



Freedom of Information Act 2000

Information Request FOI/2010/816

Response

I would draw your attention to the copyright statement on the reverse of this Response.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would like to know the following about the compilation and management of the Electoral Roll:-

1. Approximately what percentage of the Electoral Roll was carried forward from the 2008 Full Electoral Roll to the 2009 Full Roll? This would relate to those households which were previously registered on the Full Electoral Roll and which had not sent an updated canvass form for the next year or been successfully contacted through doorstep canvassing. If you do not have the exact figures please provide your best estimate.

If you are asking how many properties did not return an electoral registration form during the annual canvass, whether through the post or by personal canvassing, we do not hold specific records. However, we would expect the figure to be around 1-3% at most.

2. What year did you introduce a pre-tick on the canvass form for electors who had previously opted out of the Edited register? Please provide copies of any correspondence regarding the introduction of this pre-tick, either internally or with the Information Commissioner's office (ICO) and the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA).

The only data we hold in relation to this is from 2006. Since 2006, we have pre-ticked the opt-out box on those electors who were already opted-out of the edited register. We have had no correspondence with the AEA or ICO.

3. Since 2002 have you ever pre-ticked a canvass form by default for people who have not previously opted out of the Edited Electoral Roll in the preceding year, such that if those people who were previously included in the Edited Electoral Roll do not cross out that pre-printed tick when returning the canvass form they are then opted out of the Edited Electoral Roll?

No

4. If someone has not returned a canvass form for more than two year do you remove them from the Electoral Roll? If not, how many years do you carry a non-respondant over on the Electoral Roll?

We delete electors where a household registration form has not been received for 2 years or more.

5. In addition I would like to know if you have any evidence of electoral malpractice and how many such allegations were a) made to the police or b) resulted in prosecutions, since the beginning of 2008.

There have been no allegations of election malpractice within the Mendip District Council area for at least 7 years.

6. Please also forward me a copy of any other FOI requests you have received in the last six months relating to the Electoral Roll, as well as your responses to those requests.

All Freedom of Information requests from the last six months can be found on the Council's disclosure log by using the following links:

July 2009 - <http://www.mendip.gov.uk/CouncilService.asp?id=SX9452-A782DF80&cat=156>

August 2009 - <http://www.mendip.gov.uk/CouncilService.asp?id=SX9452-A782E3D4&cat=156>

September 2009 - <http://www.mendip.gov.uk/CouncilService.asp?id=SX9452-A782D3E4&cat=156>

October 2009 - <http://www.mendip.gov.uk/CouncilService.asp?id=SX9452-A782E7F0&cat=156>

November 2009 - <http://www.mendip.gov.uk/CouncilService.asp?id=SX9452-A782F114&cat=156>

December 2009 - <http://www.mendip.gov.uk/CouncilService.asp?id=SX9452-A782F8C9&cat=156>

Fiona Lyons
Data Protection Officer

Date: 21 January 2010

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