

We have a government who wants us to know that they thi.

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As the [Guardian](#) has reported:

*Boris Johnson's government is expected to introduce a bill in the spring [to make photo ID mandatory from 2023](#) for all UK-wide and English elections. But critics argue it is unnecessary, given low levels of voter fraud in the UK, and will disproportionately impact ethnic minority and working-class communities.*

There was only one conviction for “personation” fraud, which voter ID is meant to prevent, in the UK in 2019.

There are countless issues of significance in this country that need to be addressed right now. As I have [suggested this morning](#), these include pressing issues of constitutional significance. There is also the very obvious need for electoral reform in this country. But what there is not is any need to introduce law to require photo ID in order to vote.

Reports suggest that more than 20% of those currently entitled to vote do not have photo ID. Many of them will not get it just to vote. In a great many cases they will not be able to afford to do so. The consequence is obvious. The UK electoral franchise is being reduced on the basis of false claims to favour the Conservative Party who think that those so excluded would not vote for them.

We have to ask if we live in a democracy any more.

We have to ask if those governing us are in the slightest bit interested in democracy any more.

We even have to ask if they care that we know that they are not democrats, and do not care for a universal franchise.

At its most basic level this government is saying that some people do not count, and that they want us all, including those who will not count, to know that.

And that, in my opinion, makes them contemptible.