

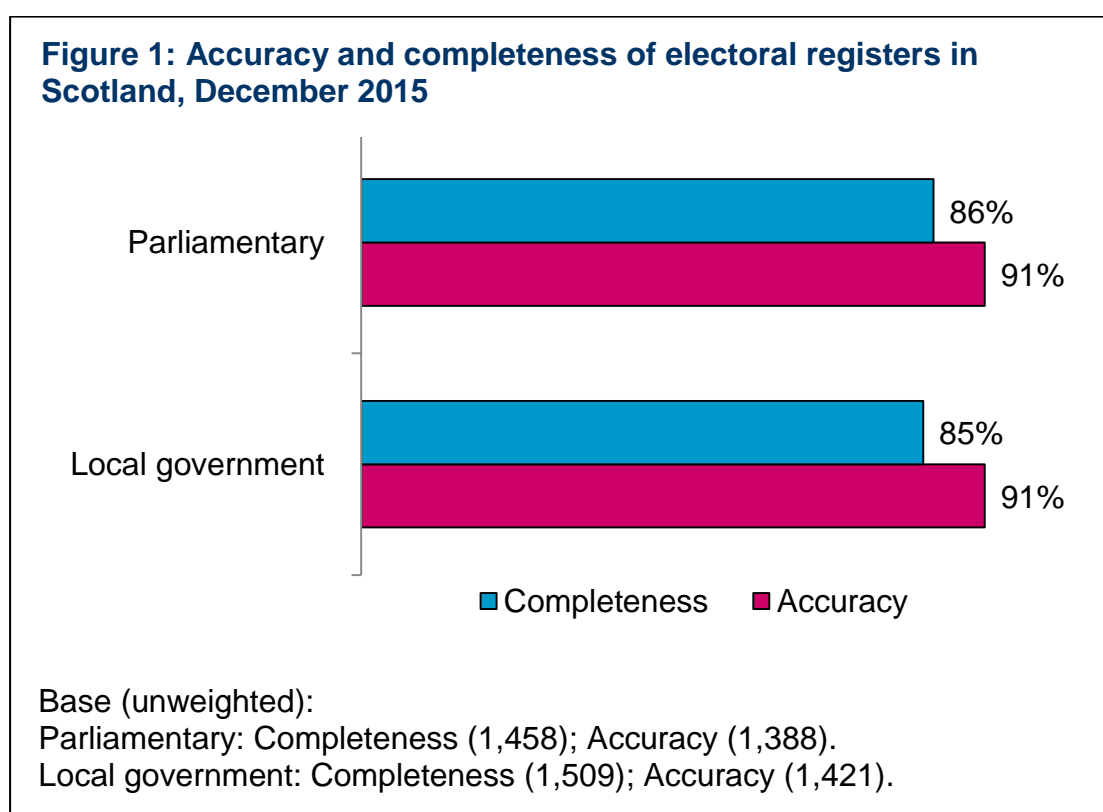
# The December 2015 electoral registers in Scotland

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 Scotland on 1 **December 2015**:

- **Parliamentary registers** were 86% complete and 91% accurate;
- **Local government registers** were 85% complete and 91% accurate.<sup>1</sup>

These results show that the completeness and accuracy of the registers in Scotland is in line with that for Great Britain overall.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> The uses of and differences between the two registers are discussed in Chapter 1 of the main report (paragraph 1.10 – 1.17). In Scotland the 'local government' register is used for Scottish Parliament elections, the 'parliamentary register' is used for UK Parliamentary elections.

<sup>2</sup> The sample for this study included individuals aged 16+. While in Scotland, 14 and 15 year olds are classed as 'attainers' and therefore eligible to be on the local government register, they are not included in this study due to data sharing agreements which mean that the details of 14 and 15 year olds on the register cannot be shared.

## Completeness

Due to sample size the previous estimates produced on the 2014 registers provided combined results for Great Britain only. Estimates were however produced for Scotland for the April 2011 registers (albeit using a different methodology).<sup>3</sup>

These estimates found the Parliamentary registers in Scotland to be 89% complete and the local government registers to be 87% complete. At a headline level, these new findings suggest that there may have been a decline in completeness. However, some care should be taken when making comparisons as the methodology used to produce the 2011 estimates was different. The 2011 results in Scotland were also not adjusted for census non-respondents which would have lowered the estimates for Scotland.

While the full level of analysis by demographic variable undertaken for Great Britain is not possible at 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 Scotland, 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 Scotland<sup>4</sup>:

**Age<sup>5</sup>:** levels of completeness increase in line with age. In Scotland completeness for those aged 55 and over is 91% which is significantly higher than completeness among both 18-34 year olds (74%) and those aged between 35 and 54 (87%). The results suggest that completeness among 18-34s is higher in Scotland than it is in Great Britain overall, 74% compared with 69% for Great Britain. This being said completeness among older people (aged 55+) is lower in Scotland than it is in Great Britain as a whole, 91% compared with 95% for Great Britain.

