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Registering to Vote in the General Election

This information sheet explains who is eligible to vote in the General Election, who needs to register or re-register to vote and how they can do so. **The deadline for registering to vote is 11:59pm on Monday 22 May 2017.**

When will the general election take place?

The general election will be held on Thursday 8 June 2017.

At a general election, people may vote for the Member of Parliament (MP) who will represent their local area in the House of Commons. Those standing for election are often members of a political party with a shared set of proposals for governing the UK. Usually, the political party with the greatest number of elected members of parliament forms the new government and its leader becomes Prime Minister. Elected members of parliament consider new laws that are being made and can raise issues of concern to the people in their local area.

Who is eligible to vote in the general election?

The following people may vote in the general election if they will be 18 years of age or older on the day of the election (8 June 2017):

- A British Citizen living in the UK.
- Citizens of Ireland, Cyprus and Malta living in the UK.
- A citizen of a Commonwealth country, British Crown Dependency or British Overseas Territory who is living in the UK and has leave to remain or does not require such leave (because they are exempt from immigration control).

Commonwealth countries (apart from UK, Cyprus and Malta covered above):

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

British Crown Dependencies:

Isle of Man, The Channel Islands.

British Overseas Territories:

Anguilla, Bermuda, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Pitcairn Island, St Helena and dependencies Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, Sovereign base areas on Cyprus Turks and Caicos Islands.

- A British citizen living overseas who has been registered to vote in the UK in the last 15 years.
- An Irish citizen living outside the UK who was born in Northern Ireland and who has been registered to vote in Northern Ireland in the last 15 years.

People in these categories may register to vote even if they do not have a fixed address (for example if they are homeless, part of a travelling community, remanded in custody awaiting trial, or living on a boat or other moveable residence).

Who needs to register / re-register in order to vote?

People who are not registered to vote need to register by 11.59pm on Monday 22 May in order to vote in the election on 8 June 2017. The following groups of people may not already be registered to vote and will need to register:

- People who have not registered to vote before, including young people who will be 18 years on the day of the election and who can register to vote while they are 17 years.
- People who have moved home since the last election and may not be registered to vote at their new address. They will need to re-register to vote.
- People who have recently acquired British citizenship. A person may register to vote as a British citizen as soon as they have attended a citizenship ceremony and received a certificate of naturalisation. They do not need to wait until they have a British passport.

How can a person register or re-register to vote?

In England, Scotland and Wales

People can register **online** to vote in England, Scotland or Wales at:
<https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

People can register using a **paper form** by printing a form from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/voter-registration-forms-paper-versions>

They will then need to send this form to their local Electoral Registration Office before the deadline of Monday 22 May 2017. Their local Electoral Registration Office can also post a form to them if they are unable to print one themselves. A person can find the details of their local Electoral Registration Office at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-on-electoral-register>

In Northern Ireland

To register to vote in Northern Ireland, people need to download a **paper form** from:

<http://www.eoni.org.uk/Register-To-Vote/Register-to-vote-change-address-change-name>.

They then need to send this to the electoral office for their area. Details of Area Electoral Office can also be accessed from this page.

Further information

Further information is available from the Electoral Commission website on voter registration at: <https://www.yourvotematters.co.uk/register-to-vote>