



Individual Electoral Registration

In June 2014, one of the most significant changes in electoral administration for almost 100 years took place when Individual Electoral Registration (IER) was introduced. Under the old system, one person completed the registration form on behalf of all the people in the property. Under IER people have to apply to register individually.

For the first time, people can make their application online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. It takes as little as three minutes to apply and you need to provide your name, address, date of birth and National Insurance number.

Transitional arrangements

Earlier this year the details of those already on the electoral register under the old system were checked against Department for Work and Pensions records. Those whose details could be matched were transferred automatically onto the new electoral register and the Council's Electoral Services sent a letter to confirm this. Those who did not transfer automatically were invited to re-register under the new system, sent reminders and canvassed in person to encourage them to re-apply under the new system.

Removal from the register

By law, those who did not go on to the new electoral register under the transitional arrangements, or by registering afresh under IER, will be removed from the electoral register in December 2016. However, postal and proxy voters who were not automatically

transferred, or who do not subsequently re-register under the new system will not now be able to cast their vote by post or by proxy, including at the 2015 General Election. Though they will still be able to vote in person at the polling station, they need to apply afresh if they want to vote by post or proxy.

What you need to do

If you have received a letter saying that you are registered under the new system and none of your details have changed, you do not need to do anything.

If you have received an Invitation to Register (either as a current or new elector) then you need to complete the application form either online or by completing the paper form which Electoral Services sent you.

If you have moved, you can register online or contact electoral services for a form to be sent to you.

If your details have changed (for example, your surname has changed through marriage), or if you want to have a postal vote, please contact us and we will advise you what you need to do.

Information leaflet

If you are unsure about your entry on the register please contact us and we will check for you.

What is happening next?

At the beginning of February 2015 we will be writing to all households in the borough with the details of the people we currently have registered at that address.

Please watch out for it and check that all the details we have are correct. If you have any changes to make, instructions will be given about how to make any changes. Even if you are registered, please check with your family and friends and remind them to make sure they are properly registered. Don't forget, only people who are registered can vote.

To contact us at Electoral Services:

please email
electoral.services@lewisham.gov.uk
or call
020 8 314 6086

**To register online go to
www.gov.uk/register-to-vote**