



**Information Governance Team**

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31 January 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

**Request ID: FOI480822585**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Voter Authority Certificates.

You have requested the following information:

- 1. The number of applications you have received for Voter Authority Certificates between September 2022 and January 2023**
- 2. The number of applications you have processed for Voter Authority Certificates between September 2022 and January 2023**

Whilst that there is no statutory obligation to provide this information, to be of assistance, detailed below is your question and as much of the information which is available in response to your question.

We can confirm that elections and registration of electors is governed by the Representation of the People Act 1983 (The Act) as amended and Coventry City Council must appoint an officer of the council to be the Returning Officer (RO) and the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) which is Martin Reeves, Chief Executive of the Council. Although appointed by the Council, the RO and ERO does not carry out the duties or responsibilities of the post on behalf of the Council but in their own appointed capacity. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI) does not list any appointed person under the Representation of People Act.

As you will be aware the facility to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate was not in place until 16 January 2023 therefore, no applications were received or issued prior to this point.

As of 31 January 2023, 104 applications have been made for our area on the Voter Authority Certificate portal and as yet we have not received any paper or in person applications. To date 85 of the applications have been approved by the Electoral Registration Officer, the others require additional information which may be a replacement photo which meets the requirements, documents to confirm their identity or for them to make an application to register to vote.

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: [infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk)

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email [icocasework@ico.org.uk](mailto:icocasework@ico.org.uk).

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**