

## **Anonymous registration entry in the Voters' Register**

### **How do I qualify for an anonymous entry?**

To qualify, you must provide evidence to satisfy the Registration Officer that the safety of yourself or of any other person in the same household would be at risk if the Register contained your name and/or your qualifying address.

### **What supporting evidence do I have to provide?**

The evidence has to be either a relevant court order or injunction, or an attestation by a qualifying officer. If the person whose safety would be at risk is someone else, you must also produce evidence to show that that person is a member of the same household.

### **What is a relevant order or injunction?**

It must be one of the following:

- (a) an injunction for the purpose of restraining a person from pursuing any conduct which amounts to harassment granted in proceedings under section 3 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, as amended;
- (b) an injunction granted under section 3A(2) of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, as amended;
- (c) a restraining order made under section 5(1) of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, as amended;
- (d) a restraining order on acquittal made under section 5A(1) of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, as amended;
- (e) a non-harassment order made under section 8(5)(b)(ii) of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, as amended;
- (f) a non-harassment order made under section 234A(2) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995;
- (g) a non-molestation order made under section 42(2) of the Family Law Act 1996;
- (h) an injunction for the purpose of restraining a person from pursuing any conduct which amounts to harassment granted in proceedings under article 5 of the Protection from Harassment (Northern Ireland) Order 1997;
- (i) a restraining order made under article 7 of the Protection from Harassment (Northern Ireland) Order 1997;
- (j) a restraining order on acquittal made under article 7A(1) of the Protection from Harassment (Northern Ireland) Order 1997;
- (k) a non-molestation order made under article 20(2) of the Family Homes and Domestic Violence (Northern Ireland) Order 1998.

The order or injunction must have been made for your protection or otherwise for your benefit or that of another person in your household. It must also be in force on the day the application is made for an anonymous entry in the register of electors.

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### **What is meant by evidence by attestation?**

In the absence of a court order or injunction, your application may be attested by a qualifying officer and there is a declaration included at the end of the application form which this officer must complete. "Qualifying officer" means:-

- (a) a police officer of or above the rank of superintendent of any police force in England and Wales;
- (b) a police officer of or above the rank of superintendent of any police force in Scotland;
- (c) a police officer of or above the rank of superintendent of the Police Service of Northern Ireland;
- (d) the Director General of the Security Service;
- (e) the Director General of the Serious Organised Crime Agency;
- (f) any director of adult social services in England within the meaning of section 6(A1) of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970;
- (g) any director of children's services in England within the meaning of section 18 of the Children Act 2004;
- (h) any director of social services in Wales within the meaning of section 6(1) of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970;
- (i) any chief social work officer in Scotland within the meaning of section 3 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968;
- (j) any director of social services of a Health and Social Services Board established under article 16 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972;
- (k) any executive director of social work of a Health and Social Services Trust established under article 10 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1991.

The qualifying officer does not have to be based in the same area as the applicant, but the attestation cannot be delegated to a more junior person within their organisation.

### **Entry in the Register**

If the registration officer determines that the application for an anonymous entry is to be allowed, the entry and any information relating to it will automatically be excluded from the edited register. The edited register is that part of the register which can be bought by anyone who asks for a copy and they may use it for any purpose such as marketing.

### **Will I receive confirmation of an anonymous entry?**

Once your details have been entered in the Voters' Register, a certificate of anonymous registration will be issued showing the date from which your registration took effect.

### **Do I need to renew my anonymous registration?**

Your entitlement ends 12 months after the entry takes effect in the Register so you will need to re-apply to continue to remain registered anonymously. You will automatically be sent a new application form no later than 2 months before this date. As well as completing that new application form, you will need to provide either a fresh attestation or declaration with evidence or a copy of those sent in with your first application. Remember that whatever evidence you send must be in force on the day you sign the declaration.

### **Having read the above, I do wish to apply for anonymous registration**

Please obtain an application form by contacting the Electoral Services Section (contact details shown on the right side of the previous page).