

VJB45. Electoral Registration Update

The Board considered a report by the Assessor and Electoral Registration Update summarising Electoral Registration work since September 2018.

The new register had been published on 1 December 2018. There were 229,589 local government electors at 1 December 2018, compared to 230,435 on 1 December 2017. The annual canvass had been completed ahead of the publication of the register. The report set out the work involved in undertaking the canvass, including the issuing of Household Enquiry Forms, enquiries and the issue of invitations to register. The report also set out work undertaken to promote registration amongst students at the University of Stirling and Forth Valley campuses, and with schools.

Following questions the Assessor and Electoral Registrations Officer explained the process for registering electors and creating the Local Government and Parliamentary registers. The legislation required to establish a referendum would, he explained, determine which register would be used.

The Board discussed the fall in the number of registered electors. Mr Wildman considered that there were no signs that this was due to any 'Brexit effect'. The majority of the electors who had been removed were in the Stirling area. In addition approximately 300 overseas electors had chosen not to register. It was possible that the decrease was due to the fact there had been no election events in 2018. These typically saw a rise in the number in the registered electors. Following comments in regard to an increase in the number of citizens seeking joint nationality, the Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer explained the rules governing eligibility to vote at various elections.

Mr Wildman stated, in response to a question, that the number of citizens who were not registered was not known. Registration was voluntary so definitive data was not available. The service was however exploring the use of Social Media to promote registration.

Decision

The Board noted the report.