

What is this ad telling me? | Electoral Commission Search

What is this ad telling me? You are in the Online campaigning section Home Voter Online campaigning Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. On this page Fact checkers Other questions you might have First published: 11 March 2021 Last updated: 12 March 2021 Introduction Hopefully we've shed some light on online political advertising and pointed you to organisations that can help if you have concerns. But knowing what is and isn't allowed is just the beginning. Now it's down to you to decide whether you're persuaded by a particular ad. Does it reinforce or contradict your views on a certain subject? Do you think it pays attention to the detail, or does it overly simplify complex issues? Does the ad you've seen given you a good sense of a party's or campaigner's policy position? One way to answer these questions is to speak to family, friends, and work mates to find out what they think about an online political ad. Then, if you have time you can do more research. Read party manifestos, listen to campaigners, ask direct questions. And you can also see what fact checkers have to say. The more informed you are, the more you can be sure whether an online political ad is presenting the issues fairly. Fact checkers Fact checkers Full Fact NewsGuard Factcheck – Channel 4 News Other questions you might have Who's responsible for an online political ad? Who's paid for an online political ad? Are there limits on how much campaigners can spend online? How did a party or campaigner get my data? Why have I been targeted with an online political ad? Concerned about a claim in an online political ad? Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content Register to vote All you need to register to vote is 5 minutes and your National Insurance number. Our Commissioners Donations and loans Find out about donations and loans to a political party, individual or other organisation Report: How the 2017 UK general election was run Read our report about how the 2017 general election was run

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Living on a houseboat or other moveable residence You are in the Other
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Register to vote Register to vote Register to vote Help with the form Help with the
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completed form Ways to vote First published: 7 April 2021 Last updated: 28 October
2022 Register to vote If you live on a houseboat or other movable residence and you
have a permanent mooring or site, you can register to vote at that address. Register
to vote If you don't have a permanent mooring or site, you can choose to register at
either: a place where you spend most of your time where have some connection You
could register at the place where you were last permanently registered to vote.
Alternatively, you could register at somewhere like the boatyard you use for
maintenance for example. To register to vote in this way, you'll need to download and
complete a form for someone with no fixed or permanent address. Download register to
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you have a permanent mooring or site, you can register to vote at that address.
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your local Electoral Registration Office for the address you're registering at for help. Help with the form Help with the form If you're unable to print the application form, need it in an accessible format, or have any questions, contact the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland for help. Filling in your form The application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. When you fill in the form, you'll be able to say how you want to receive information about your registration. You can collect it from the electoral services team at the local council for the address you're registering at, or have it delivered to an address you provide. Filling in your form The application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. When you fill in the form, you'll be able to say how you want to receive information about your registration. You can collect it from the electoral services team at the local council for the address you're registering at, or have it delivered to an address you provide. Filling in your form The application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. When you fill in the form, you'll be able to say how you want to receive information about your registration. You can collect it from the Electoral Registration Office for the address you're registering at, or have it delivered to an address you provide. Filling in your form The application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. When you fill in the form, you'll be able to say how you want to receive information about your registration. You can collect it from the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland, or have it delivered to an address you provide. Where to send your completed form Once you have completed the form and made sure you have signed it, you need to send it to the electoral services team at the local council for the address you're registering at. You can send your form by post. The electoral services team at your local council may also accept a scanned copy of your form by email, but you should check with them first. Where to send your completed form Once you have completed the form and made sure you have signed it, you need to send it to the electoral services team at the local council for the address you're registering at. You can send your form by post. The electoral services team at your local council may also accept a scanned copy of your form by email, but you should check with them first. Where to send your completed form Once you have completed the form and made sure you have signed it, you need to send it to the Electoral Registration Office for the address you're registering at. You can send your form by post. The Electoral Registration Office may also accept a scanned copy of your form by email, but you should check with them first. Where to send your completed form Once you have completed the form and made sure you have signed it, you need to send it to the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland . Find where to send your form Enter the postcode for the address you're registering at to get the address of your electoral services team Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Find where to send your form Enter the postcode for the address you're registering at to get the address of your electoral services team Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Find where to send your form Enter the postcode of the address you're registering at to get the address of the local Electoral Registration Office Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Ways to vote Voting in person Apply to vote by post Apply to vote by proxy Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content Register to vote All you need to register to vote is 5 minutes and your National Insurance number. Our Commissioners Donations and loans Find out about donations and loans to a political party, individual or other organisation Report: How the 2017 UK general election was run Read our report about how the 2017 general election was run

person You are in the Voter section Home Voter Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. On this page If you're in the UK Your polling station Your polling station Your polling place Your polling station Your polling station Take ID Opening times Opening times Opening times Opening times Opening times Tellers Tellers Tellers Tellers How to vote in person How to vote in person How to vote in person How to vote in person If your photo ID is refused Asking for help Asking for help Asking for help Asking for help Asking for help Campaigning on polling day Campaigning on polling day Campaigning on polling day Campaigning on polling day Campaigning on polling day First published: 12 September 2019 Last updated: 3 January 2023 Make sure you're registered Make sure you're registered To vote in any election in the UK, you must be registered to vote. Find out if you're eligible to register and how to apply Make sure you're registered Make sure you're registered To vote in any election in the UK, you must be registered to vote. Find out if you're eligible to register and how to apply Make sure you're registered Make sure you're registered To vote in any election in the UK, you must be registered to vote. Find out if you're eligible to register and how to apply Make sure you're registered Make sure you're registered To vote in any election in the UK, you must be registered to vote. Find out if you're eligible to register and how to apply If you're in the UK If you happen to be in the UK on polling day, you can vote in person at your polling station. If you have a postal vote, you won't be able to vote at the polling station, but you can hand in your completed postal ballot at the polling station. If you have a proxy vote, you will only be able to vote at the polling station if your proxy hasn't already voted on your behalf. Your polling station When you vote in person, you go to the polling station allocated to you based on your address on the electoral register. Before you go to vote, check where your polling station is. It might not be the closest one to where to you live, and it might have changed since the last time you voted. You have to go to your allocated polling station, and you can't go to a different one close to where you work, for example. Your polling station will be on your poll card, which you'll receive through the post a few weeks before polling day. If you are voting in an election that requires photo ID then make sure you have an accepted form of photo ID or your Voter Authority Certificate with you before you go to the polling station. Your polling station When you vote in person, you go to the polling station allocated to you based on your address on the electoral register. Before you go to vote, check where your polling station is. It might not be the closest one to where to you live, and it might have changed since the last time you voted. You have to go to your allocated polling station, and you can't go to a different one close to where you work, for example. Your polling station will be on your poll card, which you'll receive through the post a few weeks before polling day. If you are voting in an election that requires photo ID then make sure you have an accepted form of photo ID or your Voter Authority Certificate with you before you go to the polling station. Your polling place When you vote in person, you go to the polling place allocated to you based on your address on the electoral register. Before you go to vote, check where your polling place is. It might not be the closest one to where to you live, and it might have changed since the last time you voted. You have to go to your allocated polling place, and you can't go to a different one close to where you work,

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forms of photo ID , and how to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate . Learn more

Opening times Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm on polling day. They can get busy, particularly towards the end of the day. If there's a queue at your polling station, you'll still be able to vote as long as you joined the queue before 10pm. If you need help getting to your polling station, you can contact your local council.

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Tellers Tellers You might see people waiting outside the polling station who ask you for the number on your poll card. These people are called 'tellers', and are volunteering on behalf of candidates. They use the information people give them to check who has voted, and remind people who haven't to do so. They are allowed to be there and to ask for the information, but you don't have to give them any information if you don't want to. If you are concerned about the conduct of a teller, speak to a member of staff at the polling station.

Greeters at polling stations We're aware that staff acting as greeters may be used in some polling stations to welcome voters, remind them about the need to show photographic ID, and help speed up the voting process.

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How to vote in person Check where your polling station is , and go

to vote between 7am and 10pm on polling day. When you arrive at your polling station, a staff member will ask for your name and address, and check that you are on the electoral register. If you are voting in an election that requires photo ID, you will need to show photo ID to vote. They will ask to see your ID, check that it's accepted , and that it looks like you. If you are registered to vote anonymously , you will be asked to show your poll card and Anonymous Elector's Document (AED). A private area will be available should you choose to have your photo ID viewed in private. This might be a separate room, or an area separated by a privacy screen, depending on the polling station. The staff member will cross your name off the register and give you a ballot paper listing the candidates you can vote for. You might be given more than one ballot paper if there is more than one election taking place in your local area on the same day. Take your ballot paper (or papers) to a polling booth, so that you can cast your vote in secret. Read the instructions on the ballot paper carefully. Some elections use different voting methods, so you need to make sure you fill in each ballot paper correctly. Complete your ballot paper using the pencil provided in the polling booth. You can also use your own pen if you want to. Don't write anything else on the paper, or your vote may not be counted. If you make a mistake, don't put your ballot paper in the ballot box. Ask the polling station staff for a replacement ballot paper, and fill it in again. Once you're done, fold your completed ballot paper and put it in the ballot box.

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vote for. You might be given more than one ballot paper if there is more than one election taking place in your local area on the same day. Take your ballot paper (or papers) to a polling booth, so that you can cast your vote in secret. Read the instructions on the ballot paper carefully. Some elections use different voting methods, so you need to make sure you fill in each ballot paper correctly. Complete your ballot paper using the pencil provided in the polling booth. You can also use your own pen if you want to. Don't write anything else on the paper, or your vote may not be counted. If you make a mistake, don't put your ballot paper in the ballot box. Ask the polling station staff for a replacement ballot paper, and fill it in again. Once you're done, fold your completed ballot paper and put it in the ballot box.

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Taking photos Taking photos inside the polling station isn't allowed as it might risk the secrecy of the ballot. You are more than welcome to take photos outside the polling station, and share them on social media to encourage your friends and family to vote.

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Face coverings Face coverings If you wear a face covering for any reason, such as a mask worn on medical grounds or a face veil worn on religious grounds, you will be asked to remove it so polling station staff can

check your ID looks like you. You can ask to have your ID checked in private. You can also request that a female member of staff checks your ID. This request will be granted if possible. There will be a mirror available in the polling station to allow you to replace your face covering once your ID has been checked. If you have any questions about voting in person at the polling station you may wish to contact your Returning Officer to discuss this. Find the contact details

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Taking photos inside the polling place isn't allowed as it might risk the secrecy of the ballot. You are more than welcome to take photos outside the polling place, and share them on social media to encourage your friends and family to vote. Postal ballot papers are viewed differently in electoral law to ballot papers in a polling station, so voters can take a photo of their own postal ballot paper and publicise it (including on social media) if they want to. It is the personal choice of the voter whether they decide to take a photo of their postal ballot paper and share it. It is an offence to persuade or induce another person to share a photo of their postal ballot paper.

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Face coverings If you wear a face covering for any reason, such as a mask worn on medical grounds or a face veil worn on religious grounds, you will be asked to remove it so polling

station staff can check your ID looks like you. You can ask to have your ID checked in private. You can also request that a female member of staff checks your ID. This request will be granted if possible. There will be a mirror available in the polling station to allow you to replace your face covering once your ID has been checked. If you have any questions about voting in person at the polling station you may wish to contact your Returning Officer to discuss this. Find the contact details Taking photos Taking photos inside the polling place isn't allowed as it might risk the secrecy of the ballot. You are more than welcome to take photos outside the polling place, and share them on social media to encourage your friends and family to vote. Postal ballot papers are viewed differently in electoral law to ballot papers in a polling station, so voters can take a photo of their own postal ballot paper and publicise it (including on social media) if they want to. It is the personal choice of the voter whether they decide to take a photo of their postal ballot paper and share it. It is an offence to persuade or induce another person to share a photo of their postal ballot paper. If your photo ID is refused If you arrive at a polling station without an accepted form of photo ID, you will be asked to return with ID that is accepted. Polling station staff will complete a form to record that a ballot paper couldn't be issued, and the reason why. The total number of voters who later return with accepted ID and are issued with a ballot paper will also be recorded. Asking for help If you're not sure what to do, or need any help, just ask the staff at the polling station – they will be happy to assist you to cast your vote. There are a number of things at the polling station to help you cast your vote, including a large print sample ballot paper, and a tactile voting device to help if you have a visual impairment. If you want to, you can take your phone into the polling booth to use magnifier or text-to-speech apps, or the phone torch to improve lighting. When using your phone, don't take any photos inside the polling station. You can ask polling station staff for help, or you can bring someone with you. Anyone over the age of 18 can come with you to help you cast your vote. They don't need to be eligible to vote in that election. Asking for help If you're not sure what to do, or need any help, just ask the staff at the polling station – they will be happy to assist you to cast your vote. There are a number of things at the polling station to help you cast your vote, including a large print sample ballot paper, and a tactile voting device to help if you have a visual impairment. If you want to, you can take your phone into the polling booth to use magnifier or text-to-speech apps, or the phone torch to improve lighting. When using your phone, don't take any photos inside the polling station. You can also ask polling station staff to help you, or you can bring someone with you to help. If you bring someone with you to help at Senedd, local elections and Police and Crime Commissioner elections, they need to be over 16 and eligible to vote in the election. For general elections, including recall petitions, anyone over the age of 18 can come with you to help you cast your vote. They don't need to be eligible to vote in that election. Asking for help If you're not sure what to do, or need any help, just ask the staff at the polling place – they will be happy to assist you to cast your vote. There are a number of things at the polling place to help you cast your vote, including a large print sample ballot paper, and a tactile voting device to help if you have a visual impairment. If you want to, you can take your phone into the polling booth to use magnifier or text-to-speech apps, or the phone torch to improve lighting. When using your phone, don't take any photos inside the polling station. You can also ask polling place staff to help you, or you can bring someone with you to help. If you bring someone to help you at local elections, they need to be over 18 and eligible to vote in the election. For

general elections, including recall petitions, anyone over the age of 18 can come with you to help you cast your vote. They don't need to be eligible to vote in that election. Asking for help If you're not sure what to do, or need any help, just ask the staff at the polling station – they will be happy to assist you to cast your vote. There are a number of things at the polling station to help you cast your vote, including a large print sample ballot paper, and a tactile voting device to help if you have a visual impairment. You can also ask polling place staff to help you, or you can bring someone with you to help. If you bring someone to help you at local elections, they need to be over 18 and eligible to vote in the election. For general elections, including recall petitions, anyone over the age of 18 can come with you to help you cast your vote. They don't need to be eligible to vote in that election. Asking for help If you're not sure what to do, or need any help, just ask the staff at the polling station – they will be happy to assist you to cast your vote. There are a number of things at the polling station to help you cast your vote, including a large print sample ballot paper, and a tactile voting device to help if you have a visual impairment. If you want to, you can take your phone into the polling booth to use magnifier or text-to-speech apps, or the phone torch to improve lighting. When using your phone, don't take any photos inside the polling station. You can ask polling station staff for help, or you can bring someone with you. Anyone over the age of 18 can come with you to help you cast your vote. They don't need to be eligible to vote in that election. Campaigning on polling day Campaigning on polling day There are no rules that say campaigning can't take place on polling day. However, campaigning should not take place within the polling station itself, and campaigners must not obstruct the polling station or stop voters from entering. about campaign material and campaigning on polling day . It's an offence to influence someone to vote a certain way by intimidating them or using undue influence. If you're concerned about something, contact the elections team at your local council. If you have evidence that a crime has taken place, contact the police or Crimestoppers. about electoral fraud , which includes influencing someone to vote a certain way. Campaigning on polling day Campaigning on polling day There are no rules that say campaigning can't take place on polling day. However, campaigning should not take place within the polling station itself, and campaigners must not obstruct the polling station or stop voters from entering. about campaign material and campaigning on polling day . It's an offence to influence someone to vote a certain way by intimidating them or using undue influence. If you're concerned about something, contact the elections team at your council. If you have evidence that a crime has taken place, contact the police or Crimestoppers. about electoral fraud , which includes influencing someone to vote a certain way. Campaigning on polling day Campaigning on polling day There are no rules that say campaigning can't take place on polling day. However, campaigning should not take place within the polling station itself, and campaigners must not obstruct the polling station or stop voters from entering. about campaign material

and campaigning on polling day . It's an offence to influence someone to vote a certain way. If you're concerned about something, contact the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland . If you have evidence that a crime has taken place, contact the police. about electoral fraud , which includes influencing someone to vote a certain way. Campaigning on polling day Campaigning on polling day There are no rules that say campaigning can't take place on polling day. However, campaigning should not take place within the polling station itself, and campaigners must not obstruct the polling station or stop voters from entering. about campaign material and campaigning on polling day . It's an offence to influence someone to vote a certain way by intimidating them or using undue influence. If you're concerned about something, contact the elections team at your local council. If you have evidence that a crime has taken place, contact the police or Crimestoppers. about electoral fraud , which includes influencing someone to vote a certain way. Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content Register to vote All you need to register to vote is 5 minutes and your National Insurance number. Elections in your area Enter your postcode to find your electoral services team at your local council. You need to send your postal and proxy vote application forms to them. Apply to vote by post Can't get to the polling station on polling day? Apply to vote by post by downloading and completing the application form. Apply to vote by proxy Can't get to the polling station on polling day? Ask a trusted person to vote on your behalf and apply for a proxy vote.

Report a missing or incorrect digital imprint | Electoral Commission Search
Report a missing or incorrect digital imprint You are in the Imprints on
election campaign material section Home Voter Imprints on election campaign material
Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing
you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. On this page What
to report Report a missing imprint First published: 14 January 2021 Last updated: 22
July 2021 What to report to us By law, digital election campaign material, as well as
printed material, in Scotland must have an imprint . There is currently no law
covering digital content in the rest of the UK. We can only take action in certain
circumstances. We can take action if the material is about: an election in Scotland
We can't take action if it is about: a candidate in Scotland. This is a matter for
the police an election elsewhere in the UK a UK Parliamentary general election or by-
election an individual's personal political opinion on a party or campaigner, if they
are not closely associated with that party Candidates in Scotland If you see digital
election campaign material about a candidate in Scotland which is missing an imprint,
or with an incorrect imprint, please report this to the police. Report a missing or
incorrect imprint Seen digital election campaign material missing an imprint, or with
an incorrect imprint? Use this form to report it to us. Submit a missing or incorrect
imprint report report a missing imprint Are you reporting digital election campaign
material without an imprint in Scotland? Yes No Status message At the moment, the law
only covers digital election campaign material in Scotland What was the material
promoting? A party or campaigner in a Scottish election A candidate in a Scottish
election A party, campaigner, or candidate in another election Status message We are
unable to take action on material promoting candidates without imprints. Candidate
rules are a matter for the police. Status message At the moment, the law only covers
digital election campaign material in Scotland Please share a link to the material
Please upload a screenshot of the material Maximum 3 files. 5 MB limit. Allowed
types: jpg, png. Is there anything else you want to tell us? Leave this field blank
What happens after you submit the form Once you have submitted the form, a member of
our team will review it and consider what action needs to be taken. At this stage,
the digital imprint rules are new and not all campaigners will be familiar with how
to meet them. The information you have provided will help us to make sure the rules
are being followed, and will be very helpful to us in reviewing the success of these
rules. As a first step, we may contact campaigners who have published digital
election campaign material without an imprint and ask them to include an imprint. We
may ask them to remove the content immediately if they are unable to do so. Where
appropriate, we may need to open an investigation . This could lead to a fine. If we
open an investigation, the outcome will be published once it has concluded. We are
unable to respond individually to every report that we receive. Your location: Change
England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for .
Select 'change' to choose a different location.

Claims made in online political ads | Electoral Commission Search

Claims made in online political ads You are in the Online campaigning section
Home Voter Online campaigning Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland
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location. On this page Claims made in online political ads Advertising Standards
Authority Who do I contact if I'm concerned that a statistic used in an online
political ad is inaccurate or misleading? UK Statistics Authority Who do I contact if
I have concerns about a political ad I've seen on TV or heard on the radio? Ofcom
Other questions you might have First published: 11 March 2021 Last updated: 31 August
2021 Introduction It's a common misconception that there's nowhere to complain about
online political ads. But, did you know that a range of organisations can help
address most concerns? Online political ads, know them like they know you It's a
crime to make or publish a false statement about the personal character or conduct of
a candidate, but other than that and the laws on the publication of offensive
material, political parties, candidates or campaigners are not restricted in what
they say in campaign materials. But that doesn't mean you can't raise concerns.
Claims made in online political ads Who do I contact if I see a false statement about
the personal character or conduct of a candidate? That's a matter for the police.
Whether it's a print or online ad, report your concerns to the police online. Report
now Who do I contact if I'm concerned about an ad which deals with a specific
political issue or that's run by a part of government? The Advertising Standards
Authority (ASA) doesn't regulate claims in ads whose principal function is to
influence voters in national, local, regional or international elections or
referendums. However, the ASA does regulate claims in ads made by local or central
government, which aren't considered to be part of an election or referendum campaigns
– for example a health department stop smoking campaign. In some circumstances, where
an ad appears in paid-for space and isn't intended to sway voters, it also regulates
ads about political issues – for example a proposed airport expansion, placed by an
individual, a business, a charity, campaign/ interest group or other type of
organisation. Its remit doesn't extend to 'causes and ideas' in non-paid for ad
space, such as leaflets or websites. It's sometimes difficult to work out if an ad is
about a political issue, run by government, or part of an election campaign. If in
doubt, the ASA recommends that you contact the political party responsible in the
first instance to tell them what you think. If you're not satisfied with the outcome,
then you can make a complaint to the ASA. Make a complaint to the ASA Advertising
Standards Authority Advertising Standards Authority The Advertising Standards
Authority (ASA) regulates general advertising, sales promotions and direct marketing
across all media. All adverts must be "legal, decent, honest and truthful." As an
independent regulator, the ASA enforces the Advertising Codes; there are separate
codes for non-broadcast advertisements (known as the CAP Code) and broadcast
advertisements (known as the BCAP Code). The two codes have broadly consistent rules
that prohibit discriminatory treatment and/or harm and offence. Ads whose principal
function is to influence voters in local, regional, national or international
elections or referendums are exempt from both codes. Claims made in online political
ads Who do I contact if I'm concerned that a statistic used in an online political ad
is inaccurate or misleading? Who do I contact if I'm concerned that a statistic used
in an online political ad is inaccurate or misleading? The UK Statistics Authority
and its executive arm the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) work to promote and
safeguard the production and publication of official statistics. In advance of
elections and referendums, the UK Statistics Authority and OSR encourage political

parties to ensure that: statistical sources should be clear and accessible to all any caveats or limitations in the statistics should be respected campaigns should not pick out single numbers that differ from the picture painted by the statistics as a whole If you see an online ad which doesn't take this guidance into account, then they can help. Contact the UK Statistics Authority UK Statistics Authority UK Statistics Authority The UK Statistics Authority and its executive arm the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) are both independent arm's length bodies that are separate from government. They have the statutory objective of promoting and safeguarding the production and publication of official statistics that 'serve the public good'. The public good includes: informing the public about social and economic matters assisting in the development and evaluation of public policy regulating quality and publicly challenging the misuse of statistics While statistics can provide powerful support for political arguments, the UK Statistics Authority, supported by OSR, advises party leaders before elections and referendums that the misuse of statistics damages their integrity, causes confusion and undermines trust. It can also lead debate to focus too much on the statistics themselves, distracting from the issues at hand. This is particularly important during the intense public scrutiny of an election campaign, where misinformation can spread quickly. The UK Statistics Authority and OSR have an interventions policy that guides their work on making statements on the use of statistics in public debate. This policy recognises that candidates want to persuade voters of their proposals, and it's part of normal political debate for them to draw on a wide range of sources including statistics to make their case. As such the UK Statistics Authority and OSR don't try to check the truthfulness of every statement made or verify every fact-like assertion, but instead make sure that, in political debate, the underlying statistics are not being misrepresented – and if they are, to help clarify how they should be interpreted. Claims made in online political ads Who do I contact if I have concerns about a political ad I've seen on TV or heard on the radio? Political advertising on TV or the radio is not allowed in the UK. This includes ads designed to: influence the outcome of elections and referendums promote the interests of a party bring about changes to the law influence public opinion on a matter of public controversy Instead, political parties are allowed to make party political broadcasts which are not classified as advertising. If you're concerned that an ad you've seen or heard is political advertising then you can complain to Ofcom. Ofcom can also examine whether TV and radio programmes have adhered to its rules relating to due impartiality and due accuracy. Contact Ofcom Ofcom Ofcom Ofcom regulates TV, radio and video-on-demand services. Broadcasters which have an Ofcom licence must adhere to the rules set out in the Broadcasting Code and Ofcom assess all programmes and complaints against these rules. During an election period, broadcasters must also adhere to the rules in Section Six of the Broadcasting Code relating to elections and referendums. This includes rules which require broadcasters to ensure that political parties and independent candidates are given appropriate levels of coverage. Ofcom assess every complaint before deciding whether or not to investigate. Given the importance of elections, they can expedite complaints about election coverage. During election periods, Ofcom puts together an Election Committee , comprising members of their main Board and their specialist Content Board. The committee deals with disputes between broadcasters and political parties about the allocations of party election broadcasts, as well as looking at significant complaints they receive about programmes broadcast during the election period. Under the BBC's Charter, complaints about BBC programmes are normally dealt with by the BBC initially – during elections

