

European Parliamentary election

**FAQs (frequently  
asked questions)**

# 1 Registration

Issue/question	Answer
Am I registered to vote?	<p>To find out if you are registered call the Electoral Registration Office 0300 300 0150</p> <p>Applications to register should be made <b>as soon as possible</b></p> <p>Applications must be made by <b>7 May 2019</b>. Application received after the 7 May 2019 will not be in time for the election, but will be for future elections.</p>
How do I register to vote?	<p>You can apply to register online at <a href="http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote">www.gov.uk/register-to-vote</a></p> <p>Alternatively, you can apply by filling in a form &amp; returning it to the Electoral Registration Office. A form can be downloaded from <a href="http://www.yourvotematters.co.uk">www.yourvotematters.co.uk</a></p> <p>The deadline for registration is <b>7 May</b>.</p> <p>See also <i>Am I registered to vote?</i> above.</p>
How do I register to vote (EU citizens)?	<p>In addition to the requirements above, citizens of the European Union (excluding the UK, Republic of Ireland, Malta or Cyprus) need to complete a separate application, accompanied by a declaration stating that they will vote only in the UK at the European Parliamentary Election.</p> <p>Contact the Electoral Registration Office 0300 300 0150</p> <p>The form needs to be returned by <b>7 May</b></p>
Missed the registration deadline?	<p>You will not be able to vote at these elections but can still register for future elections.</p> <p>To register call the Electoral Registration Office 0300 300 0150</p> <p>You can apply to register online at <a href="http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote">www.gov.uk/register-to-vote</a> You can also apply by filling in a form and returning it to your local Electoral Registration Officer.</p>
I applied to register ages ago but I'm still not on the register.	<p>The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) needs to verify your identity before adding your name to the register.</p> <p>In some cases, the ERO will need to contact you to ask for more information to process your application</p> <p>If you want to check the progress of your application please contact the ERO 0300 300 0150</p>

Issue/question	Answer
Am I eligible to register to vote?	<p>You can only vote if you are registered. You can register if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ you are 17 or over (but you <b>cannot</b> vote until your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday)</li> </ul> <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● you are a British, Irish or qualifying Commonwealth citizen (i.e. you have leave to enter or remain in the UK or don't require leave to enter or to remain in the UK) permanently living in the UK</li> <li>● other European Union citizens permanently living in the UK can register to vote at local government elections and European Parliamentary elections but not UK Parliamentary elections</li> <li>● Some people can register as a Service Voter or Crown Servant posted overseas – see sections 5 and 6 for further information.</li> </ul>
If I pay council tax am I automatically registered?	<p>No. Electoral registration is a separate process performed by the Electoral Registration Officer. There are different requirements to be able to register to vote than to pay council tax so one cannot be used to automatically add names to the other.</p>
I'm a student and I'm not sure where I should register to vote.	<p>Students may be entitled to register at either or both their home address and their college/university (term time) address.</p> <p>However they must only vote once at any one contest. i.e. only once in any single counting area at this European Parliamentary election</p>
I've just turned 18 and want to register.	<p>Same process as 'How do I register to vote'</p>
I'm homeless / live on a house boat / caravan / in a mental hospital / remanded in custody. Can I register?	<p>Yes. You can make something called a 'declaration of local connection'.</p> <p>You can apply by filling in a form and posting it to your local Electoral Registration Office 0300 300 0150</p>

