the production cost of the booklet but the postage is paid by the Returning Officer.

The primary legislation making provision for the GLA elections did not allow for free mailings for candidates' addresses. In 2000 the Labour Government was defeated in the House of Lords when Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish (Conservative) moved an amendment to the *Greater London Authority (Election Expenses) Order* declining approval of the Order and calling upon the Government to lay another order giving candidates in the GLA elections one freepost delivery per household for campaign materials.⁹ Lord Evans of Temple Guiting summarised the controversy about free mailings at the GLA elections when a motion to approve the [Greater London Authority Elections \(Election Addresses\) 2003 Order](#) was moved in the House of Lords on 11 July 2003:

The purpose of the order is to provide London's voters with information which will help them to make an informed choice at future GLA elections. It entitles candidates at future London mayoral elections to have an election address included in a booklet, which will be delivered to every elector in London. The order seeks to achieve that in a way that is fair to candidates and cost-effective for taxpayers.

Noble Lords will remember that the issue of a free mailshot was a topic of some controversy in the run-up to the first GLA elections. At that time, the Government listened to the arguments of noble Lords and amended the Greater London Authority Act to provide, at the first GLA elections, for the publication and free delivery of a booklet containing election addresses prepared by the mayoral candidates. Parliament also provided an order-making power for the Secretary of State to make arrangements for the publication and delivery of candidates' election addresses at future GLA elections. This new order exercises that power.

As noble Lords will have seen from the draft order, the proposed arrangements for future ordinary GLA elections are largely a repeat of those that were made for the first elections. I shall begin by running through those parts of the proposals that are the same as for the 2000 elections.

As before, each mayoral candidate will be entitled to have an election address included in a booklet that will be produced by the Greater London returning

⁷ [Returning Officers' Expenses Northern Ireland, Statement of Accounts 2010-11](#), December 2011, HC 1731 2010-12

⁸ [Election Accounts: UK and European Parliament Elections 2010-11 Account Returning Officers' Expenses](#), HC 1837 2010-12

⁹ [HL Deb 22 February 2000](#) c136ff

officer and delivered to every elector in Greater London. If there are 15 or fewer mayoral candidates, each will be entitled to an election address covering up to two A5 sides, but if there are 16 or more candidates that drops to one A5 side each. As at the first election, a candidate's election address can contain only information relating to the election. Candidates may not include advertising, material included with a view to commercial gain, or any indecent, offensive or obscene material. Nor will they be able to include material which, if published, would be contrary to the criminal law. Finally, the election addresses must comply with the necessary printing requirements. But within those basic requirements candidates have a good deal of freedom to design their election addresses as they wish.¹⁰

The [Electoral Commission's guidance](#) for candidates at Mayoral elections in England explains the provisions for the election addresses booklets:

1.34 An election address is a campaign statement that a mayoral candidate makes to the electorate to persuade electors to vote for them.

1.35 The Returning Officer will produce a booklet with the election addresses of all candidates who want to be included in it and who have contributed to the production cost of the booklet. The order of the addresses in the booklet will be decided by the Returning Officer by drawing lots.

1.36 The booklet will be sent to all registered electors in the area and the Returning Officer will pay the postage cost.

1.37 However, if you want your address to be included in the booklet, you will have to pay a share of the production costs. Each candidate included in the booklet will be asked to contribute the same amount. You should contact the Returning Officer to find out about the costs. If the contributions received exceed the costs incurred, the balance will be split equally among the candidates involved.

1.38 The production costs must be accounted for in your election spending returns.

1.39 If you want your election address to be included in the booklet, you must deliver the address to the Returning Officer by the close of nominations, i.e. no later than 12 noon on the 19th working day before the poll.

1.40 The address requirements and those set out in the next section. If it does not, it will not be included in the booklet.

1.41 If you withdraw your candidacy before the deadline for withdrawals, the production costs will be returned to you.

3 Police and Crime Commissioner elections

The first Police and Crime Commissioner elections took place on Thursday 15 November 2012. Election addresses for these elections were made available online instead of being posted to electors. The provisions concerning the publication of the addresses are set out in paragraph 52 of the [Police and Crime Commissioner Elections Order 2012](#):

¹⁰ HL Deb 11 July 2003 c612

Publication of election addresses of candidates

52.—(1) Each candidate at an ordinary PCC election is entitled to have an address included on a website which is maintained by or on behalf of the Secretary of State for the purpose of publishing election addresses of candidates at such an election.

(2) No election address may be included on the website unless it has been prepared and submitted to, and approved by, the police area returning officer in accordance with Schedule 8.

(3) Any expenses incurred by or on behalf of a candidate in respect of the hosting and publication of the candidate's election address are not to be taken, for the purposes of this Part, as an amount of expenses incurred by the candidate for the purposes of the PCC election.

(4) The Secretary of State must take whatever steps the Secretary of State thinks appropriate to promote public awareness of—

(a) the existence of the website, and

(b) the availability of printed and other versions of election addresses of candidates.

(5) The Commission may include on the Commission's website information about—

(a) how to access the website;

(b) the availability of printed and other versions of election addresses of candidates, and must include such information in any printed material which the Commission may publish in connection with PCC elections.

(6) Schedule 8 has effect.

The Home Office website which hosted the candidates' election addresses is available at <http://www.choosemypcc.org.uk/> .

A Parliamentary Question on 26 April 2012 had asked about the website hosting candidates' election addresses. Gary Streeter MP, on behalf of the Electoral Commission, replied and said that the Electoral Commission was concerned about the Government's proposal to publish candidates' election addresses online:

Robert Halfon (Harlow) (Con): What assessment the Electoral Commission has made of arrangements for the elections for police and crime commissioners in November 2012.

Mr Gary Streeter (South West Devon): On 15 March, the Electoral Commission submitted its response to the Home Office consultation on the draft statutory instruments for police and crime commissioner elections. A copy of the response has been placed in the Library of the House of Commons. The commission's main concern is the Government's proposal to create a website to host information from candidates. It believes that this is not the most effective way of ensuring that all voters, especially those who do not have regular internet access, know about the candidates standing in their areas. The commission also made a number of other recommendations to ensure that the elections are well run.

Robert Halfon: Harlow residents are hugely excited about these elections, not least because Essex Conservatives are encouraging any resident to apply to be our candidate if they are up to the job. Will my hon. Friend assure me that the Electoral Commission will help candidates with leaflets and in other ways, rather than be a bureaucratic hindrance?

Mr Streeter: As we have learned to know in this House, where Harlow leads, others will follow. My hon. Friend endorses the main point made to the Government by the Electoral Commission—that a website alone will not be enough for individual candidates, many of whom were not well known previously, to get the message across. I very much hope that the Government will listen to the Electoral Commission's proposal that leaflets to every household are also important.

Diana Johnson (Kingston upon Hull North) (Lab): Is there anything that the Electoral Commission can do to provide that information if it is not possible to get the Government to change their mind about the leaflets and a free post to every household?

Mr Streeter: It is certainly not the job of the Electoral Commission to fund a free mail-out on behalf of candidates, but what it will do as part of its £3.6 million awareness campaign is to ensure that a booklet goes to every household in the 41 areas where these referendums are taking place to inform people about the elections, and it will include a reference to the Government website.

An extract from the Electoral Commission's response to the Home Office consultation on the draft statutory instrument gives further details of the Commission's views on the provision to replace candidates' mailings with a website:

Candidate addresses website

3.1 We are pleased that the PRSR Act provides for the Commission to undertake public awareness for PCC elections, consistent with our public awareness role for other elections. This will be particularly important given that these are new elections, taking place at an unfamiliar time of year and using the Supplementary Vote system, which most voters will not have used before.

