



Cabinet Office

Canvass Reform

Canvass Reform Data Test Guidance

Part III: The National Data Test and Your CRDT Results

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1. Document purpose

- 1.1. This document provides guidance on your participation in the Canvass Reform Data Test (CRDT), which all Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) in Great Britain are required to participate in under regulation 20 of The Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1451) (the Canvass Regulations). Specifically, this guidance relates to the mandatory testing of national data, including its purpose and how to complete it.
- 1.2. This guidance exclusively relates to your obligations under regulation 20 of the Canvass Regulation. Although it includes some mandatory technical requirements, it does not contain legal or compliance advice in relation to your general legal obligations, including under the Data Protection Act 2018, and should not be interpreted as having any effect on the application of any such laws or requirements.
- 1.3. Please share this document with your electoral services staff and IT team, and seek advice from your legal team and Data Protection Officer as required.
- 1.4. You should read this guidance alongside the detailed instructions your Electoral Management Software (EMS) supplier will provide to you, as well as the final Statement of Policy on Canvass Reform, which can be found at the webpage below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposals-for-the-reform-of-the-annual-canvass>

- 1.5. The guidance is directed towards the ERO and the duties they carry out. As these duties may, in practice, be carried out by deputies and/or appointed staff, we use the term 'you' throughout this guidance to mean the ERO and whoever is carrying out the ERO's functions on their behalf.
- 1.6. The following Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA) and Scottish Assessors Association (SAA) web pages also contain useful information relating to canvass reform:

<https://www.aea-elections.co.uk/elections-referendums-registration/registration/reform-of-the-annual-canvass/>

[https://assessors.saa.gov.uk/document_repository.php?MEDIA_CATEGORY\[\]=Electoral+Registration+Committee+Other&LINK_ID=72](https://assessors.saa.gov.uk/document_repository.php?MEDIA_CATEGORY[]=Electoral+Registration+Committee+Other&LINK_ID=72)

2. Legislation

- 2.1. CRDT allows for both national and local data testing. The Canvass Regulations came into force on 4 November 2019 in the UK Parliament and both the Scottish and Welsh Statutory Instruments (SIs) that are needed will follow early in 2020. We are continuing to work with the Welsh and Scottish governments to enable data testing in Wales and Scotland. No testing will take place in these nations until the devolved SIs are in force.
- 2.2. The mandatory requirements included in this guidance are issued under paragraph (2) of regulation 20, and paragraph (3) of regulation 21 of the Canvass Regulations. You are therefore required by law to have regard for these requirements.
- 2.3. For the sake of clarity, the sections which constitute mandatory guidance issued under the Canvass Regulations are set out in a box preceding explanatory or descriptive material. The box will also include the legislative reference for the requirement.

3. Previous guidance

- 3.1. To date, you have received the following guidance. These are published on the AEA and SAA web pages shown above and on the Electoral Commission's website (see below):

| Guidance | Released | Electoral Commission website link |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Canvass Reform Data Test Guidance Part I: Data Test Preparations | March 2019 (Updated in December 2019) | https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/media/6914 |
| Canvass Reform Data Test Guidance Part II: Testing Local Data | March 2019 | https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/pdf_file/Cabinet-office-Canvass-Reform-Data-Test-Guidance-Part-II-Testing-Local-Data_including-annexes-A-D.pdf |

4. Why are we testing national data?

- 4.1. The Individual Electoral Registration Digital Service (IER DS) matches applications to register to vote against data from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) each day as citizens register to vote. This process, known as verification, matches each applicant's name, Date Of Birth (DOB) and National Insurance Number (NINO) against DWP data.
- 4.2. The additional data matching that will now be completed as part of the canvass is different to data matching for verification purposes. Firstly, it matches the data of

registered electors rather than applicants. Secondly, the minimum information needed for matching is each elector's name and address, rather than their name, DOB and NINO. This is because this data matching is assessing whether an elector is still resident at an address, whereas verification assesses the identity of an applicant to the register.

