



Our Ref: MP626147

Graham Allen MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

9 February 2015

Dear Graham,

I wanted to write to you to set out, in a little more detail than has been possible in recent Parliamentary debates, how the Government is distributing the maximising registration funding, which has been made available recently.

As you know, on 9 January the Government announced a further package of funding totalling £9.8 million to support local and national activities aimed at increasing the completeness and accuracy of the electoral registers. The majority of this, £6.8 million, has been allocated to each Electoral Registration Officer across Great Britain to support their work at the local level. As with the nearly £4 million of maximising registration funding provided to EROs in the last financial year, this has been allocated on the basis of estimated levels of under-registration in each area. This funding will augment EROs' efforts in the lead up to the General Election.

On Wednesday, I set out how the Government intends to distribute part of the £2.5 million of funding aimed at national activity. Whilst ERO's legal duties, local knowledge and expertise rightly makes them the focus for the majority of the work on maximising registration, the Government believes that there are others who have an important role to play in promoting voter registration, and there are also some matters which are best dealt with at a national level, or through national organisations. That is why I am pleased that we have announced that we will be providing part of the maximising registration funding to a number of national organisations to promote voter registration. These organisations have direct experience of working with under registered groups and insight into what works. The organisations are:

- British Youth Council
- Citizens Advice
- Citizens UK
- Homeless Link
- Mencap
- Operation Black Vote
- UK Youth

The total funding for the organisations is £535k. In addition, we will fund student organisations, including the NUS. The remaining funding will partly be targeted at reaching overseas electors and armed forces personnel to help us achieve our shared goal of increasing voter registration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Gyimah', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

SAM GYIMAH