3.2 Nonetheless, we have concerns about the Government's proposals in Paragraph 51 and Schedule 8 of the Conduct Order for a central website to be created to host candidate information which would be checked, approved and uploaded by the relevant PARO in place of candidate mailings or a booklet sent to households. This approach marks a significant change from the tradition of providing candidates in major elections with support to help them communicate with voters, such as a publicly funded mailing or a locally distributed booklet with addresses from each candidate, and is especially concerning given that candidates for Police and Crime Commissioner elections will need to communicate with voters across 'constituencies' that are much larger than at many other elections.

3.3 Only providing information about PCC candidates on a central website will disproportionately affect groups that have low levels of internet access, such as the elderly and those who live in rural areas. We have raised this concern with Government and highlighted the fact that as many as 7 million adults in England (outside London) and Wales are estimated not to have used the internet at all in the last 12 months.

3.4 While we have made clear from an early stage that we do not believe the approach being taken is the right one, we understand from the Government that they are unlikely to significantly change their plans and have therefore focussed on how they can be improved.

3.5 We understand from correspondence with the Home Office that a helpline will be established which will provide a print-to-order service for members of the public to request printed candidate information. While this proposal will offer some benefits to voters, we are concerned that this will not fully address the need to provide all voters with candidate information at the right time; it will require a proactive step on the part of the voter to call the helpline (clearly not as straightforward or helpful as having the information automatically delivered to them) and will also inevitably result in a delay to the voters receiving the information. We would be grateful for sight of the proposed plans for the helpline, including details of the expected call volumes, proposed timings for fulfilling requests for printed information and anticipated costs. This would allow us to offer advice, based on our own experience of running similar helplines, as to whether it is a viable solution.

3.6 We assume that consideration has been taken to provide this information in alternative formats such as audio, British sign language, Braille, easy read and large print and that these formats will be readily available alongside the normal print service. This is especially important considering the helpline will not be live until 23 days ahead of polling day. This allows little time to deliver alternative formats so we would be keen to see what plans have been made so far.

3.7 Likewise, we assume that consideration has been given to the requirement for a Welsh language version of the website to be available and that Welsh language speakers will be available for the helpline.

3.8 We also assume that, as is customary, the Government has carried out an Equality Impact Assessment and it would be helpful for this to be published.

3.9 In summary, we would be grateful for further detail on the following points:

- Further information on the proposed helpline to ensure that it is a helpful and viable means of voters without Internet access obtaining printed versions of the candidate information in time to make an informed decision
- Reassurance that the candidate information will be available in alternative formats and delivered within the necessary timescales
- Confirmation that the information provided on the website and in printed form and via the helpline will be available in Welsh
- Confirmation that an Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and published.

3.10 We will review the success of the provision of candidate information to all groups of electors as part of our statutory report into the administration of PCC elections.¹¹

¹¹ Electoral Commission response to the Home Office consultation on the Police and Crime Commissioner Elections Order 2012

There was an Adjournment debate on Police and Crime Commissioners on 25 April 2012 during which Wayne David (Labour) and other Members drew attention to the issue of online election addresses for the PCC elections.¹² The Minister responding to the debate, Mark Harper, explained why the Government had decided on this policy:

Let me deal with why we have chosen that option rather than completely free mailings paid for by the taxpayer. We did consider funding mailings of the type used for UK parliamentary and European elections. We are minded to conclude—this is our preferred option on the website, rather than our final position—that at a time when budgets are tight, it is difficult to justify those mailings for PCC elections. There are also some logistical difficulties involved in producing a candidate’s booklet, such as those used for mayoral elections. The difficulties are partly to do with the size of the PCC areas and having to produce the 41 booklets simultaneously; this would be very difficult to co-ordinate across the country. We think that the approach we have adopted is a proportionate one that will give people access to the information. We will, of course, look at the experience in practice; we will look very carefully at what happens. I am sure that hon. Members in this House will not be backward in coming forward about any issues, and I am sure that the hon. Gentleman will be sure to tell us of issues in his area in Wales. We will look at this carefully but we are confident that we have adopted a sensible approach; we have worked closely with stakeholders and we think it will be successful.¹³

