



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

January 2020

Dear Constituent,

**A Response to the Voter ID Campaign**

Thank you for contacting me about voter ID.

A secure electoral system is a vital component of a healthy democracy, and the public must have confidence that our elections are secure and fit for the 21st century. Asking voters to bring ID to their polling station is an important way of achieving this – although this could not be introduced in time for the December election.

Voter ID is not new. Northern Ireland had required paper ID at polling stations since 1985, and photo ID since 2003 – introduced by the last Labour Government. It has proved to be effective at tackling fraud and has not curtailed election turnout.

Identification to vote has been backed by the Electoral Commission and international election watchdogs. At present, it is harder to take out a library book or collect a parcel at a post office than it is to vote in someone else's name.

In pilot schemes earlier this year and in 2018, the overwhelming majority of people cast their vote without a problem and the success of the pilots proves that this is a reasonable and proportionate measure to take, and there was no notable adverse effect on turnout.

Under the Government's proposals, anyone who doesn't have an ID can apply for a new free one – meaning that no voters will be disenfranchised.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alister Jack".

**The Rt. Hon. Alister Jack MP**  
**Dumfries and Galloway constituency.**