



OVERSIGHT REPORT ON **THE ELECTORAL REGISTERS**



MAY 2025

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Foreword

An Coimisiún Toghcháin presents this report in the exercise of its statutory powers under section 64 and section 69 of the *Electoral Reform Act 2022* to support and make recommendations for improving the completeness, accuracy and maintenance of the electoral registers. An Coimisiún regards the functioning, accuracy and completeness of the electoral registers to be essential to the democratic process, and has for that reason determined to exercise its statutory power to research and assess the current status of the registers maintained in the State. This report is the first such assessment and the first time that an independent statutory body has been empowered with an oversight, research and advisory role regarding the management and maintenance of the electoral registers. This is a significant and important task. It is also a complex one given that there are 31 registration authorities, one for each of our 31 local authorities, each of which is responsible for the electoral register in their area.



Section 64 of the 2022 Act permits An Coimisiún to conduct research on inter alia electoral procedure and to make recommendations to the relevant Minister and to Government as it considers appropriate. In addition, by reason of section 69 of the 2022 Act, An Coimisiún has a specific power to conduct research in relation to the accuracy and completeness of the electoral registers maintained by registration authorities. That power may be exercised in regard to the compilation, maintenance and functioning of the register, and activities undertaken by a registration authority.

Section 69 of the 2022 Act provides that An Coimisiún shall annually, on foot of information provided to it by the registration authorities, publish and lay before each House of the Oireachtas a report setting out its assessment of the status and functioning of the electoral registers maintained by registration authorities, and of any research it has carried out with regard to the accuracy, completeness, functioning and maintenance of the registers. An Coimisiún may also make such recommendations to the relevant Minister and to the individual registration authorities it considers necessary to maintain or enhance the integrity of the electoral registers and the registration process, including with regard to legislative changes that may be desirable or necessary for that purpose.

An Coimisiún has no role in the day-to-day management of the electoral registers and cannot make or direct changes to how they are maintained. That management and maintenance of the electoral registers are the responsibility of the local authorities, while the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is responsible for effective management of electoral events and holds policy responsibility in this area. The consideration and implementation of the recommendations proposed by An Coimisiún in this report, therefore, fall largely within the remit of other organisations.

This report has been informed by research and engagement with key stakeholders, most particularly the 31 local authorities. An Coimisiún recognises that 2024 was a challenging time for the staff of the individual local authorities as in that year more national and local electoral events took place than in any year since the foundation of the State – the Family and Care Referendums on 8 March, the local and European Parliament elections (and the Limerick

mayoral election) on 7 June and the Dáil election on 29 November. An Coimisiún would like to acknowledge the work of the franchise teams in all of the local authorities. As a group we found them to be dedicated and committed to their work in helping people exercise their vote.

This report is our first assessment of the electoral registers and how they are managed. We identify challenges to the maintenance of the registers, and how these might be addressed. It is intended to be the first step towards setting standards for the improvement of and the foundation for future assessments of the accuracy and completeness of the electoral registers.

As will be seen, the status of the registers is a matter of considerable concern. An Coimisiún regards it as imperative that further resources be provided to significantly improve both the accuracy and completeness of the registers. This is a matter of importance and urgency.

This report is laid before the Oireachtas. However, An Coimisiún has produced it with a wider audience in mind. In light of the statutory power to make recommendations to a registration authority, it addresses this report to the chief executives and senior management of local authorities, the 949 elected county, city and city and county councillors, political parties and anyone interested in politics, MEPs, the franchise section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), the County and City Management Association (CCMA), journalists, researchers and academics.

In addition, it is hoped that the report will be read by members of the public who would like to know more about this important, but often little understood, part of the democratic and electoral system.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Marie Baker', is positioned above the printed name.

Ms. Justice Marie Baker
Chairperson, An Coimisiún Toghcháin

Executive Summary

Introduction

This is An Coimisiún Toghcháin's first Oversight of the Electoral Registers Report. It covers the period 2023-2024 — subsequent reports will be produced annually. The aims of this report are to inform readers about how the electoral registers are managed and maintained, to provide an assessment of how accurate and complete the electoral registers are and, ultimately, to ensure the overall integrity of the electoral registers. As such, this report sets the foundation for future assessments and makes significant recommendations for the next few years.

The electoral registers are the definitive record of those entitled to vote in an electoral event. Therefore, the accuracy and completeness of the electoral registers, as well as how they are managed and maintained, are fundamental to the democratic process.

There is no single electoral register in Ireland. There are in fact 31 electoral registers that are managed by the 31 local authorities. An Coimisiún has no role in the direct management of these electoral registers.

The legal framework for the management of the electoral registers in Ireland is set out in the Electoral Acts 1992 to 2022, with significant amendments by the *Electoral Reform Act 2022* (see below) and also the *Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2024*.

This report provides detailed information on how the electoral registers are managed, impacts of the changes introduced by the *Electoral Reform Act 2022*, the main areas of concern to An

Coimisiún (particularly the accuracy of the registers), the resourcing and prioritisation of the electoral register function in the local authorities and individual assessments of the 31 local authority electoral registers.

The analysis provided in this report is mainly based on information provided by the 31 local authorities that manage the electoral registers. An Coimisiún also engaged with a number of other stakeholders including the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (which has responsibility for both franchise and local government functions), the County and City Management Association, the Local Government Electoral Registration System Project Board, the Local Government Management Agency, among others.

The activity included in this report covers 2024 which was the single biggest year of electoral events in the history of the state with two referendums, local elections (including a Limerick mayoral election), European election and Dáil election.

Electoral Reform Act 2022

This report covers a period of enormous change arising from the introduction of the provisions of the *Electoral Reform Act 2022*.

The Act introduced individual registration, in which every person is now responsible for registering to vote and ensuring their details are correct. This has been facilitated by online registration through *voter.ie* and *checktheregister.ie* which are now used by the vast majority of electors. The 31 electoral registers are now 'rolling' registers and are live all year round unlike the previous system when activity was

largely concentrated at fixed points of the year. *The Electoral Reform Act 2022* provided for pre-registration for 16 and 17-year-olds.

The Act provided for the establishment of a shared national electoral register database. This is known as the Local Government Electoral Registration System (LGERS). It is planned that LGERS will be rolled out nationally in 2026. This is a very important step to increasing the effective future management of the electoral registers. An Coimisiún will be reporting more extensively in future reports on LGERS.

Until this system is established only the four Dublin local authority registers are able to ‘talk’ to each other. The other 27 local authority registers are standalone. When LGERS is established this will facilitate, among other things, the ability to cross check for duplicate entries across the electoral registers. However, An Coimisiún does not believe that LGERS will in itself address the serious legacy issue, going back decades, of the accuracy of the electoral registers.

Accuracy

An Coimisiún is deeply concerned about the levels of accuracy on the electoral registers. It is clear that there are an unknown, but potentially significant, number of duplicate or redundant entries on the 31 electoral registers. These are largely made up of people who are registered more than once in one or more local authority area, people who have emigrated and people who have passed away. These inaccuracies largely result from legacy issues. Until accuracy audits, recommended by An Coimisiún are carried out, there is no way of definitively knowing the accuracy levels of any of the 31 registers.

The introduction of the LGERS database will be an important tool that will facilitate greater accuracy; however this must be supported by a targeted plan. To date no such plan has been produced either by the DHLGH, the local authority sector or the LGERS Project Board. An Coimisiún does not believe that the integrity of our electoral events has been impacted by these inaccuracies. However, the fact that such inaccuracies exist has the potential to undermine confidence in the electoral system. Given the unknown level of inaccuracies, and the varying levels of inaccuracies across the 31 electoral registers, it is not possible to definitively estimate local or national turnout at our electoral events.

For the purposes of this report, An Coimisiún has assessed the accuracy levels of the electoral registers using ‘indicators of accuracy’. These are data that should be associated with each entry on an electoral register and are collected by local authorities to identify individuals and to improve the accuracy of their registers. They include Personal Public Service Numbers (PPSNs), dates of birth and Eircodes. The number of PPSNs recorded would appear to be the most effective way of measuring accuracy; however, just 22.0% of entries nationally have PPSNs. An Coimisiún believes that, currently, the most effective indicator to assess accuracy are entries on the electoral registers that have both a date of birth and Eircode.

In the analysis provided in this report there appears to be a clear correlation between low levels of accuracy indicators and apparently high registration rates. An Coimisiún believes that these high registration rates are likely the result of duplicate and redundant entries.

In December 2024, 11 local authorities reported local election electoral register

figures (which have the widest level of eligibility) had in excess of 100% of the estimated eligible population on their registers. All of these, except for one, had below the national average of electors with both dates of birth and Eircodes recorded.

Conversely, 10 of the 11 local authorities with the lowest reported registration rates were the ones that had the highest levels of electors with dates of birth and Eircodes. An Coimisiún believes that these lower registration rates are partly the result of the effective removal of duplicate and redundant entries by those local authorities.

Maintenance and Management by Local Authorities and Funding by DHLGH

An Coimisiún has largely based its assessment of the registers on information and data provided by the local authorities, and they have been very helpful in this regard. It is clear that the local authority staff that manage and maintain the register take this function seriously, and demonstrate great commitment to their work. It is also clear from the information provided in relation to resourcing and activities that the electoral register function in local authorities is given widely varying levels of prioritisation by local authorities. In general, the ones that have given higher levels of prioritisation to their electoral registers are ones where the accuracy indicators are highest.

An Coimisiún does not believe that it is acceptable that the quality of a person's electoral register should largely depend on what local authority area they happen to live in. While a few local authorities have provided sufficient resources and prioritisation to their electoral registers, it is clear that the vast majority have not.

The Electoral Reform Act 2022 introduced a number of significant changes to how people register to vote and the management of the electoral registers. This has changed the requirements of local authorities to manage their electoral registers. An Coimisiún does not believe that local authorities and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage have sufficiently provided for the professionalisation of the electoral register function in local authorities in this new context.

An Coimisiún also recognises that the provisions of the *Electoral Reform Act 2022* have placed additional administrative burdens on local authorities and that funding by DHLGH needs to be increased on an ongoing basis.

Completeness

An Coimisiún is also responsible for reporting on the completeness of the 31 electoral registers. The completeness of the electoral registers is a measurement of how many of those who are eligible electors are registered on each of the electoral registers. It is the ambition of An Coimisiún that everyone eligible to vote should be registered. However, given the current unknown level of inaccuracies on each register, it is not possible to measure or estimate the completeness of the 31 electoral registers. It is also not possible to measure the number of people who have not taken the most basic democratic step of registering to vote. An accurate measure of completeness requires accurate registers.

Individual Local Authority Assessments

This report provides individual assessments of each local authority's

electoral register function. These are based on data provided by the local authorities and includes recommendations. It is clear from these assessments that the quality of electoral registers, the resources provided for the electoral registers and the prioritisation of the electoral register function across the 31 local authorities differs greatly. This is of considerable concern.

Recommendations

An Coimisiún has made positive recommendations for a comprehensive

plan to address legacy accuracy issues before the next round of electoral events in 2029, which local authorities and Government can implement.

It is An Coimisiún's strong expectation that by the next round of electoral events scheduled to commence in 2029 the accuracy of every one of the 31 electoral registers will be of an international standard and verified by audits. This is a significant body of work that requires the commitment of every local authority, the support of the DHLGH and the active engagement of every eligible elector.



Recommendations

These recommendations are based on the analysis of the information provided by every local authority to An Coimisiún. This analysis is set out in detail in the main body of this report. A summary of the information provided by each local authority is in Part Three.

As this is the first annual oversight report on the operation of the registers, An Coimisiún does not propose to set specific timeframes for response or actions from the various bodies to whom this report is directed. We reserve the right to be prescriptive in this regard in future reports.

Overriding recommendations to the Oireachtas pursuant to section 69(2)(b) of the *Electoral Reform Act 2022*

It is clear to An Coimisiún that the funding and support offered to each local authority must be urgently increased to enable them to maintain, update and correct their registers, as this is the only means by which they can ensure their integrity and quality.

In concrete terms there needs to be put in place specific funding and other necessary resources to ensure professional, trained and full-time dedicated staff in sufficient numbers in every local authority. It is clear to An Coimisiún that, while there are differences across the 31 local authorities, the current model of resourcing and staffing of franchise sections is not adequate to meet the requirements of managing a modern electoral register.

The resourcing of existing franchise functions should be immediately reviewed by the local authorities and the Department of Housing, Local Government

and Heritage (DHLGH) to meet this requirement. This funding should be reviewed annually, or as appropriate. This funding should be provided on a multi-annual basis by the DHLGH to support the proper and effective management of the registers, accuracy audits and delivery of action plans to satisfactorily address the concerns raised in this report. At the same time, local authorities, in general, need to increase, and in many cases considerably increase, the level of prioritisation which they give to their electoral register functions.

Recommendations to address the inaccuracies in the electoral registers

These recommendations are made in the context of the considerable concern of An Coimisiún regarding the accuracy of the electoral registers, particularly in light of the duplicate and redundant entries observed and reported.

It is clear from the information provided for this report that significantly more data and subsequent analysis are required to both understand the level of inaccuracies on each electoral register and to put plans in place to significantly improve the accuracy of each. To meet that end, additional multi-annual and dedicated funding is required. This requires a high priority to be given by local authorities (both senior leadership and elected members) to their electoral registers. Without this level of urgent and professional application the inaccuracies on the registers will remain unresolved into the future. This cannot be tolerated in a modern democratic state.

In light of the absence of a plan from central government or the 31 local

authorities, An Coimisiún, in exercise of its statutory powers, proposes the following phased plan to address the inaccuracies in the registers. This should be done before the next local and European elections in 2029, acknowledging the considerable work required, the short timeframe before the presidential election and the current project to create a national shared electoral register database.

Phase 1: Progress LGERS project – 2025-2026

An Coimisiún recognises that for local authorities to successfully transfer their register data to the Local Government Electoral Registration System (LGERS) national electoral register database, scheduled for 2026, their data will require to be standardised. This will involve a data cleansing process, standardising of fields, use of consistent conventions, Irish translation of townland names, etc. To ensure the success of this first stage of the LGERS project, it is essential that sufficient dedicated staff are provided in each local authority, with appropriate funding support from DHLGH. The risks of not appropriately resourcing this key stage of the development of the project are significant and would delay the migration of each register to the national shared database by its scheduled October 2026 deadline.

An Coimisiún recommends that the LGERS Project Board consult with the Director General of the Central Statistics Office (CSO) as provided for under section 31(2) of the *Statistics Act, 1993* with regard to the technical specification, issues of data standards, classifications, flows, governance and management, and inform each local authority of its required common specifications and conventions.

An Coimisiún recommends that the LGERS Project Board should request the CSO

to conduct a statistical assessment of a sample of the first electoral registers which are migrated to the LGERS shared database. This assessment should identify data gaps and duplicates, and could be useful to enable an understanding of the next steps needed.

An Coimisiún recommends that the LGERS Project Board should immediately identify and assess the potential benefits of data sharing under the provisions of the *Data Sharing and Governance Act 2019*.

