



Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information relating to overseas electors registered in the Wigan Metropolitan local authority

1. The number of registered voters on your current electoral roll who are known to be residing overseas.
 - o If an exact number is not available, please provide an estimate or approximate percentage based on the information available to you.
2. If possible within the time and cost limits of the Act, please provide a breakdown of the overseas electors by country of residence.

Response

With reference to your request for information, I would like to draw your attention to the distinction between the roles of the local authority and those of the Electoral Registration Officer/ (Acting) Returning Officer for Electoral Registration and elections.

The role of the Electoral Registration Officer/ (Acting) Returning Officer is separate from that of the Chief Executive of the local authority and the responsibilities and duties associated with the former roles are personal to the postholder. A list of public bodies and local authorities that are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act is available at the following website:

<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 (or related electoral legislation). It therefore follows that the Electoral Registration Officer/ (Acting) Returning Officer or any other person appointed under the 1983 Act (or related electoral legislation) such as the Counting Officer, are not subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Therefore, as there is no statutory obligation to provide you with this information, I am on this occasion unable to supply any answers to your questions.