

Reporting allegations of electoral malpractice in England, Wales or Scotland

There are a number of election- and referendum- related offences that are criminal offences, such as bribery, personation and multiple voting.

If you have reason to believe that an election- or referendum- related crime has been committed, the Commission's advice is that you should first raise the matter with the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), the Returning Officer (RO) who is responsible for running the election, or the Counting Officer (CO) who is responsible for running the referendum in your area.

It may be that your concern relates to the election or referendum process and can be resolved by the ERO, RO or CO.

However, where this is not the case and an election or referendum crime may have been committed this should be investigated by the police. The ERO, RO or CO may refer this to the police or provide you with the details of the police contact for your area so that you can report your allegation. Every police force has designated a Single Point of Contact or SPOC to lead on election matters.

If you want the police to formally investigate your concerns you must be prepared to give them a statement and substantiate your allegation.

You can contact the ERO, RO or CO for your area through the elections office at your local council. You can find the contact details for your local council here:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DI1/Directories/Localcouncils/AToZOfLocalCouncils/DG_A-Z_LG

Alternatively, if you would prefer to discuss your concerns with the Commission, please contact your local Commission office.

www.electoralcommission.org.uk/contact/our-offices.

Please note that if your allegation relates to party, election or registered campaigner finance matters, such as expenses or donations, then you should follow the advice given in the following link:

<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/party-finance/enforcement/making-allegations>