such complaints Ofcom expects the BBC to deal with complaints it receives as quickly as possible. But if somebody is unhappy with how the BBC has dealt with their complaint, they can contact Ofcom about their case (if the complaint is about BBC TV or radio), and Ofcom will assess it to decide whether it raises any issues under their Code that warrant investigation. about Ofcom's role during a UK general election Other questions you might have Who's responsible for an online political ad? Who's paid for an online political ad? Are there limits on how much campaigners can spend online? How did a party or campaigner get my data? Why have I been targeted with an online political ad? What is this ad telling me? Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content Register to vote All you need to register to vote is 5 minutes and your National Insurance number. Our Commissioners Donations and loans Find out about donations and loans to a political party, individual or other organisation Report: How the 2017 UK general election was run Read our report about how the 2017 general election was run

petitions You are in the Types of elections section Home Voter Types of elections Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. On this page How a recall petition is triggered Who can sign the petition Signing the petition Signing the petition What happens after the recall petition closes Challenging the result of a recall petition Challenging the result of a recall petition First published: 20 June 2023 Last updated: 20 June 2023 Summary A recall petition is the process by which an MP can lose their seat in the House of Commons. Voters in the relevant constituency will have six weeks to sign the petition. By signing a recall petition, voters are saying they want their MP to lose their seat. Only those who want to see the MP removed need to sign the petition. If at least 10% of voters in the constituency sign the petition, the MP will lose their seat and it will trigger a by-election. The recalled MP can stand as a candidate at the by-election. If less than 10% of voters in the constituency sign the petition, the MP remains in post. How a recall petition is triggered A recall petition will take place if an MP is: convicted of an offence in the UK and receives a custodial sentence (including a suspended sentence) or is ordered to be detained, other than solely under mental health legislation suspended from the House of Commons for 10 sitting days or 14 calendar days convicted of providing false or misleading information for allowance claims under the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009. In the case of a conviction, the recall petition will only be opened if the conviction, sentence or order has not been overturned during the appeal period and when any appeals have been heard and dismissed. A recall petition will not be opened, if: a UK Parliamentary general election will take place within the next six months a recall petition is already underway in respect of the MP the MP's seat has already been vacated Who can sign the petition You can sign the petition if you are registered to vote at an address in the relevant UK Parliament constituency. You need to have registered to vote before midnight on the day the Speaker of the House of Commons gives notice of the petition. This is usually around ten working days before the petition opens. You must also be: aged 18 or over (or will turn 18 before the end of the six week signing period) a UK, Irish or qualifying Commonwealth citizen Signing the petition You can sign a recall petition in person, by post or by appointing a proxy to sign on your behalf. Sign the petition in person To sign the petition, you need to go to your allocated signing place. The Petition Officer will send you details of the location and opening hours. You can also find details of your allocated signing place by entering your postcode into our search . You will need to bring an accepted form of photo ID with you. When you arrive at a signing place, a member of staff will: Ask for your name and address so they can find you on the electoral register Ask for your photo ID and check if it's accepted and looks like you If your ID is acceptable, they will give you a signing sheet Once you have signed the sheet, you can place it in the ballot box. Sign the petition by post If you want to sign the petition by post, you will need to apply to vote by post. The deadline to apply is 5pm 11 working days before the close of the signing period. If you are already registered as a postal voter, you will receive a signing sheet by post. You need to return your completed signing sheet to your Petitions Officer before the end of the signing period. about postal voting and download an application form . Sign the petition by proxy If you know that you won't be able to get to the signing place to sign the petition, you can ask someone you trust to sign for you. This is called signing by proxy and the person signing the petition is often

referred to as your proxy. To sign by proxy, you need to complete a proxy application form and return it to your local electoral registration office by 5pm six working days before the close of the signing period. Your proxy will need to show their own accepted form of photo ID at the signing place before they can sign.

about signing by proxy

Signing the petition You can sign a recall petition in person, by post or by appointing a proxy to sign on your behalf. Sign the petition in person To sign the petition, you need to go to your allocated signing place. The Petition Officer will send you details of the location and opening hours. You can also find details of your allocated signing place by entering your postcode into our search . You will need to bring an accepted form of ID to sign the petition at a signing place. When you arrive at a signing place, a member of staff will:

- Ask for your name and address so they can find you on the electoral register
- Ask for your photo ID and check if it's accepted and looks like you
- If your ID is acceptable, they will give you a signing sheet

Once you have signed the sheet, you can place it in the ballot box. Sign the petition by post In Northern Ireland, you can sign the recall petition by post if you can't get to the signing place because of:

- illness
- disability
- holiday work arrangements

The deadline to apply to sign the recall petition is 5pm 11 working days before the close of the signing period. You will need to return your completed signing sheet before the end of the signing period.

about postal voting and download an application form

Sign the petition by proxy You can ask someone to sign the petition for you, if you know that you won't be able to get to the signing place because of:

- illness
- disability
- holiday work arrangements

This is called signing by proxy and the person signing the petition is often referred to as your proxy. The deadline to apply to sign the recall petition is 5pm 11 working days before the close of the signing period. Your proxy will need to show their own accepted form of ID at the signing place before they can sign. What happens after the recall petition closes

Counting the signatures The signatures on the petition must be counted as soon as possible once the signing period ends – it must be done no later than one day after. If at least 10% of eligible voters have signed the petition, the petition is successful. This means the MP will leave their seat once the Petition Officer has let the Speaker of the House of Commons know the outcome of the petition. If less than 10% of eligible voters sign the petition, the petition is unsuccessful and the MP remains in post. The outcome will be announced to the public either way. This will then trigger the start of the by-election process .

Can a recall petition be closed early? A petition can only be closed before the end of the six-week signing period, if:

- the MP's seat is made vacant for any other reason (such as resignation)
- the MP's conviction, sentence of imprisonment or detention order is overturned

Parliament calls an early UK Parliamentary general election which will be held within six months of the Speaker's notice

Challenging the result of a recall petition You can challenge the result of a recall petition. To do this, you would need to present a recall petition complaint to the High Court. Challenging the result of a recall petition You can challenge the result of a recall petition. To do this, you would need to present a recall petition complaint to the Court of Session. Challenging the result of a recall petition You can challenge the result of a recall petition. To do this, you would need to present a recall petition complaint to the High Court of Northern Ireland. Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location.

the Types of elections section Home Voter Types of elections Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. On this page Find your candidates First published: 12 September 2019 Last updated: 24 August 2021 Overview The Senedd represents the people of Wales. It has the power to make decisions in certain areas, known as devolved matters. This includes areas such as education, health, culture and some taxes. The UK Parliament is still responsible for certain public services and areas of legislation in Wales. about the Senedd Electoral regions There are 60 elected Members of the Senedd (MSs), and you are represented by five of them. One MS is for your constituency, and four are for your region. The five electoral regions are: North Wales Mid and West Wales South Wales East South Wales West South Wales Central Who can vote in these elections Voting in these elections Senedd elections take place every five years. Senedd elections use the additional member system. At these elections, you have two votes. With the first vote, you choose between candidates standing for election in your constituency by putting a cross [X] next to your choice. Then, you cast a second vote to choose a political party to represent your region. You put a cross [X] in the box next to your choice of political party. Find your candidates Looking for the candidates standing in your area? Enter your postcode to view a list. Your candidates will be available a few weeks before polling day. Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content Register to vote All you need to register to vote is 5 minutes and your National Insurance number. Elections in your area Enter your postcode to find your electoral services team at your local council. You need to send your postal and proxy vote application forms to them. Which elections you can vote in Learn more about which elections you can vote in. Voting in person Voting in person on polling day? Learn more about what to expect when you go to the polling station.

Know who is responsible for online political ads | Electoral Commission Search
Know who is responsible for online political ads You are in the Online
campaigning section Home Voter Online campaigning Your location: Change England
Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select
'change' to choose a different location. On this page Know who is responsible for
online political ads Electoral Commission First published: 11 March 2021 Last
updated: 16 March 2021 Introduction Some people think that only political parties can
place online political ads. But, did you know that other organisations can also
campaign to influence your vote? Online campaigning It's difficult to know whether
information you see online is reliable or misleading. Key to helping you judge fact
from fiction is knowing the source of the information you see. Know who is
responsible for online political ads How do I find out who is responsible for an
online political ad? It's often clear who has placed an online political ad,
particularly if it's directly encouraging you to vote for them. But sometimes it's
not clear who is responsible for an ad. Printed campaign materials have to include an
imprint, which identifies who placed the advert. We advise campaigners to include an
imprint on digital material, but currently this is only required under law in
Scotland. The UK Government is working towards implementing digital imprints for UK
elections. about the rules on including imprints on election campaign materials Who
has paid for an online political ad? We work with social media companies to improve
the transparency of online political ads. Some websites and platforms provide
information about who has paid for an online political ad – you can often find this
information by clicking on 'options' in the advert itself. But, providing this
information is not currently a legal requirement. Some websites and platforms also
provide a summary report about the political adverts on their services and how much
money campaigners have spent on them. These 'ad libraries' are a useful way of
finding out who is funding online political ads. Facebook ad library Google ad
library Snapchat ad library Electoral Commission Electoral Commission The Electoral
Commission is responsible for enforcing the imprint rules where election campaign
material is promoting a party or a group of candidates. If campaign material is
promoting a particular candidate, the police are responsible. All printed election
campaign material must have an imprint, including newspaper and billboard
advertising. Currently, imprints on digital election campaign material are only
legally required in Scotland. The UK Government is working towards implementing
imprint requirements on online election campaign materials. If you've spotted digital
election campaign material in Scotland without an imprint (apart from material
promoting individual candidates), or where the imprint doesn't look correct, report
it to us. Report now Other questions you might have Are there limits on how much
campaigners can spend online? How did a party or campaigner get my data? Why have I
been targeted with an online political ad? Concerned about a claim in an online
political ad? What is this ad telling me? Your location: Change England Northern
Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to
choose a different location. Related content Register to vote All you need to
register to vote is 5 minutes and your National Insurance number. Our Commissioners
Donations and loans Find out about donations and loans to a political party,
individual or other organisation Report: How the 2017 UK general election was run
Read our report about how the 2017 general election was run

The electoral register | Electoral Commission Search The electoral register You are in the Voter section Home Voter Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. On this page Who holds the electoral register Who holds the electoral register Who holds the electoral register Versions of the electoral register Versions of the electoral register Versions of the electoral register Who can use the full electoral register Who can use the full electoral register Who can use the full electoral register Keeping the register up to date First published: 15 November 2019 Last updated: 8 August 2023 Who holds the electoral register We don't manage the electoral register, and there is not an online version. We do hold copies of the electoral registers, and you can read our privacy policy to find out more. The electoral services team at your local council hold the electoral register for their area. If you want to check if you're registered to vote, you will need to contact the electoral services team at your local council. Who holds the electoral register We don't hold the electoral register, and there is not an online version. The Electoral Registration Office hold the electoral register for their area. If you want to check if you're registered to vote, you will need to contact your Electoral Registration Office. Who holds the electoral register We don't hold the electoral register, and there is not an online version. The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland holds the electoral register in Northern Ireland. If you want to check if you're registered to vote, you will need to contact the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland . Get your local council's contact details Enter your postcode to find contact details for the electoral services team at your local council Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Get your Electoral Registration Office contact details Enter your postcode to find contact details for your local Electoral Registration Office Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Versions of the electoral register There are two versions of the electoral register. The full version includes the name and address of everyone who is registered to vote, except those who register to vote anonymously . The open register, is an extract of the full electoral register. This version is available to anyone who wants to buy it, such as businesses or charities. You can opt out of the open register when you register to vote. If you are already registered to vote and want to opt out, you will need to contact the electoral services team at your local council. Versions of the electoral register There are two versions of the electoral register. The full version includes the name and address of everyone who is registered to vote, except those who register to vote anonymously . The open register, is an extract of the full electoral register. This version is available to anyone who wants to buy it, such as businesses or charities. You can opt out of the open register when you register to vote. If you are already registered to vote and want to opt out, you will need to contact your local electoral registration office. Versions of the electoral register There are two versions of the electoral register. The full version includes the name and address of everyone who is registered to vote, except those who register to vote anonymously . The edited register, is an extract of the full electoral register. This version is available to anyone who wants to buy it, such as businesses or charities. You can opt out of the open register when you register to vote. If you are already registered to vote and want to opt out, you will need to contact the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland . Who can use the full electoral register The elections team at your local council use the register for electoral purposes, such as issuing poll cards. It is also used for: detecting crime calling people for jury service checking credit applications Candidates, registered political parties and other registered campaigners are also allowed to have copies of

the full electoral register. They can use the register for campaigning activities, including sending election communication to voters. Who can use the full electoral register Your local Electoral Registration Office and the elections team at your council use the register for electoral purposes, such as issuing poll cards. It is also used for: detecting crime calling people for jury service checking credit applications Candidates, registered political parties and other registered campaigners are also allowed to have copies of the full electoral register. They can use the register for campaigning activities, including sending election communication to voters. Who can use the full electoral register The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland use the register for electoral purposes, such as issuing poll cards. It is also used for: detecting crime calling people for jury service checking credit applications Candidates, registered political parties and other registered campaigners are also allowed to have copies of the full electoral register. They can use the register for campaigning activities, including sending election communication to voters. Keeping the register up to date Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) are required to keep the register of eligible voters up to date. From July each year, they contact every household to find out if the details on the electoral register are correct. This is called the annual canvass. Your household may be contacted in different ways, such as by: post email phone knocking on your door If you need to update your details on the electoral register, it's important that you respond as soon as you can. This means reminders don't have to be sent, and someone does not need to visit you to get this information. Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content Register to vote All you need to register to vote is 5 minutes and your National Insurance number. Register to vote anonymously Find out about how to register to vote anonymously for your safety. Elections in your area Enter your postcode to find your electoral services team at your local council. You need to send your postal and proxy vote application forms to them. Voting in person Voting in person on polling day? Learn more about what to expect when you go to the polling station.

Register to vote anonymously | Electoral Commission Search

Register to vote anonymously You are in the Voter section Home Voter Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. On this page Download the application form Download the application form Download the application form Download the application form Evidence to support your application Applying for an Anonymous Elector's Document Applying for an Anonymous Elector's Document First published: 30 October 2019 Last updated: 3 January 2023 Overview Your name and address will be on the electoral register if you register to vote. If you think your name and address being on the electoral register could affect your safety, or the safety of someone in your household, you can register to vote anonymously. This means you will still be able to vote, but your name and address will not be on the electoral register. Your electoral registration office will not disclose your details to anyone, unless they are legally required to. Steps to register anonymously There are three steps to register to vote anonymously. You will need to: download and complete the application form explain why your safety, or the safety of someone in your household, would be at risk if your details were on the electoral register submit evidence to support your registration You will need to return your application form, explanation and evidence to your local registration office. Download the application form Anonymous registration form for people in England (PDF) Download the application form Anonymous registration form for people in Wales (PDF) Download the application form Anonymous registration form for people in Scotland (PDF) Download the application form To register to vote anonymously in Northern Ireland, you need to download a form from the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland . Evidence to support your application To support your application, you can submit: a court document that is for your protection, or the protection of someone in your household an attestation, where an authorised person signs your application form to confirm your safety would be at risk You only need to submit either a court document or an attestation. You do not need to submit both to support your application. List of evidence Court documents you can use To support your application, you can submit: 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 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 You can't use any other court document. The court document needs to be in force on the day you apply to register anonymously. People who can give you an attestation To support your application, you can ask for an attestation from: a police officer of or above the rank of inspector of any police force in England and Wales a police officer of or above the rank of inspector of the Police Service of Scotland a police officer of or above the rank of inspector of the Police Service of Northern Ireland the Director General of the Security Service the Director General of the National Crime Agency any director of adult social services in England within the meaning of section 6(A1) of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 any director of children's services in England within the meaning of section 18 of the Children Act 2004 any director of social services in Wales within the meaning of section 6(1) of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 any chief social work officer in Scotland within the meaning of section 3 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 any director of social services of a Health and Social Services Board established under article 16 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 any executive director of social work of a Health and Social Services Trust established under article 10 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 any registered medical practitioner any registered nurse or midwife any person who manages a refuge A "refuge" means accommodation with a planned programme of therapeutic and practical support for victims of, or those at risk of, domestic abuse or violence You can't get an attestation from anyone else, including a more junior person within an organisation. Enter your postcode Find contact details for your local electoral registration office to return your application Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Voters in Wales now need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. If you are an anonymous voter and you wish to vote in person at one of these elections, you will need to apply for an Anonymous Elector's Document ahead of polling day. Learn more about voter ID Voters in Scotland now need to show photo ID to vote at polling places in some elections. If you are an anonymous voter and you wish to vote in person at one of these elections, you will need to apply for an Anonymous Elector's Document ahead of polling day. Learn more about voter ID Voters in England now need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. If you are an anonymous voter and you wish to vote in person at one of these elections, you will need to apply for an Anonymous Elector's Document ahead of polling day. Learn more about voter ID Overseas voters now need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations. If you are an anonymous voter and you wish to vote in person, you will need to apply for an Anonymous Elector's Document ahead of polling day. Learn more about voter ID Applying for an Anonymous Elector's Document You should apply as soon as possible in case your local council need to check any details with you. If you are already registered as an anonymous voter, or you register to vote anonymously, you will be invited to apply for an Anonymous Elector's Document by your local council. Applying for an Anonymous Elector's Document You should apply as

soon as possible in case your council need to check any details with you. If you are already registered as an anonymous voter, or you register to vote anonymously, you will be invited to apply for an Anonymous Elector's Document by your Electoral Registration Office. Information you will need to provide as part of your application

When applying for an Anonymous Elector's Document, you will need to provide your name address date of birth National Insurance number If you don't know your National Insurance number, or don't have one, you can still apply. Your council will contact you to request alternative proof of your identity. This could include a birth certificate, bank statement and utility bill. If you don't have any other accepted proof of identity, then you can ask someone who knows you to confirm your identity to your electoral services team. This is known as providing an attestation. Your local council can provide more information on who can provide an attestation. Find your local council contact details

Information you will need to provide as part of your application

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Providing a photograph

You will also need to submit a photograph with your application. The requirements for the photograph are similar to the requirements for a passport photo. Your local council can take your photo for you. 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 other person visible, and 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 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

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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 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 What does an Anonymous Elector's Document look like? An Anonymous Elector's Document has the words 'Elector's Document' written on the top, and does not refer to your status as being registered to vote anonymously. An Anonymous Elector's Document includes: the date of issue your photograph your electoral number (which is the number which will appear on the electoral register instead of the voter's name and address) an appropriate identifier (which is a combination of 20 letters and numbers generated by the software used by Electoral Registration Officers) How to vote anonymously Registered to vote anonymously? Find out how to cast your vote if you are registered as an anonymous voter. Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content Elections in your area Enter your postcode to find your electoral services team at your local council. You need to send your postal and proxy vote application forms to them. Voting in person Voting in person on polling day? Learn more about what to expect when you go to the polling station. Apply to vote by post Can't get to the polling station on polling day? Apply to vote by post by downloading and completing the application form. Apply to vote by proxy Can't get to the polling station on polling day? Ask a trusted person to vote on your behalf and apply for a proxy vote.

Parliament You are in the Types of elections section Home Voter Types of elections Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. On this page Find your candidates First published: 12 September 2019 Last updated: 14 April 2021 Overview The Scottish Parliament represents the people of Scotland. It has the power to make decisions and pass laws in certain areas, known as devolved matters. This includes areas such as health, education and economic development. The UK Parliament can still make laws for Scotland, but will usually get the consent of the Scottish Parliament first. The UK Parliament it still responsible for areas known as reserved matters. This includes, defence, foreign affairs and immigration, for example. about the Scottish Parliament Representation There are 129 elected Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs), and you are represented by eight of them. One MSP is for your constituency, and the other seven are for your region. The eight electoral regions are: Central Scotland Glasgow Highlands and Islands Lothian Mid Scotland and Fife North East Scotland South Scotland West Scotland Who can vote in these elections Voting in these elections Scottish Parliament elections take place every five years. Scottish Parliament elections use the Additional Member System. At these elections, you have two votes. With the first vote, you choose between candidates standing for election in your constituency by putting a cross [X] next to your choice. Then, you cast a second vote to choose a political party or independent candidate to represent your region. You put a cross [X] in the box next to your choice of political party or independent candidate. Find your candidates Looking for the candidates standing in your area? Enter your postcode to view a list. Your candidates will be available a few weeks before polling day. Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content Register to vote All you need to register to vote is 5 minutes and your National Insurance number. Elections in your area Enter your postcode to find your electoral services team at your local council. You need to send your postal and proxy vote application forms to them. Which elections you can vote in Learn more about which elections you can vote in.

UK parliamentary by-elections | Electoral Commission Search

UK parliamentary by-elections You are in the Types of elections section Home Voter Types of elections Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. First published: 8 June 2023 Last updated: 3 August 2023 UK parliamentary by-elections A UK parliamentary by-election happens when a seat in the House of Commons becomes vacant between general elections. A seat can become vacant when an MP: resigns or dies is declared bankrupt takes a seat in the House of Lords is convicted of a serious criminal offence is recalled by their constituents following a successful recall petition A by-election does not have to take place if an MP changes political party. Who can vote in these elections To vote at a UK parliamentary by-election you must be registered to vote and: be 18 years of age or over on polling day be a British, Irish or qualifying Commonwealth citizen be resident at an address in the UK (or a UK citizen living abroad who has been registered to vote in the UK in the last 15 years) not be legally excluded from voting The following people cannot vote in a UK Parliament election: members of the House of Lords EU citizens (other than the Republic of Ireland, Cyprus and Malta) resident in the UK anyone other than British, Irish and qualifying Commonwealth citizens convicted persons detained in pursuance of their sentences, excluding contempt of court (though remand prisoners, unconvicted prisoners and civil prisoners can vote if they are on the electoral register) anyone found guilty within the previous five years of corrupt or illegal practices in connection with an election information about who is eligible to vote. Voting in these elections UK parliamentary by-elections use the first past the post system. You will only be able to vote for one candidate, by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your choice. MPs usually sit for a five-year term. However, when a MP is elected through a by-election, they will serve for the remainder of the original term. For example, if a by-election takes place one year after a general election, the MP who is elected will serve for four years until the next general election. Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content UK Parliament The UK Parliament represents the people of the United Kingdom. It makes decisions and passes laws on a wide range of issues that affect you. Elections in your area Enter your postcode to find your electoral services team at your local council. You need to send your postal and proxy vote application forms to them. Which elections you can vote in Learn more about which elections you can vote in. Voting in person Voting in person on polling day? Learn more about what to expect when you go to the polling station.

