



# LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE

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Prospective Candidate  
Upcoming Elections – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Dear Prospective Candidate

I write to you in my role of the Single Point of Contact for electoral malpractice on behalf of Lincolnshire Police, regarding the forthcoming elections on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

To assist you in complying with the legislation I would request that you read the full guidance provided by The Electoral Commission on their website: [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/) which includes updates for 2023. I particularly draw your attention to Part 4 of the guidance, concerning 'the campaign'.

The Elections Act 2022 is also introducing new rules affecting various aspects of the elections and the new rules cover areas including nomination papers, candidate spending, digital imprints and voter identification. It is therefore very important that you check how these changes impact you and your campaign.

The majority of allegations reported to returning officers and police concern the behaviour of candidates during the campaign; failing to comply with imprint rules on campaign material and making false statements concerning candidates, including comments made on social media. These allegations are all subject to police investigations and can include interviewing candidates for criminal offences under the Representation of the People Act 1983. I therefore ask that in order to prevent any issues arising, that you promote the use of The Electoral Commission Guidance.

Please note that when considering whether to investigate any allegation of malpractice, Lincolnshire Police ask complainants to first consult their local authority Election Services Manager for advice. If matters cannot be dealt with by the Election Services Manager, then they will submit the matter to the police on your behalf. Allegations will only be considered where complainants are prepared to provide a formal witness statement and supporting evidence, as appropriate. Any reports and correspondence should be directed to Lincolnshire Police by email ([elections@lincs.police.uk](mailto:elections@lincs.police.uk)).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mike Billam', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

SGT 925 Mike Billam

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