

THE ELECTORAL OFFICE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND



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NEW INFORMATION ACCESS ARRANGEMENT WILL HELP REVIEW OF ELECTORAL REGISTER

The Electoral Office has introduced a new procedure to assist its review of addresses where a high number of people are included on the Electoral Register.

The Electoral Office now has access to the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) database for Northern Ireland which means that much of the information which previously had to be confirmed in writing by individuals can now be checked directly by the office which in many cases removes the need for further action.

Douglas Bain, Chief Electoral Officer said:

'Earlier this year, to maintain the current high level of the accuracy of the register, I undertook a review of addresses where an unusually high number of people were included on the Electoral Register.

Since then, my staff have been provided with access to the Department of Work and Pensions database for Northern Ireland and this now allows them to access information required to verify addresses directly.

As a result of this, individuals will be removed from the electoral register only if they were unable to provide the information I requested in my letter and the DWP records indicate that they no longer reside at the address at which they are currently registered.

I hope that this will address some of the concerns raised in relation to the reviews. I will be contacting all those to whom I wrote earlier in the year to explain the new arrangements'.

Anyone who needs any information about Electoral Registration can contact the EONI Helpline on 0800 4320 712 (Textphone 0800 3284 502) or visit www.eoni.org.uk

Notes to Editors

The "Multiple occupancy" review was one of a range of initiatives undertaken by the Electoral Office to maintain the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the register. Others include the 'Schools Initiative' which has resulted in more than 11,000 young people being added to the register and participation in the National Fraud Initiative which is expected to be a powerful tool in maintaining the accuracy of the register.

Anyone whose name has already been removed from the register because the required information was not provided will be restored to it in time for the June elections provided the DWP database shows them as resident at the address at which they were registered.