

# Opting out from the edited electoral register

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Two registers of electors are prepared by the Isle of Man Electoral Registration Unit, the **full register** and the **edited register**.

## **What is the full register?**

The full register contains details of residents eligible to participate in elections in the Island, including names, addresses and, in certain circumstances, date of birth. The law makes it compulsory to provide these details for inclusion in the full register.

The full register is updated on a rolling basis and the revised version takes effect on the first day of January, April, July and October in each year, and 7 days prior to the date fixed for any general election of the House of Keys.

The full register for an individual constituency may be used by that constituency's electoral registration officers for purposes related to elections, elected representatives (MHK's and local authority commissioners) for that constituency, and individuals standing as a candidate for election in that constituency.

A copy of the full register for all constituencies is supplied automatically to parties identified in the Registration of Electors Regulations 2003. These parties include, but are not limited to, the Chief Constable, the Collector of Customs and Excise and the Manx Museum and National Trust.

Credit reference agencies, registered under Part III of the UK Consumer Credit Act 1974, are permitted to buy a copy of the full register so that, amongst other things, lenders can verify the names and addresses of people applying for credit.

The use of copies of the full register is subject to the restrictions on disclosure set out in the Schedule to the Registration of Electors Regulations 2003. It is an offence for anyone who has a copy of the full register to pass information from this register onto others unless permitted to do so by the Registration of Electors Regulations 2003.

## **What is the edited register?**

The edited register is described on the voter registration form as follows:

*"The edited register leaves out the names and addresses of people who have asked for them to be excluded from that version of the register. Copies of the edited register can be bought by anyone who asks for a copy at the General Registry and they may use it for any purpose".*

The edited register is frequently purchased, and used for purposes such as undertaking direct marketing campaigns.

## **How can I opt out of the edited register?**

If you do not want your details included on the edited register, you will need to mark the appropriate box on the voter registration form. The voter registration form carries the following wording:

*"IF ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD WISHES TO HAVE HIS OR HER NAME AND ADDRESS EXCLUDED FROM THE EDITED REGISTER, PLACE AN "X" AGAINST HIS OR HER NAME IN THE FIRST COLUMN OF THE TABLE ABOVE"*

PLEASE NOTE:

- If you do not place an "X" in the appropriate box, your details will appear in the edited register and will be provided to any person purchasing a copy;
- You must place an "X" in the appropriate box on every voter registration form you receive if you wish your details to continue to be excluded from the edited register.

**Why are my old details still available if I opted out?**

Prior to January 2004, only one register of electors was produced and that register could be sold to anyone prepared to pay a fee.

The law changed due to a court case; however, organisations that bought a copy of the register before the change in the law could still be using your details. In addition, your name and address details may be available from other sources, for example telephone directories.

**How can I update my details on the register?**

It is important that your details on the register are accurate and up to date. If you move house you can re-register with your new address, and your new details will be included in the next update of the full register. In addition, if you change your name, you should advise the Electoral Registration Unit as soon as possible, and new details will be included in the next update.

**If you have any queries regarding electoral registration you should contact:**

The Electoral Registration Unit  
Cabinet Office  
Third Floor  
Government Offices  
Bucks Road  
Douglas  
Isle of Man  
IM1 3PN