Register as a service voter | Electoral Commission Search

Register as a service voter You are in the Other registration options section
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are: a member of the Armed Forces the spouse or civil partner of someone in the Armed
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Forces In Wales, children aged 14 can also register as a service voter if: their
parent or guardian is a member of the Armed Forces and is eligible to register as
service voter they're living in Wales or would be living in Wales if their parent or
guardian were not based overseas Although you can register to vote at 14, you can't
vote in any elections until you're 16. Who can register as a service voter You can
register as a service voter if you are: a member of the Armed Forces the spouse or
civil partner of someone in the Armed Forces In Scotland, children aged 14 can also
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Forces and is eligible to register as service voter they're living in Scotland, or
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Forces Who can register as a service voter You can register as a service voter if you
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Forces If you're from Scotland or Wales, children aged 14 can also register as a
service voter if: their parent or guardian is a member of the Armed Forces and is
eligible to register as service voter they're living in Scotland or Wales, or would
be living in Scotland or Wales if their parent or guardian were not based overseas
Although you can register to vote at 14, you can't vote in any elections until you're
16. Register to vote You can choose whether to register as a service voter, or
whether to register to vote in the usual way. Register as a service voter If you're
based overseas, or expect to be posted abroad in the next year, you can register as a
service voter. Registering as a service voter means: you'll be registered at a fixed
address in the UK, even if you move around your registration will last for five years
You can cancel your service voter registration at any time. Register as a service
voter Register to vote in the usual way If you're based in the UK and are unlikely to
change your address or be posted overseas in the next year, you can register to vote
in the usual way. Register to vote Your unit has a designated Unit Registration
Officer who will be able to give you more information and advice. Ask your
administration office for their contact details. Register to vote You can choose
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service voter means: you'll be registered at a fixed address in the UK, even if you
move around your registration will last for five years If you're under 18 and
registered as a service voter, you'll need to renew your registration every year. You

can cancel your service voter registration at any time. Register as a service voter Register to vote in the usual way If you're based in the UK and are unlikely to change your address or be posted overseas in the next year, you can register to vote in the usual way. Register to vote Your unit has a designated Unit Registration Officer who will be able to give you more information and advice. Ask your administration office for their contact details. Register to vote You can choose whether to register as a service voter, or whether to register to vote in the usual way. Register as a service voter If you're based overseas, or expect to be posted abroad in the next year, you can register as a service voter. Registering as a service voter means: you'll be registered at a fixed address in the UK, even if you move around your registration will last for five years If you're under 18 and registered as a service voter, you'll need to renew your registration every year. You can cancel your service voter registration at any time. Register as a service voter Register to vote in the usual way If you're based in the UK and are unlikely to change your address or be posted overseas in the next year, you can register to vote in the usual way. Register to vote Your unit has a designated Unit Registration Officer who will be able to give you more information and advice. Ask your administration office for their contact details. Register to vote You can choose whether to register as a service voter, or whether to register to vote in the usual way. Register as a service voter If you're based overseas, or expect to be posted abroad in the next year, you can register as a service voter. Registering as a service voter means: you'll be registered at a fixed address in the UK, even if you move around your registration will last for five years You can cancel your service voter registration at any time. Register as a service voter Register to vote in the usual way If you're based in the UK and are unlikely to change your address or be posted overseas in the next year, you can register to vote in the usual way. Register to vote Your unit has a designated Unit Registration Officer who will be able to give you more information and advice. Ask your administration office for their contact details. Register to vote You can choose whether to register as a service voter, or whether to register to vote in the usual way. Register as a service voter If you're based overseas, or expect to be posted abroad in the next year, you can register as a service voter. Registering as a service voter means: you'll be registered at a fixed address in the UK, even if you move around your registration will last for five years You can cancel your service voter registration at any time. Register as a service voter Register to vote in the usual way If you're based in the UK and are unlikely to change your address or be posted overseas in the next year, you can register to vote in the usual way. Register to vote Your unit has a designated Unit Registration Officer who will be able to give you more information and advice. Ask your administration office for their contact details. Ways to vote Vote by post You can apply to vote by post. You will be a sent a postal vote ballot pack before the election, which you will need to return to the electoral services team at the council for where you're registered. If you don't think you will have time to receive and return your postal vote ballot pack, you may want to consider voting by proxy (when someone you trust votes on your behalf). Apply to vote by post Vote by proxy You can apply to vote by proxy. You can ask someone you trust to cast your vote for you. This is called a proxy vote and the person casting your vote is often referred to as your proxy. The person voting on your behalf can either go to your polling station to cast your vote, or can apply to vote for you by post. Apply to vote by proxy Ways to vote Vote by post You can apply to vote by post. You will be a sent a postal vote ballot pack before the election, which you will need to return to the electoral services

team at the council for where you're registered. If you don't think you will have time to receive and return your postal vote ballot pack, you may want to consider voting by proxy (when someone you trust votes on your behalf). Apply to vote by post

Vote by proxy You can apply to vote by proxy. You can ask someone you trust to cast your vote for you. This is called a proxy vote and the person casting your vote is often referred to as your proxy. The person voting on your behalf can either go to your polling station to cast your vote, or can apply to vote for you by post. Apply to vote by proxy

Ways to vote

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Ways to vote

Vote by post If you're outside the UK, you can't apply to vote by post as postal votes in Northern Ireland can't be sent outside the UK. Instead, you'll need to apply for a proxy vote . If you're in the UK, you can apply to vote by post. You will be sent a postal vote ballot pack before the election, which you will need to return to the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland . If you don't think you will have time to receive and return your postal vote ballot pack, you may want to consider voting by proxy (when someone you trust votes on your behalf). Apply to vote by post

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Ways to vote

Vote by post If you're from England, Scotland or Wales, you can apply to vote by post. If you're from Northern Ireland and are based outside the UK, you can't vote by post as postal votes in Northern Ireland can't be sent outside the UK. Instead, you'll need to apply for a proxy vote (when someone you trust votes on your behalf). You will be sent a postal vote ballot pack before the election, which you will need to return to the electoral services team at the council for where you're registered. If you don't think you will have time to receive and return your postal vote ballot pack, you may want to consider voting by proxy (when someone you trust votes on your behalf). Apply to vote by post

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Your location: [Change](#) [England](#) [Northern Ireland](#) [Scotland](#) [Wales](#) [Overseas](#) We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content [Register to vote](#) All you need to register to vote is 5 minutes and your National Insurance number. Elections in your area Enter your postcode to find your electoral services team at your local council. You need to send your postal and proxy vote application forms to them. Which elections you can vote in [Learn more about which elections you can vote in](#). Types of elections [about the types of elections in the UK](#).

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'change' to choose a different location. On this page Register to vote Register to
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Ways to vote First published: 7 April 2021 Last updated: 17 February 2023 Register to
vote If you are staying at a site for a reasonable length of time, you can register
to vote at that address as you can be considered as living there. Register to vote If
you do not have a settled address where you can be considered to be living, you can
choose to register at a place where you either: spend most of your time have the most
local connection To register to vote in this way, you'll need to download and
complete a form for someone with no fixed or permanent address. Download register to
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You are in the Other registration options section Home Voter Other registration options Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. On this page Register to vote Register to vote Register to vote Register to vote Register to vote Ways to vote Ways to vote Ways to vote Ways to vote Ways to vote First published: 7 April 2021 Last updated: 28 October 2022 Register to vote If you're in the Merchant Navy, you can register to vote at the address where you would be living if you weren't working at sea. If you normally stay at a hostel or club that provides accommodation for members of the Merchant Navy when you're not at sea, you can register to vote at that address. Register to vote Register to vote If you're in the Merchant Navy, you can register to vote at the address where you would be living if you weren't working at sea. If you normally stay at a hostel or club that provides accommodation for members of the Merchant Navy when you're not at sea, you can register to vote at that address. Register to vote Register to vote If you're in the Merchant Navy, you can register to vote at the address where you would be living if you weren't working at sea. If you normally stay at a hostel or club that provides accommodation for members of the Merchant Navy when you're not at sea, you can register to vote at that address. Register to vote Register to vote If you're in the Merchant Navy, you can register to vote at the address where you would be living if you weren't working at sea. If you normally stay at a hostel or club that provides accommodation for members of the Merchant Navy when you're not at sea, you can register to vote at that address. Register to vote Register to vote If you're in the Merchant Navy, you can register to vote at the address where you would be living if you weren't working at sea. If you normally stay at a hostel or club that provides accommodation for members of the Merchant Navy when you're not at sea, you can register to vote at that address. Register to vote Ways to vote Voting in person If you happen to be in the UK on polling day, you can vote in person at your polling station. about voting in person Voting by proxy You can apply to vote by proxy. You can ask someone you trust to cast your vote for you. This is called a proxy vote and the person casting your vote is often referred to as your proxy. The person voting on your behalf can either go to your polling station to cast your vote, or can apply to vote for you by post. Apply to vote by proxy Ways to vote Voting in person If you happen to be in the UK on polling day, you can vote in person at your polling station. about voting in person Voting by proxy You can apply to vote by proxy. You can ask someone you trust to cast your vote for you. This is called a proxy vote and the person casting your vote is often referred to as your proxy. The person voting on your behalf can either go to your polling station to cast your vote, or can apply to vote for you by post. Apply to vote by proxy Ways to vote Voting in person If you happen to be in the UK on polling day, you can vote in person at your polling place. about voting in person Voting by proxy You can apply to vote by proxy. You can ask someone you trust to cast your vote for you. This is called a proxy vote and the person casting your vote is often referred to as your proxy. The person voting on your behalf can either go to your polling place to cast your vote, or can apply to vote for you by post. Apply to vote by proxy Ways to vote Voting in person If you happen to be in the UK on polling day, you can vote in person at your polling station. about voting in person Voting by proxy You can apply to vote by proxy. You can ask someone you trust to cast your vote for you. This is called a proxy vote and the person casting your vote is often referred to as your proxy. The person voting on your behalf can either go to your polling station to cast your vote, or can apply to

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day? Apply to vote by post by downloading and completing the application form. Apply
to vote by proxy Can't get to the polling station on polling day? Ask a trusted
person to vote on your behalf and apply for a proxy vote. requirement From 4 May
2023, voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in
some elections.

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Know who is paying for online political ads | Electoral Commission Search
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Electoral Commission Other questions you might have First published: 11 March 2021
Last updated: 25 March 2022 Online political ads, know them like they know you Some
people think the amount spent on online political ads is confidential. But, did you
know we publish spending data and enforce limits on how much campaigners spend on
their online and offline campaigns? Introduction The amount of money spent on digital
advertising is increasing with every election. Digital advertising spend by parties
increased from 24% to 43% of advertising budgets between the UK general elections of
2015 and 2017. We aim to publish data for the 2019 UK general election in the summer
2021, and expect the percentage spent on online political ads to have increased
further. Know who is paying for online political ads Are there limits on how much can
be spent on political advertising? There are limits on how much candidates, political
parties and non-party campaigners can spend during election campaigns. These limits
were set out in law by the UK Parliament. They apply to a range of campaigning
activities, including online political advertising. There isn't a separate spending
limit for online political ads – but, if campaigners choose to spend more on online
political ads, then they have less to spend on printed campaign materials. What
activities make up campaign spending? Campaign spending is what candidates, political
parties or non-party campaigners spend to promote themselves or criticise their
opponents in the run up to elections. Activities included in campaign spending are:
Advertising of any kind – from billboards to ads in newspapers, from online ads to
YouTube videos Unsolicited material sent to voters – including printed leaflets or
letters that aren't in response to questions raised by voters Manifestos and other
documents setting out a party's policies Market research or other methods of finding
out how people intend to vote Press conferences or other events dealings with the
media Rallies and events, including the cost of people's attendance, and any goods,
services or facilities provided Transport costs incurred running a campaign When do
these campaign spending limits apply? Spending limits for political parties and non-
party campaigners apply during a 'regulated period' that happens before an election.
That period is a different length for each type of election, with the year-long
period before a UK general elections being the longest. The regulated period starts
four months before Scottish Parliament, Senedd and Northern Ireland Assembly
elections. There are also separate spending limits for candidates, which apply in any
election. These start to apply after they officially become candidates, which also
varies, but is usually around six weeks before an election. What are the spending
limits? There are different spending limits for candidates, political parties, and
non-party campaigners. These spending limits are also different depending on the type
of election. How much can candidates spend? Spending limits for candidates depend on
the electoral area they are standing in – for example a parliamentary constituency or
local authority ward. The spending limit is calculated based on the number of
eligible voters in that area. The more eligible voters there are, the higher the
spending limit. This is why the spending limit can vary greatly between electoral
areas. For a UK general election, the smallest constituency has around 20,000
eligible voters, whereas the largest has over 100,000. The aim is that all the
candidates in the same area are allowed to spend the same total amount. This is to
prevent a very well-funded candidate having a significant advantage over other

candidates. How much can political parties spend? Spending limits for political parties depend on the number of electoral areas where they are standing candidates. For example, if a party stands candidates in all 650 constituencies at a UK general election then it can spend up to £19.5 million. For a Scottish Parliament election the maximum spending limit for a party contesting all electoral areas is £1,516,000, for a Senedd election it is £600,000 and for a Northern Ireland Assembly election it is £306,000. A political party must register with us and appoint officers to submit records of its spending after the election. We maintain full registers of the political parties in Great Britain and Northern Ireland . How much can non-party campaigners spend? Non-party campaigners are individuals or organisations that campaign in the run-up to elections, but are not standing as political parties or candidates. They often campaign on certain issues, for example pro- or anti- airport expansion. They could also campaign in support or opposition to particular parties or candidates. Non-party campaigners are part of a healthy democracy and their participation in elections means voices are heard other than parties seeking election. However, where there is significant spending on campaigning, these campaigners must follow rules to ensure that they provide transparency for voters on their campaign finances in a similar way to candidates and political parties. s must register with us if they plan to spend more than £20,000 in England or £10,000 in any of Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland on regulated campaign activity about one or more political parties or a group of candidates. Only individuals on a UK electoral register and certain UK based organisations can register with us, and we maintain a full register of non-party campaigners . There are limits on how much non-party campaigners can spend. For a UK general election they can spend up to a maximum per nation – England £319,800, Scotland £55,400, Wales £44,000, and Northern Ireland £30,800. The maximum amount a registered or unregistered non-party campaigner can spend on regulated campaign activity in a particular UK parliamentary constituency is £9,750. For a Scottish Parliament election non-party campaigners can spend up to £75,800, for a Senedd election up to £30,000, and for a Northern Ireland Assembly election up to £15,300. s that want to campaign locally about one or more candidates in a particular constituency or ward follow different rules and have an additional lower spending limit, such as £700 at a UK general election. How are spending limits monitored? Political parties and non-party campaigners have to: record what they spend during an election campaign report their spending to us in a spending return Political parties and non-party campaigners have to report the details of all their campaign spending to us after an election. They must keep invoices or receipts for any payments over £200. If they spent £250,000 or less they must report within three months of the election. If they spent over £250,000 they must report within six months of the election, and submit an auditor's report with their return. about party and non-party campaigner's spending returns about the amounts political parties have spent at recent elections Candidates or their appointed agents have to submit a candidate spending return to the Returning Officer at their local council. For major elections, such as UK general elections, Returning Officers send copies of the candidate spending returns to us. We then make this data available for you to view. about candidate spending returns Find out how much candidates spent at the 2019 UK general election What happens if someone breaks the rules? We monitor whether campaigners are following the rules on funding and spending at elections. We can investigate breaches of the rules and issue fines up to £20,000 for any proven breaches of the rules for parties and non-party campaigners, or refer the most serious breaches to the police. But we don't enforce the candidate spending rules.

The police are responsible for investigating breaches of those rules. We have recommended to government that the maximum penalty should be increased because the current £20,000 maximum fine isn't a deterrent when the maximum spending limit is almost £20 million for a UK general election. We have not proposed what the maximum should be, and we think it should be similar to other regulators' fines. Electoral Commission Electoral Commission The Electoral Commission monitors and enforces the rules on how campaigners spend money. This includes money spent on online political ads intended to influence you. We publish information to provide transparency about election campaign spending so that voters and the public can have confidence in the outcome of elections. You should be able to find out who is spending money to influence your vote, and if you have concerns then raise them with us. Report now Other questions you might have Who's responsible for an online political ad? Who's paid for an online political ad? How did a party or campaigner get my data? Why have I been targeted with an online political ad? Concerned about a claim in an online political ad? What is this ad telling me? Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content Register to vote All you need to register to vote is 5 minutes and your National Insurance number. Our Commissioners Donations and loans Find out about donations and loans to a political party, individual or other organisation Report: How the 2017 UK general election was run Read our report about how the 2017 general election was run

How to vote anonymously | Electoral Commission Search How to vote anonymously You are in the Voter section Home Voter Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Voters in England now need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. This will apply to: Local elections and by-elections Police and Crime Commissioner elections UK parliamentary by-elections Recall petitions From October 2023, it will also apply to UK Parliament general elections. If you are an anonymous voter and you wish to vote in person at one of these elections, you will need to apply for an Anonymous Elector's Document ahead of polling day. Learn more Overseas voters now need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations. This will apply to: UK parliamentary by-elections Recall petitions From October 2023, it will also apply to UK Parliament general elections. If you are an anonymous voter and you wish to vote in person, you will need to apply for an Anonymous Elector's Document ahead of polling day. Learn more Voters in Scotland now need to show photo ID to vote at polling places in some elections. This will apply to: UK parliamentary by-elections Recall petitions From October 2023, it will also apply to UK Parliament general elections. If you are an anonymous voter and you wish to vote in person at one of these elections, you will need to apply for an Anonymous Elector's Document ahead of polling day. Voters in Scotland will not need to show photo ID at Scottish Parliament elections or at council elections. Learn more Voters in Wales now need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. This will apply to: Police and Crime Commissioner elections UK parliamentary by-elections Recall petitions From October 2023, it will also apply to UK Parliament general elections. If you are an anonymous voter and you wish to vote in person at one of these elections, you will need to apply for an Anonymous Elector's Document ahead of polling day. Voters in Wales will not need to show photo ID to vote at a polling station at Senedd elections or local council elections. Learn more Introduction If you are registered to vote anonymously then you can choose whether you wish to vote in person, by post or by proxy (this is when you nominate someone to vote on your behalf). Introduction If you are registered to vote anonymously in Northern Ireland then you will be eligible to vote by post. You can either vote by post yourself or choose a proxy (a person you nominate) to vote by post on your behalf. There is not an option to vote in person at a polling station if you have registered to vote anonymously. about registering to vote anonymously , or contact The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland if you have any questions. Introduction If you are registered to vote anonymously then you can choose whether you wish to vote in person, by post or by proxy (this is when you nominate someone to vote on your behalf). Introduction If you are registered to vote anonymously then you can choose whether you wish to vote in person, by post or by proxy (this is when you nominate someone to vote on your behalf). Summary England, Scotland and Wales In England, Scotland and Wales, if you are registered to vote anonymously you can choose whether you wish to vote in person, by post or by proxy (this is when you nominate someone to vote on your behalf). Voting by post or proxy If you wish to vote by post or proxy then you should indicate this on your form when applying to register to vote anonymously. You will then be sent the relevant forms so that you can apply for postal or proxy voting. Alternatively you can read about registering to vote by post and registering to vote by proxy and download the application forms on our website. Voting in-person if you are in England, Scotland or Wales If you are registered to vote anonymously for your safety, and happen to be in the UK on polling day then voting in person is slightly different to voters who have their name and address on

the electoral register. Your poll card All registered voters receive a poll card through the post a few weeks before polling day. You will need to take your poll card to the polling station with you when you go to vote. Your poll card will only include your elector number, and not your name and address. The polling station staff will be able to find your elector number at the end of the electoral register, under 'other electors'. You do not need to give your name and address to vote, and the polling station staff should not ask for them. The polling station staff will read out your elector number when you show them your poll card. If you forget to take your poll card to the polling station, you will need to return later with your poll card. If you have lost your poll card or never received it, you will need to contact the Returning Officer at your local council for a replacement. You will only be able to vote if the replacement is issued in time, and you're able to get to the polling station with it before polls close at 10pm.

Your Anonymous Electors Document If you are voting in person, then you'll need to bring your Anonymous Elector's Document with you to the polling station. Staff at the polling station will check this once they have found your elector number on the electoral register. A private area will be available at polling stations so you can choose to have your Anonymous Elector's Document viewed in private. This may be a separate room, or an area separated by a privacy screen, depending on the polling station.

about registering to vote anonymously , or contact your council if you have any questions.

Northern Ireland If you are registered to vote anonymously in Northern Ireland then you will be eligible to vote by post. You can either vote by post yourself or choose a proxy (a person you nominate) to vote by post on your behalf. There is not an option to vote in person at a polling station if you have registered to vote anonymously.

about registering to vote anonymously , or contact The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland if you have any questions.

Voting by post or proxy If you wish to vote by post or proxy then you should indicate this on your form when applying to register to vote anonymously. You will then be sent the relevant forms so that you can apply for a postal or a proxy vote. Alternatively you can read about registering to vote by post and registering to vote by proxy and download the application forms on our website.

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Register to

vote You are in the Voter section Home Voter Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Register to vote anonymously On this page How to register to vote How to register to vote How to register to vote How to register to vote How to register to vote Renewing your registration Who can register to vote in England Who can register to vote in Wales Who can register to vote in Scotland Who can register to vote in Northern Ireland Who can register to vote outside the UK Check if you're already registered to vote Check if you're already registered to vote Check if you're already registered to vote Check if you're already registered to vote First published: 22 July 2019 Last updated: 18 April 2023 Got 5? Kettle image Got 5 minutes to register to vote while you boil the kettle? Deadline The deadline to register to vote in the elections in Northern Ireland on 18 May 2023 was 11:59pm on Friday 28 April. Registering to vote as an overseas citizen If you are a UK citizen living outside the UK, you can register as an overseas voter. Find out about registering to vote if you're overseas and are a: member of the armed forces Crown servant or British Council employee How to register to vote Register to vote To register to vote online, you need just five minutes and your National Insurance number. If you can't register online, you can download a paper form . You don't need to register to vote before every election. Update your details If you move house, you should register to vote again. If you change your name for any reason, you can either: contact the electoral services team at your local council and request a change of name form register to vote again How to register to vote Register to vote To register to vote online, you need just five minutes and your National Insurance number. If you can't register online, you can download a paper form . You don't need to register to vote before every election. Update your details If you move house, you should register to vote again. If you change your name for any reason, you can either: contact the electoral services team at your local council and request a change of name form register to vote again How to register to vote Register to vote To register to vote online, you need just five minutes and your National Insurance number. If you can't register online, you can download a paper form . You don't need to register to vote before every election. Update your details If you move house, you should register to vote again. If you change your name for any reason, you can either: contact your Electoral Registration Office and request a change of name form register to vote again How to register to vote Register to vote To register to vote online, you need just five minutes and your National Insurance number. If you can't register online, you can download a paper form . You don't need to register to vote before every election. You only need to register to vote again if: you've moved house recently you've changed your name for any reason you're asked to as part of a canvass of electors Digital Registration Number (DRN) Digital Registration Number (DRN) If you complete the online form, once your application is approved, you'll be given a Digital Registration Number (or DRN). Keep this number somewhere safe, as you will need to provide it if you need to update your details on the electoral register or want to apply for a postal or proxy vote. You can request a reminder if you lose it. Contact the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland to find out more. How to register to vote If you lived in England, Scotland or Wales, you can register to vote online . If you can't register online, you can download a paper form . If you lived in Northern Ireland, you will need to complete a paper application form and send it to the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland. Voters in England now need to show photo ID

to vote at polling stations in some elections. Renewing your registration You have to renew your registration every year. When it's time to renew your registration, you'll get a reminder from your electoral registration office explaining what you need to do. You should receive the reminder about three months before your registration is due to expire. If you don't renew your application, you'll have to register to vote again. Answer some questions to find out if you can register to vote

Who can register to vote in England To register to vote, you must be: a UK or Irish citizen a qualifying Commonwealth citizen living in the UK an EU citizen living in the UK aged 16 or over (but you can't vote until you're 18 years old)

Who can register to vote in Wales To register to vote, you must be: a UK or Irish citizen a qualifying Commonwealth citizen living in the UK an EU citizen living in the UK a qualifying foreign citizen aged 14 or over (but you can't vote until you're 16 or 18 depending on the election)

Who can register to vote in Scotland To register to vote, you must be: a UK or Irish citizen, or a qualifying Commonwealth citizen living in the UK, or a qualifying foreign national who is living in Scotland and has permission to enter or stay in the UK, or who does not need such permission, including EU citizens. You must also be aged 14 or over (but you can't vote until you're 16 years old)

Who can register to vote in Northern Ireland To register to vote, you must be: a UK or Irish citizen a qualifying Commonwealth citizen living in the UK an EU citizen living in the UK aged 17 or older (or will be 17 by 30 November) (but you can't vote until you're 18 years old)

Who can register to vote as an overseas voter To register as an overseas voter, you must: be a UK or Irish citizen have been registered to vote in the UK within the last 15 years be aged 16 or over (but you can't vote until you're 18 years old) If you were too young to register to vote when you left the UK, you can still register to vote if: your parent or guardian was registered to vote you left the UK no more than 15 years ago If you left the UK more than 15 years ago, you can't register as an overseas voter.

