

FOI request dated 1 April 2009

Dear

The answers to the questions posed in your email of 31 March 2009 are as follows –

1. How many letters have been sent out by the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland to households of 6 or more as part of the review of their registration status?

A 7,686

2. How many individuals who have received letters as part of this process have failed to meet the 14 day deadline and have been removed from the Electoral Register?

A. Because in the course of the exercise Electoral Office staff obtained access to the DWP database in Northern Ireland and could use it to check addresses no individuals were removed from the electoral register solely because they failed to respond to the letters within 14 days.

3. Does the Electoral Office intend to write to individuals in households where there are less than 6 people registered?

A. No

4. If they do, how far down do they intend to go?

A. Not applicable

5. Will they be writing to homes where there are 3 or 4 or 5 people registered as part of their review of individuals registration status?

A. There are no current plans.

6. Will the Electoral Office now cease writing to households where there are a 'large' number of people registered, given that they can verify personal identifiers on their government database?

A. There are no current plans.

7. If not, why not?

A. Not applicable.

8. How many void properties (properties where no one is registered to vote) are there in Northern Ireland?

A. 173,201 according to records held by the Electoral Office.

9. What is the constituency by constituency breakdown of these void properties?

A. A breakdown by constituency is not available. Breakdown by ward from which you can obtain that information is attached.

Yours sincerely,

Douglas Bain CBE TD Advocate
Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland