

Cat Smith comments on the Electoral Commission's 2017 UK Parliamentary General Election report

Cat Smith MP, Labour's Shadow

Minister for Voter Engagement and Youth Affairs, commenting on the Electoral Commission report on the 2017 UK Parliamentary General Election, said:

"We welcome the Electoral Commission's report which shows that 46.8 million people were registered to vote at the 2017 UK General Election, making it the largest electorate for a UK-wide poll.

"To build a healthy democracy we need active participation of all citizens, which is why the Labour Party delivered a ground-breaking digital campaign which sought to maximise the number of young people to register to vote during the election period. In contrast, the Conservative party assumed that young people were apathetic to party politics. They made no effort to encourage voter registration, or to put forward policies that would offer real opportunities to young people.

"We agree with a number of the key recommendations put forward by the Electoral Commission. Double voting is a serious crime and it is vital that the police have the resources they need to bring about prosecution. However, we urge caution when looking at measures to tackle this issue – a blanket ban on being registered at two addresses would exclude those who for reasons of work or study need to be registered in two places. This cannot be an attempt to make it harder for young people and students to register to vote.

"During the General Election, the Labour Party put forward an inclusive, optimistic and transformative manifesto, which we will continue to strengthen and communicate to voters, in order to build a Britain that truly works for the many not the few."