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completeness of electoral registers On this page Overview Breakdown by area First  
published: 2 September 2019 Last updated: 26 September 2019 Overview This chart  
shows the accuracy and completeness estimates for England, Scotland and Wales for  
both the parliamentary and local government registers published in December 2018. In  
England, the local government registers were found to be 89% accurate and the  
accuracy of the parliamentary registers also stood at 89%. The local government  
register was 83% complete, while the parliamentary register was slightly more  
complete, at 85%. In Wales, the accuracy of the registers was similar to Great  
Britain as a whole with the local government register 89% accurate and the  
parliamentary register 88% accurate. The completeness of the local government and  
parliamentary registers was a little lower than the Great Britain average (81% and  
82% respectively). In Scotland parliamentary registers were 87% accurate and the  
local government registers were 86% accurate. Completeness was close to the Great  
Britain average at 83% for local government registers and 84% for the parliamentary  
registers. Breakdown by area England The results for England in December 2018 show  
that: Parliamentary registers were 85% complete and 89% accurate Local government  
registers were 83% complete and 89% accurate The findings lead to an estimate of  
between 7.0 to 8.1 million people in England who were eligible to be on the local  
government registers but were not correctly registered and an estimate of between 4.0  
and 4.8 million inaccurate entries on the local government registers in December  
2018. Completeness Region There is some variation in completeness by region, with  
completeness ranging from 76% in London to 91% in the North East. Local government  
register completeness by region, England, December 2015 and 2018 Region December 2015  
December 2018 England 84% 83% North East 78% 91% North West 84% 85% Yorkshire and the  
Humber 82% 87% East Midlands 83% 83% West Midlands 88% 86% East of England 85% 79%  
London 81% 76% South East 87% 84% South West 84% 84% Urban/rural In England the local  
government registers in 2018 were: 84% complete in rural areas 83% complete in urban  
areas Length of residence Previous research into the registers has found a connection  
between home movement and completeness: as registration is residence-based, greater  
mobility is associated with lower levels of completeness, while the longer an  
individual has been resident at their property, the more likely they are to appear on  
the electoral register. As these figures demonstrate, this pattern continues in the  
local government registers for England, with completeness at: 36% among those who  
have lived at their address for up to a year 83% for those who have lived at their  
address for two to five years 90% for those resident between five and 10 years  
88% for those living at their address for 10 to 16 years 92% for those resident for  
more than 16 years Tenure In England, homeowners (both those who own their home  
outright and those buying on a mortgage or shared ownership) are more likely to be  
registered than people in other types of tenure. Completeness was highest among those  
who own outright (91%) compared to those in households buying with a mortgage (85%),  
social renters (83%) and private renters (58%). Variations in completeness by tenure  
are closely linked to length of residence, with private renters much more likely to  
have lived at their address for a shorter period of time than those living in other  
tenures. Age Levels of completeness were found to vary by age group, with older  
groups more likely to be registered. This is a finding that has been consistent  
throughout our research. Completeness stands at 72% for those aged 18-34, while it is  
higher for those aged 35-54 (85%) and those aged 55+ (93%). Summary of completeness

measures This table provides a summary of the level of completeness across all key measures and a number of other measures associated with completeness, such as socio-economic group and nationality. These are also compared to the figures for Great Britain as a whole. Summary of completeness measures, England and Great Britain, 2018

	England	Great Britain
Urban/rural	Urban 83%	Urban 83%
	Rural 84%	85%
Gender	Male 82%	83%
	Female 83%	83%
Age	18-34 72%	71%
	35-54 85%	86%
	55+ 93%	93%
Tenure	Own outright 91%	91%
	Mortgage/shared ownership 85%	86%
	Social renter 83%	83%
	Private renter 58%	58%
	Rent-free/other 71%	69%
Socio-economic group	AB 86%	86%
	C1 84%	84%
	C2 80%	80%
	DE 79%	80%
Adults in household	1 86%	86%
	2 84%	84%
	3 to 5 81%	81%
	6+ 79%	78%
Length of residence	Up to 1 year 36%	36%
	Between 1 year and 2 years 70%	71%
	Between 2 and 5 years 83%	84%
	Between 5 and 10 years 90%	90%
	Between 10 and 16 years 88%	88%
	16 years or more 92%	92%
Nationality	UK and Irish 85%	86%
	EU 54%	54%
	Commonwealth 62%	62%

Accuracy This table shows the types of error found on the December 2018 local government registers. As for Great Britain overall, the most significant proportion of major errors - those which would prevent someone from voting, or incorrectly allow someone to vote – relate to entries that refer to individuals who no longer live at the property (10%). In England, 9% of entries contain minor errors, which would not prevent them from voting. This is the same proportion as in Great Britain as a whole.