Phase 2: Accuracy audits – commencing 2026

It is planned that local authority registers will migrate in phases during 2026. Once a register has been migrated to the new database each local authority should carry out an accuracy audit of its electoral register. The importance of audits of the registers at this stage cannot be overstated. The audit process should be coordinated by the proposed Electoral Register Oversight Body (EROB) (see below), or other similarly designated body, and funded by DHLGH. All audits should be completed within one year of the transfer to the new database. These audits should be of an international standard and uniform in their methodology across local authorities. They should be independently verifiable and the scope and terms of reference should be agreed with An Coimisiún prior to commencement. An Coimisiún anticipates that, in the light of its statutory mandate to set standards for the registration process and the maintenance of the register, it will engage on an ongoing basis with these audits and will review progress.

Further audits of the same standard should be conducted in 2028/9 on each register, ahead of scheduled elections in 2029. The timeframes for future audits are likely to

be informed by the findings of the 2028/9 audits. The results of each audit should be published and presented to the elected members of the relevant local authority and provided to An Coimisiún.

Each local authority has accountability under legislation for its own register and An Coimisiún may make recommendations to each of the 31 local authorities. An Coimisiún is pleased to note the intention to establish an 'Electoral Register Oversight Body' (EROB) when the LGERS Project Board winds down. EROB, or another such body established or designated by DHLGH and CCMA, should play the critical leadership role in driving this ambitious programme of transformation in the years ahead. An Coimisiún will work with the local authorities and EROB, or other such body once established, to formulate detailed standards for the electoral registers.

Phase 3: National campaign – 2026-2027

Once the accuracy of each register on LGERS has been established via audits, attention should turn to removing duplicate and redundant entries and increasing the recording of data for each elector on the database, i.e. dates of birth, PPSNs, Eircodes, and contact details, to strengthen the accuracy and integrity of the register.

To support this process a major national campaign will be run and funded by An Coimisiún. An Coimisiún will also encourage recording of this data on the register by individuals through our ongoing education and public engagement initiatives.

Phase 4: Accuracy standards – 2028/9

After LGERS has been established and embedded and audits have been

undertaken to establish accuracy baselines, An Coimisiún expects to be in a position to make informed specific recommendations and to set standards for maintenance and management of the electoral registers.

Recommendations specifically directed to local authorities under section 69(3) of the *Electoral Reform Act 2022*

An Coimisiún recommends that all local authorities develop and publish multi-annual electoral register plans, and annual action plans setting out activities and expected outcomes that will improve the accuracy, completeness and overall quality of the electoral register over the course of their plan.

The priority now required to be attached to the management and maintenance of the electoral register should also be reflected in each local authority's strategy statements and corporate plans.

An Coimisiún proposes to monitor progress and publish findings as part of our annual assessment process, or as appropriate.

It is recommended that local authorities actively consider the use of fieldworkers to undertake targeted work to increase the accuracy and completeness of the registers.

Local authorities should support An Coimisiún's national communications campaigns related to the electoral registers.

A representative, or representatives, of the local authorities should sit on our Education and Public Engagement Forum to provide insights, advice and ideas as to how local authorities can help increase voter engagement.

Specific recommendations to individual local authorities are in Part Three of this report.

Recommendations specifically directed to the LGERS Project Board

Given the critical importance of protecting the electoral registers from cyber threats, An Coimisiún recommends that the entity that provides the LGERS and *voter.ie* be designated as an Essential Entity under NIS 2 (Directive (EU) 2022/2555 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union) as the service is essential to maintain a critical societal activity and disruption of the service could induce a significant systemic risk to the electoral process.

As citizenship is a key eligibility criterion for certain electoral events, the LGERS Project Board should ensure that a robust citizenship verification process is included in the new system.

The LGERS Project Board should report on a quarterly basis on the progress of the project and also make An Coimisiún aware of any significant issues as they arise.

An Coimisiún is grateful for the opportunity to attend the Electoral Change Network meetings and wishes to continue to attend.

Other recommendations

In advance of the 2025 presidential election, applications to *checktheregister.ie* and *voter.ie* should generate an acknowledgement email to each applicant in order to reduce unnecessary duplicate registrations.

While cognisant of the fact that it is planned that *checktheregister.ie* will be discontinued and the current *voter.ie* will be significantly redeveloped as part of the migration plan in 2026, the design and functionality of both should be reviewed in advance of the presidential election from user experience and accessibility perspectives.

An Coimisiún recommends that DHLGH should, in conjunction with the Housing Agency and any other relevant body, address the difficulties in accessing multi-use developments such as gated communities and apartment complexes for electoral register purposes.

Protocols, if not already in place, should be established in each local authority to ensure that the legislative provisions regarding access to, and use of, the electoral registers are complied with. Security access to the registers should be closely managed to ensure that only relevant staff, at relevant times, have access to the registers.

Part One: The Context

1. Introduction

‘Establishing and maintaining accurate voter registers at the national level, or voter lists at the regional or local level, can be one of the most difficult and, sometimes, the most controversial elements of an election process.’¹

OSCE Election Observation Handbook

The electoral registers are the definitive record of those entitled to vote in an electoral event. Voter registration and any subsequent updating of registers establishes the eligibility of people to vote in Dáil/general, presidential, European, mayoral and local elections, as well as referendums and plebiscites. Therefore, the accuracy and completeness of the electoral registers, as well as how they are managed and maintained, are fundamental to the democratic process.

The legal framework for the management of the electoral registers in Ireland is set out in the *Electoral Acts 1992 to 2022*, with significant amendments by the *Electoral Reform Act 2022* (see below) and also the *Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2024*.

In Ireland, there is no single national electoral register. There are 31 separate electoral registers each managed and maintained by the individual 31 local authorities. Under the legislation all registration authorities are required to maintain and update the electoral registers on a continual basis by adding, removing or updating details as necessary to ensure complete and accurate electoral registers. They are also required to undertake activities to support the accuracy and completeness of the registers and to

publish the relevant electoral registers in effect in their area in advance of each electoral event.

The *Electoral Reform Act 2022* provides for An Coimisiún to report on an annual basis to the Oireachtas on its assessment of the status and functioning of the electoral registers, and where it has conducted research, with regard to the completeness and accuracy of the registers, the result of that research. The legislation also provides for An Coimisiún to set standards for registration authorities regarding the maintenance of the electoral registers and make any recommendations it considers necessary to maintain or enhance the integrity of the electoral registers and the registration process.

Recommendations may be made to each of the 31 registration authorities about maintaining their registers, to the designated registration authority (Dublin City Council) about its role in developing a shared database known as the Local Government Electoral Registration System (LGERs) or to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in relation to legislative changes regarding the electoral register and the registration process.

From this point forward, registration authorities are referred to as local authorities.

This is An Coimisiún’s first Oversight of the Electoral Registers Report. It is also the first time that a report has been produced providing an overview of our electoral registers on both a collective and an individual basis. This report sets

¹ Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Election Observation Handbook, 6th edition, 2010, p. 58: <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/5/e/68439.pdf>

the foundation for future assessments and makes recommendations on improving in particular the accuracy and also the completeness and maintenance of the registers.

The content of this Oversight Report is primarily based on information provided to An Coimisiún by the local authorities requested from them under section 13B and section 20A of the *Electoral Act, 1992*. This information was requested in the format of a detailed survey, and through follow-up queries and conversations. This was supported by research carried out by An Coimisiún under section 69 of the *Electoral Reform Act 2022*.

In advance of the issuing of an initial survey, An Coimisiún had a number of engagements with local authorities to ensure that the information requested in the survey and the timing of the survey were appropriate.

This report covers an extensive period of time and a huge amount of activity by the local authorities. It begins in February 2023, when every local authority produced the first data set under the new online registration system and ends in December 2024, after the general election. In addition to the substantial legislative changes provided under the *Electoral Reform Act 2022* that had to be implemented by the local authorities, it should also be recognised that 2024 was the year with the most electoral activity since the foundation of the state, with two referendums, local elections (including a Limerick mayoral election), a European election and a Dáil election.

Research that has informed this report

The *Electoral Reform Act 2022* provides that An Coimisiún can request information

from the local authorities to carry out its own research.

Staff of An Coimisiún's Electoral Operations team met separately with nine local authorities – Cork City, Cork County, Donegal, Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Kildare, Louth, Tipperary and Wicklow in late 2023. These counties were chosen as they provided a mix of urban/rural, large/small and of ones with a range of resources committed to registration tasks. These visits provided valuable first-hand insights into the work of franchise teams from a cross section of local authorities.

Meetings were held with Dublin City Council (DCC) which was appointed by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage as the designated registration authority to establish and manage, on behalf of all local authorities, a shared database which will contain each registration authority's individual electoral register. This is known as the Local Government Electoral Registration System (LGERS) and is outlined in detail in Section Three. DCC currently manages the *voter.ie* portal and the Dublin local authorities shared electoral database.

Most of the information contained in this report has been provided by local authorities in returns provided for under the *Electoral Reform Act 2022*. A detailed survey was issued to all local authorities containing questions relating to maintaining the accuracy and completeness of the electoral register as well as activities they undertook to improve both. A copy of this survey is included in the Appendix. However, the data provided about their registers by local authorities needs to be treated with a certain amount of caution given that the information on the registers has not been independently audited for accuracy.

The information in the surveys covering the period up to March 2024, which were received by July 2024, were approved and signed off by each chief executive. In January 2025 further information was requested from local authorities covering the period from the referendums to the end of 2024. Replies were received by most local authorities to this request. An assessment and summary of key findings and An Coimisiún's assessment of each individual local authority, including recommendations is provided in Part Three.

In addition, information was provided by DCC and DHLGH with respect to their collation of register data from all local authorities.

The timetable for the production of this report is as follows:

- 22 March 2024 – surveys sent by the Chief Executive of An Coimisiún to all local authorities with a 22 April deadline.
- 8 May – surveys received from all local authorities.
- 14 June – one week after the local and European elections, An Coimisiún wrote to each local authority seeking clarification and/or further information on the responses provided. An Coimisiún requested that the final survey responses be signed off by the chief executive of each local authority. There was a deadline of 5 July. Each local authority was contacted by phone to help clarify any issues that they may have had in completing the survey.
- 24 July – replies from all local authorities received by An Coimisiún.
- October – DCC engaged a third-party contractor to manage the LGERS data transfer project.
- January 2025 – local authorities requested to provide supplementary information on register activity that took

place between March and November 2024.

- Week commencing 27 January – 27 local authorities provided supplementary information for activities between March and November 2024.
- 4 February – registration figures for December 2024 for each electoral register provided to An Coimisiún by DCC.

Other stakeholder engagement

The management of the electoral registers is the legal responsibility of each local authority. However, they do not operate in isolation. In addition to direct engagement with local authority staff, An Coimisiún met with other key stakeholders with regard to the electoral registers.

The Chief Executive and the Head of Electoral Operations of An Coimisiún attended an Electoral Register Franchise team network event hosted by DHLGH. The Chief Executive and Electoral Operations staff met with the Corporate Governance Network of the CCMA in September 2023 and introduced the role of An Coimisiún to the network members. These were initial steps in building an ongoing working relationship with the 31 local authorities and discuss any issues arising.

The LGERS Project Board oversees the establishment of the new electoral database, being managed by DCC. Following initial correspondence An Coimisiún met with DCC, the designated authority for the LGERS project, on a number of occasions and the Chairperson of the LGERS Project Board.

The LGERS Project Board established an Electoral Change Network (ECN), chaired by DCC. The ECN is a sectoral network set up under the auspices of the CCMA Corporate Committee in 2022

and reporting back to that committee. It consists of senior staff from each local authority who manage the electoral registers on a daily basis. This is a forum at which local authorities can monitor progress of the creation of a single shared national database of the 31 electoral registers. Staff of An Coimisiún attended seven ECN meetings prior to the publication of this report (November 2023; March, June, September, December 2024; February and April 2025).

The DHLGH Franchise Section has policy responsibility for electoral issues. This includes responsibility for reviewing electoral legislation and development of new legislation. It provides information and advice to local authorities and ensures preparedness for the holding of elections and referendums. It also has overall responsibility for the electoral register modernisation project, including supporting the delivery of LGERS. An Coimisiún has ongoing engagement with the Franchise Section as well as regularly scheduled meetings where issues related to the electoral registers can be discussed.

An Coimisiún has had a number of engagements with the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA). The LGMA develops, procures, maintains and provides support for several internal ICT systems in use in the local government sector, including the register of electors.

It also developed and supports the *checktheregister.ie* portal and the back office iReg system currently used by the 27 local authorities outside of Dublin.

An Coimisiún also gained further understanding of a number of issues through direct contacts from members of the public, media and political representatives during the electoral events that took place during the production of this report.

The role of An Coimisiún Toghcháin

An Coimisiún recognises that it also has an important role to play in improving the quality of the electoral registers. For its part, it will continue to encourage people to register to vote and to update their details in the run up to electoral events and at other times.

An Coimisiún will, through its Education and Public Engagement Strategy and with its partners, raise awareness and encourage people across all sectors of society to register to vote and to exercise their vote. Initiatives by An Coimisiún will be informed through direct engagement with local authorities as well as the public, NGOs, representative groups, educational bodies, elected representatives, as well as through its Research Programme 2024-2026.

2. The Current Electoral Register System

‘Electoral registers provide the definitive record of who can participate in an election and are therefore a central building block for the practice of democracy.’²

Each local authority manages its own electoral register. However, there are, in fact, four different electoral registers that are produced by each local authority for different electoral events. These registers are based on different eligibility criteria (although all require an elector to be over 18 and ordinarily resident in Ireland).

These are:

- The local election register used for local and mayoral elections (anyone ordinarily resident in a local electoral area).
- The Dáil register used for Dáil/general elections (Irish and British citizens).
- The European register used for European Parliament elections (Irish and European Union Member State citizens).
- The presidential register used for presidential elections and referendums (Irish citizens over 18).

Category	Local	Dáil	European	Presidential and Referendum
Irish Citizens	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
British Citizens	Yes	Yes	No	No
British and EU (excluding Ireland) Joint Citizens	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
EU Citizens	Yes	No	Yes	No
Non-EU Citizens	Yes	No	No	No
Other	Yes	No	No	No

The local elections register is the register for which the most people are eligible. As this is also the one that can be best compared to an estimated eligible population, it is the register that forms the overall basis of this report. Unless otherwise stated the local electoral register in each local authority is what is referred to as ‘the register’ throughout this report.

Who does what?

There are a number of organisations that control and assist in the management of the electoral registers by the local authorities.

Each **local authority** is the designated registration authority for their area. Within each local authority there is what is generally known as a franchise or electoral register section, in which there are staff (full-time, part-time or both) who are assigned registration authority duties and responsibilities. The extent of resources allocated to the electoral register function is decided by each individual local authority.

The **DHLGH** Franchise Section has policy responsibility for electoral issues. This includes responsibility for reviewing electoral legislation and development of new legislation. It provides information and advice to local authorities and ensures preparedness for the holding of elections and referendums. It has responsibility for the electoral register modernisation project, including supporting the delivery of the national shared electoral registration system (LGERS), which is being led by DCC.

