

Changes to EU Citizen's Voting and Candidacy Rights (EUVCR) – FAQ

This document covers reforms made by the UK Government Elections Act 2022 which made changes to EU Citizen's Voting and Candidacy Rights.

The changes

Since 7 May 2024, EU citizens are no longer automatically entitled to register to vote or stand as a candidate in certain elections in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

What elections do these apply to?

The Act removes the rights of some EU citizens to vote and stand in certain elections. The changes apply to:

- local elections in England and Northern Ireland
- elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly
- elections for Police and Crime Commissioner in England and Wales

These changes will not apply to local and devolved elections in Scotland and Wales.

Can any EU citizens still vote?

There are two groups of EU citizens that retain the right to vote and stand for election.

Firstly, EU citizens from nations where the UK Government has negotiated agreements with EU Members States to allow its citizens living in the UK to vote, in return for the same right for UK citizens living in that country, will still be able to vote and stand in elections.

So far, these agreements have been made with:

- Spain
- Portugal
- Luxembourg
- Poland
- Denmark

Secondly, other EU citizens who were living in the UK before the end of the EU Withdrawal Agreement Implementation Period (up until 1 January 2021) will also still be able to vote and stand in elections.

Do these changes effect Republic of Ireland or citizens of Commonwealth nations?

The changes will not affect citizens of the Republic of Ireland or citizens of Commonwealth nations.

Will I be contacted about these changes?

Your local council should be sending communications such as emails or letters shortly.

Where do I go if I am unsure about my eligibility?

If you have specific questions about your electoral registration, you should contact the Elections Office at your local council. The Electoral Commission has a lookup tool to help you find the details of your local team on our [website](#).