



Cabinet Office

The
Electoral
Commission



Individual Electoral Registration:

the transition

A guide for
Members



IER: key information

This leaflet gives you key information about Individual Electoral Registration (IER) – the biggest change to how people register to vote in almost a hundred years.

It covers:

- how IER works
- what will change and when
- answers to the big questions about IER
- where to find out more information

What is IER?

Instead of using a household form to register to vote, everyone will take individual responsibility for their own registration.

In order to apply, a person will need to provide their National Insurance Number and date of birth. This will be used to verify that the person making the application is who they say they are and will in turn reduce the risk of fraud and inaccurate entries on the register.

With IER, for the first time, people will also be able to register online. IER will make registering to vote safer and more convenient.

Key dates

10 June 2014 IER is introduced in England and Wales

19 September 2014 IER is introduced in Scotland



How IER will work

From June (or September in Scotland) any new application to register will be made individually. It can be made online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or on a paper form.

Applications will be checked against government records before they can be added to the register. An IER Digital Service has been created to support Electoral Registration Officers carrying this out.

All currently registered electors will have their name and address checked against government records so that they can be confirmed under IER. The vast majority of those on the register will confirm and will be automatically transferred to the 'IER register' without having to do anything.

Each currently registered elector will then receive a letter from their local Electoral Registration Officer to let them know that either:

- they have confirmed and been successfully transferred to the 'IER register' and do not need to do anything further

or

- they need to provide additional information to their Electoral Registration Officer in order to be registered under IER.

From July the Electoral Commission will run a national IER publicity campaign encouraging people to look out for their letter.

More work will be done by local Electoral Registration Officers to ensure that everyone who should be on the register has had a chance to apply, and they will also check that their register is accurate.

Revised registers will be published in December 2014 for England and Wales and in February 2015 for Scotland. Anybody that successfully applied to go on the register at the last pre IER canvass (2013/14), or subsequently, will not be removed from the register before December 2015.



Your questions about IER

What happens if an elector does not apply to register under IER when invited?

- Those people who applied to go on the register in the last canvass (2013/14), or subsequently, and do not provide additional information when asked to do so by their Electoral Registration Officer will be **carried forward** to the new register but will lose their ability to vote by post or proxy. They will, however, remain on the register and do not lose their ability to vote at a polling station in the 2015 UK General Election.

Can electors still use postal and proxy vote?

- Anyone wishing to vote by post or proxy at the 2015 General Election will have to be registered under IER. Postal and proxy voters will be notified by their local authority after 10 June (or September in Scotland) that either they have successfully transferred to the 'IER register' or they will need to provide additional information to retain their postal or proxy vote.

Will overseas voters be able to register with IER?

- Yes. All eligible British citizens living overseas are encouraged to register to vote – they can do so at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. The overseas voting process has also been improved by extending the electoral timetable for UK Parliamentary elections.



Your questions about IER

What is being done to help get under-registered groups on the register?

- £4.2 million has been allocated to help improve registration among certain groups of electors, such as students, home movers, tenants and overseas electors.

How will electors find out about these changes?

- The Electoral Commission is running a national IER publicity campaign from July to let electors know about the implementation of IER. The campaign will target under-registered groups.

Will the registration forms change?

- There will be new IER forms that all authorities must use once IER is live. The Electoral Commission has designed the IER forms to meet a wide range of accessibility needs. For the first time it will be possible to apply to register online, simply and quickly, at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

Will the IER system be safe?

- The IER Digital Service has been developed and delivered according to government best practice for Information Security. It is subject to regular and robust 'health checks' and is accredited by an independent Information Assurance Accreditor.

How is IER being funded?

- The Government is fully funding the cost of IER, including the transition cost to local authorities.



How will the IER service be supported?

- All local authority electoral services teams have benefitted from the support of the Electoral Commission and the Cabinet Office in their planning and preparations, including a range of appropriate training in the implementation of IER and a full suite of written guidance for EROs produced by the Electoral Commission. In addition, during and after IER goes live the Cabinet Office and the Electoral Commission will be providing comprehensive support to local authority electoral services teams.

Find out more

For you and your council

The Cabinet Office has a team of Delivery Managers who work closely with your Electoral Registration Officer and electoral service team to ensure your council is ready to go live.

If you want an update on IER please contact the Cabinet Office on erodelivery@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk.

For electors

As well as running a national publicity campaign, the Electoral Commission is supporting your council with a range of resources. Your council knows its electors best and has been given funding to support its own local communications campaigns.

Information about IER for electors will be available from:

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