DHLGH also has overall responsibility to enable ‘independent, democratic,

² James, T. S. and Garnett, H. A. (2023) ‘The Determinants of Electoral Registration Quality: A Cross-National Analysis’, *Representation*, 60(2), pp. 279–302. doi: 10.1080/00344893.2023.2207194.

responsive, innovative and effective local government'. Historically there has been no regular direct central funding specifically for the registration authority function in local authorities. However, in 2023 and 2024 DHLGH made funding available to each registration authority to support activities to improve the quality of data on the register. This funding was not intended to replace routine funding and resource allocation in relation to the carrying out of responsibilities in relation to electoral registration.

The **Local Government Management Agency (LGMA)** develops, procures, maintains and provides support for the register of electors in the 27 local authorities outside of Dublin and for *checktheregister.ie*, the website and back office iReg system. These enable the public to check their electoral registration and to apply to register or make changes to their details on the register (discussed below).

Dublin City Council develops, maintains and provides support for the *voter.ie* website through which electors living in each of the four Dublin local authority areas (Dublin City, South Dublin, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and Fingal) can check their electoral registration, apply to register, and make changes to their details on the register.

DCC was appointed by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage as the designated registration authority to establish and manage the LGERS national electoral registration system on behalf of all 31 local authorities.

The **LGERS Project Board** is managing the LGERS project to develop the new electoral registration system and the upgrading and redevelopment of the current *voter.ie* system.

Changes introduced by the Electoral Reform Act 2022

The *Electoral Reform Act 2022* provided for a number of changes to electoral registration in Ireland. The parts of the Act relevant to the electoral registers were commenced in October 2022 and represent the most significant change in the history of the state to how the electoral registers are managed. Therefore, this report is produced at a time of enormous change for local authorities with regard to how their electoral register is managed and maintained, and for the public, with regard to the registration process.

The main changes that are relevant to this report are now outlined.

Individual registration

The *Electoral Reform Act 2022* introduced what is termed 'individual registration'. This was the most significant change for the electors and for the local authorities.

Prior to October 2022, the electoral registers were based on a system of 'household registration'. Under that system any person in a household could register other people in that household. Essentially this was third party registration. The information requested consisted of name, address and date of birth. Updating and correction of the register was often achieved through the deployment of local authority fieldworkers calling house to house.

Under individual registration, as the name implies, it is now the responsibility of each person to register themselves on an electoral register and, once on the register, to ensure that all their details, including name, address, citizenship, etc.,

are accurate and up-to-date. This is an ‘active system’ that requires actions by the individual.³

This change from household to individual registration has been facilitated by registration websites – *voter.ie* and *checktheregister.ie* – which act as online portals to the electoral registers.

For those who do not wish to apply online there is the option of registering with a paper application form. However, the form must be witnessed by a member of An Garda Síochána or an official from the relevant local authority, and accordingly is a more cumbersome process. It is clear that online registration quickly became the default mode of registration and for the updating of details for the vast majority of people.

Online registration and amending details: *voter.ie* and *checktheregister.ie*

Online registration was introduced by the *voter.ie* registration portal in 2019 for the Dublin local authorities. This is managed by DCC. In October 2022, a similar portal *checktheregister.ie* and its back office system called iReg was provided for the other 27 local authorities by the LGMA. Since October 2022 *voter.ie* and *checktheregister.ie* have become the ways in which the majority of people register to vote or to amend their details.

Any person can check their details on *voter.ie* or *checktheregister.ie* by entering their name and address/Eircode on the portal. However, in order to register or amend details online an individual must include the following information:

- › Personal Public Service Number (PPSN)
- › Date of birth
- › Eircode

The provision of this information allows the local authority to carry out an electronic verification check, using an Application Programming Interface (API), with the Department of Social Protection to identify the individual when first inputted and to establish that the PPSN has not been used by another person on an electoral register. Once verified by franchise staff in the relevant local authority, this information is then transferred to a ‘back office’ system where electoral register information is stored on secure servers.

This verification process means that people who apply online do not need to have their identity confirmed at a Garda station or a local authority.

Differences between *voter.ie* and *checktheregister.ie*

The two electoral register portals operate differently in some key respects.

- *voter.ie* is currently the website for the four Dublin local authorities while *checktheregister.ie* covers the other 27 local authorities.
- *voter.ie* allows people using MyGovID direct access to their electoral record, which they can directly edit themselves, rather than submitting an application that has to be approved. This facility is not available on *checktheregister.ie*.
- In the *voter.ie* system each of the Dublin local authorities has ‘read only’ access to the information on the registers of the others. This facilitates cross checking for duplications across the

³ One scenario where a third party can be involved in making changes to a person’s details is where a person is deceased or has moved from a particular residence and a third party informs the local authority. The local authority must then follow the relevant verification processes to confirm the reported status of the elector.

Dublin electoral registers. It does not allow any access to the registers on the *checktheregister.ie* system. The local authorities on *checktheregister.ie* have access only to their own electoral register. They are unable to cross check against any other register.

- The ability to cross check across the four Dublin electoral registers allows for accuracy to be improved by identifying and removing duplicate entries across these four registers. It also facilitates the transfer of elector records after change of address. Those on *checktheregister.ie* can only search for duplicates on their own register.
- All registrations or amendment applications to *voter.ie* are, if approved by local authority staff, then added electronically to the register through an automated process. *checktheregister.ie* requires a manual transfer, or 'keying in', of information that is entered onto the website to the back-office system. This process is resource intensive and, due to the manual transfer of information, introduces potential human error. This may be particularly the case in busy periods in advance of an electoral event.

Improving recording of data

As outlined, in order to either register online or update a person's information online it is necessary for that person to provide details which act as personal identifiers. In addition to name, address and citizenship these are:

- › PPSN
- › Date of birth
- › Eircode

To date the vast majority of electors on electoral registers have not provided

PPSNs. This was only introduced nationally in October 2022 and the latest figure for percentage of electors with a PPSN associated with their registration is just 22.0% nationally.

The provision of dates of birth and Eircodes allows another way for local authorities on *checktheregister.ie* to identify an individual and to check for duplicates among entries on their register, and for the Dublin local authorities to check across the four Dublin registers. This is particularly important with regard to assisting with the improvement of accuracy, as will be discussed in detail in Sections Five and Six, and in the individual local authority assessments in Part Three.

Continuous or rolling register and registers for electoral events

The *Electoral Reform Act 2022* provides for a continuous 'live' or 'rolling' register which is updated on an ongoing basis during the year, and up to the statutory deadline for any electoral event. These rolling registers replace the annual requirement on local authorities to publish 'Draft' and 'Final Registers' and then to publish 'Supplementary Registers' in advance of elections.

The continuous registers have many advantages, including that the register is kept current and updated regularly and people can be registered whenever they wish. However, local authority returns provided to An Coimisiún confirm the view of the Electoral Knowledge Network⁴ that the maintenance of rolling registers has resourcing, training and budgetary implications as the work flow with a 'live' register is a year-round task. This is discussed in Section Four.

⁴ Compiling Registration Data (aceproject.org)

Pre-registration

The *Electoral Reform Act 2022* provides for 16 and 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote. Each of these registrations is put on a pending electors list in the relevant local authority. Each of these pending electors is then automatically added to the register when they turn 18 years of age.

New electoral registration system

An Coimisiún understands that the new electoral registration system, LGERS, will be fully established in 2026. This system will replace both the current *voter.ie* system in Dublin and the *checktheregister.ie* and iReg system in the other 27 local authorities. This new system will be outlined in the next section.

Conclusion

Each local authority manages its own electoral register with specific registers produced for various electoral events

based on eligibility criteria. The *Electoral Reform Act 2022* introduced a number of significant changes to how electoral registers are managed and how people register to vote and how they update their details.

Individual registration was introduced which means that each individual is now responsible for their own registration and ensuring that their details are up to date. This is facilitated by the online portals *voter.ie* in the Dublin local authority areas and *checktheregister.ie* in the rest of the country. It is also facilitated by the provision of key pieces of information for each elector in order to verify their identity and to check for duplicate entries. However, while there is a good level of integration of data for the Dublin local authorities, there is no integration between any of the registers on the *checktheregister.ie* system.

A new electoral registration system is currently being developed and is due to be operational by the end of 2026.

3. The New Local Government Electoral Registration System (LGERS)

The *Electoral Reform Act 2022* provided for the development of a national shared database of electoral register information and allowed the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to prescribe a 'Designated Registration Authority' to establish, manage and maintain a shared database. On 20 September 2023, the Minister signed a Statutory Instrument prescribing Dublin City Council (DCC) as the designated registration authority to establish, manage and maintain the new national shared database, known as the Local Government Electoral Registration System (LGERS). DCC is required in its role as designated authority to report annually to An Coimisiún on the performance of its functions in this regard, in addition to the management of its own electoral register.

According to information provided by DCC:

'Reform of the system for registering voters has been on the agenda of successive Irish governments since 2007⁵. The most recent proposals to modernise the electoral registration process were developed in 2017 based on the work of the Oireachtas Joint Committee Report on the Proposed Electoral Commission (2016)⁶. A key proposal was the development of a single national electoral register database with unique identifiers. The Report of Public Consultation on the Modernisation of the Electoral Register in Ireland, published in 2019, noted that those who made submissions were positively disposed to such a proposal.'

The LGERS Project has been developed over a number of years. The development of this has been complex with a number of different organisations involved.

An Coimisiún understands that on foot of the decision to develop the LGERS national shared database, DHLGH established an independently chaired National Online Electoral Registration Project Board who advised that a sectoral project board be established to oversee the development, procurement and rollout of the new system. Subsequently the LGERS Project Board was established, including representatives from the local authorities and DHLGH.

The LGERS Project Board formally met for the first time in September 2021. The Project Board recommended the Electoral Change Network (ECN) as a Local Government sectoral coordination mechanism for electoral registration projects that align with the national shared database project. The Business Case for the LGERS project was adopted by the Project Board in November 2022 and was confirmed by the National Online Electoral Registration Board in 2023. In October 2024, DCC signed a contract with a third party to manage the roll out of the migration of register data from every local authority to the new national database.

According to the LGERS Project Board Chair, it is intended that by the end of 2026 all local authorities will have migrated their registration data to a new national database. However, it is important to note that while this will create a national electoral

⁵ Electoral Reform Bill 2022 (oireachtas.ie)

⁶ 109314_626249ca-282d-4b8a-915d-fc00aa3af6af.pdf

⁷ 109314_626249ca-282d-4b8a-915d-fc00aa3af6af.pdf

register, each local authority will continue to be legally responsible for the management and maintenance of their own registers. An amended and modified version of the current *voter.ie* website will become the portal for all online applications and amendments – *checktheregister.ie* will no longer operate.

LGERS project documentation states that the new requirements include:

- A central electoral database managed by DCC who will also provide support to other local authorities to manage their electoral registers.
- A streamlined national database.
- Consistent data retention rules across local authority registers.
- Assistance for local authorities to prepare for elections.
- Support for new management processes for mayoral and other regional elections.
- Improvement in accuracy of existing and new reports, to include allowing new reporting functions.
- Facilitation of correspondence with electors.
- Streamlining and redesigning of online application process, to include tracking numbers for queries.
- Making the portal *voter.ie* accessible for all users.
- Integration with Eircode, PPSN and MyGovID systems.
- Migration of project to DCC's Azure Public Cloud Tenancy.
- A system that will be responsive, scalable and support a high volume of users.

In preparation for migration to LGERS local authorities have been, to varying degrees, making efforts to increase the amount of data associated with each elector on the registers including PPSNs, dates of birth and Eircodes in order to increase accuracy

by identifying duplicate and redundant entries. This has been supported with additional funding from DHLGH.

In 2025 and 2026, local authorities will prepare for migration to LGERS. According to DCC the primary focus is for local authorities to standardise the existing data on each of their 31 registers prior to the information being combined into a single national database. This requires each local authority to undertake detailed data cleansing and reformatting of entries on their registers in preparation for migration. This process is being managed between DCC, the other local authorities and the contractor.

An Coimisiún understands that once the database has been established and all 31 registers have migrated, the LGERS Project Board will be disbanded and that a new body will be created called the 'Electoral Register Oversight Body' (EROB). The composition of this proposed body has not been finalised. The draft terms of reference of EROB are largely governance related.

They are currently described as:

1. Review risks, controls, compliance, and reporting.
2. Provide financial accountability and oversight of resourcing.
3. Review and authorise change requests/ additional projects, procurement processes and the funding of same.
4. Ensure the [new registration] system is delivering value for money.
5. Review requirement of recommendations from An Coimisiún Toghcháin or planned legislative changes.

In its recommendations An Coimisiún recommends the EROB should be responsible for ensuring that the levels of data accuracy on the new system are

significantly improved and then monitored and maintained. EROB should also report annually to An Coimisiún on the accuracy and governance of the database.

Legacy accuracy issue

Section Five of this report outlines significant legacy accuracy issues on the electoral registers. This particularly relates to an unknown, but potentially significant number of duplicate and redundant entries on the electoral registers across the country. While An Coimisiún believes that some registers are more accurate than others, it does not believe that any can currently be deemed to have achieved an acceptable level of accuracy. An Coimisiún believes that considerable work is required by the local authorities, with the support of DHLGH, before these legacy issues can be satisfactorily dealt with. This is essential to the proper management and maintenance of the 31 electoral registers.

An Coimisiún is deeply concerned to learn from the LGERS Project Board, DHLGH and DCC that no targets have been set in relation to accuracy for local authorities prior to the migration of their register information to the new database. In their replies to questions regarding accuracy of the registers each stated that the accuracy of the registers was a matter for each of the 31 individual local authorities. There is also no plan by the sector to address register inaccuracies subsequent to the completion of migration to LGERS. An Coimisiún does not believe that the migration of electoral register data is the solution to the inadequacies in the current status of the registers. While this LGERS database is a necessary step it must be followed up with detailed scrutiny and audit of each electoral register and plans put in place to address duplicate and redundant entries by 2029. This is addressed in some detail in our recommendations.

As will be seen in Section Five and in the individual assessments of the local authority registers in Part Three, the legacy accuracy issues of the electoral registers in general is of significant concern. While many local authorities, supported by DHLGH, have undertaken work to improve the accuracy of their registers, there are considerable disparities between the accuracy and quality of the electoral registers among the local authorities.

The creation of the LGERS national single database is likely to result in the identification of some duplicate entries during the preparation for and transfer to the combined database. However, An Coimisiún does not believe that this will satisfactorily address the significant historical accuracy issues. This is not acceptable and more concrete proposals and actions to actually remedy the inaccuracies are required as a matter of urgency.

In the absence of a plan to address the issue of accuracy An Coimisiún has determined to make specific and detailed recommendations for steps that are required to address the accuracy of the registers in advance of the next electoral cycle due to begin in 2029.

Potential to avail of other national data sets

The improvement of the accuracy levels of the 31 registers is a challenge. However, An Coimisiún believes that there may be opportunities to avail of other data sets in the state in order to address this. Currently the only dataset that is systematically used is that of the Department of Social Protection to verify an individual's identity. It is understood that LGERS will be integrated with the Death Events Publication System. This is welcomed as it will help in the removal

of deceased electors from the electoral registers. An Coimisiún recommends that the DHLGH and the LGERS Project Board should immediately identify and assess the potential benefits of data sharing under the provisions of the *Data Sharing and Governance Act 2019*.

