

Electoral Services Privacy Notice

The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) and Returning Officer (RO) are data controllers who collect and use information about residents to enable us to carry out specific functions for which we are statutorily responsible.

The lawful basis to collect this information is that it is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest and exercise of official authority as vested in the Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer.

We keep records about potential and actual electors, voters, citizens, candidates and their agents, staff employed at an election and the people we need to pay. These may be written down or kept on a computer.

These records may include:

- basic details about you – for example, your name, address, date of birth and nationality
- unique identifiers (such as your NI number)
- scanned application forms & dates of any letters of correspondence
- notes about any relevant circumstances that you have told us
- your previous or any redirected address
- the other occupants in your home
- If you are over 76 or under 18
- whether you have chosen to opt out of the Open version of the Register of Electors

We will, based on your nationality, include your name on the Electoral Register so that you are able to vote.

As part of the registration process we are permitted by law to undertake local data matching to verify your application to register.

It is important that our records are accurate and up-to-date as they will help make sure that our staff are able to provide you with the help, advice or support you need.

How long will we keep it for?

The Electoral Registration Officer & Returning Officer need to process your personal data in order to prepare for and conduct elections. Your details will be kept and updated in accordance with our legal obligations and in line with statutory retention periods and the periods in our [retention schedule](#).

Occasions when your information needs to be shared include:

- with our printers and software providers, to compile and manage the register, to print your poll cards, postal vote packs and other electoral material
- with registered political parties, elected representatives, candidates, agents and other permitted participants who can use it for electoral purposes only
- with Credit reference agencies, the British Library, UK Statistics Authority, the Electoral Commission and other statutory recipients of the Electoral Register
- details of whether you have voted (but not how you have voted) with those who are entitled in law to receive it after an election
- where the health and safety of others is at risk

- when the law requires us to pass on information under special circumstances, crime prevention or the detection of fraud as part of the National Fraud Initiative

We are required by law to report certain information to appropriate authorities – for example:

- where a formal court order has been issued
- for the prevention or detection of a crime
- to the Jury Central Summoning Bureau indicating those persons who are aged 76 or over and are no longer eligible for jury service

Partner organisations

To verify your identity, the data you provide will be processed by the Individual Electoral Registration Digital Service managed by the Cabinet Office. As part of this process your data will be shared with the Department of Work and Pensions and the Cabinet Office suppliers that are data processors for the Individual Electoral Registration Digital Service. You can find more information about this here:

<https://www.registertovote.service.gov.uk/register-to-vote/privacy>.

How we protect your personal information

We are strongly committed to data security and we take reasonable and appropriate steps to protect your personal information from unauthorised access, loss, misuse, alteration or corruption. We have put in place physical, electronic, and managerial procedures to seek to safeguard the information you provide to us.

Voter Authority Certificate Public Beta Trial

The public beta scope test will require electors to apply for Voter Authority Certificates (VACs), either electronically or by paper application, to be processed by an online portal (hosted by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)). This will include the transfer of approved application for preparation, printing, and dissemination of the VAC to individuals.

The personal information noted above will be shared with DLUHC in addition to the information noted below for the purposes of the public beta scope test to cover the application and assessment, and VAC printing and dissemination stages.

For the application stage, the following additional personal information will be collected and shared:

- Photograph (recent) – electronic (online) or hard copy
- Required technical data like IP address (if online)
- Phone number (optional)
- Email address (optional)
- Cookie/behavior tracking data

For the printing and distribution of the VAC, the following additional personal information will be collected and shared:

- Photo image
- Other information: Issue/expiry dates and VAC issue number

The following special category data may be collected and shared (not exhaustive):

- Health and disability data pertaining to why a photo cannot be provided
- Religious affiliation pertaining to photo requirements
- Criminal records data where further evidence relating to an application is made by the applicant

If special category and/or criminal data is processed this will, in addition to the lawful basis noted above, be done under:

- The Data Protection Act 2018, Part 2, Chapter 2, section 8(e), for an activity that supports or promotes democratic engagement
- UK GDPR Article 9(2)(g), where processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest.

The Open Register

There are two registers. Why?

Using information received from the public, registration officers keep two registers – the electoral register and the open register (also known as the edited register).

The electoral register

The electoral register lists the names and addresses of everyone who is registered to vote in public elections.

The register is used for electoral purposes, such as making sure only eligible people can vote. It is also used for other limited purposes specified in law, such as:

- detecting crime (e.g. fraud)
- calling people for jury service
- checking credit applications.

The open register

The open register is an extract of the electoral register, but is not used for elections. It can be bought by any person, company or organisation. For example, it is used by businesses and charities to confirm name and address details.

Your name and address will be included in the open register unless you ask for them to be removed. Removing your details from the open register does not affect your right to vote.

If you are concerned that having your name or address on the register may affect your safety, there could be other options available to you. In certain circumstances, you can register without your name and address showing on the register. To find out

more, please contact your Electoral Registration Officer. You can find their address on p1 of this form. You can find out more information about both registers and how they may be used at [gov.uk/register-to-vote](https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

You can opt out of the open register at any time by emailing electors@eastherts.gov.uk.

Can I see my records?

The Data Protection Act 2018 allows you to find out what information is held about you, on paper and computer records. This is known as 'right of subject access' and applies to your Electoral Services records along with all other personal records.

If you wish to see a copy of your records you should contact the Data Protection Officer. You are entitled to receive a copy of your records free of charge, within a month.

In certain circumstances access to your records may be limited, for example, if the records you have asked for contain information relating to another person.

Requesting access to your personal data

Under data protection legislation, you have the right to request access to information about you that we hold. To make a request for your personal information contact the Data Protection Officer using the contact details in the link below.

You also have the right to:

- object to processing of personal data that is likely to cause, or is causing, damage or distress
- prevent processing for the purpose of direct marketing
- object to decisions being taken by automated means
- in certain circumstances, have inaccurate personal data rectified, blocked, erased or destroyed; and
- You can also request copies of your personal information in an easily readable format to use with other organisations

If you have a concern about the way we are collecting or using your personal data, we request that you raise your concern with us in the first instance by contacting our Data Protection Officer. Alternatively, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Further information

If you would like to know more about how we use your information and how to contact us about any data protection queries, please see our [Corporate Privacy Notice](#).