Dear [insert name],

Thank you for your getting in touch.

From 4 May 2023 onwards, the Elections Act 2022 requires voters to show photographic identification at polling stations before they are given a ballot paper at UK Parliamentary elections. **You will not need photographic identification to vote at Scottish Parliamentary or Scottish council elections.**

If you don’t already have any of the accepted forms of photographic identification (listed below), you will be able to apply either in person, by post or online, for a Voter Authority Certificate - a free photographic identification document specific for the purposes of voting – and in good time ahead of voter identification first being required in polling stations.

Applications for Voter Authority Certificates are not yet open; a public communications campaign will be run once the application service is live.

Please check our website [insert details] for updates on when the Voter Authority Certificate application process will start and how you can apply.

Acceptable forms of photographic identification will include:

* A passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country
* A driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or an EEA state
* A biometric immigration document
* An identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
* Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)
* A Blue Badge
* A national identity card issued by an EEA state
* An Older Person’s Bus Pass
* A Disabled Person’s Bus Pass
* An Oyster 60+ Card
* A Freedom Pass
* A Scottish National Entitlement Card issued in Scotland
* A 60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card issued in Wales
* A Disabled Person’s Welsh Concessionary Travel Card issued in Wales
* A Senior SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
* A Registered Blind SmartPass or Blind Person’s SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
* A War Disablement SmartPass or War Disabled SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
* A 60+ SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
* A Half Fare SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
* An Electoral Identity Card issued in Northern Ireland
* A Voter Authority Certificate or a temporary Voter Authority Certificate

If your photographic identification document has expired it will still be accepted as long as the photograph is still a good likeness of you.