Conclusion

The LGERS project is a landmark project in the history of the electoral registers. It is necessary and important and facilitates the better management and maintenance of the electoral registers by each local authority. Its establishment and future management will require dedicated resources in each local authority. LGERS will be a considerable achievement. It is a critical first step towards more robust registers, and should greatly assist in ensuring the accuracy of registrations in

the future. However, it will not fully address the issue of legacy inaccuracies on the electoral registers. According to DHLGH, the LGERS Project Board and DCC no accuracy standards have been set for the 31 electoral registers in advance of their migration to the LGERS database. While much work is required to standardise register data the absence of a plan to address significant legacy accuracy issues, either prior or subsequent to migration to LGERS, is regarded by An Coimisiún as unsatisfactory. It is for this reason that significant recommendations are proposed in this report to address the accuracy issue comprehensively before the next scheduled electoral cycle in 2029.

The potential to avail of other national data sets to improve the accuracy of the electoral registers should also be investigated.





Part Two: The National Picture

4. Management and Maintenance of the Electoral Registers

The management and maintenance of the electoral registers are the day-to-day activities of local authority franchise teams. From the information gathered for this oversight report it is clear that there is a wide disparity in performance by the 31 local authorities. How well your register is managed depends to a considerable degree on which local authority area you are registered in and the level of resources afforded to the franchise function. It is not possible to readily directly compare local authorities due to differing sizes, compositions and overall budgets. However, it is clear that even local authorities with similar populations and budgets have afforded their electoral registers varying degrees of priority. This can clearly be seen in what appears to be either a complete absence of, or a low level of ambition for, the franchise function in key local authority corporate documents such as corporate plans or annual service delivery reports. An Coimisiún is not aware of any local authority that has produced a stand-alone formal plan for its electoral register function, or indeed its wider role of supporting local democracy through its register or electoral functions.

In addition, there has not been any appreciable change in register management or resourcing after the passing of the *Electoral Reform Act 2022*. This lack of prioritisation has been obvious in our analysis of the data of staff numbers, the extent of the financial resources applied and the extent to which a local authority has been proactive in trying to improve the quality of its register.

The view of An Coimisiún is that this is largely due to the level of prioritisation and resourcing given to the franchise function

within each local authority and the need for additional funding from DHLGH to support the local authorities in meeting the requirements of the *Electoral Reform Act 2022*.

The main conclusion and recommendation regarding the management and maintenance of the electoral registers is that resources of local authorities need to be urgently reviewed and improved, with regard to both staff and budget allocation for the electoral register function, and that designated staff and financial resources are needed. This includes appropriate resources and skills being made available for DCC to manage the new national database. This needs to be addressed not only at a local authority level but also requires the leadership and support of DHLGH given the scale of change involved.

Local authority electoral register staff resources

In the context of the introduction of new procedures and processes, the preparation for LGERS and the need to improve the accuracy of the registers, as well as the introduction of a rolling register, the issue of staff resourcing is of particular concern. A proper needs assessment, and subsequent follow up actions, of the resources required to enable franchise teams to adequately carry out their general franchise work and the teams required to meet the demands of periodic electoral events are required in all local authorities.

Franchise units are not generally formal business units specifically dedicated to working full-time on the electoral register. They are positioned within the

corporate divisions of local authorities and report carrying out a wide range of other functions in addition to their electoral register management roles. These can include, among others, the organisation of and support for council meetings, casual trading byelaws, coroner fees and expenses, administering councillor expenses, reception desk cover, water safety, procurement, stationery management and school meals.

Historically the management of the electoral register experienced annual peaks and troughs of activity, in line with scheduled and unscheduled electoral events. However, changes to registration processes and additional tasks required by the provisions of the *Electoral Reform Act 2022*, taken with the work associated with preparation for electoral events, and that are required to generally support register management means that there are no longer lengthy periods of ‘down time’ when it comes to the electoral registers. Further, the lack of accuracy in the individual registers cannot be tolerated in a democratic society and improvement must be seen as a matter of urgency.

The ACE Electoral Knowledge Network, an international online community and repository of electoral knowledge, notes a number of resourcing challenges raised by the management of a rolling register, including the need for a larger number of permanent staff and a larger budget.⁸ Many franchise staff are required to have advanced skills and training including technical expertise, with a need for ongoing training and development. However, despite significant changes to the way the registration process is managed, including online registration and the rolling register, and the increase in the population of the State, they have not resulted in an

appreciable increase in staffing numbers for franchise functions in many local authorities outside of electoral events.

Oireachtas research, published during the drafting of the *Electoral Reform Bill 2022*, identified the failure to adequately fund the franchise function as a key contributor to inaccuracies and incompleteness of registers. This is a key concern for An Coimisiún. A number of recommendations have been made to ensure that local authority franchise functions are properly resourced to carry out the roles provided for in legislation. This may require reallocation of resources within local authorities as well as additional funding being provided by DHLGH to ensure that in future the electoral register function is properly and professionally managed in every local authority.

Procedures and practices for registration

The management and maintenance of a register is not a simple data management process, but one that requires a number of detailed technical tasks, grounded in legislation and that can require varying amounts of direct contact with the public as well as other local authorities.

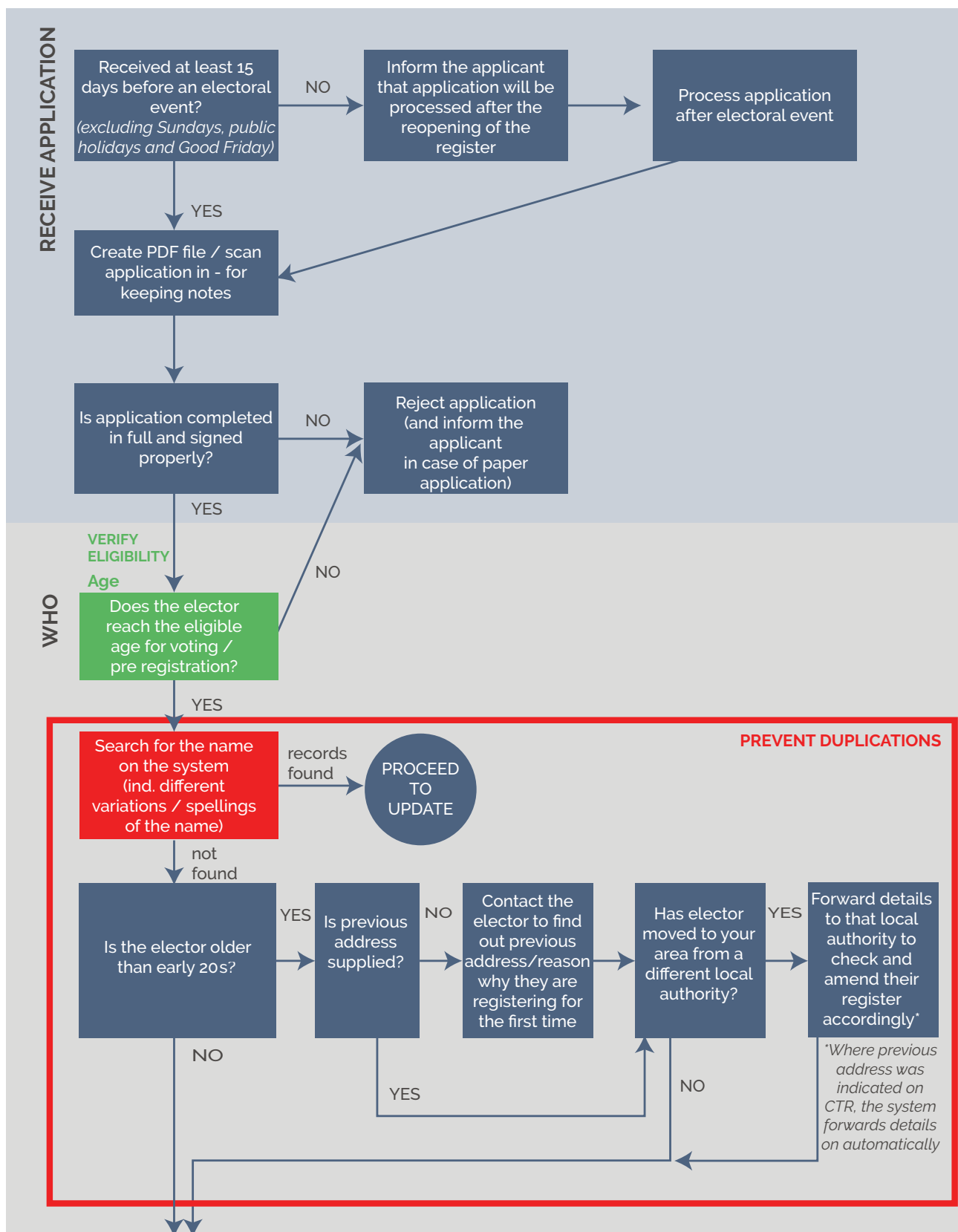
In October 2023 the document *Preparing and Maintaining the Register of Electors: Guidelines for Registration Authorities* was produced by the Electoral Change Network. This 111-page manual details the processes and procedures to be followed by franchise staff including:

- Assessment of eligibility for registration (pre-registration, citizenship, issues of residence, postal votes, special voters, anonymous electors, no fixed abode)

⁸ Continuous Register- Disadvantages (aceproject.org)

- Management of the registration process from initial application through to any appeal to the county registrar.
- Making of the arrangements for the various categories of special and postal voting.
- Updating of the registers and the electoral registers and election management.





In addition, there is a separate 42-page guide to the *voter.ie* application process for the Dublin authorities and a longer technical guide of around 300 pages.

Individual franchise staff are required to carry out a variety of data verification checks on applications received before accepting a registration or updating an existing entry (see Figure 1). They also undertake local engagement activities to improve the completeness and accuracy of the register (see Section Six and individual assessments in Part Three). In addition, franchise staff continue to implement reforms to the registration process introduced under the *Electoral Reform Act 2022*, including online registration and the rolling register. They must undertake necessary work to standardise the data on their registers in advance of migration to the new national register database in 2026 as well as the recommendations in this report. They must also take a lead role in addressing historical inaccuracies on their register. However, they must be properly resourced to do all of this essential work.

In the run up to the various 2024 electoral events, franchise teams were supported by staff drawn from other areas of each local authority to assist with the processing of the large number of applications to register and update details. In almost all local authorities, members of staff were required to work overtime in order to be trained on the registration system and then to manage the registrations and updates.

While it is to be expected that workload changes partly derive from the number of electoral events, the general impression is that there had been little forward planning for the number of electoral events held in 2024.

In its Report on the Family and Care Referendums, An Coimisiún has

recommended an extension to timelines for the calling of referendums. The short notice for the calling of a general election is also a concern. In November 2024 there were just five days for people to register to vote after the general election was officially called – with just two days, over a weekend, for people to apply for a postal vote. While An Coimisiún encouraged people to register or check their registration details in its campaigns prior to this, all registration authorities reported a last-minute surge of applications which were reported to be a challenge to process. An Coimisiún believes that contingency plans for electoral events, which are sometimes necessarily called at short notice, should be in place in each local authority. Robust workforce planning for both ongoing franchise work and work associated with electoral events is required.

The franchise function is allocated relatively few staff resources. Most local authorities advised that the level of resourcing of the franchise team is a key challenge to the management and maintenance of a complete and accurate register. Six local authorities reported that there were no full-time staff working on the registers in 2023. It was reported nationally that some 130 full-time and/or part-time staff worked on the electoral registers in 2023, rising to over 175 in 2024. However, An Coimisiún is treating these figures with caution as the way in which local authorities reported differed and, in some cases, it was not clear to what extent these staff worked during the course of the full year. An Coimisiún will revise how it frames this question in future surveys to local authorities to ensure that the answers are more complete and detailed.

From the survey returns, the range of experience of staff working in a franchise function and on electoral events is varied. It ranged from no experience to experience

of working on every electoral event since 1995. Some franchise teams in place for the March referendums had no staff who had previously worked on an electoral event. The retention of corporate knowledge and the sharing of experience between local authorities during this time of modernisation and reform is vital. This too requires planning.

Every local authority return stated that they were successful in processing all register applications by the deadline for the electoral events, including for those whose details needed to be updated in order to be able to exercise their vote. However, many reported that changes submitted on the systems that would not have affected a person's ability to vote in that electoral event were held over to be dealt with subsequent to it. A number of local authorities reported that duplicates generated on the system (see below and individual local authority assessments in Part Three) were not cleared until after an electoral event further increasing the inaccuracy of the registers. This would have artificially increased the size of the 'eligible electorate' for that event and consequently also depressed reported turnout figures.

Financial resourcing

Given the additional workload provided for under the *Electoral Reform Act 2022* for this core function it is incumbent on both the local authorities and DHLGH to ensure

that there are adequate resources to deliver this important work. An Coimisiún's recommendations, if implemented, will also require additional resources to manage the register. As outlined in Section Five and Part Three there is a need in many local authorities to address both historic register inaccuracies as well as adequately managing and maintaining a continuously live rolling electoral register.

According to local authority budget reports, in 2023 an estimated €4.6 million of their budgets were spent across all local authorities on register of elector costs. In 2024, expenditure of some €5.2 million was allocated. Additional funding of €1.7m was made available in both years by DHLGH. This additional funding was intended to supplement, not replace, each local authority's spending on the register. Each local authority was given relative autonomy to determine the type of activities on which the funding should be spent (further information on registration authority activities is given below). In 2024 it was €1.6m - this funding was primarily used for staff costs during the year.

Therefore, across all local authorities it was reported that €6.1 million was expended on electoral register activities in 2023, and an estimated €6.8m in 2024.

With an estimated 3,874,627 people registered to vote on the local election register at the end of December 2024 nationally, this indicates that the estimated

LA budget register costs est. outturn 2023	LA budget register costs – approved budget 2024	DHLGH funding 2023	DHLGH funding 2024	Total LA + DHLGH funding 2023	Total LA + DHLGH funding 2024
4,584,359	5,229,431	1,542,018	1,565,152	6,127, 143	6,794,583

Table 1: Total electoral register expenditure 2023 and 2024.

expenditure on each elector was just €1.75 in a year that had the highest number of electoral events in the history of the state. It is readily apparent from the information provided by the local authorities and the quality of the electoral registers that this funding, as well as the level of prioritisation in many local authorities, is far from sufficient to deal with the tasks required.

Financing of LGERS

According to figures provided by DHLGH between 2021 and 2024 a total of €3.5m was spent on the development of the LGERS project, including Dublin City Council staff, the development of the system, legal and procurement support and upgrades to the *voter.ie* portal.

LGERS will add an additional cost that will be incurred by local authorities from 2027. According to DCC these costs will cover ‘support, cloud consumption and related support services and staffing of the Electoral Registration System Office (13 staff)’.

In 2022, these costs were projected to come to a national total of €3,118,880. This would be shared between local authorities on a per capita basis (this is standard for shared services). These are substantial figures (see Table 2) and for many local authorities it would account for a considerable percentage of current franchise allocations. This additional expenditure would be on top of other additional resources required for the management of a rolling register and the resources required to implement the recommendations in this report. This all underpins the need of the local authorities and DHLGH to review the funding of the management of electoral registers by local authorities.