- 4.3. Unlike verification which happens each day, the data matching of electoral registers against a national data set has not been completed or tested since 2014 where electors, who were registered under the previous household registration system, were transitioned to the new IER system via a process known as Confirmation Live Run (CLR).
- 4.4. Given that CLR was over five years ago, updated statistics of how many electors and households can be matched using national data will give you updated estimates for how well your register can be matched using national data ahead of your canvass in 2020.
- 4.5. Once the national data matching has been completed, the results are combined with the results of any local data matching that you have completed within your EMS to create match results for each individual elector. Once each elector's match result has been calculated, the results are aggregated at the household level to create a property match result for each household. This will enable you to plan and budget more effectively by providing you with updated statistics for how successfully current electoral registers can be matched against national and local data. Please see further details for how this process works in section 5.3 below.
- 4.6. Updated match rates will also allow the Cabinet Office (CO) to update its own canvass reform projections with more recent data, including the projected cost savings of canvass reform. Finally, it will enable CO to test the digital infrastructure that provides for data matching, which sees data move between your Electoral Management Software (EMS), IER DS and DWP.

5. How will the national data test work?

5.1. The ping test

- 5.1.1. Before you can complete the national data test itself you need to make sure you have connectivity with Canvass Reform Service, which is the service that will enable the national data testing. Your EMS supplier has provided you with an upgrade which enables this, but before you can complete your national data test you must confirm that you have connectivity by completing a 'ping' test.
- 5.1.2. This test should be conducted by the IT Team within your Local Authority or Valuation Joint Board and instructions can be found in [Annex A](#) in this document.

MINISTERIAL REQUIREMENTS

This guidance is issued by the Minister for the Cabinet Office under Regulation 20 (2) (b) of the Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) (Amendment) Regulations 2019. You must, by law, have regard to this guidance.

5.2. The national data test

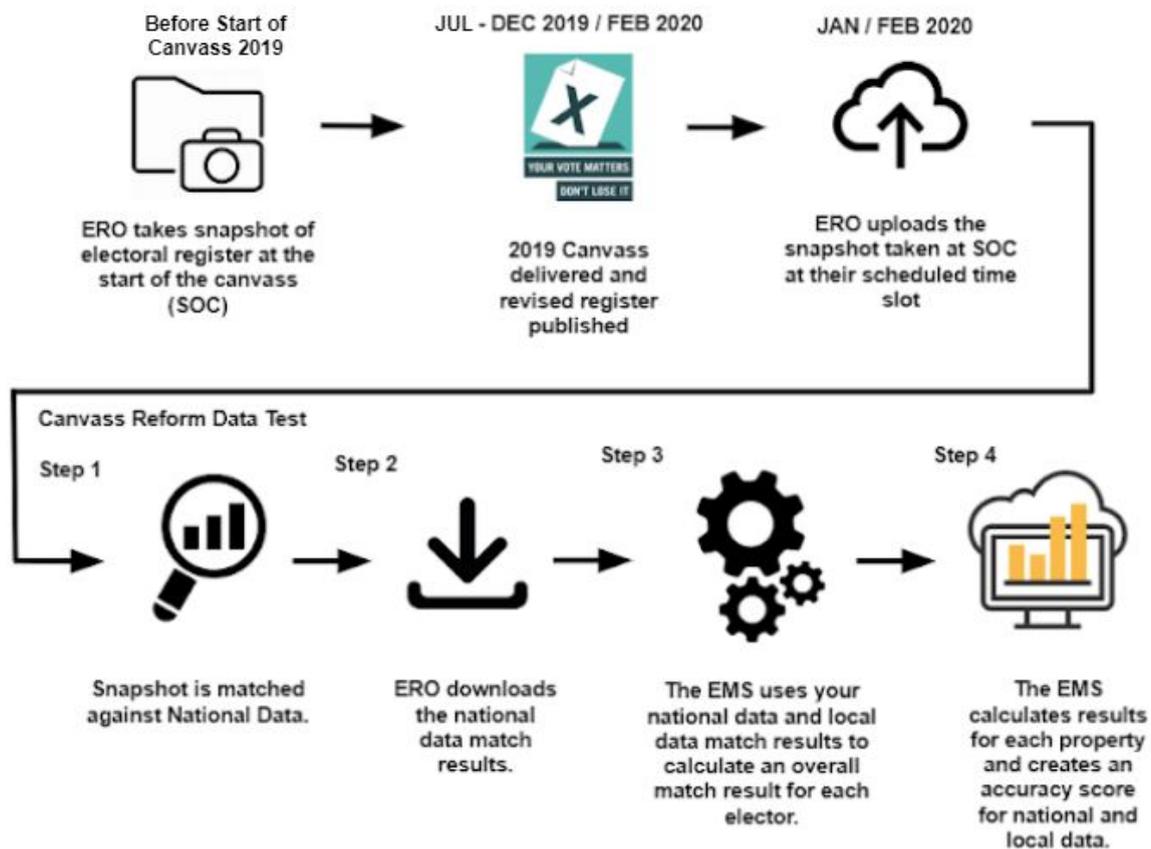
- 5.2.1. At the start of your 2019 canvass you took a snapshot of your electoral register. This is the record of your register at the start of the canvass and it is this snapshot which will be matched against data at DWP.
- 5.2.2. Figure 1 below illustrates the canvass reform data test. As you can see, to begin the data test you must upload your snapshot to the digital service. By comparing your register from the start of the canvass to data held at DWP at the start of the canvass, we can test how many electors would have matched DWP data if you had run the national data match ahead of your 2019 canvass.
- 5.2.3. The DWP data matching then follows. This happens at the elector level which means each elector is matched individually against data held at DWP. The national data test results are then returned and show how many individual electors would have been matched against DWP data at the start of your 2019 canvass.

