

Data Matching

National and Local Data Matching The Data Matching Process

Whilst EROs can be confident that a match against DWP data means the elector is still residing in the property, a non-match only indicates a degree of uncertainty about whether the elector is still present.

When EROs upload their elector data, they are required to provide the following information for each elector:

- Full Name
- DoB (if present)
- UPRN (if present)
- String Address (including postcode)

The EMS will also request the following information:

- Elector Number (i.e. a unique elector reference number) or some other ID number
- Local Authority identifier code
- Previous name (if present)

At the start of their canvass process each year, all EROs in Great Britain must complete a 'data matching step'. The purpose of this data matching step is to help EROs identify properties where the residents are more likely to have changed. This information will then be used to determine the method or 'route' that will be used to canvass the property.

There are two categories of data matching:

- National data matching (required)
- Local data matching (optional)



NATIONAL



LOCAL

For national and local data matching, the match is linked to an individual. The exception to this is local data matching for empty properties.

Local datasets are available to EROs under their existing powers provided by Regulations 23, 35 and 35A of the Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001 and the Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001.

NATIONAL For national data matching, EROs must send the information that they hold on registered electors and attainers (i.e. including 16 and 17-year-olds) to be checked against data held by the Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) data warehouse.

Local data matching can be done either before or after national data matching. Please note that EROs should follow both arrows from this box separately (i.e. EROs will need to go through this section of the worksheet twice; once to see the outline of the national data match (above) and once to see the outline for the local data match (below)).

EROs must decide their intended upload date to DWP (via the Individual Electoral Registration Digital Service), specifying how many elector records they will be uploading. NB - More information to be provided.

When choosing local datasets, EROs should focus on the quality and accuracy of the datasets, using the results of the Canvass Reform Data Test and/or previous data matches to do so.

LOCAL EROs will have the discretion to match the data they hold on registered electors against local datasets (e.g. council tax records) in addition to matching against the national dataset.

Do EROs want to match the whole register against a local data set, or to use this selectively for individuals who do not match against DWP data?



Which data sets would EROs like to use?

Is local data available in the correct format? If not, can it be reconfigured so that it is?

Complete the mandatory national data match as above. Otherwise no other steps are required.

Do EROs want to use local data matching?

N

Y