

# THE BIRMINGHAM POST

## **Radio coup for city DJ Emma**

***Jonathan Walker, Evening Mail Political Editor***

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Birmingham DJ Emma B is inviting city families to quiz Tory leader Michael Howard when he visits the city this week.

Emma, a Radio 1 and Top of the Pops presenter, is taking part in an inquiry into how more people can be encouraged to vote.

Mr Howard has agreed to take part in the inquiry, which is meeting in Birmingham city centre on Friday.

And with a General Election probably less than ten weeks away, Birmingham voters have been invited to take part and put their questions to him.

The investigation, called the POWER Commission, also includes top lawyer Helena Kennedy and writer Ferdinand Mount.

Emma said: "It is time to face the fact that low participation in formal politics is now a serious problem threatening to undermine our democracy.

"The issue is not just voter turnout, as bad as that is, the political parties have been losing members since the 1960s and polls show that people feel they have little or no influence over politicians once they are elected."

The POWER Commission will be quizzing Mr Howard at The MacDonald Burlington Hotel, 6 Burlington Arcade, 126 New Street, on Friday, March 4, from 12 noon to 2pm.

Anyone interested in attending should contact Emma Burnell on [emma@powerinquiry.org](mailto:emma@powerinquiry.org) or call 0845 345 5307.