Local authority	Fee allocation €
Carlow	37,699.62
Cavan	49,429.96
Clare	77,564.51
Cork City	135,342.07
Cork County	218,474.08
Donegal	101,245.55
Dublin City	358,078.51
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	142,113.64
Fingal	200,406.80
Galway City	50,802.66
Galway County	117,482.97
Kerry	94,511.11
Kildare	150,343.75
Kilkenny	63,116.78
Laois	55,794.90
Leitrim	21,358.71
Limerick City and County	125,061.13
Longford	28,387.79
Louth	84,675.16
Mayo	83,537.43
Meath	134,102.07
Monaghan	39,465.56
Offaly	50,322.97
Roscommon	42,608.47
Sligo	42,501.33
South Dublin	182,494.74
Tipperary	102,061.26
Waterford City and County	77,361.19
Westmeath	58,341.24
Wexford	99,544.75
Wicklow	94,649.29
Total	3,118,880.00

Table 2: Annual LGERS fee allocation to be paid by each local authority.

Activities undertaken by local authorities

An Coimisiún asked local authorities to provide details of local campaigns and activities which they had undertaken during the period January 2023 – December 2024 to improve the accuracy and completeness of their electoral registers. These were activities that were beyond day-to-day maintenance and management discussed above. They were also asked to provide more detailed information on any activity or innovation that could show-case efforts to improve the quality of the register, and also provide learnings to the sector.

For many local authorities, the proactive public engagement to support efforts to increase accuracy and completeness was a new area of activity. These challenges have been taken on to different degrees across the system and with different initiatives. These can be seen when reviewing the individual local authority assessments with successful practices highlighted in some, while others showed limited efforts.

As referenced in the section on financial resourcing, to support these activities DHLGH made €1.7m available to local authorities in 2023, of which some €1.5m was expended. A minimum of €33,000 was available to each registration authority, with additional funding provided in proportion to local authority population up to a maximum of €125,000. Expenditure items included advertising, targeted and general postal campaigns asking people to update details/provide additional information, attendance at national and local events to promote registration activities, translations of townland names into Irish (required for migration to LGERS) and flyer printing and distribution.

The information provided indicates differences in approach and scale by

local authorities. The number of activities ranged from one activity in 2023 in the case of Carlow County Council to several in Monaghan and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

Thirteen local authorities confirmed that they had a communications or public engagement strategy in place, while a further four advised that they planned to put a communications strategy in place after the June elections. Given the importance of this public engagement role An Coimisiún recommends that all local authorities develop an annual action plan setting out activities that will improve the accuracy and completeness of the electoral register.

Overview of 2023 and 2024 electoral register activities by local authorities

In 2024 most local authorities did not undertake significant additional activities to improve either the accuracy or completeness of their registers. Rather they concentrated on managing the registers for the electoral events in March, June and November.

In 2023, when there were no electoral events, the most common activities undertaken by local authorities were leafleting (19 local authorities distributed over 500,000 leaflets) and local radio and newspaper campaigns (18 local authorities). Other, broad activities included social media campaigns (9) and having stands at events and public locations (14). 11 engaged directly with secondary schools, particularly with regard to pre-registration, while 10 met with community groups/attended community events and five took part in activities to register third level students. Three local authorities engaged directly with nursing homes, the residents of which are entitled to special voting.

In general, the audiences for these

engagement activities were broad, and the campaigns were not targeted at particular groups or demographics. In addition, the recent introduction of significant changes to the registration process necessitated information campaigns particularly with electoral events that took place in 2024.

The level of resources assigned to franchise teams within local authorities was another factor. As discussed, some local authorities have no dedicated full-time staff which would clearly affect their capacity to research, plan, coordinate and implement activities to improve the accuracy and completeness of their registers.

It was difficult to get a clear understanding of the impact of activities deployed on the numbers of new registrations and changes to the register. While almost all local authorities reported increases in registrations and changes to the registers as a result of these campaigns, in many instances only estimated impact data was available. An Coimisiún understands that this was due to two factors:

- Local authorities were unable to differentiate the impact of registration campaigns run nationally by DHLGH and An Coimisiún from local initiatives.
- Register data was not collated or measured at the time of an activity and its immediate aftermath.

However, from the information provided it appears that when efforts are made to engage with the public to improve accuracy and completeness, there is a good response in terms of registrations and updates. This level of public interest chimes with the experiences of An Coimisiún during its registration campaigns in advance of each of the 2024 electoral events. This is very encouraging.

Removal of duplicate and redundant entries

The removal of duplicate and redundant entries is essential to the effective management of electoral registers and increases accuracy. This ensures that an elector can vote only once at an electoral event, and means that the assessment of turnout is more accurate.

The accurate removal of entries on the electoral registers is a complicated issue and one that has given rise to considerable comment. Since the passing of the *Electoral Reform Act 2022*, it has been the responsibility of each individual elector to ensure that they advise their local authority of any changes in their circumstances that are relevant to the register, for example if they have moved from one local authority area to another, or changed citizenship. It is clear that this has not happened for a variety of reasons, and some electors are registered in different local authority areas where they may have lived in the past. Electors who have left the state or died are another relevant and possibly significant cohort.

As outlined, there are an unknown number of duplicate or redundant entries across the electoral registers. People may be unaware that they are still on an electoral register in another local authority area and that they need to take action in order to be removed. There has been no information campaign to make people aware that this could be an issue. Duplication will be more easily managed when there is a single national electoral database. It will facilitate the automatic or at least relatively easy transfer of an elector.

The removal of deceased electors from the system is another issue. Local authorities, to varying degrees, use the weekly official

Death Events list published by the General Registers Office, published death notices or rip.ie to identify deceased electors.

Therefore, the active removal of duplicate and redundant entries from an electoral register is an essential and important part of management, but one that is labour intensive and slow. Local authorities report that they exercise great care and caution in removing an entry from a register and do so only when they have sufficiently assured themselves of the validity of removal. An erroneous or unjustified removal of a person from a register is a serious denial of a right of franchise. Under the *Electoral Reform Act 2022* removal can involve local authorities making three documented attempts to contact an elector before removing them from the register. Removal must happen only when there is a verifiable exact match of data with that on the register, for example, name and date of birth. In some instances, a grieving relative may be asked to provide a death certificate in order to remove the elector.

An Coimisiún has been made aware of a small number of instances in which people were erroneously removed from the

register. This is extremely unfortunate and upsetting for the people concerned, but does not seem to be a widespread issue.

A brief comparison of the electorate for the registers of the 2024 referendums, local and Dáil elections and the similar electoral events that took place in 2019 and 2020 appears to show considerable activity by local authorities nationally in cleansing registers of duplicate and redundant entries. Figures provided by local authorities show that in 2023 alone there was an estimate of over 43,000 deletions from the registers. Some of the work carried out to reduce the number of duplicate and redundant entries is outlined in the individual local authority assessments in Part Three.

Figures supplied by the local authorities confirm that deletions continued in 2024, but were far exceeded by registrations which were described as being at an unprecedented scale. There were reported to have been over 145,000 deletions from registers during 2024. Despite this level of removals, it appears clear that there are still considerable numbers of duplicate and redundant entries on the registers.

Combined electoral register trends

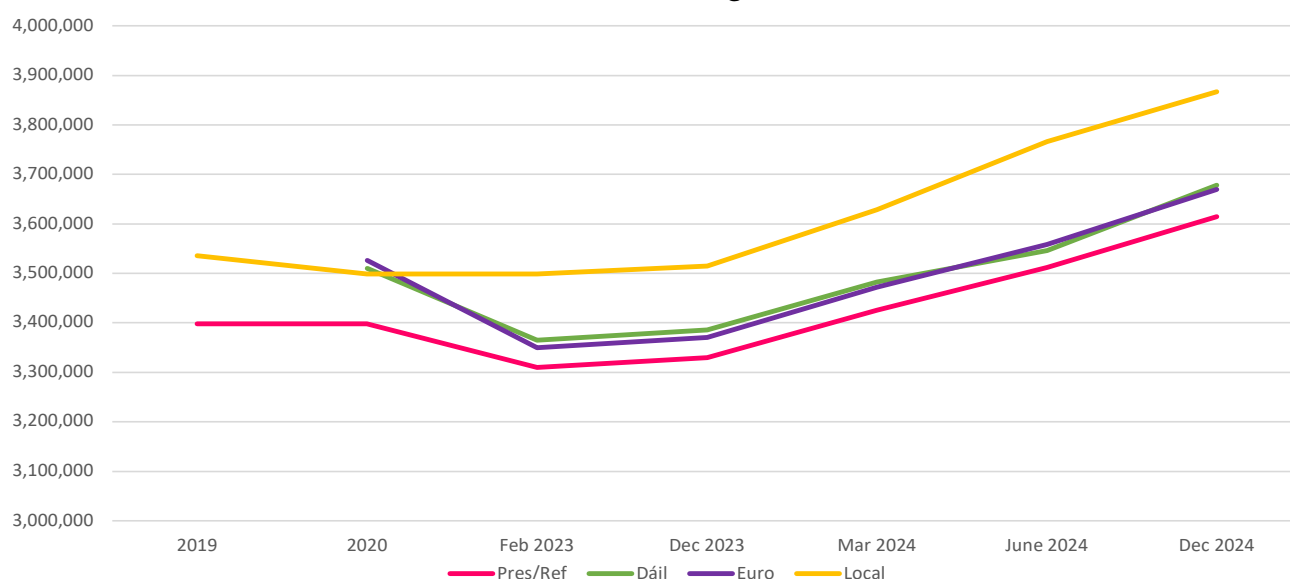


Chart 1: Combined electoral register trends for each type of electoral event 2019-2024.

A brief comparison of the electoral registers for local elections, general elections and referendums between 2019/2020 and 2024 in Chart 1 appears to indicate some significant work carried out by the local authorities to remove duplicate and redundant entries.

Unnecessary creation of duplicate registrations on *voter.ie* and *checktheregister.ie*

checktheregister.ie will continue to be used by 27 local authorities until after the presidential election scheduled for October 2025. In their returns almost all 27 local authorities currently on the *checktheregister.ie* system raised a wide variety of issues regarding the functionality of this portal which has caused them additional administrative burdens. While recognising the need to balance expenditure on a website that will be discontinued, An Coimisiún recommends that this portal be reviewed and modified as appropriate by LGMA, in conjunction with local authorities, in time for the peak registration period in advance of the presidential election.

There are two particular concerns which were reported by nearly every local authority for both *checktheregister.ie* and *voter.ie* which appears to result in many unnecessary duplicate applications:

- Neither portal automatically generates a case number or acknowledgement email for an applicant. There is then a period between the application and a registration or update being added to the register while procedures are followed to confirm an applicant's details. During this time if a person searches for their name, they will not find their name on *checktheregister.ie* or *voter.ie*. Many,

believing that their previous application was not received, then register again.

- It is reported that many people who try to check their registration on both systems are sometimes unable to find themselves as a result of incorrect or different spellings, uses of apostrophes, incorrect Eircodes or other issues. This can lead them to believe that they are not on the register and they then register.

These problems cause duplicate entries and are very confusing for the elector, they create significant administrative burdens for local authorities, often during peak periods of activity, and clearly affect the accuracy of the registers.

We have not been able to quantify this issue. However, it appears to be considerable. DCC estimated that these duplicate/multiple applications accounted for around 13% of all applications in advance of one of the electoral events. Some local authorities reported that due to time constraints and the overriding need of ensuring those eligible to vote were on the register, the removal of duplicates was deferred until after the election. In one, this amounted to 1,300 extra registrations.

These issues need to be addressed before the presidential election, if possible, by LGMA and DCC.

Fieldworkers

All local authorities reported employing fieldworkers in the past to carry out work on the preparation and management of the electoral registers. These fieldworkers called to households to check, confirm and update electoral register details. They brought local knowledge to bear in supporting register accuracy while also

improving completeness. Information provided by local authorities shows that just five of the 31 have recently employed fieldworkers in any capacity. These are Roscommon, Tipperary, Louth, Monaghan and Cavan, each of whom have reported using them to good effect. A number of reasons were given by the other 26 local authorities for their decision to stop using fieldworkers. These included cost/value for money, the movement from paper-based household registration forms to the individual online registration process, data protection issues and the effectiveness of other measures to support registration such as social media.

The five local authorities that continue to employ fieldworkers report that they added value in terms of data gathering, awareness raising and increasing registrations and register amendments. For example, Roscommon reported that deployment of fieldworkers increased the proportion of Eircodes recorded on the register from 53.0% to 86.0%. However, it appears that fieldworkers are undertaking activities outside of the traditional door-to-door work, and operating as a supplement to franchise staff. Tipperary advised that fieldworkers (who are also Revenue Collectors) assisted franchise staff during 2024 with data cleansing, including removing deceased electors from the register and updating Eircodes, PPSN and dates of birth data. Monaghan has deployed fieldworkers for awareness raising activities such as school workshops. One particular challenge identified with the deployment of fieldworkers to support register accuracy and completeness is access to apartments, or multi-unit developments. Census 2022 data show that there were around 240,000 apartments and flats across the country at that time. This is an issue that needs to be addressed and is the subject of one of the recommendations in this report.

Training and support

Training and support are provided to franchise staff, particularly in advance of electoral events. Information sessions are provided by DHLGH regarding legislative and policy changes relating to the electoral register. The LGMA provides training sessions to franchise staff outside of Dublin on the operational management of *checktheregister.ie* and iReg. The Electoral Change Network provides an opportunity for local authority directors of service and franchise staff to share experiences of managing electoral events and get updates on LGERS.

Given the extent of the changes to registration processes and management since the passing of the *Electoral Reform Act 2022*, and the electoral events of 2024, there has been a focus on the operational and technical practicalities for franchise staff during 2023 and 2024. It will be important that between electoral events, and after the roll out of the national shared database, opportunities for networking and sharing of expertise continue to be available.

Access to the registers

The only information that appears on *voter.ie* or *checktheregister.ie* is first and last name, address and, if available Eircode, their assigned polling station, citizenship, the types of electoral events they can vote in and their number on the register (known as elector number) and preferred communication language (Irish or English). An individual's personal details such as PPSN and date of birth will never appear on the published register in hard copy or online.

The Electoral Acts set down provisions around access to, and the use of, an electoral register. Under these, the

electoral registers may be used only for electoral or other statutory purposes such as for the Courts Service to create jury rolls. Protocols, if not already in place, should be established in each local authority to ensure that the legislative provisions are complied with.

Conclusion

The management and maintenance of the electoral registers are the day-to-day activities of local authority franchise teams. It is clear that there is a wide disparity in performance by the 31 local authorities which depends to a considerable degree on the level of resources and prioritisation afforded to the franchise function. *The Electoral Reform Act 2022* has introduced significant changes to the electoral registration process, which has changed and expanded the role of local authorities with regard to the management

and maintenance of the electoral registers. However, reform of the process does not seem to be reflected through changes in resourcing. The resources of local authorities need to be urgently reviewed and improved to provide for sufficient staff in each local authority to manage their electoral registers to the required standard.

Local authorities have, to varying degrees undertaken activity to improve the accuracy and completeness of their electoral registers. However, local authorities need to develop multi-annual plans.

The removal of duplicate and redundant entries is an important part of the maintenance of electoral registers. Local authorities have, to varying degrees, undertaken deletion of legacy redundant and duplicate entries.



