



Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board

Report to: Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board

Meeting on: 18th November 2022

Subject: Electoral Update Report

Author: Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer

1. Introduction

This report is to inform board members of any updates to Electoral Registration legislation and report to the Board on any electoral events.

2. 2022 Canvass

- 2.1 The 2022 canvass started on Monday 4th July 2022, with publication of the revised register due to take place by 1st December 2022.
- 2.2 As a precursor to the start of the canvass, National Data Matching of the register to the records of DWP took place on Monday 6th June 2022, with local data matching following. These matching stages help identify the appropriate form of communication to be issued to each household.
- 2.3 Where an email address was held then the initial contact was by email, and where there was no response then the appropriate letter was issued to the household. In other cases the initial contact was by letter. Where a response was required then there were a range of options for the elector to utilise including internet, phone and mail.
- 2.4 If an email address wasn't held or there was no response to an email then letters were sent to the property. Where all the electors in a household were data matched then a CCA letter was issued, this letter does not require a response unless the information on it isn't correct. A total of 101,639 CCA letters were issued. In circumstances where not all the electors in a household were data matched then a CCB letter is issued, this letter requires a response to either confirm that the electors shown on it are correct or to inform us of changes. There were 39,680 CCB letters issued.
- 2.5 The final stage of the canvass is a visit to the property for those households where a response was required and none received. This stage began at the end of August and involves visits to 23,346 properties. As at 8th November, only 1,132 visits are still to be completed.

3. Future Elections

- 3.1 At the time of writing no other elections are scheduled, however, as always this will be kept under review and should circumstances require, our staff will be able to deliver.

4. Elections Act 2022

- 4.1 The Elections Act 2022 received Royal Assent on 28th April 2022. The provisions of the Act come into force at various times and elements of it are subject to further Regulations. The main provisions that will impact the Board are the requirement for Voter ID for UK Parliamentary Elections, changes to the Postal Voting application process for the UK Parliamentary Elections and changes to the eligibility to be registered as an Overseas Elector will come into force at a later date.
- 4.2 The secondary legislation which details how the new voter ID measures will work in practice was laid in the UK Parliament on 3rd November 2022. This requirement will apply, in Scotland, to UK Parliamentary by-elections from early May 2023 and to UK Parliamentary General Elections taking place after 5th October 2023. Applications for the Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) will be able to be made online or by a paper application form from early January 2023. A VAC will only be required if an elector does not have another approved form of photo ID. The Elections Act sets out the full list of approved forms of ID but examples of approved photo ID's include passport, driving licence and Young Scot cards.
- 4.3 A significant amount of work is being undertaken to ensure that the online application portal being created by the Department for Leveling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) is fit for purpose and also with our Electoral Management System (EMS) to allow applications to be processed efficiently. Details of funding from DLUHC for this new burden are expected to be received in the near future.

5 Absent Vote Identifier Refresh

- 5.1 As required by Regulations, electors who have a postal or proxy vote whose signature on the personal identifiers record is more than 5 years old will be sent a notice requesting them to supply a fresh signature during January, voters will have six weeks to return a fresh signature or they will lose their postal or proxy vote. Where necessary a reminder will be issued after 3 weeks. There will be approximately 6300 signature refresh notices issued.

6. Recommendations

- i. The Board notes the contents of this report.

Robert Nicol
Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer
8th November 2022

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