

APPENDIX 1

Electoral Activities – PI Refresh and Mini Canvass

1. PERSONAL IDENTIFIER REFRESH

Under the Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001, Electoral Registration Officers must, by 31 January each year, send every registered absent voter whose record is more than five years old a notice requiring them to provide a fresh signature if they wish to retain their absent vote.

The notice requests them to supply a specimen of their signature, and explain that if this is not received within six weeks of the date of the notice their absent voting facility will be cancelled.

There are 2,930 postal voters and 6 proxy voters who will receive a notice and it is my intention to start sending them out in December once the new electoral register has been published.

Absent voters who cannot sign consistently or at all and have been granted a 'Waiver' to exempt them from providing a signature are not affected by the refresh provisions, as they do not have a signature on the personal identifiers record.

A positive point of the exercise is the continued security measures that are in place at election time.

You may get enquiries from constituents. I would ask you to encourage them to respond as soon as possible. Anyone who experiences problems with signing the notice should contact this office on the helpline number 0151 691 8046 provided.

We will be issuing a press release to help spread the message, but I would appreciate your assistance also in this important matter.

2. MINI CANVASS

The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) has a duty under Section 9A of the Representation of the People Act (RPA) 1983 to take all necessary steps to maintain the accuracy and completeness of the electoral register.

A proactive approach is required throughout the year and not just during the annual canvass in order to maintain accurate and complete registers, identifying people who are not registered individually and encourage them to register ensuring as far as possible that all eligible persons are on the register and that all non-eligible persons are removed.

Five months have passed since the implementation of Individual Electoral Registration (IER) and although 91% of the electorate were automatically re-registered, consideration has been given to identifying any unregistered residents and take steps to remove electors who are no longer eligible in an attempt to ensure the quality of the register.

Therefore, an audit of the new register in the form of a 'Mini Canvass' will be carried out in January 2015 to minimise the risk of the register declining in quality before the polls.

This will consist of sending a letter to every household confirming who is registered at that address, highlighting the forthcoming elections, and requesting that they inform you if the information you have sent them is incorrect or contains any omissions.

You may get enquiries from constituents. I would ask you to encourage them to respond as soon as possible. Anyone who experiences problems should contact this office on the helpline number 0151 691 8046 provided.

We will be issuing a press release to help spread the message, but I would appreciate your assistance also in this important matter.

Kate Robinson
Principal Electoral Services Officer.