	England	Great Britain
Major errors total	10.9%	11.2%
Major errors-(a)	10.1%	10.4%
No corresponding name taken at address		
Major errors-(b)		
First name and/or surname wrong on register	0.5%	0.4%
First name and/or surname missing on register	0.0%	0.0%
UK/Irish/Commonwealth marker present	0.3%	0.3%
Major errors- (c)		
Name on survey corresponds to ineligible name on survey	0.2%	0.2%
Attainers- DOB missing or wrong	0.1%	0.1%
EU citizens marker missing	0.2%	0.2%
Accurate with minor errors	8.9%	9.1%
First name and/or surname on register misspelled	1.3%	1.2%
First name/surname on register incomplete	0.5%	0.5%
Middle name missing from register	6.1%	6.4%
Middle name or initials misspelled or incomplete on register	0.0%	0.0%
Middle name or initial wrong on register	0.1%	0.1%
Person does not have a middle name but middle name on registers (respondents only)	1.3%	1.3%
Surname is/assumed to be previous surname	0.5%	0.5%
First/middle/surname in different order on register	0.1%	0.1%
DOB earlier on register for attainer	0.0%	0.0%

Scotland The results for Scotland in December 2018 show that: Parliamentary registers were 84% complete and 87% accurate Local government registers were 83% complete and 86% accurate The findings lead to an estimate of: between 630,000 and 890,000 people in Scotland who were eligible to be on the local government registers but were not correctly registered between 400,000 and 745,000 inaccurate entries on the local government registers in December 2018

	Urban/rural
In Scotland, the local government registers in 2018 were:	
89% complete in rural areas	82% complete in urban areas
Length of residence	

Previous research into the registers has found a connection between home movement and completeness. As registration is residence-based, greater mobility is associated with lower levels of completeness, while the longer an individual has been resident at their property, the more likely they are to appear on the electoral register. This chart shows that this pattern continues in the local government registers for Scotland, with completeness at: 32% among those who have lived at their address for up to a year 84% among those who have lived at their address for two to five years 91% for those who have lived at their address between five and 10 years 95% for those living at their address for 10 to 16 years 94% for those living at their address for more than 16 years

Tenure In Scotland, homeowners are more likely to be registered than people in other types of tenure. Completeness was highest among those who own outright (95%), compared to those in

households buying with a mortgage (87%), social renters (81%) and private renters (49%). Variations in completeness by tenure are closely linked to length of residence, with private renters much more likely to have lived at their address for a shorter period of time than those living in other tenures. Age Levels of completeness were found to vary by age group, with older groups more likely to be registered.

This is a finding that has been consistent throughout our research. Completeness stands at 68% for those aged 18-34 while it is higher for those aged 35-54 (87%) and those aged 55+ (92%). Summary of other completeness measures The table below provides a summary of the level of completeness across key measures, and a number of other measures associated with completeness, such as socio-economic group and nationality.

These are also compared to the figures for Great Britain as a whole. Summary of completeness measures, Scotland and Great Britain, 2018

	Scotland	Great Britain
Urban/rural	Urban 82% 83%	Rural 89% 85%
Gender	Male 85% 83%	Female 82% 83%
Age	18-34 68% 71%	35-54 87% 86%
	55+ 92% 93%	
Tenure	Own outright 95% 91%	Mortgage/shared ownership 87% 86%
	Social renter 81% 83%	Private renter 49% 58%
	Rent-free/other 73% 69%	
Socio-economic group	AB 88% 86%	C1 85% 84%
	C2 80% 80%	DE 78% 80%
Adults in household	1 79% 86%	2 84% 84%
	3 to 5 85% 81%	6+ - 78%
Length of residence	Up to 1 year 32% 36%	Between 1 year and 2 years 65% 71%
	Between 2 and 5 years 84% 84%	Between 5 and 10 years 91% 90%
	Between 10 and 16 years 95% 88%	16 years or more 94% 92%
Nationality	UK and Irish 85% 86%	EU 58% 54%
	Commonwealth 58% 62%	

Accuracy This table shows the types of error found on the December 2018 local government registers.

As for Great Britain, the most significant proportion of major errors which would prevent someone from voting, or incorrectly allow someone to vote, relate to entries that refer to individuals who no longer live at the property (13%). In Scotland 11% of entries contain minor errors which would not prevent someone from voting. This figure is close to that for Great Britain (9%). Accuracy errors, Scotland and Great Britain, 2018

