



Important information
about the electoral register

Who has my personal details?

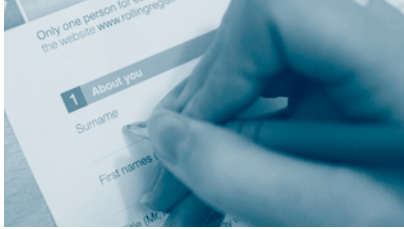


This leaflet explains the choice you have about the supply of your personal details to others.

The
Electoral
Commission



You need to be on the electoral register to be able to vote. You can register if you are a British, Irish, Commonwealth or European Union citizen.



The electoral register and your personal details

Every year, between August and October, a voter registration form is delivered to your home.

By law, you must fill in this form so details of your name and address can be kept up to date on the **electoral register**.

Until 2002, anyone could buy a copy of the register to use for any purpose. But the law was changed to give you some **choice** about who can buy details of your name and address.

There are now two versions of the electoral register: **the full version** and **the edited version**. When you fill in your form, you can choose to **'opt out'** of the edited version, which anyone can buy.



The two versions of the electoral register

The full register lists the name and address of everyone who is registered to vote and is updated every month. You do not have a choice about your details being on this register. A copy is held at your local council (and electoral registration office in Scotland). Anyone can look at it, but copies can only be supplied for certain purposes.

The main use of the full register is to show who can vote in elections and referendums. Credit reference agencies can use it, but only to check your name and address if you are applying for credit. It can also be used for law enforcement.

The edited register is available for general sale and can be used for any purpose. You can choose **not** to be on the edited register, which is kept separate from the full register. The edited register can be bought by any person, company or organisation and can be used for commercial activities such as marketing.

Your choice

If you tick the box on the voter registration form, your name and address will **only** appear on the full register, which is used for elections, referendums and certain other purposes.

If you do not tick the box on the voter registration form, your name and address will also appear on the edited version of the register, which anyone can buy. This means anyone can use your details for any purpose.

The person who fills in and signs the registration form for your address must ask each person named on the form if they want their details on the edited register.

Make sure your choice is clear every year.

Three more things to remember about registering to vote

- You must register **every year**. You are not automatically registered, even if you pay council tax.
- If you move house, you can register at your new address at **any time** of the year.
- If you're living away from home, for example if you're a student, you can register at **more than one address** (but you can only vote once in any single election).

More information

For more information, visit **www.aboutmyvote.co.uk** or contact your electoral registration office.

In England and Wales, the electoral registration office is based at your local council. In Scotland, it may be a separate office.

For contact details, visit **www.aboutmyvote.co.uk** or look in your phone book.

Other formats

You can get this leaflet on audiotape, in Braille, in large print and in various languages.

Visit **www.aboutmyvote.co.uk** or contact your electoral registration office.