## 2 Postal and proxy voting

Issue/question	Answer
Who can apply for a postal vote?	<p>Anyone who is registered to vote.</p> <p>If you are not yet registered, you can submit a postal vote application form alongside your registration form.</p> <p>Forms can be downloaded from <a href="http://www.yourvotematters.co.uk">www.yourvotematters.co.uk</a> or from the Electoral Registration Office 0300 300 0150</p>
What is the deadline for applying for a postal vote for the forthcoming election?	<p>Your application must be received by <b>5pm on 8 May</b>.</p> <p>If you are not yet registered, the deadline to apply to vote by post is still 5pm on 8 May, but your application to register must have reached the ERO by 7 May.</p>
Missed the postal vote application deadline?	<p>You may be able to apply for a proxy vote up until <b>5pm on 15 May</b>, if you cannot attend the polling station. You will need to state the reason why you can't attend the polling station on the form.</p> <p>You can still apply for a postal vote for future elections now if you wish.</p> <p>Forms can be downloaded from <a href="http://www.yourvotematters.co.uk">www.yourvotematters.co.uk</a></p>
How do I get a postal vote?	<p>You can download an application form from: <a href="http://www.yourvotematters.co.uk">www.yourvotematters.co.uk</a> or get one from the Electoral Registration Office.</p> <p>You need to return the form to the ERO.</p> <p>Remind them of the deadline (see above)</p>
I haven't received my postal ballot paper yet.	<p>Local Returning Officers must dispatch postal votes as soon as they can, but not until after nominations have closed and ballot paper proofs checked. However dispatch dates will vary.</p> <p>If you applied in time to be included in the register update, your postal vote will be part of the first batch of postal votes sent out and you should receive it by around 10 May.</p> <p>If you only recently applied for a postal vote, you should receive it around 17 May</p>

Issue/question	Answer
	<p>If it hasn't arrived by 17 May or you subsequently lose it, you can get a replacement ballot paper in person from your local elections office, up until 5pm on polling day. You will need identification.</p> <p>If you have spoilt your ballot paper or postal voting statement, you can get a replacement until 5pm on polling day. <b>Do not destroy or throw away your postal ballot papers.</b> You will need to return them before you can get a replacement.</p>
For what period does my postal vote last?	You can apply for a specific election, a specific time period, or for a permanent one that lasts until you cancel it or move home.
How does the postal voting statement work?	<p>The postal voting statement will arrive in the postal vote pack alongside your ballot paper. It must be completed or your vote will not count.</p> <p>You will need to provide your signature and date of birth. This will be checked against the signature and date of birth you previously supplied to the Electoral Registration Officer.</p> <p>More detailed instructions will be provided in your postal ballot pack, or you can contact the Election Office for more information.</p>
Why do I have to give my date of birth and signature? How is it secret?	<p>When you apply for a postal (or proxy) vote, you must provide your date of birth and signature.</p> <p>When you get your postal ballot paper there will be a separate statement on which you will be asked for the same details. This is for security reasons and the details must match those you previously provided for your vote to be counted.</p> <p>However, rest assured that the statement is separated from the ballot paper when it is received. This happens before the sealed ballot paper envelope is opened and the vote is counted. This keeps your vote secret; no one will be able to find out how you voted.</p>
How secure is a postal vote? / Any question or challenge about the security of voting.	<p>It may be an offence to complete a postal vote that is not your own, or to intimidate voters.</p> <p><b>If you have evidence</b> that electoral fraud has been committed you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact the police as quickly as possible using the non-emergency number 101. You should be prepared to give them a statement and substantiate your allegation.</li> <li>• If you are worried about giving your name to the police, you</li> </ul>

Issue/question	Answer
	<p>can also report electoral fraud anonymously by contacting CrimeStoppers by phone on <b>0800 555 111</b> or online at <a href="http://crimestoppers-uk.org">crimestoppers-uk.org</a></p> <p><b>If you think</b> that electoral fraud <b>may</b> have been committed you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First speak to the Electoral Registration Officer or Election Office</li> <li>• They may be able to explain whether or not electoral fraud has been committed, and can refer your concerns to the police if necessary. They can also provide you with the details of the police contact for the relevant police force so that you can report the allegation yourself.</li> </ul>
<p>I opted for a postal vote but I don't want to post it/I'm too late to post it</p>	<p>You can drop off your postal vote on polling day at the Council HQ, Giffnock, or to at any polling station in East Renfrewshire. Make sure you do it before 10pm.</p> <p><b>You cannot be given another ballot paper at the polling station.</b></p>
<p>I have received my postal vote but I don't want to vote by post</p>	<p><b>If before 5pm on 8 May.</b> You can change your voting method for this election if you haven't already returned your postal vote. You will need to contact the Electoral Registration Office.</p> <p><b>Otherwise:</b> You can complete your postal vote and take it to any polling station in the area on polling day, or hand it in at the Council HQ. Make sure you do it before 10pm on polling day.</p>
<p>Who can apply for a proxy vote?</p>	<p>Anyone who is registered to vote can apply to vote by proxy. Your chosen proxy (i.e. the person voting on your behalf) must also be registered to vote.</p> <p>If you or your proxy are not yet registered to vote, you should apply now and by no later than 7 May so you can be registered in time. You can submit a proxy vote application alongside your registration application</p> <p>To vote by proxy for the forthcoming election only, you must have a reason – e.g. you will be away on holiday, you are away on business. You will not require an attestation.</p> <p>You can download a proxy application form from <a href="http://www.yourvotematters.co.uk">www.yourvotematters.co.uk</a> or get them from the ERO.</p>

