

NOTES FOR APPLICATION AS AN OVERSEAS VOTER

DID YOU KNOW?

- **2.5 million British citizens are eligible to register to vote from overseas.**
- **At the end of 2007, just 14,000 expatriates were registered to vote.**
- **Last year 198,000 Britons left the UK to live overseas, all of whom are eligible to vote in the next European and Parliamentary Elections.**

WHO CAN VOTE?

If you do not live in the UK you can vote at UK Parliamentary and European Parliamentary elections if you register as an overseas elector. However, you must be a British citizen and to qualify you must fit into one of the categories below.

Category One

- Your name was previously on the electoral register for an address in the UK.
- You were living in the UK on the relevant date for that register.
- There are no more than 15 years between the dates for that register and the register you want to be on.

Category Two

- You last lived in the UK less than 15 years before the date for the register you now want to be on.
- You were too young to be on the electoral register which was based on the last relevant date before you left.
- A parent or guardian was on that electoral register, for the address where you were living on that date.
- You were at least 18 years old, or will become 18 when the register you now want to be on is in force.

WHEN TO REGISTER

You have to register every year as an overseas elector. This means you can vote in Parliamentary Elections held in the 12 months following your registration. You may continue to register for 15 years from the date your name was last shown in the register prior to you leaving the UK.

You can register to vote at any time. You do not need to wait until an election is called.

HOW TO REGISTER AS AN OVERSEAS ELECTOR

You will need to give your full name and overseas address as well as the UK address where you or your parent/guardian were registered and the date you left the UK.

If this is the first time you have made an overseas elector's declaration (or if you have been registered as an elector living in the UK since making a previous declaration) you will have to give additional information to show you are a British citizen. If you left the UK before you were old enough to register, you will have to provide a copy of your full birth certificate and information about the parent or guardian whose registration you are relying on.

If this is the first time you have made an overseas elector's declaration (or if you have been registered as an elector living in the UK since making a previous declaration) you will have to find someone to support what you say in your declaration. He or she can be anyone who:

- Is aged 18 or over;
- Has a British passport which describes his or her status as a "British Citizen";
- Knows you but is not a close relative (husband, wife, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child, or grandchild).

THE TWO VERSIONS OF THE REGISTER

Whilst completing the registration form you will be given the option of removing your name from the **edited register**.

The full register is used for elections and referendums, preventing and detecting crime, and checking applications for credit. **The edited register** is available for general sale and can be used for commercial activities such as marketing.

NOTES FOR APPLICATION AS AN OVERSEAS VOTER

HOW TO VOTE

Your vote will be cast in the constituency which includes the address where you were last registered as a UK elector (or where your parent or guardian was registered).

You can vote by post or proxy and the application to vote in either of these two ways

Postal Ballot Papers

Postal ballot papers are only sent out 10 days before election day, and you will need to consider whether this gives you enough time to complete and return your ballot paper before polling day. For this reason it is recommend that you appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf.

Your proxy must be:

- able and willing to vote on your behalf;
- living in the UK;
- a British citizen or a citizen of the Commonwealth or of the Republic of Ireland;
- old enough to vote; and
- legally allowed to vote.

A proxy may not vote at the same election for more than two people in the same constituency, unless they are a close relative (husband, wife, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child, or grandchild) of the people for whom they are voting. The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced new measures to improve the security of postal and proxy votes. Proxy voters will be required to give their date of birth and signature when applying for a postal or proxy vote. (Personal Identifier)

Each local authority will write to all existing proxy voters to request their date of birth and signature on a personal identifiers form. If you do not complete and return the form, your proxy vote will be cancelled. You will not be removed from the electoral roll and can re-apply for a postal or proxy vote. Special provision can be made for those who are unable to sign the form. For more information please contact your local electoral registration office.

Your personal identifier will be stored securely. Each time you vote as proxy via the post, your signature and date of birth provided on the postal voting statement will be checked against these identifiers, to ensure the postal vote remains secure. This should help guard against postal vote fraud.

Your proxy must go to **your** local polling station to vote. If your proxy cannot get to the polling station, they can apply to vote for you by post by 5pm **11 working days** before polling day.

Your application must arrive at your electoral registration office by **5pm 11 working days** before an election when changing or cancelling an existing proxy or postal proxy vote and by **5pm 6 working days** before an election when applying for a new proxy vote.

NOMINATING A PROXY VOTE

If you are unable to nominate a close family member or friend to vote on your behalf the Conservative Party can help. For help appointing a proxy vote please contact Lesley Taylor; lesley.taylor@conservatives.com; 0044 (0)20 7984 8015, or contact your former local Conservative Party Association Office - contact details can be found on www.conservatives.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

If you require further information or assistance in registering as an overseas elector you can contact: Lesley Taylor
Or visit: www.conservativesabroad.org or www.dontleaveyourvoteathome.com or www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/overseas

HOW TO RETURN THIS FORM

Send to the Electoral Registration Officer covering the constituency where you were last registered. To find the address of your Electoral Office visit www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/overseas

TAX QUESTIONS

Registration/voting as an overseas elector will not be taken into account in determining whether you have UK domicile for tax purposes.

