

Forward

Midlothian

Disabled People

www.forwardmid.org.uk



Equality - Diversity - Inclusion

Guide to General Election Voter ID & Other Voting Information

There is a General Election on the horizon and now, for the first time, you must show some photo ID to vote at a polling place.

Most political commentators think the election will be held between October – November this year. However, it could happen any time the current Government chooses so we should all make sure we have one form of acceptable photo identification.

For the foreseeable future this requirement will remain for general elections but, unlike the rest of the UK, no ID is needed to vote in Scottish Parliament and Council elections.

Anyone with a postal vote does not need any photo ID.

Here's a list of ID photographs that are acceptable:

- Passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country (including an Irish Passport Card),
- A Blue Badge,
- Scottish National Entitlement Card issued for the purpose of concessionary travel (including a 60+, disabled or under 22s bus pass),
- Older Person's Bus Pass funded by the UK Government,
- Disabled Person's Bus Pass funded by the UK Government,
- Biometric immigration document,
- Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card).

You will only need to show one form of photo ID. It needs to be the original version and not a photocopy.

If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate.

You will need to be registered to vote before you apply for a Voter Authority Certificate.

How to Register to Vote:

You must be aged 14 or over in Scotland to register although you must be 18 to vote in a General Election.

You must also be one of the following:

- a British citizen
- an Irish or EU citizen living in the UK
- a Commonwealth citizen who has permission to enter or stay in the UK, or who does not need permission
- a citizen of another country living in Scotland or Wales who has permission to enter or stay in the UK, or who does not need permission

Contents

Telephone Digital Switchover...	3
Café Connect.....	4

You can register to vote online at: Where you live? – Register to vote – www.gov.uk/

If you don't have access to a computer you can contact the Electoral Registration Officer who will help you.

Electoral Registration Officer
Lothian Valuation Joint Board
17A South Gyle Crescent
Edinburgh
EH12 9FL
☎ 0131 344 2500

You can contact Midlothian Council for assistance www.midlothian.gov.uk ☎ 0131 271 3384

Voter Authority Certificate.

Apply online at www.gov.uk for a Voter Authority Certificate.

Apply by post

Apply by filling out a paper application form and sending this to your Electoral Registration Office. If you are unable to print the form, you can contact your local council for a form.

You may also be able to apply in person at your local Electoral Registration Office.

If you need any help with applying for a Voter Authority Certificate or want to request an application form, contact your Electoral Registration Office at the address above. You can also call our helpline on ☎ 0800 328 0280 if you have any questions.

Voting by post.

You must apply for a postal vote if you want to vote by post. You do not need to give a reason why you want to vote this way. You don't need photo ID to vote by post. You don't need to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate if you choose to vote this way, unless you're voting in Northern Ireland.

Apply for a postal vote.

You can apply for a postal vote for one of the following:

- a single election on a specific date
- a specific period if you want to vote in England, Scotland or Wales up to 3 years

You'll need:

- the address where you are registered to vote.
- your National Insurance number or other identity documents, for example a passport.

You'll also need to upload a photo of your handwritten signature in black ink on plain white paper.

If you cannot provide a signature or one that always looks the same, you may be able to apply for a postal vote signature waiver within the service.

You might be asked for extra documents to identify you.

Applying online.

Application to vote by post in Scotland (publishing.service.gov.uk)

If you cannot apply online, download and fill in a postal vote application form. Send it to your local

Electoral Registration Office.

Contact your local Electoral Registration Office who can post you a paper form.

If you cannot sign a printed form, contact your local Electoral Registration Office.

Should you need any further information about voting remember help is available at the Electoral Registration Office helpline on ☎ 0800 328 0280

Telephone Digital Switchover

When does the digital switchover happen?

All landline phones will be switched over to a digital network by 2025.

What do I need to do?

You don't need to do anything. Your telephone provider will get in touch with you when it's time to switch over your service.

If you decide to move house or change your telephone service before then, you'll be switched over to the digital network as part of that process.

If not, you'll hear from your phone service provider when they're ready to migrate you.

Once you've moved to the digital network, you'll need to plug your phone into a broadband router instead of the phone socket in your wall.

If you need any new equipment, or you need to have broadband installed, your phone provider should sort it out for you.

Making phone calls in a power cut?

Digital phones will only work during a power cut if they have a battery back-up. This is because your broadband router gets its power from the mains supply.

If you don't have a mobile phone or another way to contact the emergency services during a power cut, your phone provider must arrange something for you.

Make sure you let them know. They might supply you with a battery back-up for your phone, or a simple mobile phone to use in emergencies.

Getting support from your provider

If you're worried about how the digital switchover will impact you because of your disability, it's a good idea to contact your telephone provider.

You can speak to your provider to let them know that you're disabled, and find out whether they can offer you extra support with the switchover process.

You should especially reach out to your provider to let them know if you:

- Have any healthcare/telecare devices or alarms that are dependent on your phone line.
- Don't have a mobile phone that you would be able to use in a power cut.
- Have an amplified phone, textphone or any other kind of specialist phone to help you communicate.





CAFÉ CONNECT



Dalkeith Arts Centre

- Thurs 02/05/24 - 14.00hrs to 15.30hrs,
- Thurs 06/06/24 - 14.00hrs to 15.30hrs,
- Thurs 04/07/24 - 14.00hrs to 15.30hrs,
- Then the First Thursday of Month- 14.00hrs to 15.30hrs

All
welcome

Meet or make
friends and share a
blether



Link in with Forward Mid
(Supported by LAC,
Enable Scotland)



Forward Mid is a group of active, purposeful, energised, skilled Disabled People working effectively with a team approach

Alternative Publications

Please like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/forwardmid/

Forward Mid newsletters are available in large print on request from Eric Johnstone ☎ : 0131-663-9471 or ✉ eric.johnstone@mvacvs.org.uk write to him at MVA, 4-6 White Hart Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1AE with your request. Electronic copies can be found on www.forwardmid.org.uk. The latest Firefox browser has the reader symbol  in the address bar, click and select narrate from left menu. The latest Safari Browser has the reader symbol  but does not read aloud. These only work on websites without errors. If you require help please contact Forward Mid and we will arrange to help you.

Edited by Iain Tait for Forward Mid