

FOI 358/2016

REQUEST

In June 2014 in England & Wales and September 2014 in Scotland, law relating to electoral registration changed from a household registration system to Individual Electoral Registration (IER).

IER requires every elector to be verified by some form of evidence e.g. matched against details held by the Department of Work and Pensions using a National Insurance Number, or by providing documentary evidence such as a passport.

Those already registered were matched against other data sources available to Local Authorities. Some people however could not be matched against these records and were required to submit a new application to remain on the register beyond the end of the transition period, which ended on 1st December 2015.

In light of the above, please can you confirm the following to me in relation to your your local authority area:

- 1) the number of people who were removed from the roll as a result of the implementation of the new IER system;
- 2) how many of those who were removed did not subsequently re-register to vote by the time of the referendum on membership of the EU on 23 June, 2016; and
- 3) how many complaints were received from individuals who thought they would be in a position to vote in the EU referendum but couldn't because their names were removed from the roll during the transition to IER?

RESPONSE

I write further to your e-mail of 3 July 2016 and can confirm that Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) are not a public authority under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and, as such, are exempt from the disclosure requirements imposed by that legislation.

However, assuming question 1) relates to how many electors who had not been successfully confirmed or verified under IER were deleted, as required, from the electoral registers following the end of the transition to IER, I can confirm that this was 1044 in respect of the Tendring District. The information in respect of questions 2) and 3) is not held and therefore, I must advise that Tendring District Council is unable to provide the data you are seeking.