

Applying for a Voter Authority Certificate | Electoral Commission Search

Applying for a Voter Authority Certificate You are in the section Home Voter

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Introduction The UK Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID at some elections. In Northern Ireland, voters have been required to show ID when voting since 1985, and photo ID since 2003. The new requirement does not change this. about what photo ID is accepted and how to apply for an Electoral Identity Card on the Electoral Office of Northern Ireland website . Introduction You need to be registered to vote before you apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. When you register to vote, you'll be asked whether you have photo ID or if you want to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. The deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate will be 5pm six working days before the date of the election. How to apply Apply online Apply for a Voter Authority Certificate on gov.uk. Apply now Apply by post Apply by filling out a paper application form and sending it to your local council. You can contact your local council to request a form or you can download a form . You may also be able to apply in person at your local council. If you need any help applying for a Voter Authority Certificate, contact your local council. You can also call our helpline on 0800 328 0280 if you have any questions. Find contact details for your local council If you are voting by post You don't need photo ID to vote by post. You don't need to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate if you choose to vote this way. How to apply Apply online Apply for a Voter Authority Certificate on gov.uk. Apply now Apply by post Apply by filling out a paper application form and sending this to your Electoral Registration Office. If you are unable to print the form, you can contact your local council for a form. You may also be able to apply in person at your local Electoral Registration Office. If you need any help with applying for a Voter Authority Certificate or want to request an application form, contact your Electoral Registration Office. You can also call our helpline on 0800 328 0280 if you have any questions. Find the contact details for your Electoral Registration Office If you are voting by post You don't need photo ID to vote by post. You don't need to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate if you choose to vote this way. Information you will need to provide When applying for a Voter Authority Certificate, you will need to provide your: name address date of birth National Insurance number You should apply using the same name that you used to register to vote. You will not need to provide your gender, and your certificate will not have a gender marker. If you don't know your National Insurance number or don't have one You can find your National Insurance number on: payslips official letters about tax, pensions or benefits You can still apply if you don't know your National Insurance number, or don't have one. You will need to provide other forms of proof of identity, such as a birth certificate, bank statement and a utility bill. Your local council will contact you to arrange this. If you don't have any other accepted proof of identity, you can ask someone you know to confirm your identity. This is known as an

attestation. If you live on a houseboat or other movable residence You can still apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. It will be posted to the address where you are registered to vote. If you need to collect it in person, please contact your local council. about how to register to vote if you live on a houseboat or other movable residence. Information you will need to provide When applying for a Voter Authority Certificate, you will need to provide your: name address date of birth National Insurance number You should apply using the same name that you used to register to vote. You will not need to provide your gender, and your certificate will not have a gender marker. If you don't know your National Insurance number or don't have one You can find your National Insurance number on: payslips official letters about tax, pensions or benefits You can still apply if you don't know your National Insurance number, or don't have one. You will need to provide other forms of proof of identity, such as a birth certificate, bank statement and a utility bill. Your Electoral Registration Office will contact you to arrange this. If you don't have any other accepted proof of identity, you can ask someone you know to confirm your identity. This is known as an attestation. If you live on a houseboat or other movable residence You can still apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. It will be posted to the address where you are registered to vote. If you need to collect it in person, please contact your local council. about how to register to vote if you live on a houseboat or other movable residence. Providing a photograph You will need to submit a photo with your application. The requirements for the photo are similar to the requirements for a passport photo. If you need help taking a photo, then your local council will be able to do this for you. To be accepted the photo you provide must meet certain requirements in terms of style, quality and size: Photo style Your photo must be: of you facing forward and looking straight at the camera a close up of your head and shoulders, without any head covering, unless you wear one for religious beliefs or medical reasons. Your face must not be covered for any reason. of you with a plain facial expression and with your eyes open and clearly visible (for example without sunglasses and not obscured with hair). Please note this does not apply if you are unable to provide a photograph which complies with either or both of those requirements due to any disability. If you are unable to meet the requirements due to a disability, then please speak with your local council. Photo quality The photo must: be a true likeness be in colour be taken against a plain, light background be in sharp focus and clear be free from 'redeye', shadows which obscure the face, or reflection not be damaged Photo size If you apply online, the photo must be: at least 750 pixels in height and 600 pixels in width contained in an electronic file which is no more than 20MB in size If you apply using a paper form, the photo must be: at least 45 millimetres in height and 35 millimetres in width no larger than 297 millimetres in height or 210 millimetres in width. Providing a photograph You will need to submit a photo with your application. The requirements for the photo are similar to the requirements for a passport photo. If you need help taking a photo, then your Electoral Registration Office will be able to do this for you. To be accepted the photo you provide must meet certain requirements in terms of style, quality and size: Photo style Your photo must be: of you facing forward and looking straight at the camera a close up of your head and shoulders, without any head covering, unless you wear one for religious beliefs or medical reasons. Your face must not be covered for any reason. of you with a plain facial expression and with your eyes open and clearly visible (for example without sunglasses and not obscured with hair). Please note this does not apply if you are unable to provide a photograph which complies with either or both of those requirements due to any disability. If

you are unable to meet the requirements due to a disability, then please speak with your Electoral Registration Office.

Photo quality The photo must: be a true likeness be in colour be taken against a plain, light background be in sharp focus and clear be free from 'redeye', shadows which obscure the face, or reflection not be damaged

Photo size If you apply online, the photo must be: at least 750 pixels in height and 600 pixels in width contained in an electronic file which is no more than 20MB in size If you apply using a paper form, the photo must be: at least 45 millimetres in height and 35 millimetres in width no larger than 297 millimetres in height or 210 millimetres in width.

Processing your application Your local council will process your application. They will send the Voter Authority Certificate to you by post. They will also send you instructions on how to use your certificate. Voter Authority Certificates do not have an expiration date. But it's recommended that you renew your certificate after 10 years. All data you provide when applying for a certificate will be stored securely by your local council, in line with data protection regulations.

If you need any help applying for a Voter Authority Certificate or want to request an application form, contact your Electoral Registration Office. You can also call our helpline on 0800 328 0280 if you have any questions.

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Showing ID as an anonymous elector If you're registered to vote anonymously and want to vote in person, you'll need to apply for an Anonymous Elector's Document .

about registering to vote anonymously and how to vote anonymously .

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