	Scotland	Great Britain
Major errors total	14.0%	11.2%
Major errors-(a)	13.1%	10.4%
No corresponding name taken at address	Major errors-(b)	First name and/or surname wrong on register 0.3% 0.4%
First name and/or surname missing on register 0.0% 0.0%	UK/Irish/Commonwealth marker present 0.4% 0.3%	Major errors-(c)
Name on survey corresponds to ineligible name on survey 0.1% 0.2%	Attainers- DOB missing or wrong 0.2% 0.1%	EU citizens marker missing 0.2% 0.2%
Accurate with minor errors 11.2% 9.1%	First name and/or surname on register misspelled 0.9% 1.2%	First name/surname on register incomplete 0.3% 0.5%
Middle name missing from register 9.3% 6.4%	Middle name or initials misspelled or incomplete on register 0.0% 0.0%	Middle name or initial wrong on register 0.0% 0.1%
Person does not have a middle name but middle name on registers (respondents only) 1.3% 1.3%	Surname is/assumed to be previous surname 0.5% 0.5%	First/middle/surname in different order on register 0.0% 0.1%
DOB earlier on register for attainer 0.0% 0.0%	Wales	The results for Wales in December 2018 show that: Parliamentary registers were 82% complete and 88% accurate
Local government registers were 81% complete and 89% accurate	The findings lead to an estimate of between 410,000 and 560,000 people in Wales who were eligible to be on the local government registers but were not correctly registered. There were an estimate of between 200,000 and 330,000 inaccurate entries on the local government registers in December 2018.	Completeness Urban/rural In Wales, the local government registers in 2018 were: 82% complete in rural areas 81% complete in urban areas
Length of residence Previous research into the registers has found a connection between home movement and completeness. As registration is residence-based, greater mobility is associated with lower levels of completeness, while the longer an individual has been resident at their property, the more likely they are to appear on the electoral		

register. This pattern continues in the local government registers for Wales, with completeness at: 30% among those who have lived at their address for up to a year 83% for those who have lived at their address for two to five years and between five and 10 years 88% for those who have lived at their address for 10 to 16 years 91% for those who have lived at their address for more than 16 years Tenure In Wales, homeowners are more likely to be registered than people in other types of tenure. Completeness was highest among those who own outright (91%) compared to those in households buying with a mortgage (78%), social renters (81%) and private renters (60%). Variations in completeness by tenure are closely linked to length of residence with private renters much more likely to have lived at their address for a shorter period of time than those living in other tenures. Age Levels of completeness were found to vary by age group, with older groups more likely to be registered. This is a finding that has been consistent throughout our research. Completeness stands at 67% for those aged 18-34 while it is higher for those aged 35-54 (84%) and those aged 55+ (95%).

**Summary of completeness measures** This table summarises the level of completeness across key measures, and a number of other measures associated with completeness, such as socio-economic group and nationality. These are also compared to the figures for Great Britain as a whole.

	Wales	Great Britain
Urban/rural	Urban 81% 83% Rural 82% 85%	
Gender	Male 80% 83% Female 82% 83%	
Age	18-34 67% 71% 35-54 84% 86% 55+ 95% 93%	
Tenure	Own outright 91% 91% Mortgage/shared ownership 78% 86% Social renter 81% 83% Private renter 60% 58% Rent-free/other 51% 69%	
Socio-economic group	AB 87% 86% C1 82% 84% C2 82% 80% DE 76% 80%	
Adults in household	1 82% 86% 2 83% 84% 3 to 5 77% 81% 6+ - 78%	
Length of residence	Up to 1 year 30% 36% Between 1 year and 2 years 68% 71% Between 2 and 5 years 83% 84% Between 5 and 10 years 83% 90% Between 10 and 16 years 88% 88% 16 years or more 91% 92%	
Nationality	UK and Irish 82% 86% EU 57% 54% Commonwealth 59% 62%	

**Accuracy** The table below shows the types of error found on the December 2018 local government registers. As for Great Britain overall, the most significant proportion of major errors which would prevent someone from voting, or incorrectly allow someone to vote, relate to entries that refer to individuals who no longer live at the property (11%). In Wales, 10% of entries contain minor errors, which would not prevent someone from voting.

	Wales	Great Britain
Major errors total	11.7% 11.2%	
Major errors-(a)	10.8% 10.4%	
No corresponding name taken at address	Major errors-(b)	
First name and/or surname wrong on register	0.3% 0.4%	
First name and/or surname missing on register	0.0% 0.0%	
UK/Irish/Commonwealth marker present	0.0% 0.3%	
Major errors- (c)		
Name on survey corresponds to ineligible name on survey	0.3% 0.2%	
Attainers- DOB missing or wrong	0.0% 0.1%	
EU citizens marker missing	0.3% 0.2%	
Accurate with minor errors	9.7% 9.1%	
First name and/or surname on register misspelled	0.8% 1.2%	
First name/surname on register incomplete	0.6% 0.5%	
Middle name missing from register	8.1% 6.4%	
Middle name or initials misspelled or incomplete on register	0.0% 0.0%	
Middle name or initial wrong on register	0.0% 0.1%	
Person does not have a middle name but middle name on registers (respondents only)	0.6% 1.3%	
Surname is/assumed to be previous surname	0.3% 0.5%	
First/middle/surname in different order on register	0.0% 0.1%	
DOB earlier on register for attainer	0.0% 0.0%	