1. Question asked by [Lord Laird](http://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-laird/2479) on 11 July 2017

**Northern Ireland Office**

[HL674](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-11/HL674/)

Her Majesty's Government How many EU nationals, other than Irish, Cypriot, Maltese and UK citizens, are on the electoral register in Northern Ireland, broken down by constituency; what is the distinction between the G and K markings placed against EU citizens on the electoral register; and what are the differences in the eligibility to vote between such EU nationals and UK citizens.

Answered by: [Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth](http://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-bourne-of-aberystwyth/4282) on 21 July 2017

The G markings placed against EU citizens on the electoral register denotes their eligibility to vote at local and Assembly elections. The K marking denotes an EU citizen who has confirmed that they intend to vote in Northern Ireland, rather than their home state, at a specific European Parliamentary election. The K designation only lasts for one year and consequently there are currently no individuals with a K marking on the Northern Ireland register.

UK, Irish and Commonwealth citizens are eligible to register to vote in UK General Parliamentary Elections. Citizens of EU countries other than the UK, Ireland, Cyprus and Malta (the latter of which are Commonwealth as well as EU countries) cannot vote in UK General Parliamentary Elections, although they can register to vote at local government, and Northern Ireland Assembly elections.

The number of EU nationals, other than Irish, Cypriot, Maltese and UK citizens, on the electoral register are shown below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Constituency** | EU nationals on the electoral register (other than Irish, Cypriot, Maltese and UK citizens) |
| **Belfast East** | 1943 |
| **Belfast North** | 1617 |
| **Belfast South** | 2857 |
| **Belfast West** | 462 |
| **East Antrim** | 597 |
| **East Londonderry** | 1044 |
| **Fermanagh & South Tyrone** | 3801 |
| **Foyle** | 636 |
| **Lagan Valley** | 1330 |
| **Mid Ulster** | 1919 |
| **Newry & Armagh** | 3017 |
| **North Antrim** | 1928 |
| **North Down** | 708 |
| **South Antrim** | 1233 |
| **South Down** | 1165 |
| **Strangford** | 591 |
| **Upper Bann** | 4563 |
| **West Tyrone** | 1114 |
| **Total** | **30,525** |

2 Question asked by [Lord Laird](http://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-laird/2479) on 11 July 2017

**Northern Ireland Office**

[HL672](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-11/HL672/)

Her Majesty's Government how many proxy votes were (1) applied for, and (2) granted, in each Northern Ireland constituency in (a) the 2015 general election, (b) the 2017 general election, (c) the 2016 Northern Ireland Assembly election, and (d) the 2017 Northern Ireland Assembly election.

Answered by: [Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth](http://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-bourne-of-aberystwyth/4282) on 21 July 2017

The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland does not have a readily accessible record of the number of proxy votes applied for the 2015 Parliamentary election, or the Northern Ireland Assembly elections in 2016 and 2017. It would not be possible to provide the information for the number of proxy votes applied for at any election, other than the 2017 UK Parliamentary General Election, other than at disproportionate cost. The number of proxy votes granted in each of the elections requested are set out below.

[Table - UIN HL672](http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/750540/original/HL672%20-%20Table.docx) (Word Document, 17.84 KB)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Constituency | a) 2015 UK Parliamentary election | b) 2017 UK  Parliamentary election | | c) 2016 NI Assembly election | d) 2017 NI Assembly election |
|  | **Proxy votes granted** | *Proxy votes applied for* | **Proxy votes granted** | **Proxy votes granted** | **Proxy votes granted** |
| **Belfast East** | 124 | *314* | 279 | 101 | 205 |
| **Belfast North** | 177 | *809* | 739 | 149 | 238 |
| **Belfast South** | 114 | *343* | 318 | 100 | 248 |
| **Belfast West** | 168 | *1133* | 1026 | 705 | 1011 |
| **East Antrim** | 137 | *368* | 353 | 233 | 370 |
| **East Londonderry** | 143 | *396* | 360 | 160 | 292 |
| **Fermanagh & South Tyrone** | 1454 | *1966* | 1707 | 1330 | 1557 |
| **Foyle** | 339 | *1422* | 1282 | 839 | 990 |
| **Lagan Valley** | 87 | *270* | 230 | 97 | 136 |
| **Mid Ulster** | 488 | *1183* | 1127 | 617 | 1144 |
| **Newry & Armagh** | 870 | *1493* | 1304 | 729 | 1246 |
| **North Antrim** | 224 | *532* | 507 | 243 | 406 |
| **North Down** | 85 | *215* | 193 | 70 | 142 |
| **South Antrim** | 106 | *301* | 285 | 117 | 191 |
| **South Down** | 203 | *658* | 564 | 262 | 389 |
| **Strangford** | 73 | *217* | 197 | 117 | 144 |
| **Upper Bann** | 135 | *357* | 322 | 173 | 229 |
| **West Tyrone** | 505 | *1091* | 914 | 602 | 982 |

