

## Briefing for the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee on petition PE1921: Confirmation that Scottish Government will not introduce voter ID at devolved elections, lodged by Maddy Dhesi on behalf of Hands Off Our Vote

### Brief overview of issues raised by the petition

The petition seeks confirmation from the Scottish Government that photographic voter ID will not be introduced at devolved elections.

The UK Government introduced the [Elections Bill](#) in the House of Commons on 5 July 2021. A [SPICe blog on the Elections Bill](#) explains the provisions of the Bill in detail. One of the Bill's provisions is a requirement for voters to show photo ID before being issued with a ballot paper. This provision relates only to reserved electoral events in Scotland (i.e. UK Parliament elections and UK wide referendums)

The [UK Government has said](#) that the proposal will prevent voter fraud, saying *"Showing ID is something that people of all backgrounds already do every day...Proving who we are before we make a decision of huge importance at the ballot box should be no different."*

The Scottish Government has voiced its concern over the voter ID proposals at reserved elections and the impact the requirement may have on specific groups. It lodged a [legislative consent memorandum \(LCM\) on the Elections Bill](#) on 22 September 2021.

The Scottish Government's position set out in the LCM is that *“there is no evidence of significant electoral fraud to justify voter ID measures in Scotland.”*

The [Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee](#) considered the LCM for the Elections Bill. The Committee [published its report](#) on 22 December 2021.

## Key Organisations and relevant links

[Electoral Management Board for Scotland](#)

[Electoral Commission](#)

[Electoral Reform Society](#)

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22/12/21

The purpose of this briefing is to provide a brief overview of issues raised by the petition. SPICe research specialists are not able to discuss the content of petition briefings with petitioners or other members of the public. However, if you have any comments on any petition briefing you can email us at [spice@parliament.scot](mailto:spice@parliament.scot)

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