5. The Accuracy of the Electoral Registers

The *Electoral Reform Act 2022* provides for An Coimisiún to report on the accuracy of the electoral registers. Addressing the accuracy of the registers with more than 3.8m entries on 31 separate electoral registers and on which no accuracy audits have been carried out is a considerable challenge.

For the purpose of this report an accurate electoral register is one in which there are no false, duplicate or incorrect entries, where all data held for an entry are correct and where each person is registered only once and on no other Irish electoral register managed by a local authority. The accuracy of the electoral registers is of significant concern. An Coimisiún does not believe that any of the registers are of a sufficient level of accuracy. While some are believed to be better than others, further information and data is required to make a detailed assessment of each. An Coimisiún makes a number of comprehensive recommendations in order to better understand the problem in each local authority and to put in place a plan by which the issue could be addressed before the next electoral cycle. An Coimisiún also makes recommendations to each local authority in the individual assessments in Part Three.

The accuracy of the electoral registers is fundamental to the electoral system. This accuracy depends on both the actions of local authorities to properly maintain and manage their registers, as well as on individuals to ensure that the details associated with their entry on the register are correct. It is acknowledged that in an active registration system it is not possible to achieve a 100.0% accurate register. However, accuracy should be a primary objective of register management.

Accuracy can be divided into two areas.

Duplicates and redundant records

Accuracy can be assessed by determining the number of duplicate or redundant entries that are on a register. These duplicate and redundant entries arise from electors being registered more than once in the same and/or different local authority areas, people who have moved from a local authority area and deceased electors.

An Coimisiún is currently not able to report definitively on accuracy because there is no data available that measures these duplicate or redundant entries. It is widely accepted that there are an unknown, but potentially significant, number of duplicate and redundant entries on the electoral registers. It is believed that most of these issues are legacy ones related to the management of the registers prior to the recent reforms. However, the problem will not only continue but may even increase until a national database is established under LGERS. Equally the establishment of LGERS will not resolve this legacy issue.

An Coimisiún believes that key data provided by the local authorities, specifically levels of entries of PPSNs, dates of birth and Eircodes, provides sufficient information to make qualified assessments of the relative accuracy of the electoral registers. This is generally supported by information supplied by local authorities regarding resources provided to franchise functions and activities they have undertaken.

Therefore, this report concentrates on the potential for duplicate and redundant entries in order to assess the relative accuracy of the electoral register of each

local authority. This is discussed in detail below. However, the level of accuracy with regard to duplicate and redundant entries can only be fully understood when the audits proposed in this report are carried out.

Individual record accuracy

Every record on an electoral register should have correct name, address, citizenship, Eircode, date of birth, etc. However, without having audits of any of them, it is simply not possible for An Coimisiún to draw conclusions about the record accuracy of the entries on any of the registers. According to DCC, local authorities are carrying out data cleansing work in advance of a local authority migrating its electoral register data to LGERS. This should address many issues. However, the level of accuracy can only be understood when the audits proposed in this report are carried out.

Why does accuracy matter?

The accuracy of an electoral register is important for a number of reasons. An accurate register should:

- Protect a person's democratic right by ensuring that people who are entitled to vote are correctly registered.
- Protect the integrity of each electoral event by ensuring that people who are not entitled to vote at that event are not included on the relevant registers.
- Protect the integrity of the registers by ensuring that a person is only registered to vote once, and is on one electoral register.
- Allow turnouts for electoral events to be determined.
- Allow the number of potential eligible population not on an electoral register to be determined.

1. Protecting democratic rights

Communications to An Coimisiún and reports in the press during the electoral events of 2024 suggest that there are an indeterminate number of incorrect entries on, and sometimes deletions from, the registers that are caused by human error. This is a concern and one that should be addressed through the provision of adequate resources, audits of accuracy and the cleaning up of data in preparation for, and subsequent to, migration to LGERS. Individuals should also be made aware that they are responsible for ensuring their details on the register are correct.

2. Protecting the integrity of an electoral event

It is clear that there is an unknown number of people registered more than once on one or more electoral register. Therefore, it is possible, although unlawful, for a person to vote more than once in an electoral event, either in the same, or different constituencies.

It should be noted that no local authority or returning officer has made An Coimisiún aware of issues regarding the integrity of any electoral event as a result of people who are registered more than once or who have a vote they are not entitled to. However, increasing accuracy by addressing the issue of duplicate and redundant entries and more robust processes is essential. This is the main concern of this section of the report and the subject of the major recommendations.

3. Determining turnout

One benefit of an accurate electoral register is that it can be used to measure voter turnout for an

electoral event. Turnout is a standard internationally recognised measure of what percentage of electors exercised their right to vote. Accurate turnout figures help to inform us about the health of a democracy and the degree of participation and engagement with the democratic process. Without accurate electoral registers, it is not possible to estimate actual turnout for our electoral events. This is currently a significant problem associated with our electoral events.

4. Measuring completeness

The completeness of a register is the measurement of how many people who are eligible to be on an electoral register are on an electoral register. By determining the completeness of the registers, it will be possible to estimate how many people have not engaged with the electoral system to date. Understanding the level of completeness will assist in developing programmes to encourage those sections of the population to register to vote so they are not under-represented on the registers.

Legacy accuracy issues

The reforms brought into effect by the *Electoral Reform Act 2022*, including online registration requiring an individual to provide their PPSN, date of birth and Eircode and the creation of the LGERS nationwide electoral register database in 2026 should significantly help to improve the future accuracy of the registers. However, there remains a significant historical issue that An Coimisiún believes must be addressed in order to increase accuracy.

These long-standing concerns, raised by elected representatives, the media, academics and others over several decades, have been particularly related to people being registered more than once in the same, or different, registration areas, and people who have moved residence, emigrated or who are deceased but who remain on a register.

Published in 2022, the *Electoral Integrity Report: 2019-2021*⁹, is an international report which provides an overview of the state of electoral integrity in countries around the world. Using the 2020 general election as the basis for an assessment of the integrity of Ireland's electoral system, it found that of all the categories, including laws, procedures, media, finance, voting, count, results and electoral management boards, Ireland's lowest score, by some margin, was that relating to the electoral registers. Overall scores for Ireland ranged from 50 to 92 out of a possible 100, except with regard to the electoral registers. The electoral registers' score was 30 out of 100, just above the score of Haiti (29) and just below that of Bahrain (31).¹⁰

An Coimisiún believes that the situation has improved, especially since the start of the implementation of the provisions of the *Electoral Reform Act 2022* and the work of many of the local authorities. Despite this activity there is still a considerable way to go before the electoral registers are of an accuracy level/standard that should be expected. Some local authorities will have more work to do than others. This is largely a result of others carrying out more work on the management of their registers up to this point.

⁹ <https://www.electoralintegrityproject.com/globalreport2019-2021>

¹⁰ Holly Ann Garnett, Toby S. James and Madison MacGregor. 2022. Year in Elections Global Report: 2019-2021. The Electoral Integrity Project, pp. 18-20.

Evidence for duplicate and redundant entries on the electoral registers

It is clear to An Coimisiún that there are a considerable number of duplicate and redundant entries on the electoral registers. This belief comes from information provided by local authorities who have made efforts to address potential duplicate and redundant entries, media reports and anecdotal and direct communication from members of the public who report polling cards arriving at addresses for people who have moved address or passed away.

The most obvious evidence pointing to inaccuracies on an electoral register is when the numbers on a register are greater than the number of potentially eligible population. Using the local election register – with the widest eligibility – as the basis this means that there are apparently more people on the local election register than there are people over 18 years of age in a local authority area. This seems to clearly indicate a considerable number of duplicate or redundant entries on those registers. However, without audits being carried out on each register it is not possible to report directly on the accuracy of the registers.

For the purpose of this report An Coimisiún have assessed the extent to which the local authorities have collected unique

identifiers for the entries on their registers to identify potential duplicate and redundant entries. An Coimisiún considers these to be useful ‘accuracy indicators’ that can be used to assess the accuracy of an electoral register. This is discussed in detail in Section Six and in each individual local authority assessment in Part Three.

Conclusion

The accuracy of the electoral registers is of fundamental importance to our democracy. Accurate registers protects democratic rights, electoral integrity, allows turnout to be determined at electoral events and allows for the completeness of the registers to be measured.

It is widely accepted that there are unknown, but potentially significant, number of duplicate and redundant entries on the electoral registers. The issue of duplicate and redundant entries is a significant legacy issue. An Coimisiún is currently not able to report definitively on accuracy because there is no data available that measures these duplicate or redundant entries.

Until audits are carried out on each electoral register, as recommended in this report, An Coimisiún considers that ‘accuracy indicators’ can be used to assess the registers managed by each local authority.

6. Assessing the Accuracy of the Registers using ‘Indicators of Accuracy’

As outlined in the previous section, there is currently no way of definitively measuring the accuracy of the electoral registers. However, An Coimisiún believes that some sets of data provided by the local authorities can be used as helpful *indicators* of electoral register accuracy until such time as accuracy audits are carried out. These indicators are sets of data that are used by local authorities to establish the identity of an individual and/or to help identify duplicate and redundant entries. Therefore, An Coimisiún believes that a register with a high percentage of these indicators associated with electors is likely to be more accurate than a register with much lower percentages.

The accuracy indicators considered by An Coimisiún are:

- Percentage of entries on a register with PPSNs.
- Percentage of entries on a register with dates of birth.
- Percentage of entries on a register with Eircodes.
- Percentage of entries on a register with both dates of birth and Eircodes.

An Coimisiún believes that the figures provided by local authorities under each of these headings can be regarded as valid indicators of accuracy. However, they are not regarded as being substitutes for proper audits of the electoral registers as recommended in this report. Nor are the figures provided by the local authorities under these headings to be taken completely at face value as there will be a currently indeterminate number of incorrect entries that are included in their returns.

PPSNs as an indicator of accuracy

The introduction of the PPSN online verification process by the *Electoral Reform Act 2022* was an important development. It provides for individual online registration and verification. In future, the use of PPSNs will become the key indicator of accuracy. However, currently there are relatively low numbers of entries with PPSNs reported. Nationally only 22.0% of all registrations have been reported to include one. Therefore, its usefulness to assess accuracy is currently very limited. In addition:

- The provision of PPSNs by an elector allows cross checks only against other entries that have already provided PPSNs on their electoral register details.
- No elector who was registered before October 2022 and who has not updated details since October 2022 has provided PPSNs. While these people can be encouraged to provide their PPSNs it is not compulsory for them to do so and there is no adverse consequence except that the elector will not be able to use the online portals.
- Local authorities appear more reluctant to request PPSNs from electors, as compared to, for example, dates of birth.
- The provision of a PPSN is not mandatory and a person may apply to register or change their details using a paper system without providing a PPSN.

Starting from a baseline of 0.0% in October 2022 the average percentage of PPSNs

on electoral registers nationally was 22.0% in December 2024 (see Chart 2). The local authorities that reported the highest percentage of PPSNs were Galway City and Leitrim, at 30.0% and 34.7% respectively. Roscommon reported the lowest at 17.6%. The national increase in the collection of PPSNs since 2022 has been impressive. However, this has in the main been driven by new registrations or electors going online and updating their

details, in advance of the 2024 electoral events. With just one electoral event scheduled between now and 2029, the rate of PPSN increase is likely to slow considerably without further concerted action.

Until PPSNs are associated with considerably more entries, accuracy needs to be assessed using other data that has been provided.

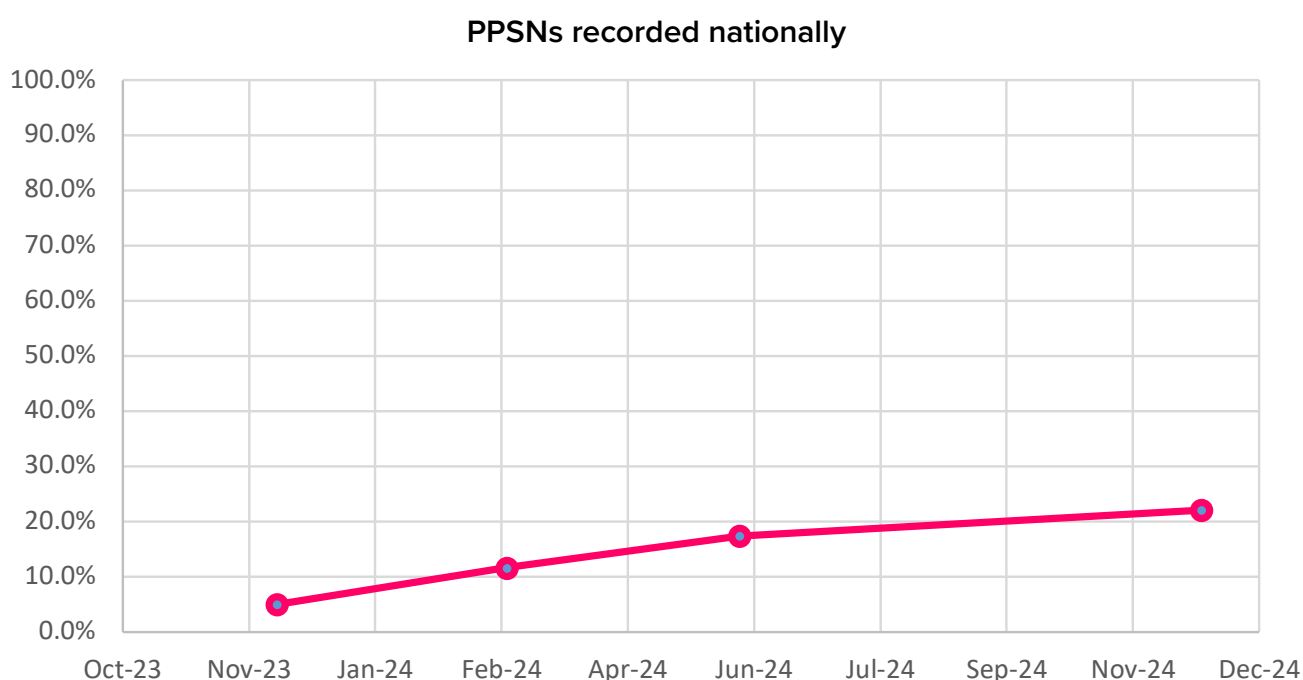


Chart 2: PPSNs as percentage of electors nationally between November 2023 and December 2024.

	Local authority	Elector PPSNs recorded by local authority Dec-24
1	Leitrim	34.7%
2	Galway City	30.0%
3	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	27.5%
4	Kildare	26.2%
5	Fingal	26.0%
6	Dublin City	25.0%
7	Wicklow	24.2%
8	Cork City	24.0%
9	Longford	24.0%
10	Meath	24.0%
11	Laois	23.2%
12	Westmeath	22.4%
13	Waterford City and County	22.0%
14	Clare	21.0%
15	South Dublin	21.0%
16	Louth	20.5%
17	Carlow	20.0%
18	Cavan	20.0%
19	Kilkenny	20.0%
20	Tipperary	20.0%
21	Cork County	19.9%
22	Kerry	19.7%
23	Limerick City and County	19.6%
24	Wexford	19.5%
25	Sligo	19.1%
26	Galway County	19.0%
27	Offaly	19.0%
28	Donegal	18.5%
29	Mayo	18.2%
30	Monaghan	18.0%
31	Roscommon	17.6%
	Average	22.0%

Table 3: Percentage of PPSNs based on figures from December 2024 for each local authority.

