

Privacy Notice for Electoral Services



Why we are collecting your data

The Electoral Registration Officer / Returning Officer is a data controller and collects the personal data you provide for the purpose of maintaining the register of electors and preparing for and conducting elections, so ensuring your right to vote. You need to be registered to be able to vote in any election or referendum for which you are eligible. We have a duty to maintain a complete and accurate register throughout the year.

We will only collect the personal data we need from you, in order to do this.

What is the legal basis for processing this data?

We do this as a legal obligation to comply with the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 and the Representation of the People Regulations 2001. This ensures you are registered to vote in any election or referendum for which you are eligible. The law makes it compulsory to provide information to an electoral registration officer for inclusion in the full register when required to do so.

We keep records about potential and registered electors, candidates and their agents, and staff employed at elections. These may be written down, or kept on a bespoke computer system.

These records may include:

- Your name, address nationality and date of birth
- Unique identifiers (such as National Insurance Number)
- Signatures for absent vote checking
- Scanned application forms, documentary evidence, dates of any letters of correspondence.
- Notes about any relevant circumstances that you have told us
- Your previous or any redirected address
- The other occupants in your home
- If you are over 76 or under 16/17
- Whether you have chosen to opt out of the open version of the register.

Who will your information be shared with?

The information you provide is held in electoral registers which are managed by the Electoral Registration Officer who, using information received, keeps two registers – the full electoral register and the open (edited) register.

The full register is published once a year and is updated every month and can only be supplied to the following people and organisations:

- British Library
- UK Statistics Authority
- Electoral Commission
- Boundary Commission for England
- Jury Summoning Bureau
- Elected Representatives (MP, MEPS, Local Councillors)
- Police and Crime Commissioner
- Candidates standing for elections

- Local and National Political Parties
- The Isle of Wight Council
- Parish and Community councils
- Police Forces, National Crime Agency
- Public Library or local authority archive services
- Government departments or bodies
- Credit Reference Agencies
- National Fraud Initiative
- Electoral Registration and Returning Officers

We also have to disclose (share) your information with our software providers and contracted printers.

It is a crime for anyone who has a copy of the full register to pass information from this register on to others, if they do not have a lawful reason to see it.

Anyone can inspect the full electoral register:

- Inspection of the register will be under supervision
- They can take extracts from the register, but only by hand written notes
- Information taken must not be used for direct marketing purposes, in accordance with data protection legislation, unless it has also been published in the open version
- Anyone who fails to observe these conditions is committing a criminal offence and may be charged a penalty of up to £5,000 upon conviction

The open register contains the same information as the full register, but is not used for elections or referendums. It is updated and published every month and can be sold to any person, organisation or company for a wide range of purposes. It is used by businesses and charities for checking names and address details; users of the register include direct marketing firms and also online directory firms.

You can choose whether or not to have your personal details included in the open version of the register; however, they will be included unless you ask for them to be removed. Removing your details from the open register will not affect your right to vote.

To verify your identity, the data you provide when you register will be processed by the Individual Electoral Registration Digital Service managed by the Cabinet Office. As part of this process your data will be shared with the Department of Work and Pensions and the Cabinet Office suppliers that are data processors for the Individual Electoral Registration Digital Service. You can find more information about this here: <https://www.registertovote.service.gov.uk/register-to-vote/privacy>

From June 2020 the reformed annual canvass process incorporates a 'data matching step' at the start in which registered electors are compared against datasets to see if they match. Electoral Registration Officers are required to conduct 'national data matching' against data held by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and we will also conduct 'local data matching' against council tax data. The DWP dataset is not visible to the Electoral Registration Officer, and only the results of the national data matching step are disclosed.

How long will we hold your data for?

The Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer are obliged to process your personal data in relation to maintaining the register of electors and preparing for and conducting elections. Your details will be kept and updated in accordance with our legal obligations and in line with statutory retention periods. Upon publication of a full register, or an update to it, the details contained in the register are in the public domain and cannot be retrospectively removed.

Your rights

You are entitled to request a copy of any information about you that we hold. Any such requests must be made in writing.

If the information we hold about you is inaccurate you have a right to have this corrected and you have the right to request completion of incomplete data.

You have the right to request that we stop, or restrict the processing of your personal data, in certain circumstances. Where possible we will seek to comply with your request, but we are required to hold or process certain information to comply with our legal requirements.

If you are dissatisfied with how the Electoral Registration Officer / Returning Officer has used your personal information you have a right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office at casework@ico.org.uk

Whether provision of data is part of a statutory or contractual requirement

The Electoral Registration Officer / Returning Officer are statutorily required to keep a record of your personal data in order to comply with the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, Representation of the People Regulations 2001 and Electoral Registration (Disclosure of Electoral Registers) Regulations 2013.

Identity and Contact Details of Data Protection Officer

The Data Protection Officer is the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer and can be contacted at dpo@iow.gov.uk

You can contact the council by phone on 01983 821000, or by writing to us at County Hall, High Street, Newport, IW PO30 1UD.