5.3. Combining your match results

- 5.3.1. As shown in Steps 2 and 3 in Figure 1 (below), once you download the national data test results your EMS can calculate individual match results for each elector. This is done by combining the national data and local data matching results. An elector will only be considered to have 'matched' if they have matched against national and/or local data.
- 5.3.2. Using the match results for each elector, your EMS will then generate **the property match results** which indicated whether a household has been data matched successfully. This is calculated by aggregating the match scores of all the electors in each property.
- 5.3.3. The property level threshold is 100% so in order for a property to be deemed as a 'match', all registered electors in the property must individually have a 'match' result. The property match will indicate how many households would have been matched using the DWP data and local data at the start of your 2019 canvass. The property match results can then be used to estimate which households would have followed: Route 1, the Matched Property Route; or Route 2, the Unmatched Property Route. Route 3 properties are canvassed differently and are selected by the ERO.
- 5.3.4. Finally, once you have published your revised register, your EMS will be able to generate **data accuracy scores** for the national data and any other local data sets

that you have decided to test. You should consult your EMS supplier to find out how to generate these scores. Please refer to section 7.2 for a full explanation of what data accuracy scores are (and what they are not) and why they are important.

Figure 1



5.4. What if your canvass didn't finish in December?

5.4.1. The national data test is conducted using the snapshot of your register from the start of your canvass in 2019. Therefore, you do not need to have published your post-2019 canvass register to conduct your data test.

5.4.2. However, there is one element of the national data test that does require you to have published your register following the 2019 canvass; specifically, in order to get the correct data accuracy results, you will need to have published your revised register. This is because the data accuracy results are essentially a comparison between the data test results and the revised register, so you need to have the revised register published to generate the correct data accuracy score. If you have not published your post-2019 canvass register by the date of your national data test, you should go through the process anyway. Then, once you have published your revised register, you should use your EMS to generate a new, 'correct' data accuracy score. Please consult your EMS supplier for further instructions to complete this if required.