Eircodes, dates of birth and combined Eircodes and dates of birth as indicators of accuracy

Eircodes and dates of birth are data that is held on the electoral registers to a greater extent than PPSNs. It is also information that more local authorities, to varying degrees, have been actively trying to gather in order to improve the accuracy of their registers.

The number of register entries with Eircodes and dates of birth on the electoral registers, and the number of electors that have both Eircodes and dates of birth on their records, help local authorities to identify potential duplicate and redundant entries. Therefore, they can be useful indicators of accuracy.

Eircodes

Having a specific address for each elector is an important piece of information that can be used to differentiate electors – for example those with the same name.

In local authority areas with more urban based populations, the association of an Eircode with an address provided by an elector is usually relatively straightforward. This is because in urban areas addresses are usually specific. However, the association of Eircodes with electors can be challenging for local authorities with extensive rural areas as many entries have non-specific addresses. An example would be an address that just has the name of a townland. Many local authorities have themselves added an Eircode, particularly in urban areas, as this does not require the cooperation of the elector.

From the information provided in their returns, local authorities with high percentages of Eircodes have been demonstrably proactive in achieving this.

Targeted projects undertaken by local authorities since 2022 to increase the level of Eircodes recorded include:

- Monaghan County Council undertook a new project in 2023 which involved a comprehensive quantitative and qualitative analysis of the county's register data that resulted in a structured, strategic response to address issues identified.
- In 2023, Roscommon undertook a year-long engagement of fieldworkers, resulting in Eircodes increasing from 53.0% to 86.0%.
- In Louth, an Eircodes project, started in 2022, resulted in 96.0% of the register recording Eircodes.
- Wicklow undertook a targeted mail shot to 3,500 electors whose records did not contain an Eircode. This resulted in 94.0% of letters being returned that provided previously missing information.
- Between June and December 2023, a data cleansing project in Wexford focused on verification and population of Eircode data. This resulted in almost 4,000 people's records being updated with Eircodes by year end.

In early 2024, DHLGH funded a project to increase the percentage of Eircodes on the registers of the 18 local authorities with the lowest percentage of Eircodes. This increased the total number of Eircodes by 34,000.

The national average of entries with associated Eircodes increased from a reported 63.0% in December 2023 to a reported 69.8% in December 2024. This still leaves nearly a third of all electors whose records do not contain an Eircode. As can be seen in Table 4, there is a wide disparity between local authorities.

It is notable that a number of the registers in which more than 90.0% of entries have

Eircodes are from urban or largely urban local authority areas. These include the four Dublin local authorities, Galway City and Cork City. This might be explained by the ease of identifying Eircodes in urban environments, as well as greater resources. However, this is not simply an urban/rural issue.

Taking out these broadly ‘urban’ local authorities, there are seven others that have achieved more than 75.0% of entries with Eircodes with three – Louth, Westmeath and Wicklow – above 95.0%. At the other end of the scale three local authorities – Mayo, Donegal and Galway County – have Eircodes for less than 50.0% of their entries.

	Local authority	Elector Eircodes reported by local authority Dec-24
1	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	99.4%
2	Westmeath	99.0%
3	Louth	98.7%
4	Wicklow	98.4%
5	South Dublin	98.2%
6	Cork City	98.0%
7	Dublin City	97.0%
8	Fingal	96.8%
9	Galway City	95.2%
10	Roscommon	87.0%
11	Waterford City and County	81.0%
12	Kildare	77.5%
13	Meath	77.0%
14	Cavan	64.0%
15	Wexford	62.0%
16	Limerick City and County	61.4%
17	Clare	60.0%
18	Cork County	57.2%
19	Leitrim	57.0%
20	Longford	57.0%
21	Sligo	55.3%
22	Carlow	55.0%
23	Kilkenny	53.0%
24	Tipperary	53.0%
25	Monaghan	52.5%
26	Laois	52.1%
27	Offaly	52.0%
28	Kerry	50.0%
29	Mayo	43.6%
30	Donegal	41.4%
31	Galway County	33.0%
	Average	69.8%

Table 4: Percentage of electors with Eircodes based on figures from December 2024 for each local authority.

Dates of birth

A date of birth is an important piece of data that local authorities use not only to establish a person's age eligibility to vote. When used in conjunction with other data they are important pieces of information that local authorities use to help identify potential duplicate or redundant entries.

Local authorities do not have a way of establishing a person's date of birth, other than when it is provided by an elector. Therefore, the process for improving the percentage of dates of birth on the register is one that is entirely reliant on individual electors providing their dates of birth. However, a number of local authorities appear to have been very successful in having this information provided to them.

Under the previous 'household registration' system in operation before October 2022, limited information was provided by

electors when registering. Dates of birth were asked for under that registration system, but it is clear that in the majority of cases it was either not provided or else the record was not retained. Even after some local authorities have improved the number of entries on their registers with dates of birth, the national average recorded is still just 72.4%. More than a quarter of all records still do not contain a date of birth for an elector.

Again, as with Eircodes, there is a wide disparity between local authorities regarding the percentage of entries that have a date of birth associated with them (see Table 5). Eight registration authorities have managed to achieve over 80.0% of entries with dates of birth, with Louth, Roscommon and Wicklow having dates of birth for more than 98.0% of their electors. At the other end of the scale Donegal, Cavan and Kerry are at or below 50.0%.

	Local authority	Elector dates of birth reported by local authority Dec-24
1	Wicklow	99.5%
2	Roscommon	99.0%
3	Louth	98.3%
4	Leitrim	91.7%
5	Dublin City	90.0%
6	Galway City	86.0%
7	Kilkenny	85.0%
8	Laois	82.5%
9	Monaghan	78.4%
10	Tipperary	78.0%
11	Offaly	76.0%
12	Kildare	75.5%
13	Clare	74.0%
14	Cork City	74.0%
15	Wexford	73.7%
16	Mayo	71.0%
17	South Dublin	71.0%
18	Meath	69.0%
19	Waterford City and County	69.0%
20	Longford	68.0%
21	Westmeath	66.7%
22	Galway County	65.0%
23	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	64.8%
24	Fingal	62.5%
25	Carlow	61.0%
26	Cork County	60.0%
27	Sligo	58.0%
28	Limerick City and County	57.2%
29	Kerry	50.0%
30	Cavan	48.0%
31	Donegal	40.5%
	Average	72.4%

Table 5: Percentage of electors with dates of birth based on figures from December 2024 for each local authority.

Combination of dates of birth and Eircodes

From the data provided by local authorities (and until the percentage of PPSNs

provided increases substantially), An Coimisiún believes that the most useful metric that can currently be used as an indicator to assess the accuracy of an electoral register is the percentage of

entries on a register that have both a date of birth and an Eircode associated with them.

As shown in Table 6 the national average of entries on all registers with combined dates of birth and Eircodes in December

2024 was just 56.0%. Galway City, Roscommon, Dublin City, Louth and Wicklow have achieved more than 85.0%. The lowest, all below 40.0%, were Donegal, Galway County, Kerry, Cavan and Mayo.

	Local authority	Elector combined dates of birth and Eircodes reported by local authority Dec-24
1	Wicklow	97.9%
2	Louth County Council	97.1%
3	Dublin City	88.0%
4	Roscommon	86.0%
5	Galway City	82.7%
6	Cork City	74.0%
7	South Dublin	69.8%
8	Westmeath	66.1%
9	Kildare	63.2%
10	Fingal	62.0%
11	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	61.6%
12	Meath	60.0%
13	Waterford City and County	60.0%
14	Leitrim	54.9%
15	Wexford	49.4%
16	Clare	48.0%
17	Longford County Council	48.0%
18	Kilkenny	47.0%
19	Laois	46.8%
20	Monaghan	45.2%
21	Offaly	45.0%
22	Tipperary	45.0%
23	Limerick City and County	44.7%
24	Cork County	43.3%
25	Carlow	41.0%
26	Sligo	40.3%
27	Mayo	38.3%
28	Cavan	38.0%
29	Kerry	35.3%
30	Galway County	29.0%
31	Donegal	28.8%
	Average	56.0%

Table 6: Percentage of electors with dates of birth and Eircodes based on figures from December 2024 for each local authority.

Correlation of combined dates of birth and Eircodes with percentage on the electoral register

The potential value of considering combined date of birth and Eircode as an accuracy indicator becomes clearer when the data is compared with the percentage of eligible population on the register. As can be seen in Table 7 such a comparison appears to show a relationship between lower relative percentages reported of this accuracy indicator and estimated very high percentages of people on the electoral register. Both of these are shown in red. Conversely, there also appears to be a relationship between higher relative percentages reported of this accuracy indicator, shown in green, and lower percentages of people on the electoral register, also shown in green.

For the purpose of this assessment the estimated eligible population is based on the Central Statistics Office estimate of the over 18 population for each local authority area published in April 2024.¹¹ While this is an estimate, An Coimisiún believes it provides a truer reflection of the current situation than using the April 2022 Census figures.

Of the 11 electoral registers with the highest level of reported registration rates – having more than 100.0% of their over 18 years of age population on the register – all but one had less than the national average reported percentage of entries with combined dates of birth and Eircodes.

Of the 11 electoral registers with the lowest level of reported registration rates – having less than 95.0% of their over 18 years of age population on the register – all but one had more than the average of 56.0% of reported electors with combined dates of birth and Eircodes.

This analysis appears to strongly suggest that the higher the reported percentage of entries with combined dates of birth and Eircodes on the electoral registers, the lower the overall percentage of registrations. It is believed that this is the result of a higher percentage of these accuracy indicators facilitating more removals of duplicate and redundant entries. Conversely, local authorities with lower levels of this accuracy indicator are less able to identify duplicate and redundant entries on their registers and therefore are likely to have lower levels of accuracy and higher apparent registration rates.

This was generally supported when An Coimisiún considered the individual local authority returns. The local authorities that gave the electoral registers higher priority were the ones that had the higher levels of accuracy indicators and lower estimated registration rates. The local authorities that do not appear to have prioritised the electoral register function generally had the highest registration rates generally and the lowest level of accuracy indicators.

It should be noted that many of the local authorities with the lowest levels of accuracy indicators are among the smaller local authorities. This may be an indication of resource pressure in those authorities that would need to be considered by DHLGH. However, it should also be noted that some of the smaller local authorities have among the highest accuracy indicators. Therefore the relative prioritisation of the electoral register function is also clearly a contributing factor.

However, that is not to say that there is an absolute correlation as other factors may be at work. For example, the Leitrim and Westmeath registers have relatively high levels of Eircode and dates of birth, while also having high percentages of potential

¹¹ County estimates for the Population and Migration Estimates publication 2024, provided by the CSO.
<https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-pme/populationandmigrationestimatesapril2024/data/>

eligible electors being on the registers. This may indicate particularly high real registration rates. It will only be possible to properly understand this when more accurate data is available.

The use of these accuracy indicators, particularly combined dates of birth and Eircodes underpin the assessment of the accuracy of each electoral register in the individual assessments in Part Three.

	December 2024 local election registers as % of Apr-24 estimated population	% of reported registrations with DoB and Eircode Dec-24
Sligo	111.8%	40.3%
Donegal	107.5%	28.8%
Leitrim	106.2%	54.9%
Longford	105.3%	48.0%
Monaghan	104.1%	45.2%
Galway County	101.8%	29.0%
Cork County	101.4%	43.3%
Westmeath	101.2%	66.1%
Carlow	101.0%	41.0%
Cavan	100.9%	38.0%
Mayo	100.4%	38.3%
Meath	99.9%	60.0%
Tipperary	99.6%	45.0%
Laois	97.9%	46.8%
Wexford	97.9%	49.4%
Kerry	97.7%	35.3%
Clare	96.3%	48.0%
Limerick City and County	96.2%	44.7%
Offaly	96.2%	45.0%
Waterford City & County	95.8%	60.0%
Kilkenny	94.4%	47.0%
Roscommon	94.1%	86.0%
Kildare	92.5%	63.2%
Louth	92.5%	97.1%
Wicklow	92.5%	97.9%
South Dublin	91.0%	69.8%
Cork City	90.5%	74.0%
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	86.5%	61.6%
Galway City	84.0%	82.7%
Fingal	83.3%	62.0%
Dublin City	76.1%	88.0%

Table 7: Combined dates of birth and Eircodes and % estimated population on electoral register.

Conclusion

There is currently no definitive way of measuring the accuracy of the electoral registers. However, An Coimisiún believes that sets of data provided by the local authorities can be used as *indicators* of electoral register accuracy. These indicators are PPSNs, dates of birth and Eircodes that are used by local authorities to establish the identity of an individual and/or to help identify duplicate and redundant entries. A register with a high percentage of these indicators associated with electors is likely to be more accurate than a register with lower percentages.

While the level of PPSNs associated with electors remains low, dates of birth and Eircodes, and combined dates of birth and Eircodes, are more useful. The level of register entries with these pieces of data varies widely between local authorities.

Some have made considerable effort to increase the levels of these indicators. Local authorities with low levels of the accuracy indicators appear to show high registration levels with 11 reporting over 100.0% registration. This is believed to result from inaccurate registers with many duplicate and redundant entries. Local authorities with high levels of accuracy indicators for their register show relatively low registration levels. This is in part believed to be due to the previous removal of duplicate or redundant entries from their registers.

The relative prioritisation of the electoral register function is clearly a contributing factor to the levels of accuracy indicators.

These accuracy indicators underpin the individual local authority assessments in Part Three.

7. The Completeness of the Electoral Registers

The completeness of an electoral register can be measured by the extent to which every person who is entitled to be on an electoral register is on that electoral register.

The *Electoral Reform Act 2022* provides for An Coimisiún to carry out research into the completeness of the electoral registers. While turnout measures the participation of those on the electoral register at an electoral event, completeness measures the percentage of people who are eligible to be on an electoral register that are in fact on that register. This 'registration rate' is another measurement of the vitality of a democracy. Unfortunately, An Coimisiún does not believe that the registration rate in any of our local authorities can be properly estimated while there are an unknown, but potentially significant number of duplicate or redundant entries on the registers.

2024 was a remarkable year for elections and for the increase in registrations to the electoral registers in Ireland. During 2024, the numbers registered to vote in Ireland rose from 3.51 million (Dec 2023) to 3.87 million (Dec 2024). However, there is room for considerable improvement.

In a system of active registration, and where voting is not compulsory, achieving 100% registration is not realistic. In countries such as Denmark and Finland people are automatically added to the electoral register through the integration of the register with national databases, ensuring that voters are registered and their details continuously updated. In

countries such as Australia, where voting is compulsory, electoral registration is necessary to fulfil the legal requirement to vote.

In Ireland individuals must voluntarily register and also update their details when appropriate. Under such a system there will always be a percentage of the population who do not register to vote. This may be the result of a number of factors. It may be a conscious choice, it may be something that has not been seen as a priority, it may be that an eligible elector simply has not had the opportunity at the right time, it may be that a person incorrectly believes they are not entitled to vote, or believe that they would be automatically registered.

