

Contribution from Open Rights Group

We have serious concerns about the use of electronic voting in public elections. The evidence is that its use does not boost voter participation but its use does increase election costs and significantly increases the risk of attacks and malfunctions interfering with a sound result being declared.

We believe that recent pilots in the UK as well as the experiences of other EU countries are enough to highlight that the risks are sufficient for the Commission to conclude against the use of e-voting in the UK.

We draw the Commission's attention to these documents:

* Electronic Voting — A Challenge to Democracy (2007)

<https://www.openrightsgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/org-evoting-briefing-pack-final.pdf>

* Findings of the Open Rights Group Election Observation Mission in Scotland and England (2007)

https://www.openrightsgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/org_election_report.pdf

* Findings of the Open Rights Group Election Observation Mission in London (2008)

<https://www.openrightsgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/orglondonelectionsreport.pdf>

* Security Analysis of the Estonian Internet Voting System (2014)

<https://estoniaevoting.org/findings/paper/>

The Electoral Commission's work observing the UK's electronic voting pilots should also be considered in depth. Their conclusions are summarised at:

* Electoral Commission calls for end to 'piecemeal' election pilots (2008)

<http://bit.ly/1rqPUWe>

ENDS.