

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000259
Date 4 July 2016

Individual Electoral Registration

Request:

In June 2014 in England & Wales and September 2014 in Scotland, law relating to electoral registration changed from a household registration system to Individual Electoral Registration (IER).

IER requires every elector to be verified by some form of evidence e.g. matched against details held by the Department of Work and Pensions using a National Insurance Number, or by providing documentary evidence such as a passport.

Those already registered were matched against other data sources available to Local Authorities. Some people however could not be matched against these records and were required to submit a new application to remain on the register beyond the end of the transition period, which ended on 1st December 2015.

In light of the above, please can you confirm the following to me in relation to your local authority area:

- 1) the number of people who were removed from the roll as a result of the implementation of the new IER system;
 - 2) how many of those who were removed did not subsequently re-register to vote by the time of the referendum on membership of the EU on 23 June, 2016; and
- In respect of questions 1 and 2 above, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the above information. Having consulted with our software supplier, we have been advised that the system will not extract this information. Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of the Act, that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

3) how many complaints were received from individuals who thought they would be in a position to vote in the EU referendum but couldn't because their names were removed from the roll during the transition to IER?

The Council has not received any formal complaints regarding people unable to vote as a result of IER. Various informal complaints were raised on 23 June by people who were not on the register but no record was kept of whether that was as a result of IER or not.