

Application to vote by post and waiver of signature

Voting by post

Voting by post is an easy and convenient way of voting if you are unable to get to the polling station.

You can use this form to apply to vote by post for a particular election or referendum, for a set period of time or for all future polls. Postal votes can be sent to addresses in the UK and abroad.

In Scotland you must be 16 or over on polling day to vote in local elections and elections to the Scottish Parliament. You must be 18 or over to vote in elections to the UK Parliament and European Parliament.

How do I apply to vote by post?

- Fill in the postal vote application form.
- Make sure you complete all sections of the form and supply your date of birth. Your date of birth is needed on this application form, and again when you use your postal vote. This information is needed to prevent fraud.
- You must return your postal vote application form by 5pm, 11 working days before the poll.

If you are not already registered to vote, your application to register must have reached your electoral registration office by midnight, 12 working days before the poll.

What happens after I've returned this form?

- When an election or referendum is going to be held, your ballot paper will be sent to you in the post.
- Make sure you return your postal vote so that it arrives by the close of poll, otherwise it will not be counted. A Freepost envelope is included in your postal ballot pack. But, if you are sending it from overseas, you may need to pay the postage.
- If it is too late to send your vote back by post, you can hand it in on polling day to the elections team at your council, or drop it off at certain polling stations. **Ballot papers cannot be handed in to the Electoral Registration Office.**

Privacy statement

We will only use the information you give us for electoral purposes. We will look after personal information securely and we will follow the data protection legislation. We will not give personal information about you or any personal information you may provide on other people to anyone else or another organisation unless we have to by law.

The lawful basis to collect the information in this form is that it is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest and exercise of official authority as vested in the Electoral Registration Officer as set out in Representation of the People Act 1983 and associated regulations.

Some of the information that is collected in this form is classified as special category personal data. This is processed for reason of substantial public interest as set out in Representation of the People Act 1983 and associated regulations. To process this type of information the Data Controller must have a relevant policy document that sets out how this information will be handled.

The Electoral Registration Officer is the Data Controller: **Graeme Strachan, 17A South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 9FL, 0131 344 2500.**

You should refer to the Privacy Notice at www.lothian-vjb.gov.uk/privacy.html for further information relating to the processing of personal data.

