

THE ELECTORAL OFFICE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND



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ELECTORAL REGISTRATION REVIEW AHEAD OF EUROPEAN ELECTION

Over the next few weeks thousands of people across Northern Ireland will be receiving a letter from the Electoral Office asking them to confirm that they are still living at the address at which they are registered.

The letters are being sent to people as part of a review of the Electoral Register where an unusually high number of adults appear at the same address. To remain on the register individuals must advise the Electoral Office of their current circumstances within 14 days of receipt of the letter.

The check is part of a range of measures to monitor the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the Electoral Register ahead of the European Parliamentary Election on 4 June.

Douglas Bain Chief Electoral Officer said: "This is a simple process of checking that people are still registered at the correct address. I would encourage anyone who has changed their name or address since they last completed a registration form to contact my office now so that the register can be updated and they can have their say in these important elections."

Anyone who needs to check their details on the Electoral Register should telephone the Electoral Office Helpline on 0800 4320 712 or Textphone 0800 3284 502. Electoral registration forms can be obtained by phoning the Helpline or can be downloaded from www.eoni.org.uk.

Notes for Editors

1. Since the last annual canvass in 2006 the number of individuals registered has increased by more than 75,000 and now stands at 1,150,393.
2. An independent survey conducted by the Electoral Commission assessed that the electoral registers published on 1 December 2007 were 94.3% accurate. It is widely accepted that the registers in Northern Ireland are by far the most accurate anywhere in the UK or ROI.

3. Other initiatives undertaken by the Chief Electoral Officer to maintain the accuracy of the register at its current high level have included –
 - Rigorous checking of national insurance numbers and the removal of those who provided incorrect numbers on their registration forms.
 - Introduction of proportionate evidence requirements for registration.
 - Removal of a number of individuals who were registered improperly at more than one address.

4. Regulations 36 – 38 of the Representation of the People Act (NI) Regulations 2008 allow the Chief Electoral Officer to review a person's entitlement to be registered. In essence they provide that if a person does not respond to a review letter within 14 days their name may be removed from the electoral register.