

Press release for Scotland – annual canvass 2021

Don't lose your voice - residents in Angus and Perth & Kinross urged to check their voter registration details are up to date

Local residents are being warned not to lose their voice on decisions that affect them by making sure their electoral registration details are up to date.

With Scottish local government elections taking place in May 2022, this is an important opportunity for residents to make sure they can take part.

The Electoral Registration Officer will be getting in touch with every household to check that the electoral register is up to date, and to identify any residents who should be registered but are currently missing. With all nationalities now able to vote in Scottish Parliament and council elections, this will be an important opportunity to ensure these new voters can get onto the electoral register before next year's Scottish Parliament election.

An email will be sent to some households in early July asking for a householder to confirm the information we hold about the registered electors in the property is correct, or to provide information about any changes, such as people moving in or out of the property or about anyone now reaching 14 years or over.

For those households who do not reply to the email, or who have not supplied an email address to the Electoral Registration Officer, a letter will be sent in August 2021.

For the majority of households, if the details we hold on the register of electors are correct then they do not need to reply but there will be instructions on how they may provide details of any changes.

For other households, instructions on how they can confirm the information is correct, or how to notify of any changes to electors will also be provided.

Mr Alastair Kirkwood Electoral Registration Officer for Angus Council and Perth & Kinross Council said:

“Residents need to keep an eye out for messages from the Electoral Registration Officer so we can make sure we have the right details on the electoral register for every address in Angus and Perth & Kinross and you are able to vote in any forthcoming elections. You might not have been able to vote before but with the extension of voting rights, you may be able to vote now – but only if you are registered”.

“If you’re not currently registered, the easiest way is online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.”

People who have moved recently are particularly encouraged to look out for the voter registration messages from the Electoral Registration Officer for Angus Council and Perth & Kinross Council and check the details. Research by the Electoral Commission indicates that recent home movers are far less likely to be registered than those who have lived at the same address for a long time. Across Great Britain, 92% of people who have been at their property for more than sixteen years will be registered, compared to 36% of people who have lived at an address for less than one year.

Andy O’Neill, Head of Electoral Commission in Scotland, said:

“It doesn’t matter where you were born. If you are aged 16 and over you are able to vote in elections in Scotland but only if you register to vote first. Making sure you provide the necessary information to your electoral registration office when it is needed will ensure the process runs smoothly..

“There’s lots of helpful information about registering to vote on our website <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter>.”

Any residents who have any questions can contact their local registration team at Angus on 01307 499910 or Perth & Kinross on 01738 630303

Ends

For more information contact Pete Gall on 01307 499913

Notes to editors

1. A Scottish local government election is scheduled for May 2022.
2. The Representation of the People Act 1983 places a duty on Electoral Registration Officers to maintain the electoral register for their area and to conduct an annual canvass of all residential properties.
3. The electoral register lists the names and addresses of everyone who is registered to vote in elections. The register is used for electoral purposes, such as making sure only eligible people can vote. It is also used for other limited purposes specified in law, such as detecting crime (e.g. fraud), calling people for jury service or checking credit applications.
4. The open register is an extract of the electoral register, but is not used for elections. It can be bought by any person, company or organisation. For example, it is used by businesses and charities to confirm name and address details. Your name and address will be included in the open register unless you ask for them to be removed. Removing your details from the open register does not affect your right to vote.
5. To be eligible to register to vote a person must be:

- Aged 14 or over (a person may register to vote at 14, but may not vote until they are 16 for Scottish Parliament and council elections and aged 18 for UK Parliament elections)
 - A British, Irish, EU or other foreign citizen who has leave to enter and remain in the UK or does not require such leave.
6. Full details on who can vote in elections in Scotland can be found [here](#).
 7. Full details of the Electoral Commission's research on the electoral registers [can be found on its website](#).