



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE,
ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 4EE

Telephone: Ely (01353) 665555

www.eastcambs.gov.uk

Further to your information request FOI/EIR 22/23-393 please find your question and our response below.

Request:

1. How many Voter Authority Certificates (VACs) has the council issued, how many applications has it rejected, and what is the demographic profile of those applications, both accepted and rejected?
2. Can you confirm that the Chief Executive, acting in their role as the Returning Officer, and/or the Elections Department of your council, has received guidance from the Electoral Commission and/or the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities about implementing the new voter ID legislation for the May 4th elections?
3. Can you confirm a) all polling station staff have been trained on implementing the new processes and if so, b) what that training has entailed?
4. Can you confirm whether the Chief Executive, in their role as Returning Officer, has presented a report on preparedness for the Voter ID requirements to the full council or any other appropriate committee of the council? Has this included a risk assessment and mitigation plan? (If yes, please can you supply a copy of that report?)
5. Can you confirm whether an audit has been undertaken of all proposed polling stations to identify a private room for those people who, for whatever reason, cover their faces in public? What was the outcome of this audit if it has happened? (For example, have any polling stations been found to be unsuitable, and if so, how many?)
6. Has the council undertaken a public information campaign to inform voters about the new Voter ID requirements?

Response:

1. 33 VACs have been issued to date (24/02/2023) with no rejections. Demographic information is not collected from applicants.
2. Guidance has been received from the Electoral Commission and the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities.
3. No polling station staff training has been undertaken yet but training sessions, covering all aspect of the new Voter ID, will be arranged at the appropriate time.
4. No such reports have been submitted to Council or Committee
5. A polling station audit has been carried out. Most polling stations have a separate room that can be used as a private area. The few stations that do not have a separate room will be provided with privacy screens.
6. The Council Communications team has already started a comprehensive publicity campaign, which will be ongoing through to the elections.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 22/23-393

If information has been refused please treat this as a Refusal Notice for the purposes of the Act.

If you disagree with our decision or are otherwise unhappy with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach foi@eastcambs.gov.uk and request a review. A request for review must be made in no more than 40 working days from the date of this email.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under s50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.