

Dear

The Electoral Revision Courts you refer to are now called Hearings. Whenever a person applies to be included on the Electoral Register they complete a registration form. If they are new to the Register (i.e. they are not simply changing address or turning 17 years of age) they may be asked to provide proof that they are resident at the address given. This may be in the form of a bank statement, utility bill, etc. and is usually sent in by post. If the documentation is not submitted, or the Registration Officer for some reason is not fully satisfied as to the validity of the application, they may ask the applicant (or their representative) to attend a Hearing. They will be asked to bring the proof of residence with them and at the Hearing their application for registration will be considered.

Any elector may lodge an objection to an applicant being included on the Register. In this case, the objector and the applicant may attend the hearing where the details of the objection will be heard and the Registration Officer will decide whether to accept or reject it.

Hearings are almost obsolete these days as the vast amount of new applicants send in their documentation by post and it is accepted and objections to registration are very rare. They are not open to the public; the only people who may attend are the applicant, their representative, the objector and an interested party whose presence has been agreed with the Registration Officer.

The relevant legislation is the Representation of the People (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2001.

An overview of the Hearing process can be found on the Registration FAQs page of our website.

We do not hold any information relating to the operation of Electoral Revision Courts prior to 1918.

I hope this is helpful.

Regards,

Information Officer