5.5. What impact will the General Election have on your results?

5.5.1. The General Election held in December 2019 may affect the results for data accuracy, as the incentives to register were different than during a typical canvass, for example you may have more additions to the register than you would usually expect during the canvass. This could in turn make your data test results look more or less accurate given there are likely more registrations.

MINISTERIAL REQUIREMENTS

This guidance is issued by the Minister for the Cabinet Office under Regulation 20 (2) (b) of the Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) (Amendment) Regulations 2019. You must, by law, have regard to this guidance.

5.6. What data will electors be matched on?

5.6.1. All electors will be matched on their address including postcode, first name and surname as a minimum. Electors will also be matched on their address' Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN), their middle name, previous name, and DOB if you hold this information.

| Required for Data Matching | Matched where available |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → First Name → Surname → Address Line 1 → Postcode | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Previous Name → Middle Name → DOB → UPRN |

5.7. What will be included in your results?

5.7.1. The table below provides an overview of the key results you will receive following the data test.

| Result | Provided by | Explanation |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| National Data Test Match Results | You download these results from DWP during the national data test (See Step 2 in Figure 1) | The number of electors that have and have not matched data held at DWP. |
| Property Match Results | Your EMS uses the national and local data matching results to create an overall result for each elector. These results are then aggregated to the household level by the EMS and provided by your EMS. | Your property match results show you which households are 'matched' and 'unmatched' according to the national and local data matching. |

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Estimation | Your EMS uses the property match results to generate this. | Using your Property Match results your EMS can provide management information statistics on what Canvass Route (Routes 1, 2 & 3) each household would have followed and how many households would have followed each route. |
| Data Accuracy Scores | Your EMS compares both your national data match results and any local data matching results you may have against your published register to create a data accuracy score for each data set. | This is a score (expressed as a percentage) that indicates each data set's ability to accurately indicate which routes properties should have gone down under the reformed canvass. It is not an exact calculation of the accuracy of that data set itself. Please refer to section 7.2 for a full explanation. |

5.8. Which electors must be excluded from the national data test?

5.8.1. The national data match will take place at the beginning of your canvass each year, matching all registered electors against national data. The data test is no different and, therefore, almost all registered electors will be sent for data matching. There are however some clearly defined exceptions. These are outlined below:

- **Route 3 Electors** are those electors in properties that have been selected for Route 3. Going forward, Route 3 electors will be included in the national data matching, starting with your canvass in 2020. Please note that during the data test only they will be excluded.
- **Determined electors not yet on the register** or 'pending addition' until the next register update must not be included in the national data test. This is because they have not yet been formally added to the electoral register.
- **Electors pending removal from the register** must also be excluded from the national data match if their removal from the register is pending as you have the required evidence to remove them but will only be able to do so at the next monthly register update.
- **Special Category Electors** including anonymous electors, declaration of local connection electors and overseas electors must be excluded from the data match as these groups do not form part of the annual canvass.
- **Local Government Attainers (Scotland only)** aged 14-15-years old are also excluded from national data matching.¹ As outlined in CRDT Guidance Part II (published in March), this group can be matched using local data.

Please note that your EMS will exclude the electors as required. This section is to make you aware of what your EMS will be doing.

¹ 14-15 year old attainers will go through local data matching but not national data matching. 'Scotland only' as of December 2019.

6. Scheduling your data test

MINISTERIAL REQUIREMENTS

This guidance is issued by the Minister for the Constitution under Regulation 20 (2) (a) of the Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) (Amendment) Regulations 2019. You must, by law, have regard to this guidance.

