

Jenni Minto MSP
Convener
Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

By email: sppa.committee@parliament.scot

14 September 2026

Dear Convener

Electoral Commission report on the 2026 Scottish Parliament election

This morning we published [our report on the 2026 Scottish Parliament election](#).

Our research found that overall, the election was well-run. Public confidence remains high, and most voters are satisfied with voting and registration.

However, our findings also show there are continuing – and growing – concerns about potential risks to future participation.

Levels of abuse and intimidation faced by candidates remained high, and candidates are changing how they campaign as a result. Voters told us they had concerns about the accuracy of information, with significant numbers saying they had seen misinformation during the campaign.

We are calling for several actions to address these issues. To address candidate safety, we want to see parties make it clear to their members that they should respect all candidates, regardless of which party they represent. Social media companies should act faster to remove abusive content aimed at candidates, and identify those responsible.

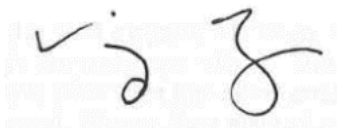
We are urging the UK Government to require social media companies to protect legitimate political debate. We are also encouraging the Scottish and UK governments to update electoral law to reflect new threats to election information.

We will be submitting our new Scotland Corporate Plan to the SPCB at the end of September, which will set out the ambitious next steps for our work in Scotland, and how we'll address some of the challenges covered in our report. This will include working with Police Scotland, the Scottish Government, parties and campaigners to identify and

respond to the causes and impact of abuse and intimidation and seek better standards of behaviour in campaigning and scaling up our democratic education work to help voters identify mis- and disinformation. We will share a copy of our Corporate Plan with you for your awareness.

In the meantime, if you would like to discuss our research or recommendations in further detail, please contact our Scotland External Affairs Manager, Catherine Heggie, at cheggie@electoralcommission.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vijay', is written over a faint, light grey background that resembles a watermark or a textured surface.

Vijay Rangarajan
Chief Executive, Electoral Commission