Issue/question	Answer
<p>What is the deadline for applying for a proxy vote?</p>	<p>If you are amending an existing proxy vote or changing from postal to proxy, you must return your application by <b>5pm on 8 May</b>.</p> <p>New proxy applications (where you were previously going to vote at a polling station) must be received by <b>5pm on 15 May</b>.</p> <p>You can apply to vote by proxy for emergency medical reasons or if you are called away unexpectedly for work reasons up until <b>5pm on polling day</b>. The medical emergency must have occurred after 5pm on 15 May. To apply on the grounds of work/service, the person must have become aware that they cannot go to the polling station in person after 5pm on 15 May.</p>
<p>I've been appointed as proxy for someone and I don't know how it works</p>	<p>It's simple to vote as someone's proxy. You vote in the same way as any other elector.</p> <p>You should ask the person who has appointed you as their proxy how to vote on their behalf.</p> <p>You will be sent a proxy poll card with details of where you should go to vote. This will be near to where the person who appointed you lives.</p> <p>If you can't attend the polling station you can vote as proxy by post, but you must apply by <b>5pm on 8 May</b>.</p> <p>If you are going to the polling station just tell the staff there that you are voting as a proxy and they will tell you what to do.</p> <p>Don't forget to take your proxy poll card – although you don't need it to vote, this will speed up the ballot paper issuing process.</p>
<p>I can't sign or sign in a consistent manner</p>	<p>There is a special system if you can't sign or sign in a consistent manner. You will need to complete a special application form from the Electoral Registration Officer</p>

### 3 How/where to vote

Issue/question	Answer
Date of election	<b>23 May 2019 (polling hours: 7am to 10pm)</b>
How do I find out where my polling station is?	<p>Your poll card should tell you the location of your polling station.</p> <p>Alternatively, use the <a href="#">Polling Place locator</a>; or</p> <p>Contact the Elections Office.</p>
What methods of voting are there?	<p>In person at the polling station.</p> <p>by post (no reason is needed)</p> <p>by proxy (need to give particular reason for one-off, need to meet certain criteria for a proxy for a period of time)</p>
How do I fill in the ballot papers?	<p>Information will be provided by the polling clerk at the polling station or, if you opted to vote by post, it will be in your ballot pack.</p> <p>There will be instructions on the top of the ballot paper which you should read.</p> <p>The Electoral Commission has information in different formats</p>
My whole block/street haven't had their poll cards.	<p>This may not necessarily mean that you cannot vote.</p> <p>Check that you are registered (see above).</p> <p>If you are registered, you do not need your poll card to vote</p> <p>Use the <a href="#">Polling Place locator</a> to find out where your polling station is or contact the Election Office.</p>

## 4 Overseas voters

Issue/question	Answer
Can British citizens living abroad vote?	<p>British citizens living permanently abroad <b>cannot</b> vote at local government elections, but they <b>can</b> vote at European Parliamentary and UK Parliamentary elections for 15 years after leaving the UK.</p> <p><b>Service voters and Crown Servants</b> stationed overseas <b>can</b> vote in all elections (see next section).</p> <p>For more information go to <a href="http://www.yourvotematters.co.uk">www.yourvotematters.co.uk</a></p>

