

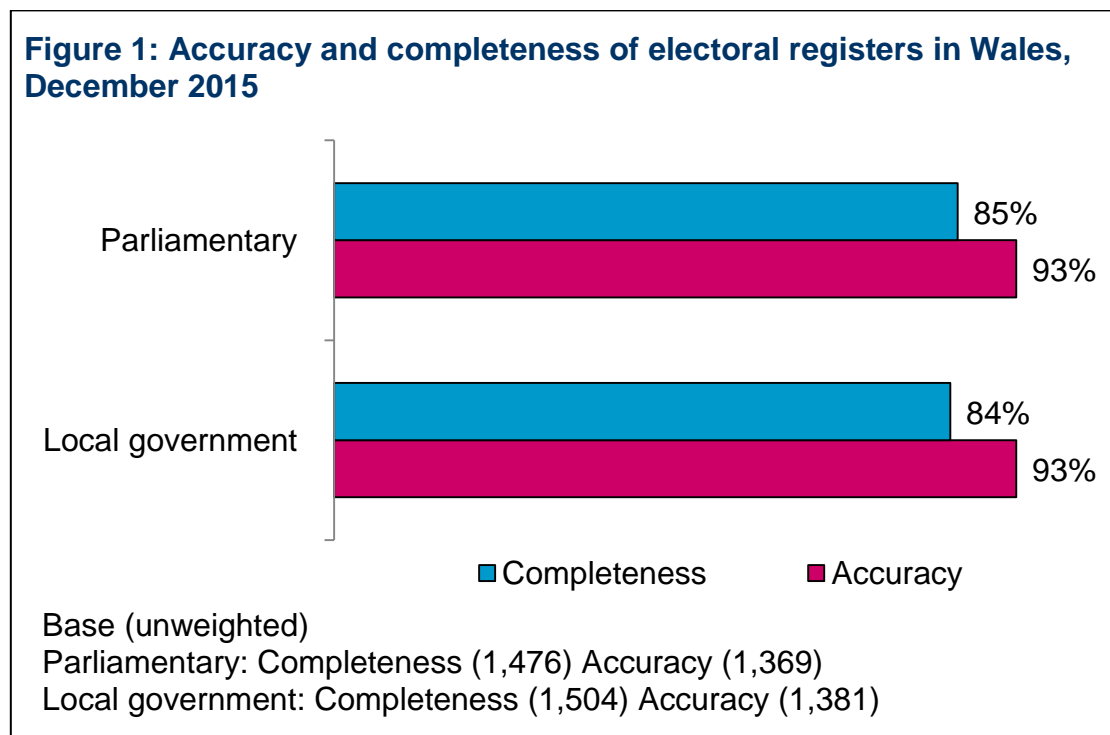
The December 2015 electoral registers in Wales

This factsheet should be read in conjunction with the main report: [The December 2015 electoral registers in Great Britain](#) (July 2016).

The results show that in Wales on 1 **December 2015**:

- **Parliamentary registers** were 85% complete and 93% accurate;
- **Local government registers** were 84% complete and 93% accurate.

These results show that the level of completeness of the registers in Wales is in line with that found for Great Britain as a whole, while Welsh registers are slightly more accurate.



Completeness

Due to sample size the estimates produced on the 2014 registers provided combined results for Great Britain only. Estimates were however produced for Wales for both

the December 2010 registers and the April 2011 registers (albeit using a different methodology).¹

The December 2010 registers in Wales, both local government and parliamentary, were estimated to be 82% complete. However, the sample size in 2011 returned high confidence intervals (+/- 8 and 9 percent) and as a result we cannot be certain that there has been an increase in completeness since 2011.

While the full level of analysis by demographic variable undertaken for Great Britain is not possible at the individual country level due to sample size, the boosts to the sample for Wales and Scotland do facilitate some.

As expected, where the data shows statistically significant variation in levels of completeness by demographic characteristics in Wales, these are the same characteristics that impact on completeness for Great Britain overall.

Demographics

As we have seen in this and previous research, age, mobility and tenure have the strongest effect on levels of registration and these factors are similarly influential in Wales²:

Age: As we have historically seen, and see in Great Britain overall, levels of completeness increase in line with age. In Wales completeness for those aged 55 and over is 93% which is significantly higher than completeness among both 18-34 year olds (72%) and those aged between 35 and 54 (84%).

Mobility: Completeness is strongly correlated to the amount of time a person has spent living at their address. In Wales, completeness among those that have lived at their address for more than 16 years is 94% compared with only 30% for those that have lived at their address for less than a year.

