

Dear

The 582 wards in NI are divided into three different canvass types – Urban, Mixed & Rural. In 2005 canvassers performed a collection visit only (post out by Royal Mail) and were paid as follows:

Urban Ward - £0.54 per house
Mixed Ward - £0.69 per house
Rural Ward - £0.93 per house

The fee per house includes an amount to cover fuel and wear and tear of the canvasser's car.

Canvassers travelling by car from home to the area electoral office with completed registration forms will be paid return mileage at £0.40 per mile.

Canvassers must have business cover on their motor vehicle insurance policy. Travel expenses are not taxed.

Canvassers also receive holiday pay and this is arrived at by multiplying their taxable pay by a factor of 0.085.

Not all the canvasser's fee is taxable. For example if a canvasser visits 500 houses in an urban ward they are paid $500 * £0.54 = £ 270.00$ but they are taxed on £233.28 + holiday pay. The tax free allowances have been agreed with Revenue & Customs in NI. The figure of £233.28 is divided by the national minimum wage hourly rate to give the maximum number of hours the canvasser can work.

Canvassers are liable to pay income tax and national insurance unless they indicate otherwise.

I hope this is helpful.

Regards,

Information Officer.