- 6.1.1. We will provide you with a date for your data test in January. This will be sent to you and your team via email. Please ensure you email canvass-reform@cabinetoffice.gov.uk with the name of your authority and 'Data Test Date Confirmation' as the subject to confirm that you can do your national data test upload on the date that you have been allocated. Please include the number of electors as of the Start of Canvass 2019 who will be matched against DWP in this email.
- 6.1.2. If you are unable to complete your data test on the date you have been allocated, you will need to contact us to reschedule at canvass-reform@cabinetoffice.gov.uk. We will then allocate you a new date, and you will need to respond to confirm that you can complete your upload on that date. You will also need to provide the number of electors as of the Start of Canvass 2019 who will be matched against DWP if you have not already done so.
- 6.1.3. Once the Canvass Reform Service is live ahead of your 2020 canvass, you will be able to choose your own slot using a scheduling tool, however for the CRDT we have had to schedule your time slot ourselves to ensure there is a reasonable distribution of data each day.
- 6.1.4. **What register should you use?**
As shown in **Figure 1** above, the first step of the CRDT was to take a snapshot of your electoral register at the start of your 2019 canvass. This is the data that must be sent for data matching in early 2020. For instructions on how to do this consult the detailed instructions provided by your EMS supplier.



Important: Check how many records you are uploading

To make sure the correct number of records are being uploaded you should check your elector counts at the start of your canvass and ensure that a similar number of electors is sent to DWP. Please note that it will not be exactly the same as some electors, such as those residing in properties that have been selected for Route 3, will not be included in the date file that you upload.

6.1.5. **How long will the national data test take?**

Our service level agreement with DWP means the results of the data test will be returned to you within five days but, as with verification, we will endeavour to return the match results sooner.



Important: You must start uploading your data by 10.00am on your agreed date

This is in case there are any unforeseen issues and to give yourself enough time to upload the data required. If you miss your agreed slot we cannot guarantee when the next available slot will be.

7. **Your Results and Data Accuracy Explained**

7.1. **Your Results Explained:**

7.1.1. **National Data Test Match Results:** Each elector sent for data matching will return with either a 'Match' or 'No Match' rating. The overall result will indicate how many electors matched against the DWP data.

7.1.2. **Property Match Results:** The results of the national data matching are then combined with your local data match results and aggregated by address to create a 'match rate' for each property. A match indicates that each elector registered at that property was successfully matched against either data held at DWP or data held locally. A 'No Match' indicates that at least one elector registered at that address could not be matched successfully. The property match results can then be used to estimate which 'Route' each address would follow during the canvass. This will be similar to the match results with addresses assigned a 'Match' following Route 1, addresses assigned a 'No Match' following Route 2 and addresses you have previously allocated as following Route 3, following Route 3.

7.1.3. **Data accuracy results:** The annual canvass gathers information on changes to household composition by contacting each address. The CRDT match results provides information on changes to each elector by matching elector data against DWP data and locally held data if used. By comparing the results of the data matching (either national or local) and the results of your annual canvass you will understand how well data matching can predict changes to household composition in your area. This, expressed as a percentage, will be your data accuracy results. To note, the results will not tell you specifically how accurate data sets are, but the results will provide an indication of how useful a data set is for directing a property to the most appropriate route. Data accuracy is primarily useful for ascertaining the accuracy of local data sources.

