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16 February 2021

Dear Lara Parizotto, Alexandra Bulat, Maria Milova and Sofia Miccolis,

Thank you for your letter dated February 2021 regarding the process of applying for a postal vote. The Commission takes seriously the importance of supporting all eligible voters to participate at elections; while polling stations will be safe places to vote on 6 May, as you note some people will not be able to do so even if it is their preference.

In our [guidance for electoral administrators](#) we encourage local authorities to make copies of postal vote application forms available to people, including hard copies in relevant premises. Our [supplementary guidance](#), published in the specific context of Covid-19, also suggests the use of Freepost addresses to make it easier for voters to return their forms. Where a voter is in contact with us directly – including through our public phone line and the [relevant voter pages on our website](#) – we recommend that anyone unable to download and print the application form contact their local electoral services team for assistance.

Ahead of every poll, we run campaigns to drive voter registration and disseminate other important information to voters. This include specific activity to target known under registered groups and those who face barriers to participation.

As part of preparing for May's elections, we are carrying out additional activity alongside local authorities. This includes [new resources](#) raising awareness of voting options and application deadlines, and highlighting the measures being put in place to ensure people can vote safely. We are also supporting authorities in writing to residents who have been identified as clinically extremely vulnerable and who may be shielding, to highlight absent voting options.

As you know, the requirement for postal vote applications to be printed is set out in legislation. Any changes to electoral law, including the requirement for printed forms, would be for the UK Government to propose and Parliament to approve.

I hope that the above information is helpful, and thank you again for raising your concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Craig Westwood  
**Director of Communications, Policy and Research**