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Subject: Review of Electoral Commission

Comments by Bridgnorth District Council on Committee on Standards in Public Life -
Review of the Electoral Commission - Issues and Questions Paper

The Electoral Commission must continue to be as independent from government as is possible to ensure that it is able to provide independent advice to Returning Officers, Electoral Registration Officers and Electoral Administrators. The advise, procedure notes, circulars, election tool kits and other material produced over the last few years has been very well received and has provided comprehensive guidance for Returning Officers, Electoral Administrators, Presiding Officers and Poll Clerks prior to elections.

The Electoral Commission has again this year been running a campaign to encourage people to both register to vote and to vote in the local elections taking place in some areas on 4th May 2006. This is a campaign that is best run on a national basis as the cost of running television and radio campaigns could be prohibitive.

Many of the publications and training events provided to Returning Officers and Electoral Administrators has been provided in partnership with the AEA (Association of Electoral Administrators). This enables input from practitioners at an early stage and consistency of approach. Examples of this were the tool kits for the European Parliamentary Elections in June 2004 and the (Westminster) Parliamentary Election held in May 2005.

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