7.2. **What is data accuracy and why is it important?**

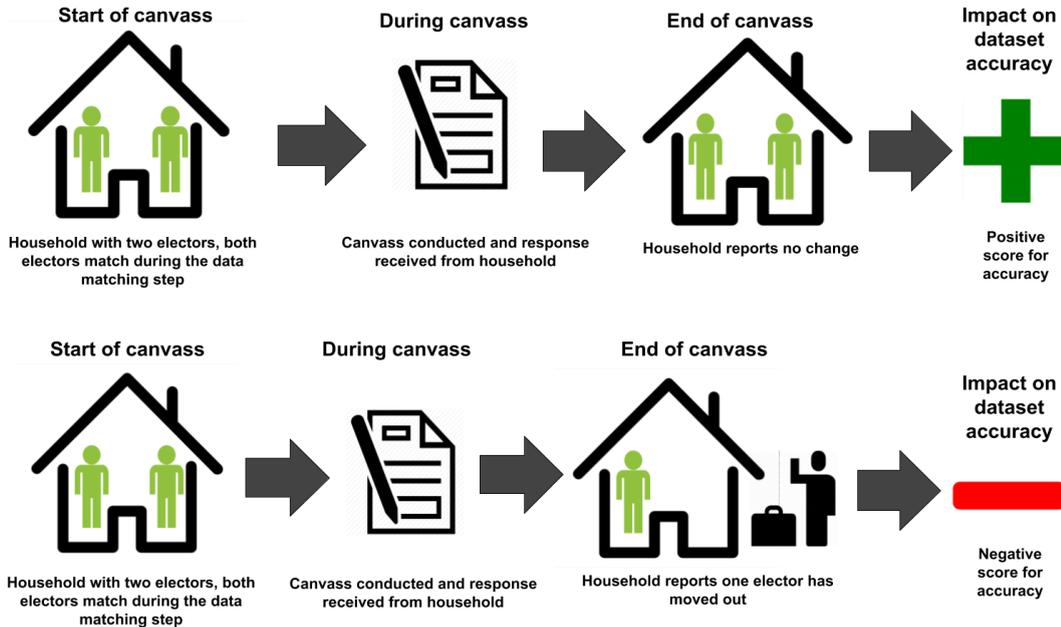
7.2.1. You will receive a 'data accuracy' score, expressed as a percentage, for each data set that you use in the CRDT. This means that you will receive one for the national data test and one for each local data set that you may have tested. Each score provides an

indication of how well that data set predicted the routes your properties should have been sent down in the canvass.

- 7.2.2. This is best explained through an example: The results of a data match (either local or national) indicated that one elector, Jack, lives by himself at Number 3, North Street, as per the information on the electoral register. As there seemed to be no change at the address, the results of that data match guided the ERO to send Number 3, North Street down Route 1. The ERO duly sent a Canvass Communication A (CCA). However, there are two (main) situations where Route 1 may not have been the best route to use.
- Firstly, the data used for this data match was not up to date; Jack had in fact moved out back in April before the canvass started, and so when the CCA arrived in September, and it was picked up by the new owner, Jill, she responded to inform the ERO of this change.
 - Secondly, the data used for the data match was correct; Jack did in fact live in Number 3, North Street when the data match took place in June, however he then moved out in August, and so when the CCA arrived in September and it was picked up by Jill, she responded to inform the ERO of this change.
- 7.2.3. The first situation here is avoidable by using data sets that are up to date. The second situation, however, is unavoidable, and comes as a byproduct of the data match being a snapshot in time, compared to the canvass process that runs over several months. (It is worth noting that this byproduct will impact all data sets used.)
- 7.2.4. Considering both situations, you can see that the 'data accuracy' score does not tell you how accurate the data set is per se, nor does it tell you the accuracy of your pre-canvass register. Instead, based on the results of the canvass, it shows you how well each data set predicted the routes your properties should have been sent down in the canvass.
- 7.2.5. These scores are important because you will not want to data match at the start of the canvass with data sets that you know have low accuracy, as this could result in you routing properties inaccurately. This may damage the completeness and accuracy of your register.
- 7.2.6. The CRDT is an opportunity for you to test the accuracy of both national data and any local data sets you have decided to test.

7.3. How does your canvass results impact your data accuracy results?

Figure 2



7.4. How is accuracy calculated?

To calculate the accuracy of a data set, we look at the number of matched electors where there were no deletions and no deletion evidence identified during the canvass and divide this by the number of electors that were matched successfully by the data set. The number of properties that you have chosen not to canvass due to the single occupancy tick box is removed from the overall score, because electors at these addresses would be data matched but not canvassed as part of the 2019 canvass. It would affect the results if they were included.