Mark Harper mentioned the website for PCC candidates’ election addresses during the first day of the committee stage of the *Electoral Registration and Administration Bill 2012-13* on 18 June 2012:

That brings me to the point made by my hon. Friend the Member for North Cornwall about communication. The Government are currently trialling—without universal approbation from Members on both sides of the House—a website featuring statements from all the candidates for the police and crime commissioner elections, which will then be promoted by the Electoral Commission and in the material that goes to voters. We may consider a similar procedure for a general election, with an eye on overseas voters.¹⁴

At the PCC elections on 15 November 2012 turnout averaged 14.7% across all 41 police areas.¹⁵ Turnout in the West Midlands was 12%. The Electoral Commission’s report on the administration of the elections was published in March 2013 and its public opinion research explored the reasons given by people for not voting; the most commonly cited reason related to a lack of awareness, primarily a lack of information about the elections and not knowing who the candidates were or where to find information about them. The proportion of non-voters who cited lack of awareness was over five times greater than the proportion who gave a similar response following the May 2012 local elections.¹⁶

Although the Commission acknowledged that “improved delivery of information about candidates would not in itself be enough to improve turnout, it would address the

¹² [HC Deb 25 April 2012 c1067](#)

¹³ [HC Deb 25 April 2012 c1073](#)

¹⁴ [HC Deb 18 June 2012 c653](#)

¹⁵ Library Research Paper, RP 12/73, *Police and Crime Commissioner Elections 2012* gives further background

¹⁶ *Police and Crime Commissioner elections in England and Wales: report on the administration of the elections held on 15 November 2012*, Electoral Commission, March 2013, p34-5

unacceptably low levels of information/awareness and provide a better basis for encouraging participation in future elections".¹⁷ The Commission therefore recommended that:

The UK Government should amend paragraph 52 and Schedule 8 to the Police and Crime Commissioner Elections Order 2012 to ensure that electors are sent printed information about candidates standing for election as PCC in their force area. This should take the form of a booklet with addresses from each candidate sent by the relevant Police Authority Returning Officer to every household in the police authority area.¹⁸

4 PCC by-election on 21 August 2014

Following the death of Bob Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands, on 1 July 2014, a by-election will take place on 21 August 2014.

The Government has made an Order, the *Police and Crime Commissioner Elections (Amendment) (No 2) Order 2014*, which amends the *Police and Crime Commissioners Elections Order 2012* (made under Section 58 of the *Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011*) to allow booklets containing candidates' election addresses to be delivered to residential premises at the PCC by-election in the West Midlands. If a candidate wants their election address to appear in the booklet which will be distributed to homes, they will have to pay a contribution of £250 towards the printing costs.

The election addresses will also be made available on the Home Office website <http://www.choosemypcc.org.uk/> at no cost to the candidates.

No election address may be included on the website or in the booklet unless it is approved by the Police Area Returning Officer in accordance with Schedule 8 of the *Police and Crime Commissioner (Elections) Order 2012*.

The Order also extends existing provisions relating to the publicising of ordinary elections (held every four years) to by-elections. The Government intends to evaluate whether the delivery of election booklets in hard copy to voters, instead of providing access to them on a website, will significantly raise voter awareness of the candidates standing in a PCC election.

The Explanatory Memorandum to the new Order gives further details:

Election booklets containing candidates' election addresses to be distributed to residential premises during the by-election that takes place as a result of the first PCC vacancy occurring after the legislation comes into effect.

- Election booklets to be delivered to all residential premises. To ensure value for money, a single election booklet will be delivered to each premises except for residential premises which include more than one dwelling where the appropriate number of election booklets will be delivered under the arrangements made with the delivery agent.
- The Police Area Returning Officer to prepare and cause to be delivered the election booklets as soon as reasonably practicable after the publication of the statement of persons nominated.

