

Dear

I refer to your various emails and write to give you almost all the information you requested.

First may I thank you for your kind comments about the speed of the count at the General Election and the fact that it took place overnight. As you will understand achieving that outcome and the relatively trouble free election day required a great deal of hard work by all my staff. I am afraid that I had to tell them that the election was the priority which is why I am only now responding to your various requests.

1. How many applications for postal and proxy votes were turned down in each constituency?

A partial analysis of the postal and proxy vote applications (giving the numbers of applications and refusals) will be published on [www.eoni.org.uk](http://www.eoni.org.uk) later today.

2. Who can vote at each election?

I certainly did not mean to appear dismissive of your suggestion that we should set out on the website who can vote at each election. No one has previously taken issue with the clarity of the information provided on either who can vote or the electorate. But as a result of you raising the matter I have considered it and accept that the data could be presented in a clearer way. This will be done as soon as other higher priority post election work has been completed.

3. Electorate Statistics

You sought clarification of the distinction between the 'Parliamentary electorate' and the 'Eligible electorate' figures.

The Parliamentary Electorate figure is the number of persons on the register of parliamentary electors. It includes people who are not eligible to vote because, for example, they are not yet 18 years of age. These figures are as at the first working day of each month.

The Eligible Electorate figure is the number of people who will be entitled to vote at the particular election. It excludes those on the register not qualified to vote at that election. It includes those added to the register and able to vote under the late registration provisions set out, for a Parliamentary election, in section 13BA of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

As noted above the website will be amended as soon as practicable.

4. Number of EU nationals on the register

In this answer the figures for EU nationals exclude citizens of the United Kingdom and Ireland, all of whom are entitled to register as both Parliamentary and local government electors. The number of citizens of Malta and Cyprus, who as Commonwealth citizens (provided they have, or are deemed to have, leave to

remain in the UK) are also excluded. Such individuals are entitled to register as both Parliamentary and local government electors.

All other EU citizens can register only as local government electors. The total figure as at 10 May 2010 was 10,448 made up as follows –

|                |     |             |      |
|----------------|-----|-------------|------|
| Austria        | 29  | Italy       | 237  |
| Belgium        | 54  | Lithuania   | 1282 |
| Bulgaria       | 82  | Luxemburg   | 2    |
| Czeck Republic | 224 | Latvia      | 375  |
| Germany        | 520 | Netherlands | 307  |
| Denmark        | 43  | Poland      | 4407 |
| Estonia        | 30  | Portugal    | 1132 |
| Spain          | 209 | Romania     | 139  |
| Finland        | 31  | Sweden      | 98   |
| France         | 398 | Slovenia    | 16   |
| Greece         | 51  | Slovakia    | 580  |
| Hungary        | 202 |             |      |

They can, accordingly, vote in local government elections and elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Provided they complete and return the appropriate form certifying that they will not vote in their own country they can also vote at European Parliamentary elections.

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