Who can register to vote Qualifying Commonwealth citizens The definition of a 'Commonwealth' citizen includes citizens of British Crown dependencies and British overseas territories. A 'qualifying' Commonwealth citizen is someone who has leave to enter or remain in the UK, or who doesn't require that leave.

Commonwealth countries Antigua and Barbuda Australia The Bahamas Bangladesh Barbados Belize Botswana Brunei Darussalam Cameroon Canada Cyprus Dominica Fiji Islands Ghana Grenada Guyana India Jamaica Kenya Kingdom of Eswatini Kiribati Lesotho Malawi Malaysia Maldives Malta Mauritius Mozambique Namibia Nauru New Zealand Nigeria Pakistan Papua New Guinea Rwanda St Kitts & Nevis St Lucia St Vincent & The Grenadines Samoa Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Solomon Islands South Africa Sri Lanka The Gambia Tonga Trinidad and Tobago Tuvalu Uganda United Republic of Tanzania Vanuatu Zambia Zimbabwe

This table doesn't include the UK. Please note: Although also EU member states, citizens of Cyprus and Malta are eligible to be registered to vote in all elections held in the UK. Citizens of Fiji and Zimbabwe retain their voting rights despite the countries having been suspended from the Commonwealth.

British crown dependencies Isle of Man The Channel Islands (including Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, Alderney, Herm and the other inhabited Channel Islands)

British overseas territories Anguilla Bermuda British Antarctic Territory British Indian Ocean Territory British Virgin Islands Cayman Islands Falkland Islands Gibraltar Monserrat Pitcairn Island St Helena and dependencies (Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha) South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands Sovereign base areas on Cyprus Turks and Caicos Islands Hong Kong

Former residents of Hong Kong who hold a British Overseas Territories, British Nationals (Overseas) or British Overseas passport qualify for registration.

European Union countries An "EU citizen" is someone with citizenship of one of these EU member

states. EU countries Austria Belgium Bulgaria Croatia Cyprus Czech Republic Denmark Estonia Finland France Germany Greece Hungary Ireland Italy Latvia Lithuania Luxembourg Malta Netherlands Poland Portugal Romania Slovakia Slovenia Spain Sweden Please note: Although also EU member states, citizens of Cyprus and Malta are eligible to be registered to vote in all elections held in the UK. Who can register

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Foreign nationals A qualifying foreign national is a citizen of another country who has permission to enter or stay in the UK, or who does not need such permission. This includes EU citizens. Who can register Qualifying Commonwealth citizens The definition of a 'Commonwealth' citizen includes citizens of British Crown dependencies and British overseas territories. A 'qualifying' Commonwealth citizen is someone who has leave to enter or remain in the UK, or who doesn't require that leave. Commonwealth countries Antigua and Barbuda Australia The Bahamas Bangladesh Barbados Belize Botswana Brunei Darussalam Cameroon Canada Cyprus Dominica Fiji Islands Ghana Grenada Guyana India Jamaica Kenya Kingdom of Eswatini Kiribati Lesotho Malawi Malaysia Maldives Malta Mauritius Mozambique Namibia Nauru New Zealand Nigeria Pakistan Papua New Guinea Rwanda St Kitts & Nevis St Lucia St Vincent & The Grenadines Samoa Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Solomon Islands South Africa Sri Lanka The Gambia Tonga Trinidad and Tobago Tuvalu Uganda United Republic of Tanzania Vanuatu Zambia Zimbabwe This table doesn't include the UK. Please note: Although also EU member states, citizens of Cyprus and Malta are eligible to be registered to vote in all elections held in the UK. Citizens of Fiji and Zimbabwe retain their voting rights despite the countries having been suspended from the Commonwealth. British crown dependencies Isle of Man The Channel Islands (including Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, Alderney, Herm and the other inhabited Channel Islands) British overseas territories Anguilla Bermuda British Antarctic Territory British Indian Ocean Territory British Virgin Islands Cayman Islands Falkland Islands Gibraltar Monserrat Pitcairn Island St Helena and dependencies (Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha) South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands Sovereign base areas on Cyprus Turks and Caicos Islands Hong Kong Former residents of Hong Kong who hold a British Overseas Territories, British Nationals (Overseas) or British Overseas passport qualify for registration. European Union countries An "EU citizen" is someone with citizenship of one of these EU member states. EU countries Austria Belgium Bulgaria Croatia Cyprus Czech Republic Denmark Estonia Finland France Germany Greece Hungary Ireland Italy Latvia Lithuania Luxembourg Malta Netherlands Poland Portugal Romania Slovakia Slovenia Spain Sweden Please note: Although also EU member states, citizens of Cyprus and Malta are eligible to be registered to vote in all elections held in the UK. Who can register Qualifying Commonwealth citizens The definition of a 'Commonwealth' citizen includes citizens of British Crown dependencies and British overseas territories. A 'qualifying' Commonwealth citizen is someone who has leave to enter or remain in the UK, or who doesn't require that leave. Commonwealth countries Antigua and Barbuda Australia The Bahamas Bangladesh Barbados Belize Botswana Brunei Darussalam Cameroon Canada Cyprus Dominica Fiji Islands Ghana Grenada Guyana India Jamaica Kenya Kingdom of Eswatini Kiribati Lesotho Malawi Malaysia Maldives Malta Mauritius Mozambique Namibia Nauru New Zealand Nigeria Pakistan Papua New Guinea Rwanda St Kitts & Nevis

St Lucia St Vincent & The Grenadines Samoa Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Solomon Islands South Africa Sri Lanka The Gambia Tonga Trinidad and Tobago Tuvalu Uganda United Republic of Tanzania Vanuatu Zambia Zimbabwe This table doesn't include the UK. Please note: Although also EU member states, citizens of Cyprus and Malta are eligible to be registered to vote in all elections held in the UK. Citizens of Fiji and Zimbabwe retain their voting rights despite the countries having been suspended from the Commonwealth. British crown dependencies Isle of Man The Channel Islands (including Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, Alderney, Herm and the other inhabited Channel Islands) British overseas territories Anguilla Bermuda British Antarctic Territory British Indian Ocean Territory British Virgin Islands Cayman Islands Falkland Islands Gibraltar Monserrat Pitcairn Island St Helena and dependencies (Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha) South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands Sovereign base areas on Cyprus Turks and Caicos Islands Hong Kong Former residents of Hong Kong who hold a British Overseas Territories, British Nationals (Overseas) or British Overseas passport qualify for registration. If you don't have one of these passports, you may still be able to register to vote as a qualifying foreign citizen in Scotland or Wales. European Union countries An "EU citizen" is someone with citizenship of one of these EU member states. EU countries Austria Belgium Bulgaria Croatia Cyprus Czech Republic Denmark Estonia Finland France Germany Greece Hungary Ireland Italy Latvia Lithuania Luxembourg Malta Netherlands Poland Portugal Romania Slovakia Slovenia Spain Sweden Please note: Although also EU member states, citizens of Cyprus and Malta are eligible to be registered to vote in all elections held in the UK. Foreign citizens A qualifying foreign citizen is a citizen of another country who has permission to enter or stay in the UK, or who does not need such permission. Other registration options There are other registration options, including registering as a service voter, registering anonymously , and registering if you don't have a fixed address . Other registration options There are other registration options, including registering as a service voter, registering anonymously , and registering if you don't have a fixed address . Other registration options There are other registration options, including registering as a service voter, registering anonymously , and registering if you don't have a fixed address . Other registration options There are other registration options, including registering as a service voter, registering anonymously , and registering if you don't have a fixed address . Your electoral registration office When you register as an overseas voter, you'll use the UK address where you were last registered to vote. This is where your electoral registration office will be, and where your vote will be counted in elections. Check if you're already registered to vote You need to contact the electoral services team at your local council to find out if you're registered to vote. If you're registered to vote, you'll be on the electoral register. This is something that your local council holds, so they'll be able to tell you if you're registered. We don't have copies of electoral registers, so can't tell you if you are registered. Check if you're already registered to vote You need to contact the electoral services team at your local council to find out if you're registered to vote. If you're registered to vote, you'll be on the electoral register. This is something that your local council holds, so they'll be able to tell you if you're registered. We don't have copies of electoral registers, so can't tell you if you are registered. Check if you're already registered to vote You need to contact your local Electoral Registration Office to find out if you're registered to vote. If you're registered to vote, you'll be on the electoral register. This is something that your local Electoral Registration Office holds, so they'll be able to tell you if you're registered. We don't have copies of

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You are in the Types of elections section Home Voter Types of elections Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. On this page Who can vote in these elections Types of councils Voting in these elections Voting in these elections Voting in these elections Voting in these elections Find your candidates First published: 12 September 2019 Last updated: 17 February 2023 Summary Local councils provide services and facilities in your area. The type of council you have and their responsibilities depends on where you live. Local councillors oversee the work of the council, and set the strategies and priorities. When you vote in local elections, you vote for councillors to represent your ward. Who can vote in these elections If you are eligible to vote, you can vote in local council elections when they're happening in your area. Check if you're eligible to vote Types of councils In the UK, there are different types of councils which are responsible for providing different services and facilities. In some areas, there may be more than one council providing your services and facilities. Types of councils Unitary authorities All councils in Scotland and Wales, and some councils in England, are unitary authorities. This means the council provides all of the services and facilities in the area. Metropolitan district councils Metropolitan district councils provide all local services and facilities. Cities such as Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester have metropolitan district councils. County councils In some parts of England, there is a two-tier council system. In these areas, there will be a county council and a district council. The county council will provide some services and facilities in the area, and the district council will provide others. The county council is often responsible for services and facilities such as schools and learning, libraries, and roads. To find out more about what your county council is responsible for, visit their website. District councils In some parts of England, there is a two-tier council system. In these areas, there will be a county council and a district council. The county council will provide some services and facilities in the area, and the district council will provide others. The district council is often responsible for services and facilities such as collecting Council Tax, housing services and electoral registration. Your district council could also be known as the borough or city council, depending on where you live. To find out more about what your district council is responsible for, visit their website. Town, parish and community councils Some areas also have a town, parish or community council, as well as the other councils in the area. The responsibilities of town, parish and community councils are different in each area. Town, parish and community councils are sometimes responsible for things like community car parks, litter bins and public toilets. Northern Ireland There are 11 local councils in Northern Ireland, which each provide all local services for their area. about the local councils in Northern Ireland London boroughs In London, each borough has a council which provides all of the services and facilities for that area. The Mayor of London and London Assembly work with the London borough councils. about the Mayor London and London Assembly Voting in these elections Local council elections in England use the first-past-the-post system. The ballot paper will list the candidates for your area. You can vote for as many candidates as there are councillor vacancies, by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your choice. For example, if you are represented by three councillors and there are three vacancies, you can vote for three candidates. The ballot paper will explain how many candidates you can vote for. Each councillor sits for a four year term. When the four year term starts and ends for each councillor will depend on

the voting system the council is using. This means that you may not vote for all of the councillors representing you at the same election.

Voting by thirds If your council votes by thirds, a third of councillors are elected every year over a four year period. There are no elections in the fourth year.

Voting by halves If your council votes by halves, half of the councillors are elected every two years.

Voting every four years Some councils, including all of the London boroughs, have local elections every four years, and elect all councillors at the same time.

Voting in these elections Local council elections in Wales use the first-past-the-post system. The ballot paper will list the candidates for your area. You can vote for as many candidates as there are councillor vacancies, by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your choice. For example, if you are represented by three councillors and there are three vacancies, you can vote for three candidates. The ballot paper will explain how many candidates you can vote for. Each councillor sits for a five year term. In Wales councils have local elections every five years and at this time all councillors are elected. The next local council elections in Wales will take place in May 2027.

Voting in these elections In Northern Ireland, local council elections use the single transferable vote system. Your ballot paper will list the names and political parties of the candidates in your area. You put a '1' in the box next to your first choice candidate, a '2' next to your second choice, a '3' next to your third choice and so on. You can do this for as many or as few candidates as you like. You do not have to put a number beside every name if you don't want to – you can just vote for one candidate. Remember to check and follow the instructions on your ballot paper.

How votes are counted In order to be elected candidates must reach a quota, which is the minimum number of votes needed to be elected. The quota is calculated based on the total number of votes cast and the number of seats available. To count votes, there are several stages. In the first stage, all first choice votes are counted. Any candidate with a number of first choice votes equal to or higher than the quota is elected. If there are still empty spots for candidates, then there is a second stage of counting. Any votes above the quota received by a candidate elected in the first stage of counting, are redistributed to the voter's next choice of candidate. If there are still seats unfilled because not enough candidates have reached the quota, then the candidate with the lowest number of votes is knocked out of the running and their votes are transferred to the voter's next choice of candidate. The process continues until all seats are filled. This means that if your first choice candidate does not get elected or if they are elected with more votes than needed, your vote can still be used to help elect your second choice candidate. Your vote may be transferred a number of times as seats are filled and may play a part in electing several or even all of the candidates.

Voting in these elections Councils have elections every five years and at this time all councillors are elected. The next council elections in Scotland will take place in May 2027. In Scotland, local council elections use the single transferable vote system which means that you vote using numbers. Your ballot paper will list all the candidates standing for election in your council ward. You need to number the candidates in order of choice using 1, 2, 3 and so on. You put a '1' in the box next to your first choice candidate, a '2' next to your second choice, a '3' next to your third choice and so on. You can do this for as many or as few candidates as you like. You do not have to put a number beside every name if you don't want to. Remember to check and follow the instructions on your ballot paper.

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Wales Local council elections in Wales use the first-past-the-post system. The ballot paper will list the candidates for your area. You can vote for as many candidates as there are councillor vacancies, by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your choice. For example, if you are represented by three councillors and there are three vacancies, you can vote for three candidates. The ballot paper will explain how many candidates you can vote for. Each councillor sits for a five year term. In Wales councils have local elections every five years and at this time all councillors are elected. The next local council elections in Wales will take place in May 2027.

Find your candidates Looking for the candidates standing in your area? Enter your postcode to view a list. Your candidates will be available a few weeks before polling day. Enter a postcode [Submit Postcode](#) Your location: [Change England](#) [Northern Ireland](#) [Scotland](#) [Wales](#) [Overseas](#) We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. [Related content](#) [Register to vote](#) All you need to register to vote is 5 minutes and your National Insurance number. [Elections in your area](#) Enter your postcode to find your electoral services team at your local council. You need to send your postal and proxy vote application forms to them. [Which elections you can vote in](#) [Learn more about which elections you can vote in.](#) [Types of elections](#) [about the types of elections in the UK.](#)

in the Voter section Home Voter Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. On this page Check if you're already registered to vote Check if you're already registered to vote Check if you're already registered to vote Check if you're already registered to vote Voting as a student Voting as a student Voting as a student Voting as a student Ways to vote Ways to vote Ways to vote Ways to vote First published: 13 September 2019 Last updated: 28 October 2022 Register to vote If you're a student, you may be able to register to vote at both your home address and your term-time address. However, this does not necessarily mean that you can vote more than once in elections taking place on the same day. Find out if you're eligible to register and how to apply Register to vote If you're a student, you may be able to register to vote at both your home address and your term-time address. However, this does not necessarily mean that you can vote more than once in elections taking place on the same day. Find out if you're eligible to register and how to apply Register to vote If you're a student, you may be able to register to vote at both your home address and your term-time address. Find out what this means for casting your vote. Find out if you're eligible to register and how to apply Register to vote If you're a student, you may be able to register to vote at both your home address and your term-time address. Find out if you're eligible to register and how to apply Check if you're already registered to vote You need to contact the electoral services team at your local council to find out if you're registered to vote. If you're registered to vote, you'll be on the electoral register. This is something that your local council holds, so they'll be able to tell you if you're registered. We don't have copies of electoral registers, so can't tell you if you are registered. Check if you're already registered to vote You need to contact the electoral services team at your local council to find out if you're registered to vote. If you're registered to vote, you'll be on the electoral register. This is something that your local council holds, so they'll be able to tell you if you're registered. We don't have copies electoral registers, so can't tell you if you are registered. Check if you're already registered to vote You need to contact your local Electoral Registration Office to find out if you're registered to vote. If you're registered to vote, you'll be on the electoral register. This is something that your local Electoral Registration Office holds, so they'll be able to tell you if you're registered. We don't have copies of electoral registers, so can't tell you if you are registered. Check if you're already registered to vote If you're eligible to vote, then you should contact the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland to find out if you're registered to vote. If you're registered to vote, you'll be on the electoral register. This is something that the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland manages, so they'll be able to tell you if you're registered. We don't have copies electoral registers, so can't tell you if you are registered. Get your local council's contact details Enter your postcode to find contact details for the electoral services team at your local council. Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Get your local council's contact details Enter your postcode to find contact details for the electoral services team at your local council. Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Get your Electoral Registration Office contact details Enter your postcode to find contact details for your local Electoral Registration Office Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Voting as a student Being registered at both your home address and your term-time addresses doesn't necessarily mean you get two votes. You will need to choose one address and vote in only that area when you're voting in: UK Parliament elections UK referendums London Assembly and London Mayoral

elections You can't vote at both your term-time address and your home address at these elections. Voting in more than one location is a criminal offence. For other elections you can vote at both your term-time and your home address. You can choose to vote in either or both areas (as long as the addresses are in different council areas) when you're voting in: Local council elections in England Police and Crime commissioner elections and mayoral elections Make sure you understand the rules for the election you are voting in. Voting as a student Being registered at both your home address and your term-time addresses doesn't necessarily mean you get two votes. You will need to choose one address and vote in only that area when you're voting in: UK Parliament elections Senedd elections UK referendums You can't vote at both your term-time address and your home address at these elections. Voting in more than one location is a criminal offence. For other elections you can vote at both your term-time and your home address. You can choose to vote in either or both areas (as long as the addresses are in different council areas) when you're voting in: Local council elections in Wales Police and Crime commissioner elections Make sure you understand the rules for the election you are voting in. Voting as a student Being registered at both your home address and your term-time address doesn't mean you get two votes. You will need to choose one address and vote in only that area when you're voting in: UK Parliament elections Scottish Parliament elections Council elections in Scotland A referendum You can't vote at both your term time address and your home address at these elections. Voting in more than one location is a criminal offence. The only exception is if one of your addresses is in Scotland and the other is somewhere else in the UK, and you're voting in a council election. In this case, you can vote in the council election in Scotland and in the council election in England, Wales or Northern Ireland. Voting as a student You will need to choose one address and vote in only that area when you're voting in: UK Parliament elections Northern Ireland Assembly elections UK referendums You can't vote at both your term-time address and your home address at these elections. Voting in more than one location is a criminal offence. For local council elections in Northern Ireland you can vote at both your term-time and your home address. You can choose to vote in either or both areas, as long as the addresses are in different council areas. Make sure you understand the rules for the election you are voting in. Ways to vote If you're not able to make it to the polling station on the day, you can apply for a postal vote or a proxy vote (when someone you trust votes on your behalf). Ways to vote If you're not able to make it to the polling station on the day, you can apply for a postal vote or a proxy vote (when someone you trust votes on your behalf). Ways to vote If you're not able to make it to the polling place on the day, you can apply for a postal vote or a proxy vote (when someone you trust votes on your behalf). Ways to vote If you're not able to make it to the polling station on the day, you can apply for a postal vote or a proxy vote (when someone you trust votes on your behalf). What are my options? UK students studying abroad as part of their university degree If you are a UK citizen studying abroad temporarily as part of your university degree then you will be able to register to vote. Contact your Electoral Registration Officer for more information on the process and criteria. Find your Electoral Registration Officer contact details Students studying in the UK who are not UK residents If you are a student from outside of the UK studying in the UK, then use our quiz to find out if you are eligible to register to vote and how to apply . Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content Register to vote All you need to register to vote is 5 minutes and your National Insurance number. Elections

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instructions about how to cast your postal vote and how to return it a postal vote statement two envelopes the ballot paper or papers for the elections taking place

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Returning your postal vote

As soon as you're ready to return your postal vote, take it to the post box yourself. If you can't post it yourself, you can either ask someone you know and

trust to post it for you, or you can contact the elections team at your local council to ask if they can collect it from you. Avoid asking a candidate or party worker to post it for you. This is against their code of conduct. Your postal vote needs to be with the elections team at your local council by 10pm on polling day to be counted. If you can't post your postal vote pack in time, you can take it your polling station or to your local council on polling day. Returning your postal vote As soon as you're ready to return your postal vote, take it to the post box yourself. If you can't post it yourself, you can either ask someone you know and trust to post it for you, or you can contact the elections team at your local council to ask if they can collect it from you. Avoid asking a candidate or party worker to post it for you. This is against their code of conduct. Your postal vote needs to be with the elections team at your local council by 10pm on polling day to be counted. If you can't post your postal vote pack in time, you can take it your polling station or to your local council on polling day. Returning your postal vote As soon as you're ready to return your postal vote, take it to the post box yourself. If you can't post it yourself, you can either ask someone you know and trust to post it for you, or you can contact the elections team at your council to ask if they can collect it from you. Avoid asking a candidate or party worker to post it for you. This is against their code of conduct. Your postal vote needs to be with the elections team at your council by 10pm on polling day to be counted. If you can't post your postal vote pack in time, you can take it your polling place or to your council on polling day. Returning your postal vote As soon as you're ready to return your postal vote, take it to the postbox yourself. You should send it directly to the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland . If you can't post it yourself, you can either ask someone you know and trust to post it for you. You can give your postal vote ballot paper in at the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland office in Belfast on polling day if you have not already posted it. You cannot give your postal vote ballot paper in at a polling station on polling day. Returning your postal vote As soon as you're ready to return your postal vote, take it to the postbox yourself. If you can't post it yourself, you can ask someone you know and trust to post it for you. Avoid asking a candidate or party worker to post it for you. This is against their code of conduct. Your postal vote needs to be with the local council where you're registered by 10pm on polling day to be counted. If you don't think you will have time to receive and return your postal vote ballot pack, you may want to consider voting by proxy (when someone you trust votes on your behalf). How to cancel your postal vote If you want to cancel your postal vote then you should contact your local council to request this. You must do so before 5pm, 11 working days before the election you will be voting in. If you have already returned your completed postal vote, then you will not be able to cancel it for that election. How to cancel your postal vote If you want to cancel your postal vote then you should contact the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland to request this. If you have already returned your completed postal vote, then you will not be able to cancel it for that election. How to cancel your postal vote If you want to cancel your postal vote then you should contact your local electoral registration office to request this. You must do so before 5pm, 11 working days before the election you will be voting in. If you have already returned your completed postal vote, then you will not be able to cancel it for that election. How to cancel your postal vote If you want to cancel your postal vote then you should contact your local council to request this. You must do so before 5pm, 11 working days before the election you will be voting in. If you have already returned your completed postal vote, then you will not be able to cancel it for that election. How

to cancel your postal vote If you want to cancel your postal vote then you should contact the relevant body to request this. In England and Wales contact your local council. In Scotland contact your electoral registration office. In Northern Ireland contact the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland. The deadline to cancel your postal vote in England, Scotland and Wales is before 5pm, 11 working days before the election you will be voting in. If you have already returned your completed postal vote, then you will not be able to cancel it for that election. Photos of postal ballot papers Postal ballot papers are viewed differently in electoral law to ballot papers in a polling station, so voters can take a photo of their own postal ballot paper and publicise it (including on social media) if they want to. It is the personal choice of the voter whether they decide to take a photo of their postal ballot paper and share it. It is an offence to persuade or induce another person to share a photo of their postal ballot paper. Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content Apply to vote by post Can't get to the polling station on polling day? Apply to vote by post by downloading and completing the application form. Apply to vote by proxy Can't get to the polling station on polling day? Ask a trusted person to vote on your behalf and apply for a proxy vote. Elections in your area Enter your postcode to find your electoral services team at your local council. You need to send your postal and proxy vote application forms to them. Voting in person Voting in person on polling day? Learn more about what to expect when you go to the polling station.

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format, or have any questions, contact the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland for help. Filling in your form The application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. When you fill in the form, you'll be able to say how you want to receive information about your registration. You can collect it from the electoral services team at the local council for the address you're registering at, or have it delivered to an address you provide. Filling in your form The application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. When you fill in the form, you'll be able to say how you want to receive information about your registration. You can collect it from the electoral services team at the local council for the address you're registering at, or have it delivered to an address you provide. Filling in your form The application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. When you fill in the form, you'll be able to say how you want to receive information about your registration. You can collect it from the local Electoral Registration Office for the address you're registering at, or have it delivered to an address you provide. Filling in your form The application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. When you fill in the form, you'll be able to say how you want to receive information about your registration. You can collect it from the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland, or have it delivered to an address you provide. Where to send your completed form Once you have completed the form and made sure you have signed it, you need to send it to the electoral services team at the local council for the address you're registering at. You can send your form by post. The electoral services team at your local council may also accept a scanned copy of your form by email, but you should check with them first. Where to send your completed form Once you have completed the form and made sure you have signed it, you need to send it to the electoral services team at the local council for the address you're registering at. You can send your form by post. The electoral services team at your local council may also accept a scanned copy of your form by email, but you should check with them first. Where to send your completed form Once you have completed the form and made sure you have signed it, you need to send it to the local Electoral Registration Office for the address you're registering at. You can send your form by post. The Electoral Registration Office may also accept a scanned copy of your form by email, but you should check with them first. Where to send your completed form Once you have completed the form and made sure you have signed it, you need to send it by post to the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland . Find where to send your form Enter the postcode for the address you're registering at to get the address of your electoral services team Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Find where to send your form Enter the postcode for the address you're registering at to get the address of your electoral services team Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Find where to send your form Enter the postcode for the address you're registering at to get the address of the local Electoral Registration Office Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Ways to vote Voting in person Apply to vote by post Apply to vote by proxy Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content Register to vote All you need to register to vote is 5 minutes and your National Insurance number. Which elections you can vote in Learn more about which elections you can vote in. Elections in your area Enter your postcode to find your electoral services team at your local council. You need to send your postal and proxy vote application forms to them. Apply to vote by post Can't get to the polling station on polling day? Apply to vote by post by downloading and completing the application form.

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needs of the community. There are 41 areas across England and Wales with a PCC. Each
area has one commissioner. Who can vote in these elections If you are eligible to
vote and are registered to vote in an area that has a PCC, you can vote in the Police
and Crime Commissioner elections. Check if you're eligible to vote Voting in these
elections Elections for PCCs take place every four years. Police and Crime
Commissioner elections will use first-past-the-post. The ballot paper will list the
PCC candidates. You will only be able to vote for one candidate, by putting a cross
[X] in the box next to your choice. Find your candidates Looking for the candidates
standing in your area? Enter your postcode to view a list. Your candidates will be
available a few weeks before polling day. Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Your
location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you
content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content
Register to vote All you need to register to vote is 5 minutes and your National
Insurance number. Elections in your area Enter your postcode to find your electoral
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application forms to them. Which elections you can vote in Learn more about which
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more about what to expect when you go to the polling station.

elections You are in the Types of elections section Home Voter Types of elections Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. On this page Who can vote in these elections Areas with mayors Find your candidates First published: 27 February 2020 Last updated: 26 May 2023 Summary There are four types of mayor in England. The type of mayor or mayors you have depends on where you live. In London, the Mayor sets the vision for the city. about the Mayor of London . In some areas, there is a combined authority, where a group of local councils work together on issues that affect the whole area, such as transport and housing. Combined authorities are led by an elected mayor. There are also local authority mayors, who are elected to lead the local council in one area. Finally, there are mayors who take on a ceremonial role. These mayors are not elected, and do not have a political role. They often represent the council at special occasions and charity events. Who can vote in these elections If you are eligible to vote and are registered in an area that has an elected mayor, you can vote in mayoral elections. Check if you're eligible to vote Voting in these elections Mayoral elections take place at different times, depending on where you live. Mayoral elections use first-past-the-post. The ballot paper will list the candidates for mayor. You will only be able to vote for one candidate, by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your choice. Areas with mayors Combined authority mayors There are combined authority mayors for: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Greater Manchester Combined Authority Liverpool City Region Combined Authority North of Tyne Combined Authority Sheffield City Combined Authority Tees Valley Combined Authority West of England Combined Authority West Midlands Combined Authority West Yorkshire Combined Authority about the Mayor of London . Local authority mayors There local authority mayors for: Bedford Borough Council Bristol City Council Copeland Borough Council Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council Hackney London Borough Council Leicester City Council Lewisham City Council Liverpool City Council Mansfield District Council Middlesbrough Borough Council Newham London Borough Council North Tyneside Council Salford City Council Tower Hamlets Borough Council Watford Borough Council Find your candidates Looking for the candidates standing in your area? Enter your postcode to view a list. Your candidates will be available a few weeks before polling day. Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content Register to vote All you need to register to vote is 5 minutes and your National Insurance number. Elections in your area Enter your postcode to find your electoral services team at your local council. You need to send your postal and proxy vote application forms to them. Which elections you can vote in Learn more about which elections you can vote in. Voting in person Voting in person on polling day? Learn more about what to expect when you go to the polling station.

section Home Voter Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Electoral Identity Card The deadline to apply for an Electoral Identity Card to use at the local council elections on 18 May 2023 has now passed. on the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland website . requirement Overseas voters need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations. This applies to: UK parliamentary by-elections Recall petitions From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections. If you don't have accepted photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate. about accepted forms of photo ID, how to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate, and what to expect on polling day. 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. The only acceptable forms of ID in Northern Ireland are: a UK, Irish or EU passport a UK, Irish or EEA driving licence a Translink 60+ Smartpass a Translink Senior Smartpass a Translink Blind Person's Smartpass a Translink War Disabled Smartpass an Electoral Identity Card a Translink Half Fare SmartPass a biometric immigration document The ID can be expired, but staff at the polling station must be satisfied that you are the person in the photograph on the ID. about what photo ID is accepted and how to apply for an Electoral Identity Card on the Electoral Office of Northern Ireland website . requirement Voters in England need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. This applies to: Local elections and by-elections Police and Crime Commissioner elections UK parliamentary by-elections Recall petitions From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections. If you don't have accepted photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate. about accepted forms of photo ID, how to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate, and what to expect on polling day. requirement Voters in Wales need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. This applies to: Police and Crime Commissioner elections UK parliamentary by-elections Recall petitions From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections. If you don't have accepted photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate. about accepted forms of photo ID, how to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate, and what to expect on polling day. Voters in Wales will not need to show photo ID to vote at a polling station at Senedd elections or local council elections. requirement Voters in Scotland need to show photo ID to vote at polling places in some elections. This applies to: UK parliamentary by-elections Recall petitions From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections. If you don't have accepted photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate. about accepted forms of photo ID, how to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate, and what to expect on polling day. Voters in Scotland will not need to show photo ID at Scottish Parliament elections or at council elections. Voting and bringing ID Accepted forms of photo ID Learn about the different types of photo ID that will be accepted at elections that require photo ID Voting in person Voting in person on polling day? Learn more about what to expect when you go to the polling station. Apply to vote by proxy Can't get to the polling station on polling day? Ask a trusted person to vote on your behalf and apply for a proxy vote. Register to vote All you need to register to vote is 5 minutes and your National Insurance number. Applying for a Voter Authority Certificate Learn more about how to apply for a free

voter ID document known as a Voter Authority Certificate Apply to vote by post Can't get to the polling station on polling day? Apply to vote by post by downloading and completing the application form. Supporting others Supporting people to meet the voter ID requirement We know that some groups are more likely to experience barriers created by the voter ID requirement and may need support to access photo ID. Organisations working directly with voters, including local authorities and charities, can help voters make sure they have photo ID ahead of any election where this requirement applies. We have produced a generic set of resources for use in England, Scotland and Wales. These resources will help organisations raise awareness, and support voters with applying for a Voter Authority Certificate, if needed. This pack also includes information on voter registration, and information tailored to the needs of specific groups. We have also published bespoke resources to support people who are registered to vote anonymously, or who might benefit from doing so. Explore our resources for partners, charities and civil society organisations Supporting others Supporting people to meet the voter ID requirement We know that some groups are more likely to experience barriers created by the voter ID requirement and may need support to access photo ID. Organisations working directly with voters, including local authorities, Electoral Registration Officers, and charities, can help voters make sure they have photo ID ahead of any election where this requirement applies. We have produced a generic set of resources for use in England, Scotland and Wales. These resources will help organisations raise awareness, and support voters with applying for a Voter Authority Certificate, if needed. This pack also includes information on voter registration, and information tailored to the needs of specific groups. We have also published bespoke resources to support people who are registered to vote anonymously, or who might benefit from doing so. Explore our resources for partners, charities and civil society organisations Supporting others Supporting people to meet the voter ID requirement We know that some groups are more likely to experience barriers created by the voter ID requirement and may need support to access photo ID. Organisations working directly with voters, including local authorities and charities, can help voters make sure they have photo ID ahead of any election where this requirement applies. We have produced a generic set of resources for use in England, Scotland and Wales. These resources will help organisations raise awareness, and support voters with applying for a Voter Authority Certificate, if needed. This pack also includes information on voter registration, and information tailored to the needs of specific groups. We have also published bespoke resources to support people who are registered to vote anonymously, or who might benefit from doing so. Explore our resources for partners, charities and civil society organisations Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content Accepted forms of photo ID Learn about the different types of photo ID that will be accepted at elections that require photo ID Applying for a Voter Authority Certificate Learn more about how to apply for a free voter ID document known as a Voter Authority Certificate Voting in person Voting in person on polling day? Learn more about what to expect when you go to the polling station. Register to vote All you need to register to vote is 5 minutes and your National Insurance number.

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published: 12 September 2019 Last updated: 18 April 2023 Make sure you're registered
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to vote. Find out if you're eligible to register and how to apply Make sure you're
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work schedule means you can't get to polling place. You can also choose to vote by
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Northern Ireland, you can vote by post if you can't get to the polling station on
polling day because of: illness disability holiday work arrangements In certain
circumstances, you can also apply for an indefinite postal vote. You can do this at
any time of year. You will be a sent a postal vote ballot pack before the election.

about how to vote by post . If you're outside the UK, you can't apply to vote by post as postal votes in Northern Ireland can't be sent outside the UK. Instead, you'll need to apply for a proxy vote . Digital Registration Number (DRN) If you registered to vote online, you'll need to provide your Digital Registration Number (DRN) on your application for a postal vote. If you've forgotten your Digital Registration Number (DRN) you can request to be notified of it by completing this form . Voting by post If you used to live in England, Scotland or Wales, you can vote by post. You can also vote by post if you're a service voter or a Crown servant voter based overseas. If you lived in Northern Ireland, you can't vote by post. Postal votes in Northern Ireland can't be sent outside the UK. Instead, you'll need to apply for a proxy vote (when someone you trust votes on your behalf). You can vote in UK Parliamentary general elections. You can't vote in any other elections in the UK. about how to vote by post . Voters in England now need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. You will not need to provide photo ID to vote by post. There are other identification checks, including verification of your signature and date of birth. If you are already registered to vote by post, you don't need to register again. Read more about Overseas voters now need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. You will not need to provide photo ID to vote by post. There are other identification checks, including verification of your signature and date of birth. If you are already registered to vote by post, you don't need to register again. Read more about Voters in Scotland now need to show photo ID to vote at polling places in some elections. You will not need to provide photo ID to vote by post. There are other identification checks, including verification of your signature and date of birth. If you are already registered to vote by post, you don't need to register again. Read more about Voters in Wales now need to show photo ID to vote at polling places in some elections. You will not need to provide photo ID to vote by post. There are other identification checks, including verification of your signature and date of birth. If you are already registered to vote by post, you don't need to register again. Read more about Download the application form To apply to vote by post in England, Scotland or Wales, you need to download, print and fill in the postal vote application form. Postal vote application form (PDF) You can apply for a particular election or referendum, for a specific time period, or for a permanent postal vote. You will need to complete a new postal vote application if you have moved house. Download the application form To apply to vote by post in Wales, England or Scotland, you need to download, print and fill in the postal vote application form. Postal vote application form (PDF) You can apply for a particular election or referendum, for a specific time period, or for a permanent postal vote. You will need to complete a new postal vote application if you have moved house. Download the application form To apply to vote by post in Scotland, England, or Wales, you need to download, print and fill in the postal vote application form. Postal vote application form (PDF) You can apply for a particular election or referendum, for a specific time period, or for a permanent postal vote. You will need to complete a new postal vote application if you have moved house. Download the application form Download the absent vote form and find out more from the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland . Download the application form To apply to vote by post, you need to download, print and fill in the postal vote application form. Postal vote application form (PDF) You can apply for a particular election or referendum, for a specific time period, or for a permanent postal vote. You will need to complete a new postal vote application if you have moved house. Help with the form Help with the form If you're unable to print the application form or need it in an

accessible format, contact the electoral services team at your local council for help. Help with the form Help with the form If you're unable to print the application form or need it in an accessible format, contact the electoral services team at your local council for help. Help with the form Help with the form If you're unable to print the application form or need it in an accessible format, contact your local Electoral Registration Office for help. Help with the form Help with the form If you're unable to print the application form or need it in an accessible format, contact the electoral registration office for help. Filling in your form The application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. You will need to provide your date of birth and signature on your application form. These are used to confirm your identity when you vote by post. If you're unable to sign the form, or are unable to sign in consistent way, contact the electoral services team at your local council for more information. Filling in your form The application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. You will need to provide your date of birth and signature on your application form. These are used to confirm your identity when you vote by post. If you're unable to sign the form, or are unable to sign in consistent way, contact your the electoral services team at your local council for more information. Filling in your form The application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. You will need to provide your date of birth and signature on your application form. These are used to confirm your identity when you vote by post. If you're unable to sign the form, or are unable to sign in a consistent way, you can contact your local Electoral Registration Office for more information and to arrange a waiver for this requirement. Filling in your form The application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. You will need to provide your date of birth and signature, or your Digital Registration Number (DRN) if you registered to vote online, on your application form. These are used to confirm your identity when you vote by post. If you're unable to sign the form, or are unable to sign in consistent way, contact the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland for more information. Filling in your form The application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. You will need to provide your date of birth and signature on your application form. These are used to confirm your identity when you vote by post. If you're unable to sign the form, or are unable to sign in consistent way, contact your electoral registration office for more information.

Where to send your completed form Once you have completed the form and made sure you have signed it, you need to send it to the electoral services team at your local council. You can send your form by post. The electoral services team at your local council may also accept a scanned copy of your form by email, but you should check with them first. You must return your postal vote application form by 5pm, 11 working days before the poll. Where to send your completed form Once you have completed the form and made sure you have signed it, you need to send it to the electoral services team at your local council. You can send your form by post. The electoral services team at your local council may also accept a scanned copy of your form by email, but you should check with them first. You must return your postal vote application form by 5pm, 11 working days before the poll. Where to send your completed form Once you have completed the form and made sure you have signed it, you need to send it to your local Electoral Registration Office. You can send your form by post, or you can send a scanned copy by email. You must return your postal vote application form by 5pm, 11 working days before the poll. Where to send your completed form Once you have completed the form and made sure you have signed it, you need to send it by post to the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland . Where to send your completed form Send

your completed form to the electoral registration office where you're registered to vote. You can send your form by post. Your electoral registration office may also accept a scanned copy of your form by email, but you should check with them first. You will be sent a postal vote ballot pack before the election. You'll need to return this to the same electoral registration office. If you don't think you will have time to receive and return your postal vote ballot pack, you may want to consider voting by proxy . Find where to send your form Enter your postcode to find the address of your electoral services team Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Find where to send your form Enter your postcode to find the address of your electoral services team Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Find where to send your form Enter your postcode to find the address of the Electoral Registration Office for your area Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Find where to send your form Enter your postcode (of the address you used when you registered as an overseas voter) to get the address of your electoral registration office Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Check if you already have a postal vote Check if you already have a postal vote If you're not sure if you already have a postal vote, contact the electoral services team at your local council to find out. Check if you already have a postal vote Check if you already have a postal vote If you're not sure if you already have a postal vote, contact the electoral services team at your local council to find out. Check if you already have a postal vote Check if you already have a postal vote If you're not sure if you already have a postal vote, contact your local Electoral Registration Office to find out. Check if you already have a postal vote Check if you already have a postal vote If you're not sure if you already have a postal vote, contact your electoral registration office to find out. When you will receive your ballot paper After the deadline to become a candidate has passed (usually around three weeks before polling day), ballot papers are produced and printed. Yours will then be sent to you, in your postal voting pack. Once you receive your postal voting pack, make sure to keep it somewhere safe. Don't let anyone else handle it, and avoid leaving it where someone else could pick it up. If you won't be at your address to get your postal vote, you might want to think about a proxy vote instead. about how to vote by post When you will receive your ballot paper After the deadline to become a candidate has passed (usually around three weeks before polling day), ballot papers are produced and printed. Yours will then be sent to you, in your postal voting pack. Once you receive your postal voting pack, make sure to keep it somewhere safe. Don't let anyone else handle it, and avoid leaving it where someone else could pick it up. If you won't be at your address to get your postal vote, you might want to think about a proxy vote instead. about how to vote by post . When you will receive your ballot paper After the deadline to become a candidate has passed (usually around three weeks before polling day), ballot papers are produced and printed. Yours will then be sent to you, in your postal voting pack. Once you receive your postal voting pack, make sure to keep it somewhere safe. Don't let anyone else handle it, and avoid leaving it where someone else could pick it up. If you won't be at your address to get your postal vote, you might want to think about a proxy vote instead. about how to vote by post . When you will receive your

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about how to vote by post .

How to cancel your postal vote If you want to cancel your postal vote then you should contact your local council to request this. You must do so before 5pm, 11 working days before the election you will be voting in. If you have already returned your completed postal vote, then you will not be able to cancel it for that election.

How to cancel your postal vote If you want to cancel your postal vote then you should contact the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland to request this. If you have already returned your completed postal vote, then you will not be able to cancel it for that election.

How to cancel your postal vote If you want to cancel your postal vote then you should contact your local electoral registration office to request this. You must do so before 5pm, 11 working days before the election you will be voting in. If you have already returned your completed postal vote, then you will not be able to cancel it for that election.

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How to cancel your postal vote If you want to cancel your postal vote then you should contact the relevant body to request this. In England and Wales contact your local council. In Scotland contact your electoral registration office. In Northern Ireland contact the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland. The deadline to cancel your postal vote in England, Scotland and Wales is before 5pm, 11 working days before the election you will be voting in. If you have already returned your completed postal vote, then you will not be able to cancel it for that election.

Postal vote application forms from parties and campaigners Parties and campaigners may encourage voters to vote by post by issuing postal vote application forms. This could be a paper form sent through the post, or a website with information. Parties are not breaking any rules if they encourage voters to apply to vote by post, and there is information about this in our Code of Conduct for campaigners .

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published: 12 September 2019 Last updated: 4 May 2022 Overview The Northern Ireland

Assembly represents the people of Northern Ireland. It has the power to make

decisions and pass laws in certain areas, known as devolved matters. This includes

areas such as education economic development, the environment and health. The UK

Parliament makes decisions on reserved matters, such as broadcasting and import and

export laws, and could transfer responsibility for these to the Northern Ireland

Assembly. Areas such as defence and taxation are excepted matters. The UK Parliament

is responsible for excepted matters. There are 90 elected Members of the Legislative

Assembly (MLAs). Each of Northern Ireland's 18 constituencies has five MLAs to

represent it. Who can vote in these elections Voting in these elections Northern

Ireland Assembly elections usually take place every five years. Northern Ireland

Assembly elections use the Single Transferable Vote system. The ballot paper will

list the candidates for your constituency. You use numbers to rank these candidates

in order of preference. You can rank as many or as few candidates as you want to.

Find your candidates Looking for the candidates standing in your area? Enter your

postcode to view a list. Your candidates will be available a few weeks before polling

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Select 'change' to choose a different location. On this page Report electoral fraud
What happens when you report electoral fraud What we're doing First published: 23
July 2019 Last updated: 24 August 2021 Overview Your vote belongs to you. It doesn't
belong to anyone who intimidates you, or tries to bribe you, or anyone pretending to
be you. When someone deliberately tries to cheat at an election in this way, it could
be electoral fraud. Electoral fraud can include: making false statements about the
personal character of a candidate offering an incentive to someone to get them to
vote, to vote a certain way, or to stop them from voting interfering with postal
votes including false statements or signatures on a candidate's nomination forms
registering to vote under a false name or without someone's consent influencing
someone to vote against their will pretending to be someone else and using their vote
Election fraud undermines the democratic process. It is a serious issue and offenders
can be sent to prison. Report electoral fraud If you believe you have witnessed
electoral fraud, or are concerned that it may be taking place, you should report it.
You can report electoral fraud by: calling the police on 101 contacting Crimestoppers
anonymously online , or by calling 0800 555 111 If you're unsure whether certain
behaviour is allowed, you should contact the Electoral Registration Officer or
Returning Officer for your local area. They are responsible for running the election
or referendum and will have plans in place to identify suspicious behaviour. What
happens when you report electoral fraud Reporting electoral fraud to the police If
you report electoral fraud to the police, you should ask for the Election Single
Point of Contact (SPOC) for your area. Election SPOCs are trained in electoral law,
and we provide them with advice about preventing and detecting election-related
crimes. The SPOC will ask for details about the electoral fraud you have witnessed or
the concerns you have, including any evidence you have that electoral fraud has taken
place. You should be prepared to make a statement and to provide evidence to support
your allegation. They will also ask for your contact details, in case they need to
contact you for more information and so they can let you know the outcome of their
investigation. The SPOC will investigate, and determine if there has been an
election-related crime. They may work with the Electoral Registration Officer or the
Returning Officer for the election, or ask us for information about the rules.
Reporting electoral fraud to Crimestoppers If you report electoral fraud to
Crimestoppers, you will be asked for details about the electoral fraud you have
witnessed or the concerns you have. Reporting to Crimestoppers is anonymous, so you
won't have to give your details if you don't want to. What we're doing We work
closely with other organisations to prevent, detect, and take action against
electoral fraud, including: local authorities police prosecuting authorities Royal
Mail political parties and campaigners We produce guidance for people involved in an
election or referendum. This guidance helps everyone to follow best practice and stay
within the law. Throughout the year, police across the UK send us data about
allegations of electoral fraud that they receive and investigate. Take a look at the
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vote application forms to them. Voting in person Voting in person on polling day?

Learn more about what to expect when you go to the polling station. Electoral law is out of date. Find out where we want to see improvements

Accepted forms of photo ID | Electoral Commission Search

Accepted forms of photo ID You are in the section Home Voter Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. On this page Accepted forms of photo ID If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID Out of date photo ID Showing ID as an anonymous elector First published: 3 January 2023 Introduction Voters in Scotland now need to show photo ID to vote at polling places in some elections. This will apply to: UK parliamentary by-elections Recall petitions From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections. Voters in Scotland will not need to show photo ID at Scottish Parliament elections or at council elections. Introduction Voters in England now need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. This will apply to: Local elections and by-elections Police and Crime Commissioner elections UK parliamentary by-elections Recall petitions From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections. Introduction Voters in Wales now need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. This will apply to: Police and Crime Commissioner elections UK parliamentary by-elections Recall petitions From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections. Voters in Wales will not need to show photo ID to vote at a polling station at Senedd elections or local council elections. Introduction Overseas voters now need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations. This will apply to: UK parliamentary by-elections Recall petitions From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections. 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 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 Accepted forms of photo ID You can use any of the following accepted forms of photo ID when voting at a polling station. International travel Passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country (including an Irish Passport Card) Driving and Parking Driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state (this includes a provisional driving licence) A Blue Badge Local travel Older Person's Bus Pass funded by the UK Government Disabled Person's Bus Pass funded by the UK Government Oyster 60+ Card funded by the funded by the UK Government Freedom Pass Scottish National Entitlement Card issued for the purpose of concessionary travel (including a 60+, disabled or under 22s bus pass) 60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card Disabled Person's Welsh Concessionary Travel Card Senior SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland Registered Blind SmartPass or Blind Person's SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland War Disablement SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland 60+ SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland Half Fare SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland Proof of age Identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card) Other government issued documents Biometric immigration document Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card) National identity card issued by an EEA state Electoral Identity Card issued in Northern Ireland Voter Authority Certificate Anonymous Elector's Document You will only need to show one form of photo ID. It needs to be the original version and not a photocopy. Accepted forms of photo ID You can use any of the following accepted forms of photo ID when voting at a polling place. International travel Passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country (including an Irish Passport Card) Driving and Parking Driving licence issued by the UK, any of the

Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state A Blue Badge Local travel Scottish National Entitlement Card issued for the purpose of concessionary travel (including a 60+, disabled or under 22s bus pass) Older Person's Bus Pass funded by the UK Government Disabled Person's Bus Pass funded by the UK Government Oyster 60+ Card funded by the UK Government Freedom Pass 60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card Disabled Person's Welsh Concessionary Travel Card Senior SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland Registered Blind SmartPass or Blind Person's SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland War Disablement SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland 60+ SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland Half Fare SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland Proof of age Identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card), for example a Young Scot card Other government issued documents Biometric immigration document Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card) National identity card issued by an EEA state Electoral Identity Card issued in Northern Ireland Voter Authority Certificate Anonymous Elector's Document You will only need to show one form of photo ID. It needs to be the original version and not a photocopy. If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID You can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate, if: you don't have an accepted form of photo ID you're not sure whether your photo ID still looks like you you're worried about using an existing form of ID for any other reason, such as the use of a gender marker You need to register to vote before applying for a Voter Authority Certificate. Find out how to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate Out of date photo ID You can still use your photo ID if it's out of date, as long as it looks like you. The name on your ID should be the same name you used to register to vote. 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 . 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 . Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content Applying for a Voter Authority Certificate Learn more about how to apply for a free voter ID document known as a Voter Authority Certificate Voting in person Voting in person on polling day? Learn more about what to expect when you go to the polling station. Find out about the new requirement to take photo ID to some elections in England, Scotland and Wales Apply to vote by post Can't get to the polling station on polling day? Apply to vote by post by downloading and completing the application form.

Imprints on election campaign material | Electoral Commission Search

Imprints on election campaign material You are in the Voter section Home Voter

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Report a missing or incorrect digital imprint What an imprint is Some election campaign material must state who is promoting it and who they're promoting it for. This is called an 'imprint'. Imprints help you understand who is trying to influence you with campaign material. Where you should see an imprint All printed election campaign material needs an imprint, including newspaper and billboard advertising. In Scotland, 'paid for' and 'unpaid' digital election campaign material must also have an imprint. Where election campaign material is promoting a party or campaigner, we are responsible for enforcing the imprint rules. If it's promoting a candidate, the police are responsible. There is no law requiring digital election campaign material to have an imprint in the rest of the UK. The UK government ran a consultation about introducing this law. Following consideration of the responses, provisions were included in the Elections Act 2022 , which we expect to come into force this year.

What an imprint must include Throughout the UK, printed election campaign material must include the name and address of: the printer the promoter who it's being promoted for (for example, the candidate or party) In Scotland, digital election campaign material must include: the promoter who it's being promoted for (for example, the candidate or party) Report a missing or incorrect digital imprint If you've spotted digital election campaign material in Scotland without an imprint, or where the imprint doesn't look correct, report it to us . Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location.

servant voter You are in the Other registration options section Home Voter Other registration options Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. On this page Who can register as Crown servant voter Who can register as Crown servant voter Who can register as Crown servant voter Who can register as Crown servant voter Who can register as Crown servant voter Register to vote Register to vote Register to vote Register to vote Ways to vote Ways to vote Ways to vote Ways to vote First published: 22 November 2019 Last updated: 28 October 2022 Who can register as Crown servant voter You can register as a crown servant voter if you are: a Crown servant (such as a diplomat or an overseas civil servant) a British Council employee the spouse or civil partner of a Crown servant or British Council employee Who can register as Crown servant voter You can register as a Crown servant voter if you are: a Crown servant (such as a diplomat or an overseas civil servant) a British Council employee the spouse or civil partner of a Crown servant or British Council employee In Wales, children aged 14 can also register as a Crown servant voter if: their parent or guardian is a Crown servant or British Council employee and is eligible to register as Crown servant voter they're living in Wales, or would be living in Wales if their parent or guardian were not based overseas Although you can register to vote at 14, you can't vote in any elections until you're 16. Who can register as Crown servant voter You can register as a crown servant voter if you are: a Crown servant (such as a diplomat or an overseas civil servant) a British Council employee the spouse or civil partner of a Crown servant or British Council employee In Scotland, children aged 14 can also register as a Crown servant voter if: their parent or guardian is a Crown servant or British Council employee and is eligible to register as Crown service voter they're living in Scotland, or would be living in Scotland if their parent or guardian were not based overseas Although you can register to vote at 14, you can't vote in any elections until you're 16. Who can register as Crown servant voter You can register as a crown servant voter if you are: a Crown servant (such as a diplomat or an overseas civil servant) a British Council employee the spouse or civil partner of a Crown servant or British Council employee Who can register as Crown servant voter You can register as a Crown servant voter if you are: a Crown servant (such as a diplomat or an overseas civil servant) a British Council employee the spouse or civil partner of a Crown servant or British Council employee If you're from Scotland or Wales, children aged 14 can also register as a Crown service voter if: their parent or guardian is a Crown servant or British Council employee and is eligible to register as Crown service voter they're living in Scotland or Wales, or would be living in Scotland or Wales if their parent or guardian were not based overseas Although you can register to vote at 14, you can't vote in any elections until you're 16. Register to vote You can register as a Crown servant voter online . You will need: your National Insurance number, if you have one your payroll or staff ID number (usually found on your payslip) Register to vote You can register as a Crown servant voter online . You will need: your National Insurance number, if you have one your payroll or staff ID number (usually found on your payslip) Register to vote You can register as a Crown servant voter online . You will need: your National Insurance number, if you have one your payroll or staff ID number (usually found on your payslip) Register to vote You can register as a Crown servant voter online . You will need: your National Insurance number, if you have one your payroll or staff ID number (usually found on your payslip) Register to vote You can register as a Crown servant voter

online . You will need: your National Insurance number, if you have one your payroll or staff ID number (usually found on your payslip) Ways to vote

Vote by post You can apply to vote by post. You will be sent a postal vote ballot pack before the election, which you will need to return to the electoral services team at the council for where you're registered. If you don't think you will have time to receive and return your postal vote ballot pack, you may want to consider voting by proxy (when someone you trust votes on your behalf).

Apply to vote by post

Vote by proxy You can apply to vote by proxy. You can ask someone you trust to cast your vote for you. This is called a proxy vote and the person casting your vote is often referred to as your proxy. The person voting on your behalf can either go to your polling station to cast your vote, or can apply to vote for you by post.

Apply to vote by proxy Ways to vote

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Apply to vote by proxy Ways to vote

Vote by post If you're outside the UK, you can't apply to vote by post as postal votes in Northern Ireland can't be sent outside the UK. Instead, you'll need to apply for a proxy vote . If you're in the UK, you can apply to vote by post. You will be sent a postal vote ballot pack before the election, which you will need to return to the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland . If you don't think you will have time to receive and return your postal vote ballot pack, you may want to consider voting by proxy (when someone you trust votes on your behalf).

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Apply to vote by proxy Ways to vote

Vote by post If you're from England, Scotland or Wales, you can apply to vote by post. If you're from Northern Ireland and are based outside the UK, you can't vote by post as postal votes in Northern Ireland can't be sent outside the UK. Instead, you'll need to apply for a proxy vote (when someone you trust votes on your behalf).

You will be sent a postal vote ballot pack before the election, which you will need to return to the electoral services team at the council for where you're registered.

If you don't think you will have time to receive and return your postal vote ballot pack, you may want to consider voting by proxy (when someone you trust votes on your behalf).

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ask someone you trust to cast your vote for you. This is called a proxy vote and the person casting your vote is often referred to as your proxy. The person voting on your behalf can either go to your polling station to cast your vote, or can apply to vote for you by post. Apply to vote by proxy Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content Register to vote All you need to register to vote is 5 minutes and your National Insurance number. Elections in your area Enter your postcode to find your electoral services team at your local council. You need to send your postal and proxy vote application forms to them. Which elections you can vote in Learn more about which elections you can vote in. Types of elections about the types of elections in the UK.

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any time of year. You will be a sent a postal vote ballot pack before the election.

about how to vote by post . If you're outside the UK, you can't apply to vote by post as postal votes in Northern Ireland can't be sent outside the UK. Instead, you'll need to apply for a proxy vote . Digital Registration Number (DRN) If you registered to vote online, you'll need to provide your Digital Registration Number (DRN) on your application for a postal vote. If you've forgotten your Digital Registration Number (DRN) you can request to be notified of it by completing this form . Voting by post If you used to live in England, Scotland or Wales, you can vote by post. You can also vote by post if you're a service voter or a Crown servant voter based overseas. If you lived in Northern Ireland, you can't vote by post. Postal votes in Northern Ireland can't be sent outside the UK. Instead, you'll need to apply for a proxy vote (when someone you trust votes on your behalf). You can vote in UK Parliamentary general elections. You can't vote in any other elections in the UK. about how to vote by post . Voters in England now need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. You will not need to provide photo ID to vote by post. There are other identification checks, including verification of your signature and date of birth. If you are already registered to vote by post, you don't need to register again. Read more about Overseas voters now need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. You will not need to provide photo ID to vote by post. There are other identification checks, including verification of your signature and date of birth. If you are already registered to vote by post, you don't need to register again. Read more about Voters in Scotland now need to show photo ID to vote at polling places in some elections. You will not need to provide photo ID to vote by post. There are other identification checks, including verification of your signature and date of birth. If you are already registered to vote by post, you don't need to register again. Read more about Voters in Wales now need to show photo ID to vote at polling places in some elections. You will not need to provide photo ID to vote by post. There are other identification checks, including verification of your signature and date of birth. If you are already registered to vote by post, you don't need to register again. Read more about Download the application form To apply to vote by post in England, Scotland or Wales, you need to download, print and fill in the postal vote application form. Postal vote application form (PDF) You can apply for a particular election or referendum, for a specific time period, or for a permanent postal vote. You will need to complete a new postal vote application if you have moved house. Download the application form To apply to vote by post in Wales, England or Scotland, you need to download, print and fill in the postal vote application form. Postal vote application form (PDF) You can apply for a particular election or referendum, for a specific time period, or for a permanent postal vote. You will need to complete a new postal vote application if you have moved house. Download the application form To apply to vote by post in Scotland, England, or Wales, you need to download, print and fill in the postal vote application form. Postal vote application form (PDF) You can apply for a particular election or referendum, for a specific time period, or for a permanent postal vote. You will need to complete a new postal vote application if you have moved house. Download the application form Download the absent vote form and find out more from the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland . Download the application form To apply to vote by post, you need to download, print and fill in the postal vote application form. Postal vote application form (PDF) You can apply for a particular election or referendum, for a specific time period, or for a permanent postal vote. You will need to complete a new postal vote application if you have moved house. Help with the form Help with the form If you're unable to print the application form or need it in an

accessible format, contact the electoral services team at your local council for help. Help with the form Help with the form If you're unable to print the application form or need it in an accessible format, contact the electoral services team at your local council for help. Help with the form Help with the form If you're unable to print the application form or need it in an accessible format, contact your local Electoral Registration Office for help. Help with the form Help with the form If you're unable to print the application form or need it in an accessible format, contact the electoral registration office for help. Filling in your form The application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. You will need to provide your date of birth and signature on your application form. These are used to confirm your identity when you vote by post. If you're unable to sign the form, or are unable to sign in consistent way, contact the electoral services team at your local council for more information. Filling in your form The application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. You will need to provide your date of birth and signature on your application form. These are used to confirm your identity when you vote by post. If you're unable to sign the form, or are unable to sign in consistent way, contact your the electoral services team at your local council for more information. Filling in your form The application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. You will need to provide your date of birth and signature on your application form. These are used to confirm your identity when you vote by post. If you're unable to sign the form, or are unable to sign in a consistent way, you can contact your local Electoral Registration Office for more information and to arrange a waiver for this requirement. Filling in your form The application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. You will need to provide your date of birth and signature, or your Digital Registration Number (DRN) if you registered to vote online, on your application form. These are used to confirm your identity when you vote by post. If you're unable to sign the form, or are unable to sign in consistent way, contact the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland for more information. Filling in your form The application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. You will need to provide your date of birth and signature on your application form. These are used to confirm your identity when you vote by post. If you're unable to sign the form, or are unable to sign in consistent way, contact your electoral registration office for more information.

Where to send your completed form Once you have completed the form and made sure you have signed it, you need to send it to the electoral services team at your local council. You can send your form by post. The electoral services team at your local council may also accept a scanned copy of your form by email, but you should check with them first. You must return your postal vote application form by 5pm, 11 working days before the poll.

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Where to send your completed form Send

your completed form to the electoral registration office where you're registered to vote. You can send your form by post. Your electoral registration office may also accept a scanned copy of your form by email, but you should check with them first. You will be sent a postal vote ballot pack before the election. You'll need to return this to the same electoral registration office. If you don't think you will have time to receive and return your postal vote ballot pack, you may want to consider voting by proxy . Find where to send your form Enter your postcode to find the address of your electoral services team Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Find where to send your form Enter your postcode to find the address of your electoral services team Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Find where to send your form Enter your postcode to find the address of the Electoral Registration Office for your area Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Find where to send your form Enter your postcode (of the address you used when you registered as an overseas voter) to get the address of your electoral registration office Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Check if you already have a postal vote Check if you already have a postal vote If you're not sure if you already have a postal vote, contact the electoral services team at your local council to find out. Check if you already have a postal vote Check if you already have a postal vote If you're not sure if you already have a postal vote, contact the electoral services team at your local council to find out. Check if you already have a postal vote Check if you already have a postal vote If you're not sure if you already have a postal vote, contact your local Electoral Registration Office to find out. Check if you already have a postal vote Check if you already have a postal vote If you're not sure if you already have a postal vote, contact your electoral registration office to find out. When you will receive your ballot paper After the deadline to become a candidate has passed (usually around three weeks before polling day), ballot papers are produced and printed. Yours will then be sent to you, in your postal voting pack. Once you receive your postal voting pack, make sure to keep it somewhere safe. Don't let anyone else handle it, and avoid leaving it where someone else could pick it up. If you won't be at your address to get your postal vote, you might want to think about a proxy vote instead. about how to vote by post When you will receive your ballot paper After the deadline to become a candidate has passed (usually around three weeks before polling day), ballot papers are produced and printed. Yours will then be sent to you, in your postal voting pack. Once you receive your postal voting pack, make sure to keep it somewhere safe. Don't let anyone else handle it, and avoid leaving it where someone else could pick it up. If you won't be at your address to get your postal vote, you might want to think about a proxy vote instead. about how to vote by post . When you will receive your ballot paper After the deadline to become a candidate has passed (usually around three weeks before polling day), ballot papers are produced and printed. Yours will then be sent to you, in your postal voting pack. Once you receive your postal voting pack, make sure to keep it somewhere safe. Don't let anyone else handle it, and avoid leaving it where someone else could pick it up. If you won't be at your address to get your postal vote, you might want to think about a proxy vote instead. about how to vote by post . When you will receive your

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about how to vote by post .

How to cancel your postal vote If you want to cancel your postal vote then you should contact your local council to request this. You must do so before 5pm, 11 working days before the election you will be voting in. If you have already returned your completed postal vote, then you will not be able to cancel it for that election.

How to cancel your postal vote If you want to cancel your postal vote then you should contact the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland to request this. If you have already returned your completed postal vote, then you will not be able to cancel it for that election.

How to cancel your postal vote If you want to cancel your postal vote then you should contact your local electoral registration office to request this. You must do so before 5pm, 11 working days before the election you will be voting in. If you have already returned your completed postal vote, then you will not be able to cancel it for that election.

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Postal vote application forms from parties and campaigners Parties and campaigners may encourage voters to vote by post by issuing postal vote application forms. This could be a paper form sent through the post, or a website with information. Parties are not breaking any rules if they encourage voters to apply to vote by post, and there is information about this in our Code of Conduct for campaigners .

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How to vote by post If you've already applied to vote by post, find out about the process and what you need to do when your postal ballot pack arrives. Elections in your area Enter your postcode to find your electoral services team at your local council. You need to send your postal and proxy vote application forms to them. Apply to vote by proxy Can't get to the polling station on polling day? Ask a trusted person to vote on your behalf and apply for a proxy vote. Register to vote All you need to register to vote is 5 minutes and your National Insurance number.

are in the Other registration options section Home Voter Other registration options
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you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. On this page Help
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have been convicted and are serving a prison sentence of 12 months or less in a UK
prison, and you would usually be resident in Scotland, you can register to vote. You
will be able to vote in: Scottish Parliament elections council elections To register
to vote, you'll need to download and complete an electoral registration and
postal/proxy application form for prisoners. You should use the address in Scotland
where you would be living if you were not in prison, or an address where you have
lived in the past. If you can't give either of those addresses because you were
homeless or are not allowed to return to your previous address, you can give the
address of the prison in the UK where you are detained. Download the form Help with
the form Help with the form If you're unable to print the application form, need it
in an accessible format, or have any questions, contact the Electoral Registration
Office for the address at which you want to register. Filling in your form The
application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. Where to send
your completed form Once you have completed the form and made sure you have signed
it, you need to send it to the Electoral Registration Office for the address at which
you are registering to vote. You can send your form by post. You will be able to find
the contact details and pre-paid and addressed envelopes in the prison library, or
ask a prison officer for one. Find where to send your form Enter your postcode for
the address you're registering at to get the address of the Electoral Registration
Office for the area Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Ways to vote Apply to vote by
post Apply to vote by proxy Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland
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postcode to find your electoral services team at your local council. You need to send
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to the polling station on polling day? Apply to vote by post by downloading and
completing the application form. Apply to vote by proxy Can't get to the polling
station on polling day? Ask a trusted person to vote on your behalf and apply for a
proxy vote.

Online campaigning | Electoral Commission Search Online campaigning You are in the Voter section Home Voter Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Know who is paying for online political ads Your data and the targeting of online political ads What is this ad telling me? Claims made in online political ads Know who is responsible for online political ads On this page Online political ads, know them like they know you Who has a role in the regulation of online political ads? Commonly asked questions Did you know? First published: 15 March 2021 Last updated: 28 May 2021 Online political ads, know them like they know you Are you concerned about who paid for an online political ad you saw? Are you wondering how a political party, candidate or campaigner got your data? Do you think a claim or statistic used in an online political ad is inaccurate or misleading? You've come to the right place You've come to the right place. Political advertising is complex, but we've got simple answers to commonly asked questions. And, if we can't help, we can point you in the right direction. Getting messages to voters is a big part of the democratic process. It's important that political parties and campaigners are able to communicate with you to explain their views and policies, so that you're informed when you vote. But digital campaigning brings new challenges, and we know that the lack of transparency it can bring is a concern for voters. We want to help you understand who is paying to influence your vote. We want you to be confident about political ads you see online, to understand who is targeting you and why. And we want you to know when you can take action if you see something that concerns you. So, let's start with a simple question. Who has a role in the regulation of online political ads? Many regulators have a role, including: Electoral Commission Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) UK Statistics Authority and its executive arm the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) doesn't regulate ads whose principal function is to influence voters in national, local, regional or international elections or referendums. However, the ASA does regulate claims in ads made by local or central government, which aren't considered to be part of an election or referendum campaign – for example a health department stop smoking campaign. It also regulates ads about political issues, for example a proposed airport expansion, placed by an individual, a business, a charity, campaign/ interest group or other type of organisation. Ofcom doesn't have a role in the regulation of online political ads, but it does regulate programmes, including news and current affairs content on TV, radio and some on-demand services. The police are responsible for investigating any possible offences related to online political ads run by candidates standing at elections. Each organisation is responsible for different aspects of political advertising, and each can help address your concerns. Commonly asked questions Here are some commonly asked questions - simply click the links to find the answers and who to contact if you want to know more or want to report concerns. Who's paid for an online political ad? Who's responsible for an online political ad? Are there limits on how much campaigners can spend online? How did a party or campaigner get my data? Why have I been targeted with an online political ad? Concerned about a claim in an online political ad? Did you know? Did you know? When we talk about political advertising online, we don't just mean the promoted posts that you see on social media or the ads you see on websites or apps. We're also talking about other posts on your newsfeed from political parties, candidates and campaigners. These posts aren't paid for. You might see them because you follow a political party, or because a friend has shared their post. Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland

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this page Materials from political parties, candidates and campaigners Types of
material Laws and requirements Our role Campaigning on polling day Pre-election
period Changing the laws on campaign material First published: 6 April 2022 Last
updated: 12 April 2023 Summary Throughout the year, you might see material from
political parties, candidates or campaigners. This could be online or in paper form,
such as a leaflet through your letterbox. Different rules apply to materials from
political parties, candidates and campaigners, depending on its content and who
publishes it. Types of material Campaign material We use 'campaign material' to mean
any material that political parties, candidates or non-party campaigners send to
voters. It could be an update about what's happening in the constituency, information
about a policy, or promotional material for an election or referendum, for example.
Electoral law only covers certain types of campaign material. Election material
Election material has a specific meaning in law: it is material that can be
reasonably regarded as intended to promote an outcome in an election. It could be
promoting a candidate or a political party. We are responsible for ensuring that
election material promoting a political party complies with the relevant rules
whereas the police would investigate material that promotes an identifiable
candidate. Other types of material There are also separate rules about material which
relates to a referendum or promotes an outcome in a recall petition. Laws and
requirements Election material is subject to a number of requirements under electoral
law. Broadly, restrictions under electoral law are that printed and digital election
material must: not make false statements about the personal character or conduct of
any candidate not resemble a poll card abide by further restrictions relating to the
display of material Imprints Imprints All printed election material must include an
imprint. An imprint states who is promoting it and who they're promoting it for.
Usually with election material that's for a specific candidate, the material will be
either published by them or on their behalf. In that case, the candidate's name and
address must appear in the imprint. The imprint rules for candidates only apply once
they are officially a candidate. This is typically about six weeks before the
election. Before that, the candidate imprint rules do not apply. Currently, digital
election material in England, Wales and Northern Ireland does not require an imprint.
In Scotland, digital election material must have an imprint. The UK Government's
Elections Act 2022 introduces digital imprint requirements across the whole UK from
November 2023. about imprints Laws and requirements Other laws relating to published
material also apply to campaign material. Under the Representation of the People Act
1983, campaign material must not contain comments that are defamatory. This means
they should not contain a false statement about the personal character or conduct of
another candidate. Under the Public Order Act 1986, it is an offence to publish or
distribute threatening, abusive or insulting material that is intended to stir up
racial hatred or which is likely to stir up racial hatred. If you have a concern that
campaign material has broken either of these rules, you should contact the police.
What's not in the law There is nothing in law that requires a party to include their
logo on campaign material. There is also no requirement in law to specify what
colours or branding a party needs to use in their material. Our role We encourage all
campaigners to undertake their vital role responsibly and to support campaign
transparency. We also urge all parties and campaigners to consider the confidence of

voters in the way they campaign. Clarity about who is responsible for material that voters are viewing is an important part of maintaining that confidence. We make sure that printed election material complies with electoral law. We also regulate aspects of online campaigning. about online political advertising , as well as who to contact if you have a question or concern. Political materials We don't regulate the content of election or campaign material. If you have concerns or complaints about the content of printed or online election or campaign material, you should contact the political party or candidate who published it. You might see political materials, such as posts on social media, all year round. We don't regulate the content of political material. Campaigning on polling day Campaigning is allowed on polling day, so you might see campaign material on social media or receive a leaflet through your door on polling day itself. But campaign material is not allowed within the perimeters of a polling station. This means there shouldn't be any campaign posters, banners or other advertising literature: in the polling station itself on the polling station building on the land of the polling station, such a car park However, there's nothing to stop the house next door to the polling station from displaying campaign material in the window or putting a banner up in the garden. There may be some local planning restrictions that prevent placards or banners being put up nearby, but this would not be covered by electoral law. Pre-election period We do not have a role in regulating the 'pre-election period' ahead of elections, or purdah as it is sometimes known. You may find useful the information about the pre-election period of sensitivity available from the House of Commons Library. The UK Government publishes guidance on the conduct of civil servants in the pre-election period. The Local Government Association also has a short guide to publicity during the pre-election period. Changing the laws on campaign material Changing the laws on campaign material We are not able to change the laws on campaign material. However, we do urge parties and campaigners to be responsible in how they campaign, and consider the confidence of voters in what they choose to do. Any changes to the laws on campaign material would require a change to legislation in Parliament. Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content Imprints on election campaign material Some election campaign material must state who is promoting it, and who for. about imprints. Online campaigning Online political ads, know them like they know you. Find out about political advertising, from the claims made in ads to the use of your data The electoral register Find out about the electoral register, including the different types, who holds it, and what it can be used for. Types of elections about the types of elections in the UK.

