

Privacy Notice for Electoral Services, Cambridge City Council

This privacy notice provides you with information about what we do with your personal data (information that is about you and identifies you).

The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) as a separate data controller to Cambridge City Council and collects personal data for the purpose of registering your right to vote.

The duties of the Returning Officer (RO) are also covered by the ICO registration.

Why are we asking for your personal information?

You need to be registered in the register of electors to be able to vote in any election or referendum for which you are eligible. We have a duty to maintain a complete and accurate register throughout the year.

We also employ people to help us compile the register of electors and run elections.

To do all these things, we collect the personal data we need to undertake these functions.

Our legal basis for processing this data

We collect personal information as being necessary for us to perform a public task that is in the public interest. The laws that enable us to do this are:

- Representation of the People Acts 1983, 1985 and 2000
- Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001
- Electoral Administration Act 2006
- Local Elections (principal areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006
- Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013
- Elections Act 2022

We also collect your phone number and email address if you choose to supply these to us. We ask for this in case we have a query about an application you have made, for example, when you apply to register to vote, apply for a postal or proxy vote, or apply for a voter authority certificate (free voter ID). We can process your application without your contact details, but it may delay the process if we need to write to you instead. We may also email, text, or call you during the annual canvass each autumn, as well as send you information about upcoming elections or polls. Your contact details are not published anywhere or passed on to any third party. You can ask us to stop contacting you in this way at any time. Collection and use of your phone number and email address are in our legitimate interests.

What data do we collect?

We keep records about potential and actual electors, voters, candidates and their agents, polling station contacts, establishment and engagement contacts and the staff we employ at elections or the annual electoral registration audit. These records may be written down or kept on a computer.

These records may include:

- your name, address, nationality, and date of birth
- for registration applications from citizens of EU countries that do not have voting rights treaties with the UK, we will also collect information about your residency status in the UK since 31 December 2020. We may also ask you when you acquired an EU citizenship if you are a dual national.
- telephone number and e-mail address (where supplied by choice)
- unique identifiers, such as your national insurance number or signature
- your photograph if you apply for a voter authority certificate (free voter ID)
- scanned application forms and dates of any letters of correspondence
- documentary evidence from certain individuals, for example, copies of their passport, ID card, marriage certificate or driving licence
- notes about any relevant circumstances that you have told us
- your previous or any redirected address
- the other occupants in your home
- if you are aged 76 or over, or are 16/17
- whether you have chosen to opt-out of the open (edited) version of the register
- bank details and your right to work status (only for those people we employ to work for us)

Who we share your information with

To verify your identity when you apply to register to vote, apply for a postal or proxy vote, or apply for a voter authority certificate (free voter ID), the data you provide will be processed by the Individual Electoral Registration Digital Service (IERDS). As part of this process your data will be shared with the Department for Work and

Pensions (DWP) and the suppliers that are data processors for the IERDS, e.g., the print company producing the voter authority certificate (free voter ID).

You can find more information about how these organisations use your personal data on the [Register to Vote website](#).

Sometimes, we are required to pass on your personal information to other authorities, organisations, or people, but only for purposes set out in the law. Details of who is entitled to access data in the register of electors can be found on the [Electoral Commission's website](#).

Each December, we supply a copy of the register of electors to Cambridge City Council, as they are a separate authority from the ERO. The council must also comply with data protection and electoral legislation in the way that they use the register data.

The companies who provide our electoral software and printing will also use your information, but only on our strict instructions and in line with data protection legislation. They will not use it for any other reasons, and they must look after it in the same way we would.

There are two versions of the electoral register, the full register, and the open register (previously called the edited register). Data in each version is used in separate ways. You can read more about how the two versions of the register are used in our [online guide](#).

It is a crime for anyone who has a copy of the full register to pass information from it on to anyone else if they do not have a lawful reason to see it.

