



## Information Governance Team

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19 May 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

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

**Request ID: FOI505457811**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Voter Authority Certificate. We apologise for the delay.

Referring to your request under the Freedom of Information Act regarding elections. We can confirm that Julie Newman Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer for Coventry City Council under Section 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 is a separate to her appointment as Chief Legal Officer and, although appointed by the council, the Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer's responsibilities and duties are personal. As such an Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer does not carry out the duties on behalf of the local authority but in their own personal capacity.

A list of public bodies and local authorities that are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act is included in Schedule 1 to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which can be viewed here:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/schedule/1>

As you will see, the Freedom of Information Act does not list any person appointed under the Representation of the People Act 1983. It follows that the Returning Officer, Electoral Registration Officer or any other person appointed under the Act are not subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

As a result, we will not be supplying the information you requested.

*Please could you tell me:*

- a. The number of VAC applications received by the council*
- b. The number of these applications accepted/approved by the council*
- c. The number of these applications rejected by the council*
- d. Any numerical breakdown you hold on the reasons for these rejections (I understand these may include, but not be limited to: issues with the photograph, applicant not being registered to vote, National Insurance number not supplied)*

*For part D, I am asking for numerical data and not any information that may lead to the identification of an individual.*

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**