Figure 4 - Calculating the accuracy of national data

$$\text{Data Accuracy Score} = \frac{\text{Electors matched by DWP and then confirmed by the canvass as still resident at their address} - \text{Number of properties you have chosen not to canvass due to the single occupancy tickbox}}{\text{The total number of electors sent for data matching via DWP} - \text{Number of properties you have chosen not to canvass due to the single occupancy tickbox}}$$

8. Interpreting your results

8.1. Updating Cabinet Office

- 8.1.1. Once you have your full set of results and have published your 2019 register, you will need to email your MI report to the Cabinet Office. Please use the canvass-reform@cabinetoffice.gov.uk email address for this, with the name of your authority and 'CRDT MI Report' as the subject. The Cabinet Office will follow up for this information if it is not sent by Monday 23 March.
- 8.1.2. Please note that, depending on your EMS supplier, you may not be viewing the correct data accuracy score when you first get your results, if you had not published your register at the time you received your results. This score will become correct once you have published your revised register.

8.2. Resourcing and staffing

- 8.2.1. Your data match results will indicate how households will be split between Routes 1, 2 and 3. You can use these results to inform your resource planning; the recruiting of canvassers; the recruiting of any temporary office staff; and allow you to engage with your print suppliers. For example, as Route 1 requires households to be contacted fewer times compared to the current canvass, you may be able to employ fewer canvassers.
- 8.2.2. The CRDT results will be the most up to date data with which to inform your resourcing decisions ahead of the canvass in 2020. For more information on resourcing and recruitment during the canvass, please stay up to date with the Electoral Commission's guidance on the reformed canvass which will be released in the run up to the start of the canvass period.

8.3. Local data usage and selecting local data sources

- 8.3.1. CRDT Guidance Part II explained how to test local data. While national data matching is mandatory, local data matching is optional. You can use local data matching and good local data sources to boost your overall match rate.
- 8.3.2. The idea is that using local data you can increase the proportion of properties assigned a 'match' rating and therefore increase the number of households that follow the 'Route 1' canvass process. Using your data accuracy results (section 7) you will be able to assess which local data sets you have tested can accurately match electors.

Annex A: Ping test instructions

Canvass Reform Service Connectivity Test Instruction for Local Authorities and IT teams in Local Authorities

1. The introduction of Canvass Reform Service requires changes to Electoral Management Systems (EMS) used by Electoral Administrators within your Local Authority. EMS vendors will provide upgrades of their applications to your Electoral Services Team.

2. One of the features of the upgrade will be to interact with the Canvass Reform Services.
3. The test that we require you to do is a connectivity test to the Canvass Reform Service API. In this document we also refer to this as “confirmation”. This API is very similar to the existing IERDS Verification API that your Electoral Services Team already uses. In this document we also refer to this as “verification”.
4. This connectivity test should be conducted by the IT Team within your Local Authority.
5. This test should be completed one week before your national data test. Your allocated date will be in the body of an email sent to you in January.

INSTRUCTION

6. The connectivity test should be conducted on the workstation(s) that is used to access the Local Authorities EMS software. Your EMS provider will be able to provide guidance if necessary.
7. To perform this test, you would ideally use a valid ERO bearer token. This is the token assigned to your Local Authority that is currently used to connect to the production Verification API. If you do not have, know or are unable to use your valid ERO bearer token, then you can use an invalid bearer token i.e. one that you make up. A stock example of a random, invalid bearer token you could use is: HJGD5736.
8. Either:
 - a. To test connectivity from Windows, run the following PowerShell command (replace ‘<BEARER_TOKEN>’ with your token):

```
Invoke-WebRequest -UseBasicParsing ` -Headers
@{"Authorization" = "Bearer <BEARER_TOKEN>"} ` -Uri
"https://api.registertovote.service.gov.uk/api/v1/ems/conf
irmation-requests" ` | Select-Object -Property
StatusCode
```

