



## The Electoral Register

This leaflet provides information about the Northern Ireland Electoral Register and explains how to register to vote

## What is the Electoral Register?

The Electoral Register is a list of the names and addresses of people eligible to vote at elections in Northern Ireland. It is compiled by the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland (EONI) which updates the details on the Register continuously throughout the year and publishes a new version of the Register on 1 December each year.

Two versions of the Register are published:

**Full Register** - this contains the names and addresses of everyone registered to vote. Only certain people and organisations are entitled to obtain a copy and they can only use it for specified purposes such as the checking of credit or prevention of crime.

**Edited Register** - this contains the names and addresses of those who have agreed for their names to appear on this version. It is available for general sale and can be used for any purpose including marketing.

## Why should I register?

You will not be able to vote unless your name is on the Electoral Register.

You are required by law to register even if you do not intend to vote. If you do not register you could be fined up to £1000.

Having your name on the Register will help you to obtain credit or to open a bank or building society account. Lenders routinely check the Register to confirm the details of applicants. If you are not registered your credit rating may be seriously affected.

## How do I register?

1. Obtain an Electoral Registration Form by contacting us by phone or email (see back of leaflet) or download a form from our website: [www.eoni.org.uk](http://www.eoni.org.uk).
2. Complete the form with the following details:
  - name
  - address at which you are resident
  - nationality
  - date of birth
  - national insurance number
  - signature

You may be asked to provide evidence of your identity and proof of residence at the address given.
3. Return the completed form to the Electoral Office.
4. If your application is accepted we will add your name to the register within six weeks. We will tell you when this has been done.

## Who can register?

- You can register if you are 16 or over but you will not be able to vote until you are 18.
- You must be a British, Irish or Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of a Member State of the European Union
- You must have been resident in Northern Ireland for at least three months prior to your application for registration

## Contacting the Electoral Office

### Electoral Office Headquarters:

Electoral Office for NI  
St Anne's House  
15 Church Street  
Belfast BT1 1ER

### Area Offices:

Belfast Area Office  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, St Anne's House  
15 Church Street  
Belfast BT1 1ER

Ballymena Area Office  
122 Broughshane Street  
Ballymena BT43 6EE

Banbridge Area Office  
52 Bridge Street  
Banbridge BT32 3JU

Derry/Londonderry Area Office  
20 Queen Street  
Derry/Londonderry BT48 7EQ

Newtownabbey Area Office  
1-3 Portland Avenue  
Newtownabbey BT36 5EY

Newtownards Area Office  
2(b) Regent Street  
Newtownards BT23 4LH

Omagh Area Office  
21 Kevlin Avenue  
Omagh BT78 1ER

Freephone: 0800 4320 712  
Telephone: 028 9044 6688  
Fax: 028 9033 0661  
Textphone: 028 9044 6698  
Email: [info@eoni.org.uk](mailto:info@eoni.org.uk)  
Website: [www.eoni.org.uk](http://www.eoni.org.uk)

A Language Line service is available if you would prefer to communicate with us in a language other than English.

This leaflet is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Information Officer on 0800 4320 712 or via email to [info@eoni.org.uk](mailto:info@eoni.org.uk).