

What documents or attestations must be included with an application for anonymous registration? | Electoral Commission Running electoral registration - England You are in the Anonymous registration section Home Running electoral registration - England Special category electors Anonymous registration View the navigation tree Go to main guidance section: Running electoral registration - England Your role and responsibilities as Electoral Registration Officer Your public engagement strategy and registration plan Eligibility to register to vote Special category electors How can special category electors apply to register to vote? Overseas electors HM forces service voters Crown servants and British Council employee service voters Declarations of local connection Prisoners and detained mental health patients Anonymous registration What must be included in an application for anonymous registration? What documents or attestations must be included with an application for anonymous registration? How should an application for anonymous registration be processed? What are the deadlines for adding anonymously registered electors to the register? How should anonymous electors be listed in the register? How long is an anonymous registration valid for? Renewal process for anonymous registrations Donations to registered political parties by anonymously registered electors Resources for Electoral Registration Officers - Special Category Electors Inviting individuals to register to vote How can individuals register to vote? Processing applications and other amendments to the register throughout the year Managing amendments, reviews, objections and deletions throughout the year Maintaining the register throughout the year Access and supply of the electoral register Absent voting (Pre-commencement of Elections Act measures) Absent voting (Post commencement of Elections Act measures) Voter Authority Certificates and Anonymous Elector's Documents Resources for Electoral Registration Officers What documents or attestations must be included with an application for anonymous registration? What documents or attestations must be included with an application for anonymous registration? The application must be accompanied by either a court order or an attestation. 1 Any court order or injunction must be for the protection or the benefit of the applicant or another person of the same household. 2 The order must be in force on the day of the application, 3 but need not be for the whole 12 month period of registration. An order ceasing to be in force during the 12 month period of registration does not reduce or otherwise affect the length of registration. A copy of any relevant court document is acceptable. 4 The eligible court documents are: 5 Eligible court documents An injunction for the purpose of restraining a person from pursuing any conduct which amounts to harassment granted in proceedings under Section 3 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 or under article 5 of the Protection from Harassment (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 An injunction granted under Section 3A(2) of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 A restraining order made under Section 5(1) of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, or under article 7 of the Protection from Harassment (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 A restraining order on acquittal made under Section 5A(1) of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, or under article 7A(1) of the Protection from Harassment (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 A non-harassment order, interdict or interim interdict made under Section 8 or 8A of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 A non-harassment order made under Section 234A(2) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 A non-molestation order made under Section 42(2) of the Family Law Act 1996, or under article 20(2) of the Family Homes and Domestic Violence (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 A matrimonial interdict within the meaning of Section 14 of the Matrimonial Homes (Family Protection) (Scotland) Act 1981 A domestic interdict within the meaning of Section 18A of the