MAKING SURE YOU ARE REGISTERED

Once you are registered as an overseas elector you will be sent a reminder approximately 3 months before your current registration expires (so long as you remain qualified); remember you need to apply every year. Another application form will come with the reminder.

The Electoral Registration Officer makes a list of overseas electors and their address abroad. This is available to parliamentary candidates so that they may send literature to overseas electors if they wish.

Electoral registration form for a British citizen living overseas



Only one person can register using this form. Please read the notes carefully before filling in this form. This form does not apply to Crown Servants or British Council employees. Please write in black ink and use **BLOCK LETTERS**. When you have completed **every** section and signed the form personally, send it to your electoral registration office.

1 About you

Surname

First names (in full)

Current full address (outside the UK)
This address will be used for correspondence.

Postcode

Tick here if you do **not** want your name to be included on the **edited** register, which is available for general sale. Read the accompanying notes for more information.

Daytime telephone or mobile number (optional)
(including country codes)

Email address (optional)

2 Your last UK registration details

Please give the full address where you were last registered to vote in the UK (**do not** complete this section if you were too young to be registered when you left the UK).

Postcode

If you have changed your name since you were last registered to vote in the UK, please give your previous name.

Surname

First names (in full)

Reason for changing name

Please tick the **one** statement that applies to you.

I was last registered as a UK resident or service voter until

Now go to section 4

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I was too young to have registered before I left the UK. Please give your date of birth.

Now go to section 3

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| D | D | M | M | Y | Y | Y | Y | | |

I was last registered as an overseas voter on

Now go to section 5

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| D | D | M | M | Y | Y | Y | Y | | |

3 Your parent or guardian

Fill in this section if you were too young to have registered when you left the UK. You must enclose a photocopy of your birth certificate.

The person named below is/was my (tick one box)
parent or guardian

Surname

First names (in full)

If your parent or guardian's name is different from the name that appears on your birth certificate or has changed since your parent or guardian was last registered to vote, please give their previous name.

Surname

First names (in full)

I have enclosed a photocopy of my birth certificate.

Please give the full address where your parent or guardian were last registered in the UK.

Postcode



4 Citizenship

Please tick the **one** statement that applies to you.

I hold a British passport stating that I am a British citizen.

British passport number

Place of issue

Date of issue

I do not hold a British passport stating that I am a British citizen, but I was born in the UK before 1 January 1983.

I am a British citizen, but my passport does not state that I am a British citizen.

Date you became a British citizen

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Please explain how you became a British citizen (for example, naturalisation).

5 Declaration

You must sign the declaration yourself. If the form is not signed, it will be sent back to you. This declaration cancels any previous declaration you may have made.

I am a British citizen.

I am not living in the UK.

Please tick the **one** statement that applies to you.

I ceased to live in the UK on

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I ceased to be a crown servant, an employee of the British Council, or a member of Her Majesty's forces on

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| D | D | M | M | Y | Y | Y | Y |

As far as I know, the details on this form are true and correct.

Signature

Date

6 Witness declaration

If this is the first time you have registered as an overseas voter, you need to get **another person** to fill in this section.

I am aged 18 or over.

I hold a British passport stating that I am a British citizen.

I am not living in the UK.

I am not the applicant's spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild.

To the best of my knowledge, the applicant is a British citizen and is not living in the UK at the time of his/her declaration.

Witness signature

Date

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| D | D | M | M | Y | Y | Y | Y |

Witness names (in full)

Witness address

You need to give the following information

British passport number

Place of issue

Date of issue

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| | | | | | | | |
| D | D | M | M | Y | Y | Y | Y |



Only one person can apply to vote by proxy using this form. Please write in black ink and use **BLOCK LETTERS**. When you have filled in every section and signed the form yourself, send it to your local electoral registration office. You can get the address at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

1 About you

Surname

First names (in full)

Current address
(this address will be used for correspondence)

Postcode

Daytime telephone or mobile number (optional)
(including country code)

E-mail address (optional)

2 UK registration address

Please give the **full** address where you were registered to vote in the UK:

Postcode

3 About your proxy

Full name

Relationship to you (if any)

Full address

Postcode

4 How long do you want a proxy vote for?

I want to vote by proxy at all elections (tick one box only):

until further notice (while I am registered as an overseas voter)

for the elections to be held on

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for the period

from

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to

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| D | D | M | M | Y | Y | Y | Y |

5 Your date of birth and declaration

Declaration: I have asked the person I have named as my proxy and confirm that he/she is willing and able to be appointed to vote on my behalf.

As far as I know, the details on this form are true and accurate. I understand that to provide false information on this form is an offence, punishable on conviction by imprisonment of up to 2 years and/or a fine.

Date of birth: Please write your date of birth 'DD MM YYYY' in the black boxes below, **using black ink**.

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Signature: Sign below, keeping within the grey border.

If you are unable to sign this form, please contact your Electoral Registration Officer.

6 Date of application

Today's date

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