Tenure: As in Great Britain, the highest levels of completeness are found among those that own their property outright (95% complete) and the lowest levels are found among private renters (61% complete).

Table 1: Completeness by key characteristics, Wales and Great Britain December 2015 registers (local government).

		Wales (Local government)	GB (Local government)
Urbanity	Urban	84%	84%
	Rural	85%	86%
Gender	Male	85%	84%
	Female	83%	86%
Age	18-34	72%	69%

¹ For further information on the methodology of that study see Chapter 2 in [Electoral Registration in 2011](#) (July 2014).

² The results in the following paragraphs refer the local government registers unless otherwise stated.

	35-54	84%	86%
	55+	93%	95%
Tenure	Own outright	95%	95%
	Mortgaged/shared ownership	86%	89%
	Social renters ³	79%	78%
	Private renters	61%	57%
Socio-economic group	AB	90%	88%
	C1	87%	83%
	C2	83%	86%
	DE	77%	80%
Adults in household	1	80%	82%
	2	85%	85%
	3 to 5	84%	83%
Duration at address	Up to 1 year	30%	27%
	More than 1, up to 2 years ⁴	71%	69%
	More than 2, up to 5 years	80%	85%
	More than 5, up to 10 years	88%	92%
	More than 10, up to 16 years	92%	94%
	16 years +	94%	96%
Disability	Mental ⁵	78%	76%
	Physical	87%	90%
	None	83%	83%
Vote at 2015 UKPGE ⁶	Yes	91%	92%
	No	66%	68%

Base (unweighted): Wales – 1,504; Great Britain – 11,648.

Accuracy

There has been an increase in register accuracy across Great Britain from 87% in 2014 to 91% in 2015. Levels of accuracy in Wales are higher than in Great Britain at 93%.

There is little difference between the two registers with slightly more major errors on the Parliamentary registers and slightly more minor errors appearing on the local government register, a pattern also true for Great Britain overall.

The table below shows the types of error found on the December 2015 local government registers. Like elsewhere in Great Britain, the most significant proportion of **major errors** - those which would prevent someone from voting, or incorrectly allow someone to vote – relate to entries that refer to individuals who no longer live

³ This category combines council renters (completeness 79%) and housing association renters (completeness 72%).

⁴ Small base size (unweighted base 91).

⁵ Small base size (unweighted base 53).

⁶ Data based on respondents only.

at the property (7%). This is smaller than the proportion of errors of this type recorded for Great Britain (9%). This difference is statistically significant and could be a result of the lower levels of mobility in Wales: our results show that 40% of those in Wales have lived at their address for more than 16 years/all of their life compared with 33% for Great Britain as a whole.

There are no type c major errors recorded on the Welsh registers, compared with 0.3% of entries on the Great Britain registers.

Table 2: Type of errors on the local government registers in Wales and Great Britain, December 2015.

	Wales	Great Britain
Major errors total	7.2%	9.4%
Major errors – (a)		
No corresponding name taken at address	7.1%	8.8%
Major errors – (b)	0.1%	0.3%
First name and/or surname wrong on register	0.0%	0.1%
First name and/or surname missing on register	0.0%	0.0%
UK/Irish/Commonwealth marker present ⁷	0.1%	0.2%
Major errors – (c)	0	0.3%
Name on register corresponds to ineligible name on survey	0.0%	0.1%
Attainers - DOB missing or wrong	0.0%	0.1%
EU citizens marker missing	0.0%	0.1%
Accurate with minor errors	10.0%	10.4%
First name/surname on register misspelled	0.8%	1.0%
First name/surname on register incomplete	0.6%	0.5%
Middle name missing from register	7.6%	7.8%
Middle name initials misspelled or incomplete on register	0.3%	0.1%
Middle initial wrong on register	0.1%	0.1%
Person does not have a middle name but middle name on registers (respondents only)	0.1%	0.2%
Surname is/assumed to be previous surname ⁸	0.6%	0.5%
First/middle/surname in different order on register	0.0%	0.1%
DoB earlier on register for attainer	0.0%	0.0%

Base (unweighted): Wales – 1,381; Great Britain - 10,871.

The largest proportion of **minor errors** recorded – those errors that would not prevent an individual casting their vote – are those where a middle name is missing.

⁷ These electors should not have a marker.

⁸ This assumption was made if an individual's first name matched and the surname they had given matched that of other members of their household but not the surname on the electoral register.

The proportion of minor errors recorded for the Welsh registers is in line with that recorded for the registers in Great Britain overall.