

# electoral administration bulletin

The  
Electoral  
Commission



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## Publication of report on electoral registration in Great Britain in 2022

We have today (Thursday 30 March) published [a report on electoral registration in Great Britain in 2022](#). The report looks at how the canvass was run and considers the ongoing impact on the electoral registers of the changes to the annual canvass process introduced in 2020.

Our analysis of data relating to the 2022 canvass suggests that the reformed canvass processes may not be sufficient to ensure that the registers keep pace with population movement. This is consistent with our findings from 2020 and 2021. Specifically:

- Some households continue to be allocated to the 'wrong' route due to imperfections in the data matching process and/or the lag between matching and canvassing. Almost a fifth of responses from households allocated to Route 1 (where the data matching process suggested there had been no change in household composition) reported significant changes to electors' details.
- Necessary changes to electors' details may not be reflected on the registers. Around 2.4 million households, or one third of those allocated to Route 2 (where a change in household composition was expected), did not respond to the canvass.
- The number of registered attainers continues to fall, possibly as a consequence of the reduction in contact that EROs now make with Route 1 households. The decline in the number of registered attainers began after the introduction of individual electoral registration (IER) in 2014. It continued in 2022, although the number fell at a much lower rate than in 2021.

While we know that new registration applications are most readily driven by large scale electoral events, it is nevertheless important that the canvass and other year-round registration activity supports accurate and complete registers. This can help to reduce the large volumes of registration applications received immediately in

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### Publication of report on electoral registration in Great Britain in 2022

Information on and a link to the Commission's report, which was published today (Thursday 30 March).

EA Bulletins are issued on a regular basis. They are one of our key channels for communicating with Returning Officers, Electoral Registration Officers and their staff. Past issues of Bulletins for England, Scotland and Wales are available [here](#). You can also [subscribe to the EA Bulletins](#).

Please [keep us informed](#) of any staff changes within your team. This will help us to keep our mailing lists up-to-date.

If there is a new RO/ERO appointment in your authority, please contact the team in Wales by e-mailing [infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk)

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advance of major polls, when EROs' staff capacity is already stretched.

We cannot draw definitive conclusions on the impact of the changed canvass process on the registers from this analysis alone. Our research studies into accuracy and completeness allow us to produce reliable estimates of the quality of the registers. The results of our next study will be published in September 2023 and will enable us to robustly evaluate the impact that the canvass reforms have had.

We have regularly highlighted our concern that the registration system, including the canvass, is unlikely to be sustainable in the longer term and have recommended that the UK's governments should reform the system, including to make better use of data to keep the registers up to date and to explore more automated registration processes.

Over the next year we will continue to support and challenge EROs, and work with you to ensure we all make full use of the data that is available. This should help to provide a better understanding of the impact of particular practices within the current framework and support us with identifying and sharing good practice.

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