

London Borough of Lambeth

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2021

(Acting) Returning Officer Submission

In accordance with statutory requirements under the Electoral Registration and Administration 2013 and Schedule A1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983, the following submission is made in my capacity as (Acting) Returning Officer for the UK parliamentary constituencies of:

- Dulwich and West Norwood
- Streatham
- Vauxhall

This submission relates to the proposed scheme report of polling districts and polling places put forward for consultation as part of the review.

In accordance with statutory requirements and guidance from the Electoral Commission, I note the following have all been considered when arriving at the scheme proposals:

- Number of electors allocated to a polling station
- Suitability of premises for use as polling stations
- All voters to have a relatively equal access to a polling station
- Changes as a result of Lambeth's 25 new electoral ward boundaries
- Future changes to population

I am satisfied that, for the purposes of this review, schools have not been proposed as polling stations where the Council is aware of an alternative venue which meets all the specific criteria for being a polling station.

I am also satisfied that in several cases, no suitable alternatives to schools exist with guaranteed availability when elections take place, therefore requiring a significant number of schools to remain as polling stations.

For the reasons set out in the scheme report, I broadly support the Council's approach in excluding certain venue types from being proposed as polling stations, such as vacant business premises, pubs and temporary portakabins.

Overall, I am satisfied the parameters for drawing up the Proposed Scheme Report focus on meeting the needs of voters and comply with legal requirements and Electoral Commission guidance.

Andrew Travers
(Acting) Returning Officer for Dulwich and West Norwood, Streatham and Vauxhall UK
Parliamentary Constituencies

19 November 2021