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There are elections in Northern Ireland on 18 May 2023. The deadline to register to vote in these elections is 11:59pm on Friday 28 April. [Register now](#)

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[From October 2023, it will also apply to UK Parliament general elections. Voters in Scotland now need to show photo ID to vote at polling places in some elections. This will apply to: UK](#)

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[show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. This will apply to: Police and Crime Commissioner elections UK parliamentary by-elections Recall](#)

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when you go to the polling station. Apply to vote by post Can't get to the polling station on polling day? Apply to vote by post by downloading and completing the application form. Apply to vote by proxy Can't get to the polling station on polling day? Ask a trusted person to vote on your behalf and apply for a proxy vote. How to vote by post If you've already applied to vote by post, find out about the process and what you need to do when your postal ballot pack arrives. How to vote by proxy If you've already applied to vote by proxy, find out about the process and what your proxy will need to do on polling day. How to vote anonymously Find out what your voting options are if you are registered to vote anonymously. Who can vote Register to vote All you need to register to vote is 5 minutes and your National Insurance number. Which elections you can vote in Learn more about which elections you can vote in. Students Learn more about registering and voting as a student with a home and term-time address. Register to vote anonymously Find out about how to register to vote anonymously for your safety. Other registration options Find out about other options for registering to vote, and what to do if you don't have a fixed or permanent address. Register as a service voter If you're a member of the Armed Forces, you can register as a service voter. How elections work Types of elections about the types of elections in the UK. The electoral register Find out about the electoral register, including the different types, who holds it, and what it can be used for. Report electoral fraud Your vote is yours alone. Find out about electoral fraud and how to report it. Campaigning before an election Online campaigning Online political ads, know them like they know you. Find out about political advertising, from the claims made in ads to the use of your data Campaign material and campaigning on polling day Find out about campaign material and campaigning on polling day. Imprints on election campaign material Some election campaign material must state who is promoting it, and who for. about imprints. Getting involved in democracy Ways to get involved in democracy Did you know, there are lots of ways you can get involved in democracy? Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content Public notification of cyber-attack on Electoral Commission systems We have been the subject of a complex cyber-attack. Find out about the data affected, the potential impact, and the measures we've taken. Find out how to contact us Our research about our research, which helps inform our work and our policies

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location. First published: 8 June 2023 Last updated: 6 July 2023 Local council by-elections A local council by-election happens when a councillor leaves their seat during their term. A seat can become vacant when a councillor: resigns or dies is declared bankrupt is disqualified from being a councillor is convicted of a serious criminal offence When the seat becomes vacant, a local by-election will be called if an election is requested by electors registered to vote in the local area. Who can vote in these elections To vote at a local council by-election you must be registered to vote and: be 18 years of age or over on polling day, or be over 16 years of age in Scotland and Wales be a British, Irish or qualifying Commonwealth citizen, or a qualifying foreign national who is living in Scotland or Wales and has permission to enter or stay in the UK, or who does not need such permission be resident at an address in the UK (or a UK citizen living abroad who has been registered to vote in the UK in the last 15 years) not be legally excluded from voting information about who is eligible to vote . Voting in these elections Local council elections in England use the first-past-the-post system. Councillors in England sit for a four-year term. However, when a councillor is elected through a by-election, they will serve for the remainder of the original term. For example, if a by-election takes place one year after the scheduled local election for that seat, the councillor who is elected will serve for three years until the next scheduled local election. Voting in these elections Local council elections in Wales use the first-past-the-post system. Councillors in Wales sit for a five-year term. However, when a councillor is elected through a by-election, they will serve for the remainder of the original term. For example, if a by-election takes place one year after the scheduled local election for that seat, the councillor who is elected will serve for four years until the next scheduled local election. Voting in these elections Local council elections in Northern Ireland use the single transferable vote system. Councillors in Northern Ireland sit for a four-year term. However, when a councillor is elected through a by-election, they will serve for the remainder of the original term. For example, if a by-election takes place one year after the scheduled local election for that seat, the councillor who is elected will serve for three years until the next scheduled local election. Voting in these elections Local council elections in Scotland use the single transferable vote system which means that you vote using numbers. Your ballot paper will list all the candidates standing for election in your council ward.

Councillors in Scotland sit for a four-year term. However, when a councillor is elected through a by-election, they will serve for the remainder of the original term. For example, if a by-election takes place one year after a local election, the councillor who is elected will serve for three years until the next local election. Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content Types of elections about the types of elections in the UK. Elections in your area Enter your postcode to find your electoral services team at your local council. You need to send your postal and proxy vote application forms to them. Which elections you can vote in Learn more about which elections you can vote in. Voting in person Voting in person on polling day? Learn more about what to expect when you go to the polling station.

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Antarctic Territory British Indian Ocean Territory British Virgin Islands Cayman Islands Falkland Islands Gibraltar Monserrat Pitcairn Island St Helena and dependencies (Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha) South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands Sovereign base areas on Cyprus Turks and Caicos Islands Hong Kong Former residents of Hong Kong who hold a British Dependent Territories, British Nationals (Overseas) or British Overseas passport qualify for registration. EU citizens An "EU citizen" is someone with citizenship of one of these EU member states. EU countries Austria Belgium Bulgaria Croatia Cyprus Czech Republic Denmark Estonia Finland France Germany Greece Hungary Ireland Italy Latvia Lithuania Luxembourg Malta Netherlands Poland Portugal Romania Slovakia Slovenia Spain Sweden Please note: Although also EU member states, citizens of Cyprus and Malta are eligible to be registered to vote in all elections held in the UK. Citizenship British, Irish or qualifying Commonwealth citizens If you hold British, Irish or qualifying Commonwealth citizenship, you can vote in all elections that take place. EU citizens If you hold EU citizenship (other than the Republic of Ireland, Malta and Cyprus), you can vote in most elections that take place. You can't vote in UK Parliamentary general elections. Qualifying foreign citizen If you are a qualifying foreign citizen living in Wales, you can vote in Senedd and local government elections. Citizenship Qualifying Commonwealth citizens The definition of a 'Commonwealth' citizen includes citizens of British Crown dependencies and British overseas territories. A 'qualifying' Commonwealth citizen is someone who has leave to enter or remain in the UK, or who doesn't require that leave. Commonwealth countries Antigua and Barbuda Australia The Bahamas Bangladesh Barbados Belize Botswana Brunei Darussalam Cameroon Canada Cyprus Dominica Fiji Islands Ghana Grenada Guyana India Jamaica Kenya Kingdom of Eswatini Kiribati Lesotho Malawi Malaysia Maldives Malta Mauritius Mozambique Namibia Nauru New Zealand Nigeria Pakistan Papua New Guinea Rwanda St Kitts & Nevis St Lucia St Vincent & The Grenadines Samoa Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Solomon Islands South Africa Sri Lanka The Gambia Tonga Trinidad and Tobago Tuvalu Uganda United Republic of Tanzania Vanuatu Zambia Zimbabwe This table doesn't include the UK. Please note: Although also EU member states, citizens of Cyprus and Malta are eligible to be registered to vote in all elections held in the UK. Citizens of Fiji and Zimbabwe retain their voting rights despite the countries having been suspended from the Commonwealth. British crown dependencies Isle of Man The Channel Islands (including Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, Alderney, Herm and the other inhabited Channel Islands) British overseas territories Anguilla Bermuda British Antarctic Territory British Indian Ocean Territory British Virgin Islands Cayman Islands Falkland Islands Gibraltar Monserrat Pitcairn Island St Helena and dependencies (Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha) South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands Sovereign base areas on Cyprus Turks and Caicos Islands Hong Kong Former residents of Hong Kong who hold a British Dependent Territories, British Nationals (Overseas) or British Overseas passport qualify for registration. EU citizens An "EU citizen" is someone with citizenship of one of these EU member states. EU countries Austria Belgium Bulgaria Croatia Cyprus Czech Republic Denmark Estonia Finland France Germany Greece Hungary Ireland Italy Latvia Lithuania Luxembourg Malta Netherlands Poland Portugal Romania Slovakia Slovenia Spain Sweden Please note: Although also EU member states, citizens of Cyprus and Malta are eligible to be registered to vote in all elections held in the UK. Foreign citizens A qualifying foreign citizen is a citizen of another country who has permission to enter or stay in the UK, or who does not need such permission. Citizenship British, Irish or qualifying Commonwealth citizens If you hold British, Irish or qualifying

Commonwealth citizenship, you can vote in all elections that take place. Qualifying foreign nationals If you are a qualifying foreign national living in Scotland, you can vote in Scottish Parliament and council elections. A qualifying foreign national is a citizen of another country who has permission to enter or stay in the UK, or who does not need such permission. This includes EU citizens. You can't vote in UK Parliamentary elections. Citizenship Qualifying Commonwealth citizens The definition of a 'Commonwealth' citizen includes citizens of British Crown dependencies and British overseas territories. A 'qualifying' Commonwealth citizen is someone who has leave to enter or remain in the UK, or who doesn't require that leave. Commonwealth countries Antigua and Barbuda Australia The Bahamas Bangladesh Barbados Belize Botswana Brunei Darussalam Cameroon Canada Cyprus Dominica Fiji Islands Ghana Grenada Guyana India Jamaica Kenya Kingdom of Eswatini Kiribati Lesotho Malawi Malaysia Maldives Malta Mauritius Mozambique Namibia Nauru New Zealand Nigeria Pakistan Papua New Guinea Rwanda St Kitts & Nevis St Lucia St Vincent & The Grenadines Samoa Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Solomon Islands South Africa Sri Lanka The Gambia Tonga Trinidad and Tobago Tuvalu Uganda United Republic of Tanzania Vanuatu Zambia Zimbabwe This table doesn't include the UK. Please note: Although also EU member states, citizens of Cyprus and Malta are eligible to be registered to vote in all elections held in the UK. Citizens of Fiji and Zimbabwe retain their voting rights despite the countries having been suspended from the Commonwealth. British crown dependencies Isle of Man The Channel Islands (including Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, Alderney, Herm and the other inhabited Channel Islands) British overseas territories Anguilla Bermuda British Antarctic Territory British Indian Ocean Territory British Virgin Islands Cayman Islands Falkland Islands Gibraltar Monserrat Pitcairn Island St Helena and dependencies (Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha) South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands Sovereign base areas on Cyprus Turks and Caicos Islands Hong Kong Former residents of Hong Kong who hold a British Dependent Territories, British Nationals (Overseas) or British Overseas passport qualify for registration. Foreign nationals A qualifying foreign national is a citizen of another country who has permission to enter or stay in the UK, or who does not need such permission. This includes EU citizens. Citizenship British, Irish or qualifying Commonwealth citizens If you hold British, Irish or qualifying Commonwealth citizenship, you can vote in all elections that take place in Northern Ireland. EU citizens If you hold EU citizenship (other than the Republic of Ireland, Malta and Cyprus), you can vote in most elections that take place in Northern Ireland. You can't vote in UK Parliamentary general elections. Citizenship Qualifying Commonwealth citizens The definition of a 'Commonwealth' citizen includes citizens of British Crown dependencies and British overseas territories. A 'qualifying' Commonwealth citizen is someone who has leave to enter or remain in the UK, or who doesn't require that leave. Commonwealth countries Antigua and Barbuda Australia The Bahamas Bangladesh Barbados Belize Botswana Brunei Darussalam Cameroon Canada Cyprus Dominica Fiji Islands Ghana Grenada Guyana India Jamaica Kenya Kingdom of Eswatini Kiribati Lesotho Malawi Malaysia Maldives Malta Mauritius Mozambique Namibia Nauru New Zealand Nigeria Pakistan Papua New Guinea Rwanda St Kitts & Nevis St Lucia St Vincent & The Grenadines Samoa Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Solomon Islands South Africa Sri Lanka The Gambia Tonga Trinidad and Tobago Tuvalu Uganda United Republic of Tanzania Vanuatu Zambia Zimbabwe This table doesn't include the UK. Please note: Although also EU member states, citizens of Cyprus and Malta are eligible to be registered to vote in all elections held in the UK. Citizens of Fiji and Zimbabwe retain their voting rights despite the countries having been suspended from the Commonwealth. British

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if you: are a convicted person detained in pursuance of your sentence, excluding contempt of court (though remand prisoners, unconvicted prisoners and civil prisoners can vote if they are on the electoral register). However, if you are normally resident in Scotland and are serving a combined sentence of 12 months or less anywhere in the UK, you are eligible to register and vote Scottish Parliament elections and council elections in Scotland have been found guilty within the previous five years of corrupt or illegal practices in connection with an election

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You are in the Types of elections section Home Voter Types of elections Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. On this page What does the UK Parliament do? How is it made up? How is it elected? Who is eligible to vote? Find your candidates First published: 12 September 2019 Last updated: 8 June 2023

What does the UK Parliament do? The UK Parliament represents the people of the United Kingdom. It makes decisions and passes laws on a wide range of issues that affect you. How is it made up? The UK Parliament is made up of two 'Houses' – the House of Commons and the House of Lords. House of Commons The House of Commons has 650 Members of Parliament (MPs). Each MP represents a part of the UK called a 'constituency' or 'seat'. MPs debate the big political issues of the day and proposals for new laws.

about the House of Commons House of Lords The House of Lords has over 700 unelected members who scrutinise the work of the House of Commons. Before 1999, the House of Lords was mostly made up of hereditary peers who inherited their title through their family. After 1999, the majority of Lords are now 'life peers'. This means they are appointed for their knowledge or experience in a particular field but do not pass on their title. about the House of Lords How is it elected? The UK Parliament is

elected at a UK general election. At a general election you have one vote to choose a candidate to represent your constituency in the House of Commons. Most candidates are from a political party but there can also be independent candidates. After a general election, the leader of the party with the most MPs is asked by the King to become Prime Minister and to form a government that will run the country. The leader of the party with the second highest number of MPs becomes the Leader of the Opposition. Who

is eligible to vote? To vote at the UK general election you must be registered to vote and: 18 years of age or over on polling day be a British, Irish or qualifying Commonwealth citizen be resident at an address in the UK (or a UK citizen living abroad who has been registered to vote in the UK in the last 15 years) not be legally excluded from voting The following cannot vote in a UK Parliament election: members of the House of Lords EU citizens (other than the Republic of Ireland, Cyprus and Malta) resident in the UK anyone other than British, Irish and qualifying

Commonwealth citizens convicted persons detained in pursuance of their sentences, excluding contempt of court (though remand prisoners, unconvicted prisoners and civil prisoners can vote if they are on the electoral register) anyone found guilty within the previous five years of corrupt or illegal practices in connection with an

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place, you can register at that address if you have been detained long enough for you
to be considered a resident there. If you have only been in custody for a short time
then you can register at the address where you would normally live if you were not in
custody. Register to vote If you are a longer-term remand prisoner, you can also
choose to register at an address where you would be living if you were not a prisoner
on remand, or where you used to live before you were remanded in custody. To register
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2019 Last updated: 26 May 2023 Summary The Mayor of London and London Assembly
represent the people living in London. They work with London's councils, central
government and other organisations on different aspects of London life. The Mayor of
London sets a vision for the city, and the budget to put that vision into action. The
London Assembly holds the mayor to account and investigates issues that are important
to London. There are 25 Assembly Members in total. 14 represent constituencies, and
11 represent all of London. about the Mayor of London and London Assembly Who can
vote in these elections If you are eligible to vote and are registered to vote in
London, you can vote in the Mayor of London and London Assembly elections. Check if
you're eligible to vote Voting in these elections Elections for the Mayor of London
and the London Assembly take place every four years. The next elections are in May
2024. At these elections, you vote for: the Mayor of London your constituency London
Assembly Member the London-wide Assembly Members Mayor of London election The Mayor
of London election uses first-past-the-post system. The ballot paper for the Mayor of
London election is usually pink. It will list the candidates for mayor. You will only
be able to vote for one candidate, by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your
choice. Constituency London Assembly Member The Constituency London Assembly Member
election uses first-past-the-post. The ballot paper for the Constituency London
Assembly Member election is usually yellow. It will list the candidates for your
London Assembly constituency (this is different to your parliamentary constituency).
You can only vote for one candidate, by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your
choice. London-wide Assembly Member The London Assembly election uses the additional
member system. The ballot paper for the London-wide Assembly Member is usually
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a parliament Are you looking for a democracy day out? All four of the parliament buildings in the UK (in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland) are open to visitors throughout the week. A visit is a great way to learn about the history, and also see day to day democracy in action. about visiting the: UK Parliament in Westminster in London Scottish Parliament at Holyrood in Edinburgh Senedd in Cardiff Northern Ireland Assembly at Stormont in Belfast If you're interested in finding out more about democracy in Britain, you could also visit the People's History Museum in Manchester, the national museum of democracy. Watch a debate You can watch debates, proceedings and events taking place in the: UK Parliament Scottish Parliament Senedd Northern Ireland Assembly Stand as a candidate Have you ever considered standing as a candidate? You could become a member of your parish or town council, a local councillor, or even a Member of Parliament. You could also become a member of the Scottish Parliament, the Senedd, or the Northern Ireland Assembly, depending on where you live. We provide guidance for candidates standing in the different types of elections, including information about the nomination process, spending limits, donations, and campaigning. Read our candidate guidance Volunteer for a civil society organisation Organisations like Democracy Club, who we work with to provide our postcode search , often look for volunteers to support their work. Find out about Democracy Club Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location.

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cancel your proxy vote How to cancel your proxy vote First published: 12 January 2019
Last updated: 25 April 2023 Make sure you're registered Make sure you're registered
To vote in any election in the UK, you must be registered to vote. Find out if you're
eligible to register and how to apply Asking a trusted person to vote on your behalf
If you know that you won't be able to get to the polling station on polling day, you
can ask someone you trust to cast your vote for you. This is called a proxy vote and
the person casting your vote is often referred to as your proxy. If you nominate a
proxy, the person you choose to vote on your behalf will need to show their own photo
ID to cast your vote. They will not need to show your ID. The person voting on your
behalf can either go to your polling station to cast your vote, or can apply to vote
for you by post. Find out how to vote by proxy Asking a trusted person to vote on
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polling day, you can ask someone you trust to cast your vote for you. This is called
a proxy vote and the person casting your vote is often referred to as your proxy. If
you nominate a proxy to vote on your behalf in a UK general election or parliamentary
by-election, they'll need to show their own photo ID to cast your vote. They will not
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a proxy vote and the person casting your vote is often referred to as your proxy. The
person voting on your behalf can either go to your polling station to cast your vote,
or can apply to vote for you by post. In Northern Ireland, you can vote by proxy if
you can't get to the polling station on polling day for certain reasons. In certain
circumstances, you can also apply for an indefinite proxy vote. You can do this at

any time of year. Asking a trusted person to vote on your behalf If you're registered as an overseas voter, you can ask someone you trust to cast your vote for you. This is called a proxy vote and the person casting your vote is often referred to as your proxy. You can also vote by proxy if you're a service voter or a Crown servant voter from and are based overseas. If you nominate a proxy, the person you choose to vote on your behalf will need to show their own photo ID to cast your vote. They will not need to show your ID. The person voting on your behalf can either go to your polling station to cast your vote, or can apply to vote for you by post. Download the application form To apply for a proxy vote, you have to complete a form and give a reason why you can't get to your polling station in person. This may be because you're going to be on holiday, or have a physical condition which means you can't get to your polling station on polling day. You will need to complete a new proxy vote application if you have moved house. A proxy vote for a specific election Use this form to apply for a proxy vote for a specific election. This could be because you're on holiday or away for work for an upcoming polling day. Download the form to vote by proxy at a particular election or referendum (PDF) A permanent or long-term proxy vote Use one of these forms if you won't be able to go to the polling station for the foreseeable future, or a long period of time. The form you need to complete depends on the reason why you need a proxy vote. You have a disability (PDF) You are away on an educational course (PDF) You are away for work (PDF) You are registered as an overseas voter (PDF) You work overseas for the British Council or as a Crown servant (PDF) You are serving overseas in the Armed Forces (PDF) You are registered as an anonymous elector (PDF) Download the application form To apply for a proxy vote, you have to complete a form and give a reason why you can't get to your polling station in person. This may be because you're going to be on holiday, or have a physical condition which means you can't get to your polling station on polling day. You will need to complete a new proxy vote application if you have moved house. A proxy vote for a specific election Use this form to apply for a proxy vote for a specific election. This could be because you're on holiday or away for work for an upcoming polling day. Download the form to vote by proxy at a particular election or referendum (PDF) A permanent or long-term proxy vote Use one of these forms if you won't be able to go to the polling station for the foreseeable future, or a long period of time. The form you need to complete depends on the reason why you need a proxy vote. You have a disability (PDF) You are away on an educational course (PDF) You are away for work (PDF) You are registered as an overseas voter (PDF) You work overseas for the British Council or as a Crown servant

(PDF) You are serving overseas in the Armed Forces (PDF) You are registered as an anonymous elector (PDF) Download the application form Download the absent vote form and find out more from the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland . If you registered to vote online, you'll need to provide your Digital Registration Number (DRN) on your application for a proxy vote. Download the application form To apply for a proxy vote, you have to complete a form and give a reason why you can't get to your polling station in person. This may be because you're going to be on holiday, or have a physical condition which means you can't get to your polling station on polling day. You will need to complete a new proxy vote application if you have moved house. A proxy vote for a specific election Use this form to apply for a proxy vote for a specific election. This could be because you're on holiday or away for work for an upcoming polling day. Download the form to vote by proxy at a particular election or referendum (PDF) A permanent or long-term proxy vote Use one of these forms if you won't be able to go to the polling station for the foreseeable future, or a long period of time. The form you need to complete depends on the reason why you need a proxy vote. You are registered as an overseas voter (PDF) You work overseas for the British Council or as a Crown servant (PDF) You are serving overseas in the Armed Forces (PDF) You are registered as an anonymous elector (PDF) Help with the form Help with the form If you're unable to print the application form or need it in an accessible format, contact the electoral services team at your local council for help. Help with the form Help with the form If you're unable to print the application form or need it in an accessible format, contact the electoral services team at your local council for help. Help with the form Help with the form If you're unable to print the application form or need it in an accessible format, contact your local Electoral Registration Office for help. Help with the form Help with the form If you're unable to print the application form or need it in an accessible format, contact the electoral registration office for help. Filling in your form The application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. You will need to provide your date of birth and signature on your application form. Filling in your form The application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. You will need to provide your date of birth and signature on your application form. Filling in your form The application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. You will need to provide your date of birth and signature on your application form. Filling in your form The application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. You will need to provide your date of birth and signature on your application form. Filling in your form The application form includes instructions on how to fill it in correctly. You will need to provide your date of birth and signature on your application form. Digital Registration Number (DRN) If you registered to vote online, you'll need to provide your Digital Registration Number (DRN) on your application for a postal vote. If you've forgotten your Digital Registration Number (DRN) you can request to be notified of it by completing this form . Where to send your completed form Once you have completed the form and made sure you have signed it, you need to send it to the electoral services team at your local council. You can send your form by post. The electoral services team at your local council may also accept a scanned copy of your form by email, but you should check with them first. When applying for a new proxy vote, you must return your proxy vote application form by 5pm, six working days before the poll. When changing or cancelling an existing proxy, postal or postal proxy vote, you must return your proxy vote application form by 5pm, 11 working days before the poll. Where to send your completed form Once you have completed the form and made sure you

have signed it, you need to send it to the electoral services team at your local council. You can send your form by post. The electoral services team at your local council may also accept a scanned copy of your form by email, but you should check with them first. When applying for a new proxy vote, you must return your proxy vote application form by 5pm, six working days before the poll. When changing or cancelling an existing proxy, postal or postal proxy vote, you must return your proxy vote application form by 5pm, 11 working days before the poll. Where to send your completed form Once you have completed the form and made sure you have signed it, you need to send it to your local Electoral Registration Office. You can send your form by post, or you can send a scanned copy by email. When applying for a new proxy vote, you must return your proxy vote application form by 5pm, six working days before the poll. When changing or cancelling an existing proxy, postal or postal proxy vote, you must return your proxy vote application form by 5pm, 11 working days before the poll. Where to send your completed form Once you have completed the form and made sure you have signed it, you need to send it by post to the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland . Where to send your completed form Once you have completed the form and made sure you have signed it, you need to send it to your electoral registration office. You can send your form by post. Your electoral registration office may also accept a scanned copy of your form by email, but you should check with them first. If you're registered as an overseas voter and used to live in Northern Ireland, you need to send it by post to the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland . If you're a service voter or a Crown service voter and you're from Northern Ireland, you also need to send your form by post to the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland . Find where to send your form Enter your postcode to find the address of your electoral services team Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Find where to send your form Enter your postcode to find the address of your electoral services team Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Find where to send your form Enter your postcode to find get the address of your local Electoral Registration Office Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Find where to send your form Enter your postcode (of the address you used when you registered as an overseas voter) to get the address of your electoral registration office Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Check if you already have a proxy vote Check if you already have a proxy vote If you're not sure if you already have a proxy vote, contact the electoral services team at your local council to find out. Check if you already have a proxy vote Check if you already have a proxy vote If you're not sure if you already have a proxy vote, contact the electoral services team at your local council to find out. Check if you already have a proxy vote Check if you already have a proxy vote If you're not sure if you already have a proxy vote, contact your local Electoral Registration Office to find out. Check if you already have a proxy vote Check if you already have a proxy vote If you're not sure if you already have a proxy vote, contact the electoral registration office to find out. Emergency proxy vote In certain circumstances, where you have an emergency that means you can't vote in person, you can apply for an emergency proxy. This must be something that you weren't aware of before the normal proxy vote deadline. You have a medical emergency (PDF) You are away for work (PDF) Your photo ID is lost, stolen, destroyed or damaged , and the deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate has passed. This form can also be used if your Anonymous Elector's Document is lost, stolen, destroyed or damaged. These applications can be made up to 5pm on polling day. Emergency proxy vote In certain circumstances, where you have an emergency that means you can't vote in person, you can apply for an emergency proxy. This must be something that you weren't aware of before the normal proxy vote deadline. You have a medical emergency

