# Challenges Faced by Overseas Britons and Bristol Residents Impacting Participation in UK General Election



**Overseas Britons and ID Requirements Impact UK General Election Participation**

Fewer than 200,000 overseas Britons have applied to vote in the UK General Election set for July 4, 2024, out of an estimated 3.5 million. Despite regaining their voting rights in January after a change in law, obstacles such as proving their last-known UK address and a lack of awareness have contributed to the low number of applications. Sue Wilson, co-chair of Bremain in Spain, and Gabrielle Gombert, who resides in the Netherlands, are among those who have registered. Jane Golding from British in Europe attributed the low numbers to insufficient government communication about the rule change.

Additionally, nearly 29,000 residents in the Bristol region lack the necessary voter ID, impacting their ability to vote. The voter ID requirement, introduced last year, means residents without proper identification will be turned away at polling stations. Areas such as Weston-super-Mare South and Hartcliffe & Withywood are notably affected, with significant proportions of registered voters lacking appropriate ID. The Electoral Commission has been urging eligible voters to obtain free Voter Authority Certificates, with the application deadline set for June 26. Despite calls for expanding the types of accepted ID, the government has maintained the current list, aiming to ensure secure voting processes.