# 5 Service voters and Crown Servants

Issue/question	Answer
I am in the Armed Forces (Army, Royal Navy or RAF) posted abroad. How do I register to vote?	<p>You can register at an address in the UK where you would be living if not posted overseas or at an address where you have lived in the past.</p> <p>Service personnel and their spouses or civil partners posted abroad can register to vote through making a service declaration. This can be done online <a href="http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote">www.gov.uk/register-to-vote</a>, or by using a service declaration form and sending it to the elections office for the area where they wish to register. You can register at the address in the UK where you would be living if not posted overseas or at an address where you have lived in the past.</p> <p>Service declaration forms should be sent to the elections office for the area where you wish to register.</p> <p>Service voter applications can be made online at <a href="https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote-armed-forces">https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote-armed-forces</a></p>
I am in the Armed Forces living in the UK how do I register to vote?	Service personnel and their spouses or civil partners have the option of making a service declaration (as above), or can opt to register to vote in the traditional way (as described in the registration section)
I am a Service voter, what methods of voting are available to me?	<p>Service voters and their spouses or civil partners can vote in person at their polling station or can opt to vote by post or proxy.</p> <p>Postal votes sent to those registered abroad are normally prioritised and sent first to maximise the time for them to reach you and be completed and sent back before close of poll.</p> <p>However, if you are living or posted abroad you may want to appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf.</p> <p><b>5pm 8 May</b> is the deadline for receipt of postal vote applications and the <b>5pm 15 May</b> deadline for a new proxy vote.</p> <p>If you already have a proxy vote but want to change it, you need to do this by <b>5pm 8 May</b>.</p>
I work in a UK embassy / for the	If you are working outside the UK as a Crown Servant or as an employee of the British Council, you can still register to vote. You

Issue/question	Answer
<p>EU / for the UN, and am based overseas. How do I register to vote?</p>	<p>can also register if you are married to, or are the civil partner of a Crown Servant or British Council employee and you are accompanying them during their employment abroad.</p> <p>If you are employed by the EU, UN or any other organisation not directly in service of the Crown you cannot register as a Crown Servant.</p> <p>You can apply to register to vote online at <a href="https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote-crown-servants-british-council-employees">https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote-crown-servants-british-council-employees</a></p> <p>OR</p> <p>by completing a Crown Servant registration form, which is available to download from the Commission's website.</p> <p>Only British Crown servants and their spouse/civil partner can register this way.</p> <p>Remember that the registration deadline is 7 May</p>
<p>I am a Crown Servant, what methods of voting are available to me?</p>	<p>Crown Servant voters and their spouses or civil partners can vote in person at their polling station or can opt to vote by post or proxy.</p> <p>Postal votes sent to those registered abroad are normally prioritised and sent first to maximise the time for them to reach you and be completed and sent back before close of poll.</p> <p>However, if you are living or posted abroad you may want to appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf.</p> <p><a href="http://www.yourvotematters.co.uk">www.yourvotematters.co.uk</a> website where Crown Servant voter forms can be downloaded.</p> <p><b>5pm 8 May</b> deadline for receipt of postal vote applications and the <b>5pm 15 May</b> deadline for a new proxy vote.</p> <p>If you already have a proxy vote but want to change it, you need to do this by <b>5pm 8 May</b>.</p>

## 6 Access issues

Issue/question	Answer
<p>What provision is made for people with disabilities?</p>	<p>There are different options for casting your vote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- at a polling station</li> <li>- by post</li> <li>- or by appointing a proxy to vote on your behalf.</li> </ul> <p>All polling stations will be fully accessible. The staff will have access to equipment to assist disabled electors to vote in secret or with the assistance of polling station staff.</p> <p>Disabled electors may also bring a companion to assist them to vote at the polling station.</p> <p>Contact the elections office for details of the access to any polling station and the assistance that will be available.</p>
<p>What provisions are made for blind or visually impaired voters?</p>	<p>Tactile voting templates and large print versions of ballot papers are available at all polling stations.</p> <p>You can take a companion with you (close relative or elector qualified to vote) to assist you, or ask the presiding officer at the polling station for help.</p>
<p>What provision is there for non-English speakers?</p>	<p>Ballot papers cannot be printed in languages other than English in Scotland and English and Welsh in Wales.</p>
<p>What provision is there for wheelchair users?</p>	<p>All polling stations are wheelchair accessible.</p> <p>Alternatively, you could apply for a postal vote, to allow you to vote from home; or nominate a proxy to vote on your behalf.</p>

# 7 The election in your area

Issue/question	Answer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What elections are taking place on 23 May?</li></ul>	A European Parliamentary election is being held throughout the UK.
Who is standing in the election?	Details of the parties and individual candidates are available on the Notice of Poll  Nomination of parties and candidates for the European Parliamentary election is organised by the Regional Returning Officer for the region.
Where can I get information about the candidates?	Details of the parties and individual candidates are available on the Notice of Poll  You will need to contact the candidates/parties. Most candidates/parties post leaflets through letter boxes during election time, put up posters, hold meetings, knock on doors or have websites with information.

