



Information Governance Team

Postal Address:
Coventry City Council
PO Box 15
Council House
Coventry
CV1 5RR

www.coventry.gov.uk

E-mail: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

Phone: 024 7697 5408

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI523206224

Thank you for your request for information relating to Voter Registration Certificate.

You have requested the following information:

1. Under the terms of the Elections Act 2022 and the Amendments of RPA 1983, voters in your local authority were entitled to apply for a Voter Registration Certificate either online, by post or in person, in advance of the local elections held on May 4th, 2023.

2. My request is for the number of people in your local authority who applied for a Voter Registration Certificate before the election on May 4th 2023, and/or the number of Voter Registration Certificates which were issued ahead of May 4th 2023.

We refer to your request under the Freedom of Information Act regarding elections. We can confirm that Julie Newman Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer for Coventry City Council under Section 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 is a separate to her appointment as Chief Legal Officer and, although appointed by the council, the Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer's responsibilities and duties are personal. As such an Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer does not carry out the duties on behalf of the local authority but in their own personal capacity.

A list of public bodies and local authorities that are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act is included in Schedule 1 to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which can be viewed here:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/schedule/1>

As you will see, the Freedom of Information Act does not list any person appointed under the Representation of the People Act 1983. It follows that the Returning Officer, Electoral Registration Officer or any other person appointed under the Act are not subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

In response to your request below we are only able to advise how many people applied for a VAC by 5pm on 25 April which was the deadline for the elections. This figure was provided to me by DLUHC after the deadline this was 719.

Under the terms of the Elections Act 2022 and the Amendments of RPA 1983, voters in your local authority were entitled to apply for a Voter Registration Certificate either online, by post or in person, in advance of the local elections held on May 4 2023.

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance