



## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 1115111  
Date            18 November 2015

### *Electoral Register*

**Request:**

Please can you tell me how many times the full or edited electoral register has been sold in the past five years and to which organisations they were sold to.

Please also provide details of how much money the council received for each sale.

I refer to your request under the Freedom of Information Act regarding the Register of Electors. The registration of electors is governed by the Representation of the People Act 1983 as amended. Under Section 8 of the Act, the council must appoint an officer of the council to be the registration officer for any constituency or part of a constituency coterminous with or situated in the council's area. Wolverhampton City Council has appointed an Electoral Registration Officer for the registration area of Wolverhampton. The appointment as Electoral Registration Officer is separate to any other appointment with Wolverhampton City Council and, although appointed by the council, the Electoral Registration Officer's responsibilities and duties are personal. An example of this is that the register of electors is deemed to be the property of the Electoral Registration Officer, not the local authority.

The Electoral Registration Officer does not carry out the duties on behalf of the local authority but in his own personal capacity. A list of public bodies and local authorities that are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act is available at the following website:

<http://www.foi.gov.uk/yourRights/publicauthorities.htm#schedule1>

As you will see, the Freedom of Information Act does not list any person appointed under the Representation of the People Act 1983. It follows that the Electoral Registration Officer, Returning Officer or any other person appointed under the Act are not subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Details of persons and organisations that are entitled to receive free copies or to be sold copies of the register of electors are governed by Regulations 97 – 114 of the Representation of the People Regulations 2001, as amended.

Notwithstanding that there is no statutory obligation to provide this information, details of the sales of the register in the requested period are:

- the full register has been sold to credit referencing companies under Regulation 114 of the Representation of the People Regulations 2001. The charges raised for the sale of the register are in accordance with Paragraph 5 of Regulation 111 of the above regulations. The full register is only sold to Credit Referencing Agencies that can produce a valid certificate issued under Part III of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 by the Department of Trade and Industry. See the attached table.
- The edited (Open) register is sold very rarely, the reason for purchase is not required as part of the application process and the attached table gives details of sales.

The edited register is available for purchase by the general public. The majority of enquiries received for the purchase of the edited register never result in the sale of the register once the prospective purchaser realises that a large proportion of electors have been omitted.

Year	Request from	Description	Register	£
2015	Callcredit	Cred Ref	Full	£514.00
2015	Crediva	Cred Ref	Full	£514.00
2015	Equifax	Cred Ref	Full	£537.00
2015	Experian	Cred Ref	Full	£514.00
2015	FSC	Marketing	Open	£36.50
2014	Callcredit	Cred Ref	Full	£508.00
2014	Crediva	Cred Ref	Full	£486.50
2014	Equifax	Cred Ref	Full	£508.00
2014	Experian	Cred Ref	Full	£486.50
2014	S Sandhu	Marketing	Open	£213.50
2014	TPO UK	Research	Open	£227.00
2014	B Ahmed	Marketing	Open	£227.00
2014	Health Economics Unit	Research	Open	£30.50
2013	Callcredit	Cred Ref	Full	£482.00
2013	Crediva	Cred Ref	Full	£482.00

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

2013	Equifax	Cred Ref	Full	£503.50
2013	Experian	Cred Ref	Full	£482.00
2013	N Dugmore	Marketing	Edited	£32.00
2013	N Patel	Marketing	Edited	£71.00
2012	Callcredit	Cred Ref	Full	£482.00
2012	Crediva	Cred Ref	Full	£482.00
2012	Equifax	Cred Ref	Full	£503.50
2012	Experian	Cred Ref	Full	£482.00
2012	Aristotle	Cred Ref	Full	£288.50
2011	Callcredit	Cred Ref	Full	£482.00
2011	Crediva	Cred Ref	Full	£482.00
2011	Equifax	Cred Ref	Full	£503.50
2011	Experian	Cred Ref	Full	£482.00
2011	Aristotle	Cred Ref	Full	£288.50