You are away for work (PDF) Your photo ID is lost, stolen, destroyed or damaged , and the deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate has passed. This form can also be used if your Anonymous Elector's Document is lost, stolen, destroyed or damaged. These applications can be made up to 5pm on polling day. Emergency proxy vote In certain circumstances, where you have an emergency that means you can't vote in person, you can apply for an emergency proxy. This must be something that you weren't aware of before the normal proxy vote deadline. You have a medical emergency and intend to vote in an election in Scotland (PDF) Complete this form if you intend to vote in a local council election or Scottish Parliamentary election. If you intend to vote in another election, you should complete the form below. You have a medical emergency and intend to vote in any other election (PDF) You are away for work (PDF) You are a Scottish prisoner serving a sentence of 12 months or less (PDF) You need to change your existing proxy for a Scottish council election (PDF) Complete this form to apply for a new proxy for a local council election if your existing proxy cannot vote in person on your behalf. Your photo ID is lost, stolen, destroyed or damaged , and the deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate has passed. This form can also be used if your Anonymous Elector's Document is lost, stolen, destroyed or damaged. These applications can be made up to 5pm on polling day. Emergency proxy vote In certain circumstances, where you have an emergency that means you can't vote in person, you can apply for an emergency proxy. This must be something that you weren't aware of before the normal proxy vote deadline. You have a medical emergency and intend to vote in an election in Scotland (PDF) Complete this form if you intend to vote in a Scottish Parliamentary election. If you intend to vote in another election, you should complete the form below. You have a medical emergency (PDF) You are away for work (PDF) You are a Scottish prisoner serving a sentence of 12 months or less (PDF) You live in England, Scotland or Wales and your photo ID is lost, stolen, destroyed or damaged , and the deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate has passed. This form can also be used if your Anonymous Elector's Document is lost, stolen, destroyed or damaged. These applications can be made up to 5pm on polling day. Postal proxy vote Postal proxy vote If your trusted person can't get to the polling station, they can apply to vote for you by post. This is called a postal proxy vote. The deadline to apply for a postal proxy vote is 5pm, 11 working days before the poll. They will need to contact the electoral services team at your local council for more details and to request a further application form. Postal proxy vote Postal proxy vote If your trusted person can't get to the polling station, they can apply to vote for you by post. This is called a postal proxy vote. The deadline to apply for a postal proxy vote is usually 5pm, 11 working days before the poll. They will need to contact the electoral services team at your local council for more details and to request a further application form. Postal proxy vote Postal proxy vote If your trusted person can't get to the polling place, they can apply to vote for you by post. This is called a postal proxy vote. The deadline to apply for a postal proxy vote is usually 5pm, 11 working days before the poll. They will need to contact the Electoral Registration Office for your area for more details and to request a further application form. Postal proxy vote Postal proxy vote If your trusted person can't get to the polling station, they can apply to vote for you by post. This is called a postal proxy vote. They will need to contact the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland for more details. Postal proxy vote Postal proxy vote If your trusted person can't get to the polling station, they can apply to vote for you by post. This is called a postal proxy vote. The deadline to apply for a postal proxy vote is usually 5pm, 11 working days before the poll. They will need to contact the

electoral services team at your local council for more details and to request a further application form.

How to cancel your proxy vote If you have nominated a proxy, but then change your mind and wish to vote yourself, then you have several options. One option is that you can apply to cancel your proxy vote. In England and Wales contact your local council. In Scotland contact your electoral registration office. The deadline to cancel a proxy vote in England, Scotland and Wales is before 5pm, 11 working days before the election. If a completed postal proxy vote has already been returned, the proxy arrangements cannot be cancelled for that election. Another option is for you to vote in person. You are able to do this, as long as you do so before your proxy. This is not an option if your proxy has already voted by post on your behalf. Alternatively you can apply for a postal vote. The deadline to do so is 5pm, 11 working days before the election you will be voting in. This postal application will then supersede the voting by proxy application.

How to cancel your proxy vote Contact the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland for more information on this.

How to cancel your proxy vote England, Scotland and Wales If you have nominated a proxy, but then change your mind and wish to vote yourself, then you have several options. One option is that you can apply to cancel your proxy vote. In England and Wales contact your local council. In Scotland contact your electoral registration office. The deadline to cancel a proxy vote in England, Scotland and Wales is before 5pm, 11 working days before the election. If a completed postal proxy vote has already been returned, the proxy arrangements cannot be cancelled for that election. Another option is for you to vote in person. You are able to do this, as long as you do so before your proxy. This is not an option if your proxy has already voted by post on your behalf. Alternatively you can apply for a postal vote. The deadline to do so is 5pm, 11 working days before the election you will be voting in. This postal application will then supersede the voting by proxy application.

Northern Ireland Contact the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland for more information on this.

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Applying for a Voter Authority Certificate | Electoral Commission Search

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Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. On this page How to apply How to apply Information you will need to provide Information you will need to provide Providing a photograph Providing a photograph Processing your application Processing your application Showing ID as an anonymous elector Showing ID as an anonymous elector First published: 3 January 2023 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.

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 .

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 .

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person You are in the Voter section Home Voter Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. On this page If you're in the UK Your polling station Your polling station Your polling place Your polling station Your polling station Take ID Opening times Opening times Opening times Opening times Opening times Tellers Tellers Tellers Tellers How to vote in person How to vote in person How to vote in person How to vote in person If your photo ID is refused Asking for help Asking for help Asking for help Asking for help Asking for help Campaigning on polling day Campaigning on polling day Campaigning on polling day Campaigning on polling day Campaigning on polling day First published: 12 September 2019 Last updated: 3 January 2023 Make sure you're registered Make sure you're registered To vote in any election in the UK, you must be registered to vote. Find out if you're eligible to register and how to apply Make sure you're registered Make sure you're registered To vote in any election in the UK, you must be registered to vote. Find out if you're eligible to register and how to apply Make sure you're registered Make sure you're registered To vote in any election in the UK, you must be registered to vote. Find out if you're eligible to register and how to apply Make sure you're registered Make sure you're registered To vote in any election in the UK, you must be registered to vote. Find out if you're eligible to register and how to apply If you're in the UK If you happen to be in the UK on polling day, you can vote in person at your polling station. If you have a postal vote, you won't be able to vote at the polling station, but you can hand in your completed postal ballot at the polling station. If you have a proxy vote, you will only be able to vote at the polling station if your proxy hasn't already voted on your behalf. Your polling station When you vote in person, you go to the polling station allocated to you based on your address on the electoral register. Before you go to vote, check where your polling station is. It might not be the closest one to where to you live, and it might have changed since the last time you voted. You have to go to your allocated polling station, and you can't go to a different one close to where you work, for example. Your polling station will be on your poll card, which you'll receive through the post a few weeks before polling day. If you are voting in an election that requires photo ID then make sure you have an accepted form of photo ID or your Voter Authority Certificate with you before you go to the polling station. Your polling station When you vote in person, you go to the polling station allocated to you based on your address on the electoral register. Before you go to vote, check where your polling station is. It might not be the closest one to where to you live, and it might have changed since the last time you voted. You have to go to your allocated polling station, and you can't go to a different one close to where you work, for example. Your polling station will be on your poll card, which you'll receive through the post a few weeks before polling day. If you are voting in an election that requires photo ID then make sure you have an accepted form of photo ID or your Voter Authority Certificate with you before you go to the polling station. Your polling place When you vote in person, you go to the polling place allocated to you based on your address on the electoral register. Before you go to vote, check where your polling place is. It might not be the closest one to where to you live, and it might have changed since the last time you voted. You have to go to your allocated polling place, and you can't go to a different one close to where you work,

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forms of photo ID , and how to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate . Learn more

Opening times Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm on polling day. They can get busy, particularly towards the end of the day. If there's a queue at your polling station, you'll still be able to vote as long as you joined the queue before 10pm. If you need help getting to your polling station, you can contact your local council.

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Tellers Tellers You might see people waiting outside the polling station who ask you for the number on your poll card. These people are called 'tellers', and are volunteering on behalf of candidates. They use the information people give them to check who has voted, and remind people who haven't to do so. They are allowed to be there and to ask for the information, but you don't have to give them any information if you don't want to. If you are concerned about the conduct of a teller, speak to a member of staff at the polling station.

Greeters at polling stations We're aware that staff acting as greeters may be used in some polling stations to welcome voters, remind them about the need to show photographic ID, and help speed up the voting process.

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How to vote in person Check where your polling station is , and go

to vote between 7am and 10pm on polling day. When you arrive at your polling station, a staff member will ask for your name and address, and check that you are on the electoral register. If you are voting in an election that requires photo ID, you will need to show photo ID to vote. They will ask to see your ID, check that it's accepted , and that it looks like you. If you are registered to vote anonymously , you will be asked to show your poll card and Anonymous Elector's Document (AED). A private area will be available should you choose to have your photo ID viewed in private. This might be a separate room, or an area separated by a privacy screen, depending on the polling station. The staff member will cross your name off the register and give you a ballot paper listing the candidates you can vote for. You might be given more than one ballot paper if there is more than one election taking place in your local area on the same day. Take your ballot paper (or papers) to a polling booth, so that you can cast your vote in secret. Read the instructions on the ballot paper carefully. Some elections use different voting methods, so you need to make sure you fill in each ballot paper correctly. Complete your ballot paper using the pencil provided in the polling booth. You can also use your own pen if you want to. Don't write anything else on the paper, or your vote may not be counted. If you make a mistake, don't put your ballot paper in the ballot box. Ask the polling station staff for a replacement ballot paper, and fill it in again. Once you're done, fold your completed ballot paper and put it in the ballot box.

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Taking photos Taking photos inside the polling station isn't allowed as it might risk the secrecy of the ballot. You are more than welcome to take photos outside the polling station, and share them on social media to encourage your friends and family to vote.

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Face coverings Face coverings If you wear a face covering for any reason, such as a mask worn on medical grounds or a face veil worn on religious grounds, you will be asked to remove it so polling station staff can

check your ID looks like you. You can ask to have your ID checked in private. You can also request that a female member of staff checks your ID. This request will be granted if possible. There will be a mirror available in the polling station to allow you to replace your face covering once your ID has been checked. If you have any questions about voting in person at the polling station you may wish to contact your Returning Officer to discuss this. Find the contact details

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Taking photos inside the polling place isn't allowed as it might risk the secrecy of the ballot. You are more than welcome to take photos outside the polling place, and share them on social media to encourage your friends and family to vote. Postal ballot papers are viewed differently in electoral law to ballot papers in a polling station, so voters can take a photo of their own postal ballot paper and publicise it (including on social media) if they want to. It is the personal choice of the voter whether they decide to take a photo of their postal ballot paper and share it. It is an offence to persuade or induce another person to share a photo of their postal ballot paper.

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vote by proxy You are in the Voter section Home Voter Your location: Change
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April 2021 Last updated: 23 January 2023 Apply for a proxy vote If you want to vote
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on your behalf. You'll need to tell your proxy who you would like to vote for.
Someone can be your proxy if they are: 18 or over registered to vote able to get to
your polling station on polling day eligible to vote in the election Your proxy does
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their close relatives, plus two other people. Ask someone you trust to be your proxy
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voting by proxy, you need to ask someone to trust to cast your vote on your behalf.
You'll need to tell your proxy who you would like to vote for. Someone can be your

proxy if they are: 16 or over if they're a proxy for a Scottish Parliament, Scottish council, or Senedd election, and 18 or over for all other elections registered to vote able to get to your polling station on polling day eligible to vote in the election Your proxy does not have to be related to you. At the same election, someone can only be a proxy for their close relatives, plus two other people. You now need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. This will apply to UK Parliament general elections from October 2023. about accepted forms of photo ID , how to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate , and which elections you will need photo ID for. If you nominate a proxy, the person you choose to vote on your behalf will need to show their own photo ID to cast your vote. They will not need to show your ID. Learn more You now need to show photo ID to vote at polling places in some elections. This will apply to UK Parliament general elections from October 2023. about accepted forms of photo ID , how to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate , and which elections you will need photo ID for. If you nominate a proxy, the person you choose to vote on your behalf will need to show their own photo ID to cast your vote. They will not need to show your ID. Learn more If you are voting at a polling station you now need photo ID. This will apply to UK Parliament general elections from October 2023. about accepted forms of photo ID , how to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate , and which elections you will need photo ID for. If you nominate a proxy, the person you choose to vote on your behalf will need to show their own photo ID to cast your vote. They will not need to show your ID. Learn more What your appointed proxy needs to do on polling day The person you have appointed as your proxy will need to go to your polling station to cast your vote. They will receive a proxy poll card telling them where and when to cast your vote for you. For some elections your proxy will need to show their own photo ID when voting in the polling station on your behalf. Learn more about which elections require photo ID . If they don't receive a proxy poll card, they should inform the electoral services team at your local council. They will be able to tell them where to go and vote and any other information needed. You can still vote in person if you have a proxy vote, but only if you do so before your proxy has voted for you. What your appointed proxy needs to do on polling day The person you have appointed as your proxy will need to go to your polling station to cast your vote. They will receive a proxy poll card telling them where and when to cast your vote for you. For some elections your proxy will need to show their own photo ID when voting in the polling station on your behalf. Learn more about which elections require photo ID . If they don't receive a proxy poll card, they should inform the electoral services team at your local council. They will be able to tell them where to go and vote and any other information needed. You can still vote in person if you have a proxy vote, but only if you do so before your proxy has voted for you. What your appointed proxy needs to do on polling day The person you have appointed as your proxy will need to go to your polling station to cast your vote. Your trusted person will need to take a correct form of ID with them to the polling station so

they can vote on your behalf. This should be their own ID rather than yours. They will receive a proxy poll card telling them where and when to cast your vote for you. If they don't receive a proxy poll card, they should check with the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland . They will be able to tell your proxy where to go and vote. You can still vote in person if you have a proxy vote, but only if you do so before your proxy has voted for you. What your appointed proxy needs to do on polling day The person you have appointed as your proxy will need to go to your polling station to cast your vote. They will need to take their own photo ID with them. Your proxy will receive a proxy poll card telling them where and when to cast your vote for you. If they don't receive a proxy poll card, they should inform the electoral registration office. They will be able to tell them where to go and vote and any other information needed. If you happen to be in the UK on polling day, you can vote in person at your polling station. You will need to show photo ID. You will only be able to vote at the polling station if your proxy hasn't already voted on your behalf. Find your polling station Enter your postcode to find out where your polling station is. Your polling station information will be available approximately two weeks before polling day. Your polling station will also be on your poll card. Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Find your polling station Enter your postcode to find out where your polling station is. Your polling station information will be available approximately two weeks before polling day. Your polling station will also be on your poll card. Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Find your polling place Enter your postcode to find out where your polling place is. Your polling place information will be available approximately two weeks before polling day. Your polling place will also be on your poll card. Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Find your polling station Enter your postcode to find out where your polling station is. If you're an overseas voter, this will be the address you used when you registered as an overseas voter. Your polling station information will be available approximately two weeks before polling day. Enter a postcode Submit Postcode Postal proxy vote Postal proxy vote If your trusted person can't get to the polling station, they can apply to vote for you by post. This is called a postal proxy vote. The deadline to apply for a postal proxy vote is 5pm, 11 working days before the poll. Your trusted person will need to contact the electoral services team at your local council for more details and to request a further application form. If your proxy is voting in an election that requires photo ID, and their form of accepted photo ID has been lost, stolen, destroyed or damaged then they may be able to apply for an emergency proxy . Postal proxy vote Postal proxy vote If your trusted person can't get to the polling station, they can apply to vote for you by post. This is called a postal proxy vote. The deadline to apply for a postal proxy vote is 5pm, 11 working days before the poll. Your trusted person will need to contact the electoral services team at your local council for more details and to request a further application form. If your proxy is voting in an election that requires photo ID, and their form of accepted photo ID has been lost, stolen, destroyed or damaged then they may be able to apply for an emergency proxy . Postal proxy vote Postal proxy vote If your trusted person can't get to the polling place, they can apply to vote for you by post. This is called a postal proxy vote. The deadline to apply for a postal proxy vote is usually 5pm, 11 working days before the poll. Your trusted person will need to contact your local Electoral Registration Office for more details and to request a further application form. If your proxy is voting in an election that requires photo ID, and their form of accepted photo ID has been lost, stolen, destroyed or damaged then they may be able to apply for an emergency proxy . Postal proxy vote Postal proxy vote If your trusted person can't get to the polling station,

they can apply to vote for you by post. This is called a postal proxy vote. The deadline to apply for a postal proxy vote is 5pm, 11 working days before the poll. Your trusted person will need to contact the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland for more details and to request a further application form. Postal proxy vote

Postal proxy vote If your trusted person can't get to the polling station, they can apply to vote for you by post. This is called a postal proxy vote. The deadline to apply for a postal proxy vote is usually 5pm, 11 working days before the poll. Your trusted person will need to contact the electoral registration office for more details and to request a further application form. If your proxy's form of accepted photo ID has been lost, stolen, destroyed or damaged then they may be able to apply for an emergency proxy .

How to cancel your proxy vote If you have nominated a proxy, but then change your mind and wish to vote yourself, then you have several options. One option is that you can apply to cancel your proxy vote. In England and Wales contact your local council. In Scotland contact your electoral registration office. The deadline to cancel a proxy vote in England, Scotland and Wales is before 5pm, 11 working days before the election. If a completed postal proxy vote has already been returned, the proxy arrangements cannot be cancelled for that election. Another option is for you to vote in person. You are able to do this, as long as you do so before your proxy. This is not an option if your proxy has already voted by post on your behalf. Alternatively you can apply for a postal vote. The deadline to do so is 5pm, 11 working days before the election you will be voting in. This postal application will then supersede the voting by proxy application.

How to cancel your proxy vote Contact the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland for more information on this.

How to cancel your proxy vote England, Scotland and Wales If you have nominated a proxy, but then change your mind and wish to vote yourself, then you have several options. One option is that you can apply to cancel your proxy vote. In England and Wales contact your local council. In Scotland contact your electoral registration office. The deadline to cancel a proxy vote in England, Scotland and Wales is before 5pm, 11 working days before the election. If a completed postal proxy vote has already been returned, the proxy arrangements cannot be cancelled for that election. Another option is for you to vote in person. You are able to do this, as long as you do so before your proxy. This is not an option if your proxy has already voted by post on your behalf. Alternatively you can apply for a postal vote. The deadline to do so is 5pm, 11 working days before the election you will be voting in. This postal application will then supersede the voting by proxy application.

Northern Ireland Contact the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland for more information on this.

Emergency proxy In certain circumstances, where you have an emergency that means you can't vote in person, you can apply for an emergency proxy .

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from other sources. This can include information about your online shopping habits
and other data gathered by electronic tools such as 'cookies', 'social plugins' and
'tracking pixels'. These tools track your browsing habits, likes and social
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– this is called microtargeting. Microtargeting analyses your personal data to
identify your interests, with the aim of influencing your actions. So, if you 'like'
or follow a political party or show an interest in a particular issue on a social
media platform, personalised adverts related to that party or issue may be displayed
to you. If you're concerned about your data privacy there are a number of things you
can do. The Information Commission's Office (ICO) provides helpful advice to help you
protect your data. Be aware of how and why you are seeing certain messages online The
use of data analytics and targeted marketing is common. It can be beneficial to
users, for example by showing you things that are relevant and interesting to you.
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and second homes You are in the Other registration options section Home Voter Other registration options Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. On this page Registering to vote Voting Registering to vote Voting Registering to vote Voting Registering to vote Voting First published: 24 March 2022 Last updated: 1 April 2022 Registering to vote If you split your time between two homes, you may be able to register to vote at both addresses. For example, you might own two properties and split your time between them, or you might spend time at different family addresses. If you apply to register to vote from your second home, then your application will be looked at on a case by case basis. The outcome will depend on the amount of time you spend at each of your addresses. Find out if you're eligible to register and how to apply . Voting Being registered at two addresses doesn't necessarily mean you get two votes. You will need to choose one address and vote in only that area when you're voting in: UK Parliament elections UK referendums London Assembly and London Mayoral elections You can't vote at both addresses at these elections. Voting in more than one location is a criminal offence. For other elections you can vote at both addresses. You can choose to vote in either or both areas (as long as the addresses are in different council areas) when you're voting in: Local council elections in England Police and Crime commissioner elections and mayoral elections Make sure you understand the rules for the election you are voting in. Registering to vote If you split your time between two homes, you may be able to register to vote at both addresses. For example, you might own two properties and split your time between them, or you might spend time at different family addresses. If you apply to register to vote from your second home, then your application will be looked at on a case by case basis. The outcome will depend on the amount of time you spend at each of your addresses. Find out if you're eligible to register and how to apply . Voting Being registered to vote at two addresses doesn't mean you get two votes. If you are registered at two addresses in Scotland then you must choose one address and vote in that area when you're voting in: UK Parliamentary elections Scottish Parliament elections Council elections in Scotland A referendum Voting in more than one location is a criminal offence. The only exception is if one of your addresses is in Scotland and the other is somewhere else in the UK, and you're voting in a council election. In this case, you can vote in the council election in Scotland and in the local election in England, Wales or Northern Ireland. Registering to vote If you split your time between two homes, you may be able to register to vote at both addresses. For example, you might own two properties and split your time between them, or you might spend time at different family addresses. If you apply to register to vote from your second home, then your application will be looked at on a case by case basis. The outcome will depend on the amount of time you spend at each of your addresses. Find out if you're eligible to register and how to apply . Voting Being registered at two addresses doesn't necessarily mean you get two votes. You will need to choose one address and vote in only that area when you're voting in: UK Parliament elections Senedd elections UK referendums You can't vote at both addresses at these elections. Voting in more than one location is a criminal offence. For other elections you can vote at both addresses. You can choose to vote in either or both areas (as long as the addresses are in different council areas) when you're voting in: Local council elections in Wales Police and Crime commissioner elections Make sure you understand the rules for the election you are voting in. Registering to vote If you split your time between two homes, you may be able to register to vote at both

addresses. For example, you might own two properties and split your time between them, or you might spend time at different family addresses. If you apply to register to vote from your second home, then your application will be looked at on a case by case basis. The outcome will depend on the amount of time you spend at each of your addresses. Find out if you're eligible to register and how to apply . Voting You will need to choose one address and vote in only that area when you're voting in: UK Parliament elections Northern Ireland Assembly elections UK referendums You can't vote at both addresses at these elections. Voting in more than one location is a criminal offence. For local council elections in Northern Ireland you can choose to vote in either or both areas, as long as the addresses are in different council areas. Make sure you understand the rules for the election you are voting in. Are you eligible to register to vote? Are you eligible to register to vote? Find out if you're eligible to register and how to apply. Voting as a student? Voting as a student? about voting at your home address and term-time address. Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location.