**Mobility:** Completeness is strongly correlated to the amount of time a person has spent living at their address. In Scotland, completeness among those that have lived at their address for more than 16 years is 93% compared with only 38% for those that have lived at their address for less than a year.

Among those that have lived at their address for less than a year however the impact of the annual canvass is less pronounced than it is in England and Wales. For Great Britain overall, completeness among those that moved in before the start of the annual canvass (1 July) is far higher than among those that moved in after this date (41% compared with 19%). In contrast in Scotland completeness among those that

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<sup>3</sup> For further information on the methodology of that study see Chapter 2 in [Electoral Registration in 2011](#) (July 2014).

<sup>4</sup> The results in the following paragraphs refer the local government registers unless otherwise stated

<sup>5</sup> 16 and 17 year olds are not included in the analysis at the national due to small sample size.

moved in before the start of canvass is 42% while completeness among those that moved in after the start of the canvass is 43%.<sup>6</sup>

**Tenure:** As in Great Britain, the highest levels of completeness are found among those that own their property outright (92% complete) and the lowest levels are found among private renters (70% complete). There are higher levels of completeness among Scottish private renters than in Great Britain overall (57%), while at 92% completeness among those that own their property outright is slightly lower than in Great Britain (95%).

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

		<b>Scotland</b>	<b>Great Britain</b>
Urbanity	Urban	85%	84%
	Rural	87%	86%
Gender	Male	84%	84%
	Female	87%	86%
Age	18-34	74%	69%
	35-54	87%	86%
	55+	91%	95%
Tenure	Own outright	92%	95%
	Mortgaged/shared ownership	85%	89%
	Social renters <sup>7</sup>	80%	78%
	Private renters	70%	57%
Socio-economic group	AB	87%	88%
	C1	85%	83%
	C2	88%	86%
	DE	82%	80%
Adults in household	1	86%	82%
	2	83%	85%
	3 to 5	88%	83%
Duration at address	Up to 1 year	38%	27%
	More than 1, up to 2 years	76%	69%
	More than 2, up to 5 years	86%	85%
	More than 5, up to 10 years	90%	92%
	More than 10, up to 16 years	91%	94%
	16 years +	93%	96%

<sup>6</sup> This difference is not statistically significant. Note the sample size for recent movers in Scotland is relatively small (98)

<sup>7</sup> This category combines council renters (completeness 84%) and housing association renters (completeness 74%)

Disability	Mental <sup>8</sup>	83%	76%
	Physical	87%	90%
	None	85%	83%
Vote at 2015 UKPGE <sup>9</sup>	Yes	91%	92%
	No	68%	68%

Base (unweighted): Scotland – 1,509; 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 Scotland are in line with the Great Britain level.

The table below shows the types of error found on the December 2015 local government registers in Scotland compared with Great Britain. 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 at the property (8.2%).

There a higher proportion of entries containing **minor errors** – those which would not prevent someone from voting – on the Scottish registers than anywhere else in Great Britain. This is a result of the larger proportion of entries with missing middle names, 14.8% of entries compared with 7.8% for Great Britain overall.

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

	Scotland	Great Britain
<b>Major errors total</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>9.4%</b>
<b>Major errors – (a)</b>		
No corresponding name taken at address	8.2%	8.8%
<b>Major errors – (b)</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
First name and/or surname wrong on register	0.1%	0.1%
First name and/or surname missing on register	-	-
UK/Irish/Commonwealth marker present <sup>10</sup>	0.4%	0.2%
<b>Major errors – (c)</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
Name on register corresponds to ineligible name on survey	0	0.1%
Attainers - DOB missing or wrong	0.2%	0.1%
EU citizens marker missing	-	0.1%
<b>Accurate with minor errors</b>	<b>17.4%</b>	<b>10.4%</b>
First name/surname on register misspelled	1.0%	1.0%

<sup>8</sup> Small base size (unweighted base 33)

<sup>9</sup> Respondent data only

<sup>10</sup> These electors should not have a marker.

First name/surname on register incomplete	0.2%	0.5%
Middle name missing from register	14.8%	7.8%
Middle name initials misspelled or incomplete on register	0.1%	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)	0.5%	0.2%
Surname is/assumed to be previous surname <sup>11</sup>	0.7%	0.5%
First/middle/surname in different order on register	0.1%	0.1%
DoB earlier on register for attainer	0.0%	0.0%

Base (unweighted): Scotland – 1,421; Great Britain - 10,871.

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<sup>11</sup> 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.