

Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE
Tel: (01709) 822700
E-mail: chris.read@rotherham.gov.uk
Email the Council for free @ your local library!

Our Ref:	Direct Line:	Extension:	Please Contact:
CR/LH	(01709) 822700	22770	Councillor Chris Read

5th June 2024

Joanna Killian
Chief Executive
Local Government Association
18 Smith Square
Westminster
London
SW1P 3HZ

Dear Joanna

Voter ID

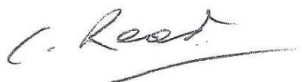
I am writing to you to ask that the LGA work with other interested parties to ensure that there is a clear understanding of the impact of the requirements for Voter ID on participation and in particular the impact in areas of deprivation and those areas with greater numbers of people who have a protected characteristic under the Equalities Act 2010.

What is clear from the information available in Rotherham alone is that the numbers of those disenfranchised in just the local elections far exceeds the numbers of allegations of electoral fraud let alone any actual fraud. Many Councillors believe that the legislation is clearly disproportionate in its effects. It has effectively imposed a system where people are presumed guilty of attempting to fraudulently vote and so required to prove their innocence through the use of identification.

An understanding of the numbers of those disenfranchised nationally and then a comparison with the figures for electoral fraud cases would allow a greater understanding, based on the evidence, of whether the changes in the law are disproportionate in their impact on the vulnerable and disproportionate to the issues that they purported to address.

I look forward to your reply which I will share with other Councillors here at Rotherham.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council