

Election fraud allowed to take place in Muslim communities because of 'political correctness', report warns

At last an official body is saying what we already knew. Tower Hamlets, Barking and Dagenham, Bradford, Birmingham ...

From the [the scandal in Tower Hamlets, London, where the mayor Lutfur Rahman was removed and his election declared void](#) after he was found by a court to have committed corrupt electoral practices including vote-rigging.

Sir Eric also sharply criticises the Metropolitan Police for failing to follow up the election court's ruling with any criminal charges. He says that the force's inaction "sends a worrying signal that the police are soft on tackling and prosecuting electoral fraud, when faced with competing operational demands".

Writing in The Telegraph, Sir Eric says that following his investigation, he now believes "electoral malpractice is far more common than just one isolated London borough thanks to the state's collective state of denial".

The report warns that the Electoral Commission, the voting watchdog, has been "promoting the use of non-English languages could disguise coercion or influence within the polling station". He accuses the Commission of encouraging people in polling stations to use "community languages" and says English should be "required at all times".

"Such an approach undermines integration and leaves the door open to fraud," the report says. **"These are not 'community**

languages' – they are foreign languages."

The report states: "Abuses of postal voting on demand were noted too often be carried out in communities where an individual's right to vote in secret and exercise free choice may not be fully valued. Evidence was presented of pressure being put on vulnerable members of some ethnic minority communities, particularly women and young people, to vote according to the will of the elders, especially in communities of Pakistani and Bangladeshi background.

Sir Eric also calls for a ban on political activists handling postal ballots to stop "vote harvesting", when people offer to take people's ballots to the station for them but encourage them to back a particular candidate.

He also calls for individual postal votes to be reviewed every three years so that "absent voting" is no longer "institutionalised". *Postal votes are a particular source of corruption. 40 years ago I needed a postal vote as I was going to be away at university during a particular election. I had to make out a good case as to why I needed it (it wasn't difficult but it wasn't automatic either) and when I cast the vote I had to be witnessed by a responsible person who had to sign a document that she had done so. There is no reason why we cannot return to that regime.*

Sir Eric adds: "Last year's court ruling in Tower Hamlets was a wake-up call that state bodies need to do far more to stamp out corruption and restore public confidence. It was local residents who lost out from the unscrupulous politicians who bullied them and wasted their money..."