

How to fill in the absent vote application

About ⑥

In order to vote you must either appoint someone to vote on your behalf (this is known as a proxy) or you must apply for a postal vote. If you are able to return to the area in the United Kingdom where you are registered on polling day then you needn't complete ⑥. Your vote will be cast in the constituency which covers the address where you were last registered as an elector in the UK (or where a parent or guardian was registered).

If you are currently registered as an overseas elector, and have not cancelled your absent vote, you need not complete ⑥ unless you wish to make any changes.

If you choose to vote by post you should bear in mind that postal votes can only be despatched eleven days before polling day at the earliest. Therefore your ballot paper may not reach you in time for you to return it before the close of poll.

If you choose to vote by proxy, your proxy must be:

- ~ willing and allowed to vote on your behalf
- ~ a British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth or of the Republic of Ireland
- ~ old enough to vote
- ~ not subject to any legal incapacity to vote

A proxy may not vote at the same election in any constituency for more than two people unless they are a close relative (husband, wife, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild) of the people they are voting for.

If you have consulted your proxy and can confirm that he or she is willing and is allowed to act for you, then only you need sign in the space provided. Then complete and sign ⑥ yourself, send the whole form to the electoral registration officer.

If you are not yet sure whom you wish to appoint as proxy, or if you are not sure if your chosen proxy is willing to act for you, detach and retain ⑥. Sign it and send it to your proxy later. Ask him or her to sign it as well, and to send it on to the electoral registration officer. You will need to tell your proxy where to send ⑥, so indicate which of the following by ticking the appropriate box.

Isle of Wight Council Electoral Services County Hall Newport Isle of Wight	The Electoral Registration Officer (Borough (if London)) Town or City Country United Kingdom
<input type="checkbox"/>	↓ complete below if necessary ↓

The Chief Electoral Officer 3 rd Floor 65/67 Chichester Street Belfast BT1 4JD Northern Ireland	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; height: 1.2em; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; height: 1.2em; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; height: 1.2em; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; height: 1.2em; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your proxy may wish to vote by post if he or she unable to vote on your behalf at your polling station or just prefers to vote by post. If this is the case he or she may complete and sign the part in ⑥ titled '**Application of Proxy to vote by Post**'. Alternatively your proxy may, at any time, ask the Electoral Registration Officer for an application to vote by post. If your proxy wishes to vote in person at the polling station then he / she should not enter an 'address for ballot paper'.

If you intend to return ⑥ separately, enter your own details in the space provided. You must sign ⑥ whether you are sending it with the rest of the form or separately.

If you choose to vote by proxy you are strongly advised to appoint a proxy as soon as possible. Do not leave it until shortly before an election, since it may be difficult to confirm the proxy's appointment in time for your vote to be cast.

Overseas Elector Application - Notes

How to fill in this form

About this form

If you are a British citizen living outside the United Kingdom and you satisfy the conditions set out below, you may register as an overseas elector. This will enable you to vote at Parliamentary and European Parliamentary elections in the UK (if you are a peer you will be able to vote only at European Parliamentary elections). **Do not use this form if you are a Crown Servant or British Council employee or the spouse of one. Members of the Armed Forces serving abroad, and their spouses, should use Service Declaration forms.**

You must be a British citizen. You must also satisfy one of the following two sets of conditions:

either **Set 1** ↓

- ~ your name was previously on the electoral register for an address in the UK
- ~ you were living in the UK at that address for that register
- ~ there are no more than 15 years between the date of this declaration and the time that register was in force

or **Set 2** ↓

- ~ you last lived in the UK less than 15 years before the date of this declaration
- ~ you were too young to be on the electoral register in force on the last date before you left the UK
- ~ a parent or guardian was on that electoral register for the address at which you were living on that date
- ~ you are at least 18 years old, or will become 18 while the register you now want to be on is in force

About ①

Fill in your name and present (non-UK) address in the space provided. Your **UK registration address** is the address in the UK where you know or believe you were last registered as an elector. Tick the appropriate box if you were registered either as a service voter, mental patient or by a declaration of local connection.

If you left the UK when you were **too young to be registered as an elector**, your registration address is the address where you were living on the last qualifying date before you left the UK.

If your name has changed since you were last registered (or, if you filled in Box **C**, since you were born), remember to state your former name in full and the reason for the change (e.g. 'marriage') in the space provided.

The **date of the register** refers to the year when it was in force. Prior to 2001, the register was in force from 16 February to the following 15 February. In England, Wales and Scotland the qualifying date was 10 October and in Northern Ireland 15 September. Therefore if you were on the register that was in force between 16 February 1992 and 15 February 1993 then write '1992/93' in Box **A**. From 2001 onwards, the register is in force from 1 December until 30 November of the following year. In England, Wales and Scotland it is based on a relevant date of 15 October. The electoral register can also be updated throughout the year. Therefore if you were on the register that was in force between 1 December 2001 and 30 November 2002 then write '2001/02' in Box **A**.