## 8 Count, results, etc.

Issue/question	Answer
How does the count work?	<p>The ballot papers for the East Renfrewshire area will be counted on Sunday 26 May by the Local Returning Officer and her staff.</p> <p>The local totals are sent to the Regional Returning Officer who will collate the local totals from all the local councils and announce who the winners are.</p> <p>The system used is called proportional representation.</p>
How are the votes counted?	<p>Each region is allocated a number of MEPs, based on its population.</p> <p>The ballot paper lists political parties and independent candidates. Under each party name is a list of candidates who wish to represent that party.</p> <p>The total number of votes cast for each party and independent candidate in is added up for the whole region. The MEP seats are awarded to a party's candidates in the order of the list, or to independent candidates, using a quota system.</p> <p>The Electoral Commission information on how the seats are allocated to the parties/candidates is available at <a href="http://www.yourvotematters/how_do_i_vote/voting_systems/european_parliament_elections.aspx">www.yourvotematters/how_do_i_vote/voting_systems/european_parliament_elections.aspx</a></p>
When will the results be announced?	<p>The Regional Returning Officer will announce the result of the European Parliamentary election when all the local counts are finished and the regional result has been calculated.</p> <p>The Regional Returning Officer and the elections office will publish information and results</p> <p>Local media often publish results after the election</p>
What about recounts?	<p>It is the responsibility of the Regional Returning Officer and the local Returning Officer to decide if a re-count is necessary.</p>

## 9 The Electoral Commission

Issue/question	Answer
What is The Electoral Commission?	An independent body, not part of government, that regulates party and election finance and sets standards for well-run elections and electoral registration.

# 10 List of Commonwealth countries, British Overseas Territories and European Union member states

## Commonwealth countries

Antigua and Barbuda	Kenya	St Vincent and the Grenadines
Australia	Kiribati	Samoa
The Bahamas	Lesotho	Seychelles
Bangladesh	Malawi	Sierra Leone
Barbados	Malaysia	Singapore
Belize		Solomon Islands
Botswana	Malta*	South Africa
Brunei	Mauritius	Sri Lanka
Cameroon	Mozambique	Swaziland
Canada	Namibia	Tonga
Dominica	Nauru	Trinidad and Tobago
Fiji	New Zealand	Tuvalu
The Gambia***	Nigeria	Uganda
Ghana	Pakistan	United Kingdom*
Grenada	Papua New Guinea	United Republic of Tanzania
Guyana	Republic of Cyprus*	Vanuatu
India	Rwanda	Zambia
Jamaica	St Christopher and Nevis	Zimbabwe
	St Lucia	

\*Although also EU member states, citizens of the UK, Cyprus and Malta are eligible to be registered to vote in respect of all elections held in the UK.

\*\*\* The British Nationality (The Gambia) Order 2018 came into force on 22 June 2018 amending the British Nationality Act 81, adding the Gambia as a Commonwealth country.

## British Overseas Territories

Anguilla	Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands
Bermuda	St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
British Antarctic Territory	South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
British Indian Ocean Territory	Sovereign Base areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia on Cyprus
Cayman Islands	Turks and Caicos Islands
Falkland Islands	Virgin Islands
Gibraltar	
Montserrat	

# European Union member states

Austria	Germany	Portugal
Belgium	Greece	Republic of Ireland*
Bulgaria	Hungary	Romania
Croatia	Italy	Slovakia
Cyprus*	Latvia	Slovenia
Czech Republic	Lithuania	Spain
Denmark	Luxembourg	Sweden
Estonia	Malta*	United Kingdom*
Finland	The Netherlands	
France	Poland	

\* citizens of countries which have a \* can vote in respect of all elections in the UK