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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Committee on Standards in Public Life  
House of Commons

14<sup>th</sup> June 2006

Our Ref: AJT/TS/Parliament/ElectoralCommission

*Dear Sirs*

**Submission on the Role of the Electoral Commission**

This is a response to your enquiry on the role of the Electoral Commission.

I agree with Andrew Tyrie's submission, particularly with regard to the Commission's encouragement of 'engagement' (which is a highly politically partisan activity, at least in terms of outcome).

In addition I believe that the Electoral Commission:

- a) ought to concentrate more effort in making boundary reviews fairer by speeding up the process, devoting more resources, and ensuring that they end up with a fairer distribution of seats than is currently the position;
- b) should be aware of and considering making recommendations on the proposals which are emerging from the Labour backbenches<sup>1</sup> for reviews to be based on the number of residents in a constituency rather than on the number of electors;
- c) should be examining more carefully both under-registration and wrongful registration (especially of foreign nationals who are not entitled to vote in the UK, which has been described by my former colleague Dame Marion Roe<sup>2</sup>).

*Yours faithfully,*

**Andrew Turner**  
**Member of Parliament for the Isle of Wight**

<sup>1</sup> HC Deb, 13 June 2006 c629

<sup>2</sup> HC Deb, 5 May 2004, c441WH