Matrimonial Homes (Family Protection) (Scotland) Act 1981 A relevant interdict within the meaning of Section 113 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 An interdict that has been determined to be a domestic abuse interdict within the meaning of Section 3 of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2011 Any interdict with an attached power of arrest made under Section 1 of the Protection from Abuse (Scotland) Act 2001 A forced marriage protection order or interim forced marriage protection order made under Part 4A of the Family Law Act 1996, or under Section 2 of, and paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to, the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007, or under Section 1 or Section 5 of the Forced Marriage etc. (Protection and Jurisdiction) (Scotland) Act 2011 A domestic violence protection order made under Section 28 of the Crime and Security Act 2010 or section 97 of, and paragraph 5 of Schedule 7 to, the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2015. A template of a domestic violence protection order is available on our website, though you should be aware that each order will be tailored to the circumstances of the case A female genital mutilation protection order made under Section 5A of, and paragraphs 1 or 18 of Schedule 2 to, the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003. A template of a female genital mutilation protection order is available on our website, though you should be aware that an Order may vary in appearance A domestic abuse protection order within the meaning of Section 27 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 No documents other than these can be used as eligible court documents in support of an application for anonymous registration. If an attestation is used it must certify that if the name or address were on the register the applicant's or another member of the same household's 'safety would be at risk'. 6 Attestations must be in writing and must be signed and dated by a qualifying officer. The period of the attestation begins on the date stated and lasts for a period of between one and five years. The actual length must be stated within the attestation. 7 The anonymous registration application form approved by the Lord President of the Council and made available by the Electoral Commission contains a template attestation that applicants may use. The qualifying officers who may attest are: 8 a police officer of or above the rank of inspector of any police force in the UK the Director General of the Security Service or the National Crime Agency a director of adult social services or children's services in England or a director of social services in Wales any chief social work officer in Scotland any director of social services of a Health and Social Services Board or executive director of social work of a Health and Social Services Trust in Northern Ireland any medical practitioner who is registered with the General Medical Council any nurse or midwife who is registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council any person who manages a refuge. A 'refuge' means accommodation together with a planned programme of therapeutic and practical support for victims of, or those at risk of, domestic abuse or violence 9 No person other than those listed may attest an application for anonymous registration. It is not possible for a qualifying officer to delegate their power to attest an application to a different person. The attestation can come from one of the qualifying officers from a different area from which the elector now lives and is registering. This may often be the case where the applicant has moved to a new area to set up home away from the cause of the risk to their safety. For example, an attestation from one local authority director of children's services is valid in every local authority area in Great Britain. You should consider contacting any qualifying officers to alert them to their powers under the anonymous registration process. They may wish to be aware of their attestation powers and any guidance that their representative groups have given on dealing with requests for attestation. In particular, you should proactively contact any refuges, GP surgeries and other

medical establishments in your registration area who may not be aware that the types of court order and the attestation requirements have been expanded. For example, you could contact social services, Women's Aid, or other organisations who work with survivors of domestic abuse, and – explaining what are you doing – ask for details of refuges in your registration area. In partnership with Women's Aid we have produced a guide to anonymous registration for professionals working with survivors of domestic violence. Anonymous registration: Supporting survivors of domestic abuse to register to vote - England (PDF) The guide explains what anonymous registration is and that an applicant's name and address details will be kept securely and will not be searchable on the electoral register. The guide also outlines how to apply for anonymous registration and how refuge managers may provide an attestation if they wish to do so. If you consider it necessary, you are able to undertake online checks of certain categories of attestor: The General Medical Council maintains a list of registered medical practitioners available on their website: www.gmc-uk.org The Nursing & Midwifery Council maintains a list of registered nurses and midwives on their website: www.nmc.org.uk If you have concerns about an application for anonymous registration, it should be treated like any other application for registration. As set out in identifying suspicious registration applications , your local police single point of contact (SPOC) will help you ensure that any possible instances of registration fraud are quickly identified and dealt with. If you have reason to believe that an attestation provided as part of an application for anonymous registration is not genuine, you should contact your SPOC as soon as possible.

1. Regulation 31I(2) or 31(5) Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations (RPR) 2001 ■ Back to content at footnote 1
2. Regulation 31I(4) RPR 2001 ■ Back to content at footnote 2
3. Regulation 31I(5) RPR 2001 ■ Back to content at footnote 3
4. Regulation 31I(2) RPR 2001 ■ Back to content at footnote 4
5. Regulation 31I(3) RPR 2001 ■ Back to content at footnote 5
6. Regulation 31J(2)(a) RPR 2001 ■ Back to content at footnote 6
7. Regulation 31J(2)(b), (c) and (3) RPR 2001 ■ Back to content at footnote 7
8. Regulation 31J(4) RPR 2001 ■ Back to content at footnote 8
9. Regulation 31J(5) RPR 2001 ■ Back to content at footnote 9

Last updated: 8 February 2023 Book traversal links for What documents or attestations must be included with an application for anonymous registration? What must be included in an application for anonymous registration? How should an application for anonymous registration be processed?