3 Question asked by [Lord Laird](http://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-laird/2479) on 11 July 2017

**Northern Ireland Office**

[HL677](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-11/HL677/)

Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to require those voting by proxy to provide their **national insurance number**, in order to facilitate checks that proxies are not voting on behalf of more than two close relatives.

Answered by: [Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth](http://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-bourne-of-aberystwyth/4282) on 21 July 2017

Individuals are entitled to vote as a proxy for an unlimited number of close relatives but may not vote as proxy at the same election in any constituency on behalf of more than two electors to whom they are not a closely related.

The administration of proxy voting is an operational matter for the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland who will, following the Parliamentary election in June, conduct a routine post-election review of all administrative procedures. The Government will carefully consider any recommendations it receives concerning proxy voting from both the independent Electoral Commission as well as from the Chief Electoral Officer. The Government will also consider what, if any, of the changes recommended by Sir Eric Pickles in his report on tackling electoral fraud may also be appropriate for Northern Ireland.

4 Question asked by [Lord Laird](http://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-laird/2479) on 11 July 2017

**Northern Ireland Office**

[HL673](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-11/HL673/)

Her Majesty's Government how many of the proxy votes granted in Northern Ireland in the 2017 general election were applied for by (1) someone who was a close relative of the elector, and (2) a non–relative; how a close relative is defined for the purposes of the proxy vote system; and whether the Electoral Office of Northern Ireland has a computer system able to record and statistically analyse that data.

Answered by: [Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth](http://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-bourne-of-aberystwyth/4282) on 21 July 2017

Proxy votes must be applied for by the individual themselves; it is not possible for any other person to apply on their behalf. Under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act 1985, a person is not entitled to vote as proxy at the same parliamentary election in any constituency on behalf of more than two electors for whom that **person is not the spouse or civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild**. The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland does not keep a record of the relationships between the registered voter and their successfully appointed proxy.

5 Question asked by [Lord Laird](http://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-laird/2479) on 11 July 2017

**Northern Ireland Office**

[HL675](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-11/HL675/)

Her Majesty's Government how many people are registered to vote in more than one constituency in Northern Ireland; and, in relation to each constituency in Northern Ireland, how many people are also registered to vote in one or more other constituency.

Answered by: [Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth](http://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-bourne-of-aberystwyth/4282) on 21 July 2017

The total number of registered electors in Northern Ireland registered to vote in more than one constituency is 23.

The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland holds data in relation to each constituency on how many people are also registered to vote in another constituency. In some constituencies this applies to fewer than five people. A full answer would risk the identification of individuals and is therefore not provided.

6 Question asked by [Lord Laird](http://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-laird/2479) on 11 July 2017

**Northern Ireland Office**

[HL676](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-11/HL676/)

Her Majesty's Government what methods are used by the Electoral Office in Northern Ireland to ascertain (1) whether someone applying for a proxy vote is a close relation of the voter, and (2) the validity of proxy vote applications.

Answered by: [Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth](http://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-bourne-of-aberystwyth/4282) on 21 July 2017

Any individual wishing to appoint a proxy to vote in their place must complete an application form providing all the personal details given at registration, including their national insurance number and signature, which are checked against the register. Only those applications passing scrutiny are accepted.

Voters are required to state the nature of their relationship to the individual they are nominating as their proxy and all forms contain the warning that making a false statement is a criminal offense. Written confirmation of successful applications is sent to both the applicant and the registered proxy at their registered addresses.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-questions-answers/?page=1&max=20&questiontype=AllQuestions&house=commons%2clords&member=2479>

Lord Laird to ask Her Majesty’s Government, how the nationality of those registering in Northern Ireland for the first time is ascertained by the Electoral Office of Northern Ireland and whether they are satisfied the current register accurately reflects appropriate nationality.

Lord Laird to ask Her Majesty’s Government, how many people are currently registered in more than one constituency in Northern Ireland and how many are so registered in each constituency.

Asked by [Lord Laird](http://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-laird/2479) Asked on: 11 July 2017

Northern Ireland Office [HL675](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-11/HL675/)

Her Majesty's Government how many people are registered to vote in more than one constituency in Northern Ireland; and, in relation to each constituency in Northern Ireland, how many people are also registered to vote in one or more other constituency.

