



# Calling on residents for help to get the register right



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Canvassers are out and about across Hertsmere to ensure residents don't lose their voice on the decisions that affect them.

As part of the annual canvass Hertsmere Borough Council will make contact with all 45,000 residential properties in the borough by email or letter.

In 2020 the government introduced new legislation on the way local authorities deliver the canvass. Only households that have been identified as potentially having changes will receive the traditional canvass form.

Sam Langford, Electoral Services Manager for Hertsmere Borough Council, said: "The electoral canvass is an important part of the annual voter registration process. Many residents have responded to the communications they have received by telephone, online or text message."

Approximately 10,000 properties will receive a canvass form - an A3 double-sided form including a prepaid envelope - and it is these households that our canvassers will be visiting. By law, these households must complete and return the canvass form.

If a Hertsmere Borough Council canvasser knocks on your door, first check their ID badge to be sure they are who they say they are. They will then go through the details on the form to check they are correct. If any information is wrong, the canvasser will make the necessary changes with you.

Sam added: "You don't have to wait for the canvassers to knock at your door to complete the canvass form. If you have received a letter or email, please follow the instructions as detailed in that communication.

"We would also like to encourage people to supply their email address. By allowing us to contact you via email it reduces the necessity for a canvasser to knock or paper forms to be sent.

"Please remember that adding your name to the canvass form does not automatically register you to vote. If you're not currently registered, your name will not appear on the form. The easiest way to register is online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote). If you have registered recently, you are still required to respond to the canvass if your household receives a form."

In addition, around 25,000 properties will receive a hand delivered letter to check the information held on the electoral register. If the information is correct, households do not need to respond. However, if any information is wrong residents can update the information by following the simple instructions on the letter.

People who have moved recently are particularly encouraged to look out for the voter registration messages and check the details. Research by the Electoral Commission, published in 2019, indicates that recent home movers are far less likely to be registered than those who have lived at the same address for a long time. Across Great Britain, 92% of people who have been at their property for more than sixteen years will be registered, compared to 36% of people who have lived at an address for less than one year.

The canvassing will end on Sunday 31 October.

Residents who have any questions can contact the elections team on 020 8207 7481 or email [elections@hertsmere.gov.uk](mailto:elections@hertsmere.gov.uk)



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