¹⁷ *Police and Crime Commissioner elections in England and Wales: report on the administration of the elections held on 15 November 2012*, Electoral Commission, March 2013, p9

¹⁸ *Police and Crime Commissioner elections in England and Wales: report on the administration of the elections held on 15 November 2012*, Electoral Commission, March 2013

- The Police Area Returning Officer to seek a reasonable sum from the candidates towards the cost of printing the election booklet. This is consistent with other comparable elections. The Police Area Returning Officer will include notice of the amount of the contribution with the notification of the date of the election, which must be at least 25 days before the election. Candidates will still be able to stand without having their election address included in the booklet if they wish to avoid paying the contribution to the cost of printing or prefer to produce leaflets and distribute them directly.
- The provision of the 'Choose my PCC' website for future by- elections in the same way that it is available for ordinary PCC elections.
- The possibility making election booklets available in other premises to which the public normally have access in the police area during any future PCC elections, in addition to local authority offices and public libraries as allowed under the 2012 Order.

7.6 Although each PCC candidate in Welsh force areas will determine whether to submit their election addresses bilingually, Police Area Returning Officers have a duty to translate any standard text for residential premises. No legislative change is required on this point.

7.7 The Home Office has an existing commitment to cover the costs of any PCC by-election that takes place until November 2015. Providing candidate information booklets for a by-election in an average sized police force area is expected to cost the Home Office £0.3m.¹⁹

The Ninth Delegated Legislation Committee considered the Order on 17 July 2014.²⁰ The Minister for Policing, Criminal Justice and Victims, Mike Penning, said there was a need to make sure that the public had full knowledge of who the candidates are:

We intend to use a pamphlet. The police area returning officer...has responsibility for it. The Electoral Commission supports using a pamphlet. I understand from the returning officer that he will expect the candidates to pay £250 towards the cost of the pamphlet on top of their deposit of £5,000.²¹

He also added:

We are listening to the Electoral Commission. It wants us to do booklets and we should trial that. A by-election will give us that opportunity in a very large base. The west midlands has the second largest in the country for the PCC. Let us see how the booklets work and whether they increase turnout.²²

The House of Commons approved the Order on 21 July 2014.²³

The House of Lords Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee considered the draft Order and drew it "to the special attention of the House on the grounds that it gives rise to issues of public policy likely to be of interest to the House and may imperfectly achieve its policy objective":

¹⁹ Explanatory Memorandum to the *Police and Crime Commissioner Elections (Amendment) (No 2) Order 2014*

²⁰ Ninth Delegated Legislation Committee, 17 July 2014

²¹ Ninth Delegated Legislation Committee, 17 July 2014 c3

²² Ninth Delegated Legislation Committee, 17 July 2014 c12

²³ HC Deb 21 July 2014 c1214

The Committee remains uncertain whether the pilot, as currently structured, will yield robust results. We note that the Electoral Commission is supportive of it as a fact finding exercise. The Committee is concerned that different candidates within the same election may receive different levels of publicity and queries how an “official” booklet that does not include all candidates will be perceived. **We recommend that the evaluation exercise to be conducted after the pilot should also consider the level of charges, if any, and how the booklet influences voters’ perception of candidates, in particular, if someone declines to contribute to it, whether not being included in it made a difference to how the candidate was viewed.**²⁴

The House of Lords considered the Order in Grand Committee on 21 July 2014²⁵ and approved it on 23 July 2014.²⁶

The *Police and Crime Commissioner Elections (Amendment) (No 2) Order 2014* (SI 1963, 2014) was made on 23 July 2014.

²⁴ [House of Lords Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee Sixth Report 2014-15](#), HL 27, July 2014

²⁵ [HL Deb 21 July 2014 cGC352](#)

²⁶ [HL Deb 23 July 2014 c1171](#)