

From: [Andy Edwards](#)
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Identity requirement at elections
Date: Thursday, 16 January 2014 9:49:09 AM

I wrote to Mr Bleijie's department before on this matter, asking why it is necessary to change the laws regarding proof of identity at elections. I asked whether or not there was evidence of electoral fraud in past elections and, if there was, how compelling and widespread it was.

I was not surprised to receive neither answer nor acknowledgement.

Was the outcome of any state seat affected at the last election, for example? If the answer to this question is 'no,' then why change the laws? It will only serve to disenfranchise the young, the indigenous and the elderly to some extent.

If the answer is 'yes,' then in how many seats was the outcome suspect and why were by-elections not conducted to clarify the issue? And why were the fraudsters not brought to justice?

If the answer is 'we don't know,' then what is point of the new laws - they appear to be addressing a non-issue about which there is no public concern. At significant public expense and probably not inconsiderable inconvenience to the electoral commission.

Please stop wasting public money on non-issues. And admit that this is an exercise in self-serving populism. And be ashamed.

Andy Edwards

