

Some key points from Electoral Commission (EC) Report

“Assessment of progress with the transition to Individual Electoral Registration”

June 2015

- Data on which EC conclusions based are still subject to the caveat about the quality and reliability of information available from electoral management systems providers, but it is better than was the case for their March report.
- Electoral rolls are up 1% nationally, but 1.9 million electors are still unconfirmed under IER. Variations across the country range from 0% to 23% of the electoral roll. In Lewisham the figure is 16,280 approximately, representing 8.2%
- The transition to IER is not to be brought to an end until December 2016. The EC say they want to see the outcome of the full Household Enquiry Form canvass before making their decision about this. There is insufficient time to do that to bring the transition to a close in December 2015. All areas have some elections in 2016, and possibly an EU referendum.
- 77% of all applications for IER have been made on line. Unsurprisingly on line application is particularly popular with young people and overseas voters.
- Of concern is the fall in the number of young attainers on the electoral roll nationally. Since February/March 2014 the number has fallen to approximately 248,000, a fall of some 47%, attributed by the EC to the lack of a comprehensive canvass in 2014. The EC believe the full HEF canvass in 2015 may redress this somewhat.
- Household notification letters were sent by most Electoral registration officers, including Lewisham, in February 2015 did not particularly attract attainers, possibly because of the emphasis on the upcoming general election, for which attainers would for the most part, be too young to vote.
- EROs are encouraged to update their engagement strategy now to focus on young attainers.