You should then receive the following output:

```
StatusCode
-----
200
```

- b. To test connectivity from Linux, run the following shell command (replace ‘<BEARER_TOKEN>’ with your token):

```
curl -s \ -w "IERDS Response Code: %{http_code}" \ -o
/dev/null -H "Authorization: Bearer <BEARER_TOKEN>" \
https://api.registertovote.service.gov.uk/api/v1/ems/conf
irmation-requests
```

You should then receive the following output:

IERDS Response Code: 200

Please note:

- You will get a 'StatusCode 200' or 'IERDS Response Code: 200' if you accessed the endpoint with your valid ERO bearer token.
- If you tried paragraph 8 above with an invalid bearer token you should see a response with a 401 message like this:

HTTP/1.1 401 Unauthorized

Both a '200' response and a '401 Unauthorized' response indicate that your ping test has been successful; they both mean that you are able to connect to the new Canvass Reform Service endpoint. The only difference is that, if you have tried it with an invalid bearer token (e.g. HJGD5736) and received a '401 Unauthorized' response, then you didn't have proper authorisation as you did not use your existing verification ERO bearer token. For the purposes of the ping test, this is not a problem.

9. To help us keep our records up to date please email the result of the test to canvass-reform@cabinetoffice.gov.uk with:

- The name of your authority and 'Ping Test' as the subject.
- Contact details of the person who carried out the test in your email in case we need to contact you.
- The time and date you tried the test.

10. Things to check **ONLY if you DO NOT SEE** a '401 Unauthorized' error message **OR** a '200' response **AND** experience something like:

- A "timeout" message
 - A system "hang"
 - A "not found" message
 - A "not available" message
- a. Check and ensure that all necessary ports and firewall accesses are opened up within your Local Authorities Network and re-try paragraph 8.
 - b. Confirm that there is nothing in place that would block an outbound request to a different endpoint on the same IP address as verification firewall rules.

For example, the firewall rule may be very specific to allow access to a full path:

<https://api.registertovote.service.gov.uk/api/v1/ems/verification-requests>

Rather than allow access to:

<https://api.registertovote.service.gov.uk/>*

- c. Confirm if there is a PSN DNS entry relating to the IP address for the verification endpoint. If there is, check if a confirmation equivalent is required.
11. If you have confirmed that ports and firewall accesses are open and cannot resolve the issue then please contact ierservice@cabinetoffice.gov.uk and copy in canvass-reform@cabinetoffice.gov.uk.

Annex B: Terminology

| Term | Definition |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Canvass Reform Data Test (CRDT) | The whole data testing process, occurring between late 2019 and March 2020. It encompasses both the national data test and any local data testing that takes place between now and when you receive their match results/route splits, as well as the receipt of the match results and data accuracy scores. |
| Canvass Regulations | The Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1451). |
| Data accuracy | This is an accuracy rating (expressed as a percentage) of how accurate the DWP and local data matching is compared to the actual results of your 2019 canvass. Rather than calculating the accuracy of that data set itself, the accuracy results show a data set's ability to accurately indicate which properties should have gone down Route 1 under the reformed canvass. |
| Local data matching step | You will be able to choose whether to use local data in the data matching step which will be introduced under canvass reform. This will involve matching electors against local data sets on name and address as a minimum. The match scores will then be collated at household level and the overall match score for that property will decide which route the property is canvassed by under canvass reform. The use of local data will be discretionary. |
| Local data testing | The process of testing the local data matching in advance of the 2020 canvass. This takes place up until early 2020 when you receive the match results/route splits. |
| National data matching step | Electors will be matched against national data (held by DWP) at the start of the canvass at an individual level on name, data of birth (where held) and UPRN. The match scores will then be collated at household level and the overall match score for that property will decide which route the property is canvassed by under canvass reform. The national data matching step will become a mandatory aspect of the canvass after July 2020. |
| National data test | The process of testing the national data matching system in advance of the 2020 canvass. This takes place from December 2019 to March 2020. |
| Ping test | The process of testing connectivity between an EMS and the Canvass Reform Service. This must be completed before the national data test takes place. |