Lord Laird to ask Her Majesty’s Government, how many proxy votes were applied for and granted in each Northern Ireland constituency in the 2015 and 2017 Westminster and 2016 and 2017 Assembly elections, respectively.

Asked by [Lord Laird](http://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-laird/2479) Asked on: 11 July 2017

Northern Ireland Office [HL672](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-11/HL672/)

Her Majesty's Government how many proxy votes were (1) applied for, and (2) granted, in each Northern Ireland constituency in (a) the 2015 general election, (b) the 2017 general election, (c) the 2016 Northern Ireland Assembly election, and (d) the 2017 Northern Ireland Assembly election.

Lord Laird to ask Her Majesty’s Government, how many of the proxy votes granted in Northern Ireland in the 2017 Westminster election were applied for by someone who was a close relative of the elector, and how many for a non-relative, how widely is ‘close relative’ defined and has the Electoral Office of Northern Ireland a computer system able to record and total the reasons.

Asked by [Lord Laird](http://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-laird/2479) Asked on: 11 July 2017

Northern Ireland Office [HL673](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-11/HL673/)

Her Majesty's Government how many of the proxy votes granted in Northern Ireland in the 2017 general election were applied for by (1) someone who was a close relative of the elector, and (2) a non–relative; how a close relative is defined for the purposes of the proxy vote system; and whether the Electoral Office of Northern Ireland has a computer system able to record and statistically analyse that data.

Lord Laird to ask Her Majesty’s Government, what methods are used by the Electoral Office of Northern Ireland to ascertain if someone actually is a close relative of someone applying for a proxy vote, and as to whether the reason for proxy voting is valid.

Asked by [Lord Laird](http://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-laird/2479) on: 11 July 2017 Northern Ireland Office [HL676](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-11/HL676/)

Her Majesty's Government what methods are used by the Electoral Office in Northern Ireland to ascertain (1) whether someone applying for a proxy vote is a close relation of the voter, and (2) the validity of proxy vote applications.

 Lord Laird to ask Her Majesty’s Government, whether the Electoral Office of Northern Ireland will make it their policy to require those voting by proxy to provide a national insurance number to ensure checks can easily be made that they are not voting for more than the two non-close relatives allowed.

Asked by [Lord Laird](http://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-laird/2479) Asked on: 11 July 2017 Northern Ireland Office [HL677](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-11/HL677/)

Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to require those voting by proxy to provide their national insurance number, in order to facilitate checks that proxies are not voting on behalf of more than two close relatives

Lord Laird to ask Her Majesty’s Government, how many European Union (EU) nationals other than Irish, Cypriot, Maltese or United Kingdom citizens are on the register in Northern Ireland, by each constituency and in total, and what is the distinction between G and K markings against citizens of the European Union (EU) on the electoral register and the difference in voting eligibility.

Asked by [Lord Laird](http://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-laird/2479) Asked on: 11 July 2017

Northern Ireland Office [HL674](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-11/HL674/)

Her Majesty's Government How many EU nationals, other than Irish, Cypriot, Maltese and UK citizens, are on the electoral register in Northern Ireland, broken down by constituency; what is the distinction between the G and K markings placed against EU citizens on the electoral register; and what are the differences in the eligibility to vote between such EU nationals and UK citizens.

Elections: Northern Ireland (24 Jun 2008 : Column WA227)

Lord Laird asked Her Majesty's Government:

In what circumstances people in Northern Ireland are permitted to register to vote in more than one parliamentary constituency or local government area; what are the rules on where such people may vote; how many people are registered in more than one constituency or area; and whether electronic or other means are used to check for undeclared second registrations. [HL4000]

Lord Tunnicliffe: In Northern Ireland, a person may be registered to vote in more than one constituency in respect of both local and parliamentary elections if that person meets the conditions set out in statute. However a person is not permitted to vote in more than one constituency and it is an offence to do so.

The relevant statutory provisions relating to parliamentary elections are contained in the Representation of the People Act 1983 (Sections 1 and 61(2)). The relevant statutory provisions relating to local elections are contained in the Elected Authorities (Northern Ireland) Act 1989 (Section 1) and the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962 (paragraph 12(2) of Schedule 9).

The chief electoral officer for Northern Ireland is responsible for the registration of electors and the maintenance of the electoral register in Northern Ireland. I have forwarded your request for information relating to the number and verification of those registered in more than one constituency or area to him so that he may respond to you directly.