

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 031648
Date 08 March 2016

Voting

Request:

- 1) How many people in your council area were eligible to vote in the years 2013, 2014 and 2015? Please give these separately for each year and as total numbers of each age.

The mid-year population estimates for Wolverhampton in 2013 and 2014 were 194,708 and 195,329 respectively. The information is not yet available for 2015.

- 2.) How many people were registered to vote in the council area in the years 2013, 2014 and 2015? Please give the answers separately for each year, by total number at each age.

This information is available on Wolverhampton in Profile:

<http://www.wolverhamptoninprofile.org.uk/dataviews/>

NB: we do not break down this information about the age of voters. Since the introduction of Individual Registration in 2014, the government has collected date of birth data but this is only used for identification purposes and not for analysis.

- 3.) What was the turn out in local and general elections held in 2013, 2014 and 2015? Please give the answers separately for each year, by total numbers of people at each age and then give as a percentage.

This information is available on Wolverhampton in Profile:

<http://www.wolverhamptoninprofile.org.uk/dataviews/>

Age data is not provided by voters when they cast their vote so this information is not held.

- 4.) How much money was received by the council in a 2014 Innovation Fund from the UK government to be used to encourage people to sign up to the electoral register?

The Council's allocation in 2014 from the government's maximising voter registration funding was £21,007.

- 5.) How much money did the local authority spend in 2013, 2014 and 2015 on promoting and encouraging people to register to vote? Please give these totals separately? Please provide information on where this has been spent.

There is no separate budget for promoting and encouraging people to register to vote. The Council's gross controllable expenditure on electoral registration activities, including employee costs, was £298,844 in 2013/14 and £404,304 in 2014/15.

The increase in costs during 2014/15 was as a result of the government's introduction of individual electoral registration, which was covered by an additional funding allocation.

- 6.) How much money has the local authority put aside on promoting and encouraging people to register to vote ahead of the 2016 local elections?

There is no separate budget for promoting and encouraging people to register to vote. The Council's gross controllable expenditure budget for electoral registration in 2015/16 is £318,570.