

ELECTORAL ROLL

Why should I register?

- It is compulsory to fill in the annual voting registration form, if you don't, you could go to court, be fined up to £1,000, and get a criminal record.
- Only those registered as electors can vote. If you aren't registered you can't help decide who represents you or your local area, or who forms the next government.
- The register is supplied to credit reference agencies, so non-registration may affect your ability to open a bank account, take out a mortgage, or buy things on credit.

Juries are summoned using the electoral register.

Get your name on the list

Your name must be on the electoral register and be effective by the close of nomination of candidates in order for you to vote. This means that everyone should register several weeks before an election.

Are you eligible?

To be eligible to register you must be:

- a British citizen, a citizen of another Commonwealth country, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland or any other member state of the European Union
- 18 years or older (although you can pre-register at 16 or 17)
- resident at an address in the area (except for some special categories of elector) free from any voting disqualifications.

Household registration

Each autumn every household is sent a registration form. You are asked to make sure all eligible residents are included, and inform us of any changes - residents may have moved out, got married and changed their name etc. (The information you provide should be correct on 15 October that year.)

Simply complete and return the household registration form or, if there are no changes, call the electoral office to confirm this. The details you provide will be used in the revised register published at the end of November.

Adding your name or changing your details

If you don't want to wait until autumn to change any details or add your name to the register (you may have moved home, been missed off by mistake or recently become eligible), no problem.

Remember, you cannot apply to be registered until you have moved into your new address.

If your name or other details change and you want to correct them before autumn, send for a "change of details" form.

The opt out

When registering, please indicate if you do not want your details included in the version of the register that is for sale - the edited register. Opting-out of this does not affect your voting rights or credit status. The full register is available for inspection at the electoral office and at local libraries but it can only be copied by hand.