

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 20 MAY 2021

**Question to Cllr Wilson
Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture**

By Cllr Charlotte Atkins

Question

What assessment has the Council made of the proportion of electors within Staffordshire who do not possess a form of photographic identity document, such as a passport or driver's licence that might be acceptable for use as a requirement before voting? Are those electors without photo ID likely to be from any specific community or disadvantaged group? How many instances of voter impersonation have there been in Staffordshire over the last ten years?

Reply

No analysis has been done specifically in Staffordshire, but based on national research by the Electoral Commission (published 2015) it is estimated that 7.5% of the electorate may not have a suitable photo ID.

The Commission also noted that 2011 Census data shows that White groups and mixed White and Black Caribbeans are less likely than other groups to hold a passport.

DVLA data showed that women, people under 20 and over 65, are less likely to hold a driving licence.

In terms of electoral fraud, we do not have the information for Staffordshire to hand, but the figures nationally show that for the years between 2010 and 2018 inclusive the number of cases of electoral offences reported to the Police varied between a low of 148 in 2013 and a high of 518 in 2015. In the majority of these cases, no further action was taken because there was insufficient evidence.