

# **ELECTORAL REFORM IN SCOTLAND – PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

The Scottish Government has launched a public consultation to explore electoral reforms which Scottish citizens may wish to see taken forward in future.

The Scottish Government is committed to increasing participation in elections both in terms of voter turnout and encouraging citizens to stand for election. Democratic participation for all challenges the inequalities of power and influence that exist in society, and an electoral system that supports and empowers the engagement of the Scottish people in their own elections plays a crucial role in this. The 2016-2017 Programme for Government included a commitment to take forward a consultation exercise to find out what electoral reforms Scottish citizens would like to see taken forward in future legislation.

We are keen to elicit views on a number of issues related to Local Government and Scottish Parliament elections, including: how often these elections should be held; who runs these and how they are run; who can register and vote; and who may stand for election.

We would welcome your comments as part of our consultation exercise. The consultation paper and online response system can be accessed using the following link: <https://consult.gov.scot/elections/electoral-reform>

If you wish to respond then please return the online questionnaire template by 12 March 2018.

If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with the Elections policy team at [ElectionsTeam@gov.scot](mailto:ElectionsTeam@gov.scot).