



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 0215182
Date 4 March 2015

Electoral registration

Request:

The arrangements for electoral registration and canvassing have been going through a process of ongoing change from before and since the implementation of Individual Electoral Registration. As such it is difficult to provide definitive responses to some of these questions, particularly in regard to how activities will be carried out going forward (new guidance is provided from the Cabinet Office on an on-going basis and new tools, software, etc. are becoming available).

Notwithstanding that, here is some information about previous and planned activity in response to the questions raised:

Online voter registration

1. Whether you offer the choice for people to register to vote (a) online (b) by post or (c) in any other way.
 - i. In the case of online registration, please provide details of how the process works (i.e. do people have to set up a user profile with the local authority, is there a specific portal they must sign in to, do they require a username and password).

Online voter registration offered through the national portal www.gov.uk/register-to-vote about which details are available on that website.

- ii. In the case of registration by post, whether an envelope or a freepost envelope is provided for recipients to respond.

Yes, a freepost envelope is provided.

- iii. In the case of any other way, please provide details of how the process works.

Residents can telephone the Council's Customer Services team who can input details into the web portal identified in (1) above.

Annual canvass

2. How the electoral registration form / notification for the annual canvass is distributed to residents (e.g. by post, or an alternative form).

Previously this has been a paper form distributed by post or hand delivered.

3. Whether they offer the choice for people to return their annual canvass (a) online (b) by post or (c) in any other way.

In the past we have offered an online facility, where a resident provides two parts of a security code to enable access. The form could also be returned in a freepost envelope.

- I. In the case of online registration, please provide details of how the process works (i.e. do people have to set up a user profile with the local authority, is there a specific portal they must sign in to, do they require a username and password?).
- II. In the case of registration by post, whether an envelope or a freepost envelope is provided for recipients to respond.

In the case of any other way, please provide details of how the process works.

Individual electoral registration

4. What changes you have made to your electoral registration and annual canvass systems for the implementation of individual electoral registration, and whether any allowances have been made for those who are not online or are unable to use/ access the internet?

Arrangements for the first full canvass under IER have not yet been agreed but there will be provision for people who cannot or prefer not to use the internet.

5. Whether people will have the choice to register to vote / update their entry on the electoral register as part of the annual canvass (a) online (b) by post or (c) in any other way.

To be determined.