Anyone can inspect the full electoral register, but:

- Inspection of the register will be under supervision,
- They can take extracts from the register, but only by making handwritten notes,
- Information taken must not be used for direct marketing purposes, in accordance with data protection legislation, unless it has been published in the open version of the register, and
- Anyone who fails to observe these conditions is committing a criminal offence and will be charged a penalty of up to £5,000.

The open register contains the same information as the full electoral register but only contains around one third of the names from the full register and is not used for voting. It is updated and published every month and can be sold to any person,

organisation, or company for a wide range of purposes. It is used by businesses and charities for checking names and address details; users of the open register can include direct marketing firms and local charities.

You can choose whether to have your personal details included in the open version of the register; however, they will be included unless you ask for them to be removed. Removing your details from the open register does not affect your right to vote. [You can do this through our website.](#)

As well as your name and address appearing in the register of electors, your information will be used to send you a poll card when an election is due and be included in a canvass form during the annual registration canvass. If we hold an email address or telephone number for you, we may also use these channels to contact you about your registration or upcoming elections.

If you are a postal voter, your date of birth and the signature that you supply on your postal vote application form will be compared with the date of birth and signature returned with your completed postal vote ballot paper. This is to make sure that the correct person has voted.

If we employ you to work for us at elections or at the annual electoral registration canvass, we will also use your information to ensure you are entitled to work in the UK and to enable payment to be made to you. At a Parliamentary election we will also pass your details to the RO at South Cambridgeshire District Council, if you are appointed to work in a polling station within the part of the South Cambridgeshire parliamentary constituency that falls within the Cambridge City Council area.

We may also take part in academic studies or statistical research regarding voter registration or voting. Your personal data will be anonymised and will only be used in line with data protection and electoral law.

In the event of a national or local emergency, we may be asked to share your data to assist other council departments that are working to support the community.

Where we get your information

Elector details are supplied directly from the individual when they make their application to be added to the electoral register, or when a householder completes a canvass form during the annual electoral registration canvass. The person is asked to provide these details by law for electoral registration purposes.

The ERO also has a right to access data from other departments within Cambridge City Council, e.g., council tax, as well as data held by Cambridgeshire County Council. This is to ensure the data we hold is correct, as well as helping us to identify potential electors.

Staff employed at elections or during the annual electoral registration canvass are asked to supply contact details and other personal information to enable payments to be made.

How long we will we hold your information for

The ERO and RO are obliged to process your personal data in relation to preparing for and conducting elections. Your details will be kept and updated in accordance with our legal obligations and in line with statutory retention periods, which are available on [Cambridge City Council's website](#).

How your information is stored and kept safe

Information may be held as a written record, kept on a computer system as an electronic record, or as a printed record from our computer system. All records are stored in a secure office that only authorised staff can access.

Our computer system can only be accessed by authorised staff, and they must have a lawful basis for accessing the data. Certain individuals have limited access, for example on a 'view only' basis and the amount of information they can view is restricted. The system is protected by passwords and can produce information regarding who has accessed the system. The system is backed-up onto secure council servers.

Your rights

You are entitled to request a copy of any information about you that we hold. You can do this on [Cambridge City Council's website](#).

If the information we hold about you is inaccurate you have a right to have this corrected and you have the right to request completion of incomplete data.

You have the right to request that we stop, or restrict the processing of your personal data, in certain circumstances. Where possible we will seek to comply with your request, but we may be required to hold or process information to comply with a legal requirement.

We do not routinely process any information about you outside the UK. We will not transfer your personal data outside of the EU.

The ERO is a registered Data Controller with the Information Commissioner's Office. (Registration reference: [Z6044146](#))

You can find out more about how Cambridge City Council manages your data by visiting the council's privacy notice page on the web site. If you have a query regarding your rights, please contact the Data Protection Officer by emailing infogov@3csharedservices.org or you can write to the council and mark your letter for the attention of the Data Protection Officer. Alternatively, you can call 07864 604221 or 01954 713318.

You have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) should you have any concerns about how we manage data.

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Electoral Services Contact Details

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