Fill in **A**

If you have registered before as an **overseas elector** (and, since then, you have not been registered as an elector living in the UK), enter the date of the register you were on.

Now complete
Parts **4** & **6**

or

Fill in **B**

If you were last registered as an **ordinary UK elector**, enter the date you left the UK.

Now complete
Parts **3**, **4**, **5** & **6**

or

Fill in **C**

If you left the UK when you were **too young to be registered as an elector**, and you have not registered before as an overseas elector, enter your date of birth.

Now complete
Parts **2**, **3**, **4**, **5** & **6**

About ②

If you filled in Box **C** in ①, you must state in ② the full name of the parent or guardian whose registration as an elector in the UK you are relying on. He or she must have been on the electoral register in force on the date before you left, for the address you have given as 'UK registration address' in ①.

If you filled in Box **C you must send with this application a photocopy of your full birth certificate (showing the full names of either or both of your parents). Tick the box to show that you have enclosed it with your application.**

If the name you have given in ② is not the name of a parent or guardian as was entered in the electoral register, or it is not the name of either parent as shown in your birth certificate, explain why (e.g. 'my mother has married / remarried since she was registered' or 'the person named above adopted me and became my guardian in (year)'). If you do not know the reason for the change of name, write 'not known'.

About ③

If you filled in either Box **B** or **C** in ①, you must fill in ③, giving information to show that you are a British citizen.

If you hold a British passport which describes your national status as 'British citizen', enter the number, date and place of issue of the passport in the boxes provided.

If you do not hold such a passport, but you were born in the UK before 1 January 1983 (the date on which relevant parts of the British Nationality Act 1981 came into force), enter the place where you were born.

If you do not hold such a passport, and you were **not** born in the UK before 1 January 1983, enter your date, place and country of birth. Say when and how you became a British citizen (e.g. 'naturalisation', 'registration', 'decent', 'marriage to a British citizen before 1949').

About ④

All applicants must complete, sign and date the declaration in ④.

Two Versions of the Register

The **edited register** leaves out the details of people who have asked for them to be excluded from that version of the register. This version can be bought by anyone who asks for a copy and they may use it for any purpose.

The **full register** lists everyone who is entitled to vote. You can check it at the council offices or at some local libraries. Only certain people and organisations can have copies of the full register, and they can only use it for specified purposes. These include electoral purposes, the prevention and detection of crime and checking your identity when you have applied for credit. The law says who can have a copy of the full register and what they can use it for. The full list of such persons and purposes is given in the Representation of the People (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2002. It is a criminal offence for them to pass it on to anyone else or to use it for any other purpose.

About ⑤

If you filled in Box **B** or **C**, you must find someone to support what you say in your application.

He / she can be anyone who:

- ~ is aged 18 or over
- ~ is not living in the UK
- ~ is the bearer of a British passport which describes his / her status as 'British citizen'
- ~ knows you but is not a close relative (husband, wife, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild).

Your supporter must state his / her full name and the number, date and place of issue of his / her passport before signing the declaration.

How to return this form

You should send this form together with a photocopy of your birth certificate, if required) to the electoral registration officer for the area in which you were last registered as an elector (or in which a parent or guardian was registered) – i.e. for the address you have filled in a 'UK registration address' in ①.

If this was Isle of Wight Council
then send this application to:
Electoral Services
County Hall
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 1UD

otherwise send your application addressed to:

The Electoral Registration Officer
(*Borough (if London)*)
Town or City
Country
United Kingdom

If you (or your parent or guardian) were previously registered in Northern Ireland, send your application to:
The Chief Electoral Officer, 3rd Floor, 65/67 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4JD Northern Ireland

After you have returned the form

The electoral registration officer will write to tell you if he is satisfied that you qualify as an overseas elector and will be included in the register. If he has doubts about your age or citizenship, he may ask for further evidence or documentation. If he rejects your application he will return this form and explain why.

Once you are registered as an overseas elector, you will be able to vote at all Parliamentary and European Parliamentary elections for twelve months from the date of entry on to the register. The registration officer will send you a reminder two to three months before the expiry of your registration. He will enclose another form.

Warning

It is an offence to make an overseas elector's declaration if you know that you are subject to a legal incapacity to vote at Parliamentary elections, or to make a false statement in this application.

It is also an offence for your supporter to sign the declaration if he or she is not authorised to do so, or if he or she makes a false statement.