



GEO Conference – March 2007

Professional Election Associations

John Turner
Chairman & Chief Executive, AEA



About the AEA

- **Founded in 1987 – first in the World?**
- **1500 members working in electoral administration in UK**
- **Our objectives**
 - Encourage training and education
 - Promote knowledge in our members
 - Disseminate information and advice
 - Provide commercial activities such as seminars and training
 - Undertake electoral administration activities within and outside the UK



The challenges

AEA is six different things

- Professional members' organisation
- Expert body to advise others
- Lobbying body
- Limited company under UK law
- Commercial organisation with turnover approaching £1 million
- Educational examining and awarding body



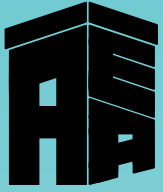
What we do

- **Work with Government/Electoral Commission**
- **Lobby for change – modernisation agenda**
- **Seminar and Conference**
- **Training**
- **Qualifications**
- **Consultancy**
- **Ballot services**
- **Website**



How we do it

- National Council
- Elected Chairman/Deputy Chairman
- Management Team
- Appointed Officers
- Business Planning
- Budgetary planning and control
- No state funding
- Branch meetings



Future objectives

- **Maintain our reputation within UK**
- **Raise our profile**
- **Develop our Qualification**
- **Enhance our reputation internationally**
- **Promote good practice**
- **Contribute to electoral reform**
- **Ensure professionalism and effectiveness**
- **Assist democratic development**
- **Provide high quality training**
- **Provide timely advice to our members**



Do we make a difference?

- We believe so because of the above and because of our principal aims for UK citizens
 - ✓ Every citizen who is entitled to be registered, should be registered
 - ✓ Every elector who wishes to vote, should be assisted to do so by modern and effective voting arrangements
 - ✓ Adequate, proportionate and effective processes must be in place to prevent and/or detect electoral fraud