

Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board

Beware of Companies that charge you to register to Vote!

We have been made aware of a number of companies advertising on the internet who charge electors to have their name added to the electoral register or offer a service to have their name removed from the edited version of the electoral register.

Registering to vote is free of charge, with no associated costs to complete and return a form to an individual's Electoral Registration Office. **We want to make sure that no one uses any other service that charges for something that is straightforward and free.**

The Register of Electors

The Register of electors is a list of everyone who is registered to vote and shows what elections and referendums they can vote in. Not everyone whose name appears on the Register has the right to vote at all elections and referendums.

There are two versions of the Electoral Register

The Electoral Registration Officer keeps two registers – the electoral register and the open register (also known as the edited register).

The electoral register lists the names and addresses of everyone who is registered to vote in public elections. The register is used for electoral purposes, such as making sure only eligible people can vote. It is also used for other limited purposes set out in law, such as detecting crime (e.g. fraud), calling people for jury service and checking credit applications.

The open register is an extract of the electoral register, but isn't used for elections. It can be bought by any person, company or organisation. For example, it's used by businesses and charities to confirm names and addresses.

Your name and address will be included in the open register unless you ask for them to be removed. Removing your details from the open register doesn't affect your right to vote.

Registering to vote is simple.

Electoral registration takes place on a local basis by each local authority's Electoral Registration Officer. The electoral register is updated on a monthly basis. You can register to vote at any time of the year by visiting www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or by telephoning our electoral registration helpline on **0300 300 0150**. Further information on electoral registration can be found on the electoral commission's website www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

There is a misconception that by adding your name to the electoral register you will be inundated with junk mail and marketing telephone calls. This is not true, marketing agencies obtain their data from wide variety of sources. You can drastically reduce the amount of junk mail and marketing telephone calls **FREE OF CHARGE** by choosing to exclude your name

from the open register, registering with the telephone preference service and the mail preference service.

Register to Vote www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board www.renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk

Telephone Preference Service www.tpsonline.org.uk

Mail Preference Service www.mpsonline.org.uk

Further information and advice is available please telephone **0300 300 0150**