

FOI: 11512466 Voter ID pilot

1. Can you tell me how and why did Will Tuckley decide to drop out of the Cabinet Office voter ID pilot?
2. Who did Mr Tuckley consult?

As Mr Tuckley explained when he attended the GLA Police and Crime Committee, he was in principle supportive of voter ID. This is why he initially expressed interest in Tower Hamlets being part of a pilot. However, he was very clear that he needed plenty of time to ensure that a local significant change in practice at polling stations could be properly embedded and reduce the risk of substantial numbers of voters being disenfranchised through no fault of their own. Unfortunately this proved impossible and, following the general election in 2017, the national context was also different.

The pilot Mr Tuckley had designed enabled voters to register their photographic identity securely using our electoral management system, thereby reducing the role of polling station staff in checking documents and consequent delays in the polling stations. Given the likelihood of a national system, such local innovation was no longer attractive. As set out in the attached, Mr Tuckley felt that the risk in Tower Hamlets was too great and withdrew our expression of interest. The Police and Crime Committee was only the latest public forum where this has been discussed and debated (others include the Cabinet, General Purposes Committee and the Improvement Board.) He has continued to work closely with the Cabinet Office. Tower Hamlets is one of a small number of pilots exploring ways of improving the integrity of the postal vote process.

3. Can you publish the decision making process which resulted in Mr Tuckley making this decision? I mean by this all documents associated with this.

Documents referred to above can be accessed via following links:

General Purposes Committee Wednesday, 25th January, 2017

<http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=357&MId=7143&Ver=4>

Extraordinary, General Purposes Committee Tuesday, 2nd May, 2017

<http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=357&MId=7536&Ver=4>

Tower Hamlets Best Value Improvement Board Monday, 11th September, 2017

<http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=830&MId=7745&Ver=4>

Cabinet, Tuesday, 19th September, 2017

<http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=720&MId=7700&Ver=4>