The goal of the Australian Electoral Commission is to ensure at least 95% of eligible Australians are on the electoral roll at all times (Australia has a system of compulsory registration and voting). Data from the most recent UK Electoral Commission Accuracy and Completeness Study indicated that, across the UK, completeness was between 83% and 86%¹² (active registration systems). However, many factors influence whether a person registers to vote or not and it is likely that, to an extent, they vary from country to country.

Where does Ireland stand in terms of completeness and registration rate? We simply don't know at the moment, either at a national level or in any of the individual local authorities. Equally we do not know what different registration rates there are for each of the different registers

¹² 2023 report: Electoral registers in the UK | UK Electoral Commission

managed by the local authorities – local, Dáil, European or presidential/referendum. We will only be able to answer these questions when we have registers that are sufficiently accurate.

From the returns provided by the local authorities, and updated population figures provided by the CSO, the national average percentage of potential eligible people who are on the electoral registers is currently estimated at 93.4%. However, as outlined in the Section Six, the level of inaccuracies across the electoral registers means that it is not possible to measure completeness. An Coimisiún will only be able to report when accuracy levels are higher, and, for many, considerably higher, than they are at the moment.

Due to the levels of inaccuracy outlined in the previous section there is simply no way of knowing what the registration rate is in any local authority, or nationally.

The pending electors list: Pre-registration for 16 and 17-year-olds

The *Electoral Reform Act 2022* provides for 16 and 17-year-olds to pre-register in advance of turning 18 by joining what is termed the ‘pending electors list’. All of those who join the pending electors list are automatically added to the electoral register when they turn 18 years of age. As this is a new category that was made available only in October 2022 and as all applications have been made online by providing PPSNs, dates of birth, Eircodes and other information it is possible to make a reasonable estimate of completeness for this cohort.

The CSO estimates that in April 2024 there were 145,741 16 and 17-year-olds in Ireland. Figures provided by local authorities show that there were 2,769 pending electors on the electoral registers in March 2024, around 1.9% of those in that population cohort. This increased to 2,961 in December, 2024 or 2.0%. While these figures are very low, the recent introduction of this facility by the legislation and limited publicity explain the low level of registration at this time.

An Coimisiún is of the view that there is huge potential to significantly increase pre-registration of 16 and 17-year-olds through targeted local authority initiatives that are supported by a national campaign led by An Coimisiún. This could have a lasting long-term positive impact on registration numbers, the registration rate and general engagement with the electoral system.

Conclusion

Measuring the completeness of the electoral registers is as important as a measure of electoral engagement. Due to the unknown, but potentially relatively high levels of inaccuracies on the electoral registers, it is impossible to make a measure or estimate of completeness. High numbers of new registrations in 2024 were a welcome indicator that people want to be part of the electoral process. However, understanding completeness will be possible only when accuracy levels are of a sufficient standard.



Part Three: **Local Authority Assessments**

Local Authority Electoral Register Assessments

This part of the report provides an assessment by An Coimisiún of each local authority’s electoral register. There is a particular emphasis on the issue of accuracy. This section also provides a summary of how each local authority’s register is managed and maintained, including the resources assigned and the activities and initiatives undertaken to strengthen the quality of its register. The completeness of each local authority’s electoral register cannot be determined until accuracy is improved.

Each assessment includes numbers registered in each local authority for presidential elections and referendums and Dáil, European and local elections for the period February 2023 to December 2024. This shows registration trends in a non-election year and in one with a number of electoral events. Unless otherwise specified, the term “electoral register” or “register of electors” refers to the register for local elections, as this is the broadest, most inclusive register.

Each assessment also includes data on the dates of birth, Eircodes, combined dates of birth and Eircodes, and PPSNs that are recorded for electors on each local authority’s register for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The recording of this

information reduces the potential for duplicate entries, can reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. The recording of this data is, therefore, critical to the integrity of the electoral register. These data are referred to as accuracy indicators.

Data was provided by either the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Dublin City Council (as the lead local authority for the LGERS project) or the local authorities. Information on local authority funding of electoral register functions was taken from published details of local authority adopted budgets on their websites. Population data is based on CSO estimates.

An Coimisiún is not in a position to verify the quality of the data provided, for example, we cannot verify the extent to which dates of birth recorded for each elector are correct. For the purposes of this initial assessment, we are taking the data as provided. We have also used the data to present a ranking of local authorities with regard to their recording of accuracy indicators. As data provided relates to the rolling register, it is noted that it will vary depending on the time or date that it is extracted.

Data	Data Source
Electoral Register Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local authority survey responses.• DHLGH collated data.• DCC collated data.
Accuracy Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local authority survey responses.• DHLGH collated data.• DCC collated data.
Population data aged 18+ years Population data aged 16 and 17 years	County estimates for the Population and Migration Estimates publication 2024 provided by the Central Statistics Office (CSO). Annual population estimates are estimated at NUTS3 and county is determined proportionally using information from the previous Census. County estimates will be less reliable further into the intercensal period.
Financial resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DHLGH information on amounts drawn down by local authorities from available funding.• Local authority Adopted Budget Books for year ended 31 December 2024 - Register of Elector Costs.

Carlow Overview

Chart 1: Reported Carlow electoral register numbers 2023-2024

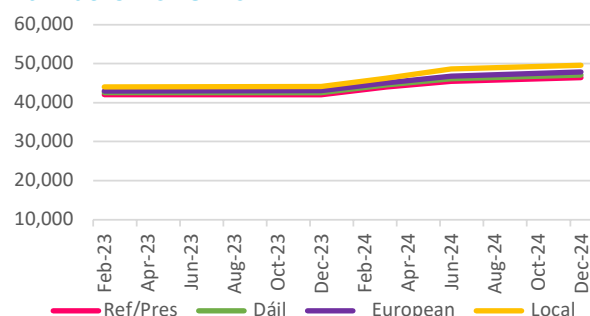


Table 1: Reported Carlow electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	44,059	44,168	46,175	48,559	49,621
Dáil	42,494	42,565	44,475	46,081	47,088
European	42,970	43,052	45,049	46,801	47,800
Ref/Pres	41,991	42,052	43,927	45,466	46,436

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Carlow County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data reported shows that there was an overall increase of 12.6% over that period in the numbers registered to vote. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register for all electoral events were relatively stable.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 4.5%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 9.9% and 8.7% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 10.6%.

Chart 2: Carlow % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

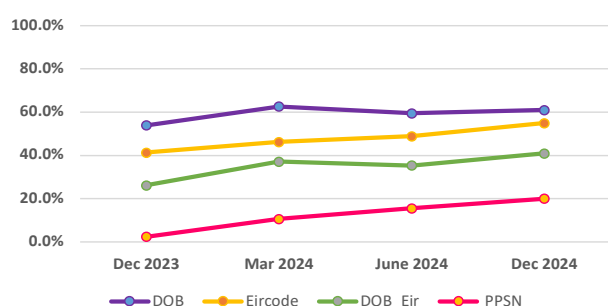


Table 2: Carlow % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

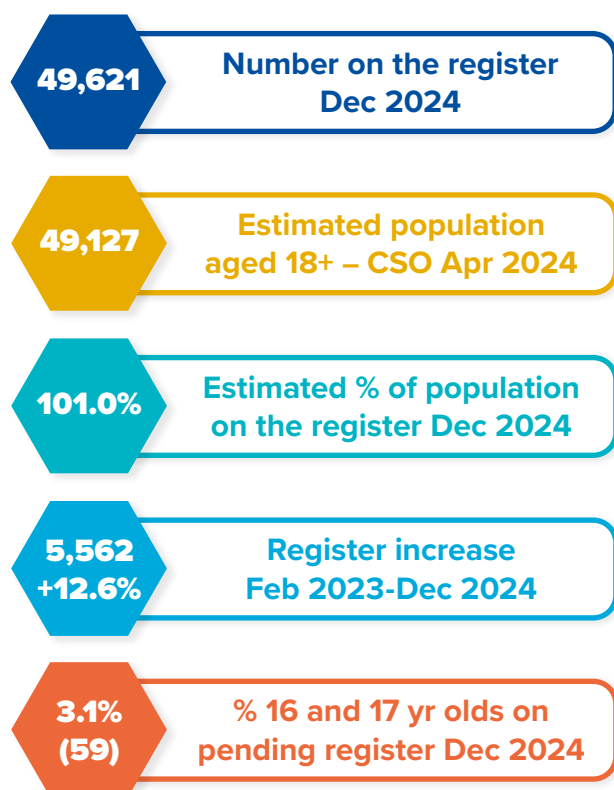
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	53.9%	62.6%	59.5%	61.0%
Eircode	41.3%	46.3%	48.9%	55.0%
DoB + Eir	26.2%	37.2%	35.4%	41.0%
PPSN	2.4%	10.6%	15.6%	20.0%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. The recording of these accuracy indicators supports the identification of duplicate entries, can reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

These reported accuracy indicators, coupled with an estimated 101.0% of potential eligible electors on the electoral register, indicates that Carlow County Council has considerable work to do to improve the overall quality of its electoral register. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline Data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	30,087	61.0% [25th]	72.4%
Eircode	27,471	55.0% [22nd]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	20,501	41.0% [25th]	56.0%
PPSN	9,755	20.0% [17th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Stand at National Ploughing Championships
- ▶ Local media campaign
- ▶ Posters/banners in council offices and libraries

Assessment

Accuracy

Based on the data provided, the number of electors on the register compared with estimated eligible electors in Carlow, at 101.0%, is the ninth highest in the country. In the context of low levels of accuracy indicators, this indicates a high level of inaccuracies on the Carlow register. The percentage of PPSNs collected at 20.0% is below the national average of 22.0%. In relation to Eircodes, the 55.0% collected is substantially below the national average of 69.8%. Combined dates of birth and Eircodes at 41.0% are also well below the national average of 56.0%. The percentage of dates of birth collected at 61.0% is well below the national average of 72.4%.

It was reported that an estimated 968 entries were removed from the register between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily duplicate entries, deceased electors and people who had moved away. In 2024, there were 1,572 deletions from and 5,010 updates to this register.

The low level of accuracy indicators and the greater number of people on the register than are potentially eligible highlights the need for efforts on the part of Carlow County Council to increase the levels of accuracy indicators to support the identification of duplicate and redundant entries.

The council reported that the main challenge in the run-up to electoral events in 2024 was a huge increase in requests made through *checktheregister.ie*. In order to process all applications within set timeframes before each electoral event, staff from other departments worked late evenings and weekends to meet demand. Even with a group of 20 staff members it was reported to be a challenge to ensure all requests were dealt with.

The council noted that the delay in updating the register due to the backlog of applications from members of the public meant many people registered again after a few days. There was also confusion for the public when unable to find themselves through *checktheregister.ie*, as they assumed they had been removed which resulted in irate phone calls. There was a high volume of duplications which had to be checked.

Carlow County Council recommended that advertisements regarding the electoral register should be run nationally on a regular basis, not just leading up to an electoral event i.e. people updating their details (moving, deaths, name changes) to assist with management of workloads.

Completeness

The Carlow register increased by 5,562 people between February 2023 and December 2024. This represents an increase of 12.6%, one of the largest in the country. Having all of these people registered for the electoral events was a considerable achievement.

The fact that the numbers on the register nearly match the estimated eligible population is not an indicator that everyone who is entitled to vote is on the register. The registration rate of 101.0% of estimated eligible population, the ninth highest nationwide, and low levels of accuracy indicators appear to indicate that there are considerable inaccuracies on this register.

Until the levels of accuracy indicators are significantly improved it will not be possible to assess the completeness of the Carlow electoral registers.

Resourcing

Carlow County Council was one of seven local authorities that reported that no staff worked full-time on the electoral register during 2023. This continued into early 2024 when two part-time staff carried out franchise work. The council in its return emphasised its commitment to the maintenance of the register, while also highlighting the challenges of resourcing, knowledge retention and staff training. It was reported that, even with 20 staff working most evenings and weekends, it was a challenge to ensure that all requests were dealt with in the run-up to electoral events – this was more pronounced in the run-up to the general election.

Carlow County Council estimated that €80,600 was allocated for register costs in 2023. Expenditure of €67,000 was approved for 2024. The council did not draw down any DHLGH funding for activities to support the register during 2023. In 2024, the council drew down €37,649 of the available DHLGH funding.

Activities

Carlow County Council reported in initial survey responses that it had a stand at the National Ploughing Championships in 2023 to increase register accuracy and completeness. This was the only activity reported. The lack of activity, which was the lowest reported during initial surveys, may be linked to the low level of resources provided to the franchise function.

The council reported that during June and December 2024 it ran adverts on social media and in the local newspaper. Pull-up banners were erected in the council office's reception area and posters placed in libraries.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Carlow County Council's electoral register has some distance to go before accuracy indicators reach even current national averages, which also need to be improved. While acknowledging the substantial volume of applications processed since February 2023, this is a significant concern.

Based on information provided, An Coimisiún recommends that the level of prioritisation afforded to the electoral register should be significantly improved. Insufficient efforts have been made to improve the overall quality of the electoral register which may be a result of a limited level of resourcing. It is likely that after the establishment of the LGERS national electoral register database, considerable and sustained work on the quality of this register will be required.

In light of the quality of this register, based on information provided, it will not be possible to even attempt to estimate, with any degree of satisfaction, either the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered. This will only be possible when the quality of the register is significantly improved before the start of the next electoral cycle in 2029.

Both Carlow County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Cavan Overview

Chart 1: Reported Cavan electoral register numbers 2023-2024

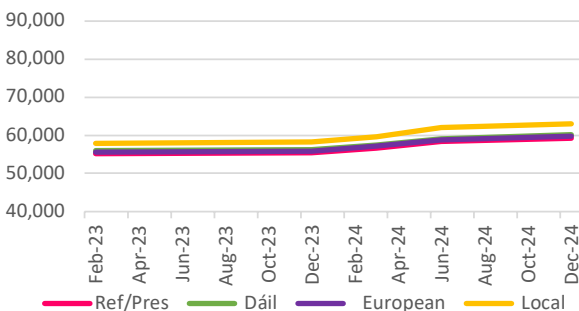


Table 1: Reported Cavan electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	57,880	58,192	59,545	62,016	63,089
Dáil	55,923	56,161	57,440	59,130	60,117
European	55,620	55,848	57,114	58,772	59,726
Ref/Pres	55,214	55,438	56,696	58,330	59,288

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Cavan County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data shows that there was an overall increase of 9.0% over that period in the numbers registered to vote on the Cavan register. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register for all electoral events were fairly stable, rising around 0.5%.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 2.3%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 6.6% and 5.2% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 7.0%.

Chart 2: Cavan % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

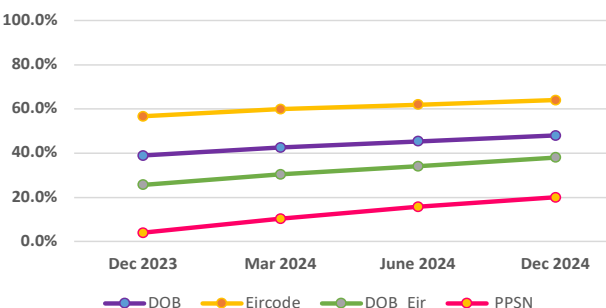


Table 2: Cavan % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

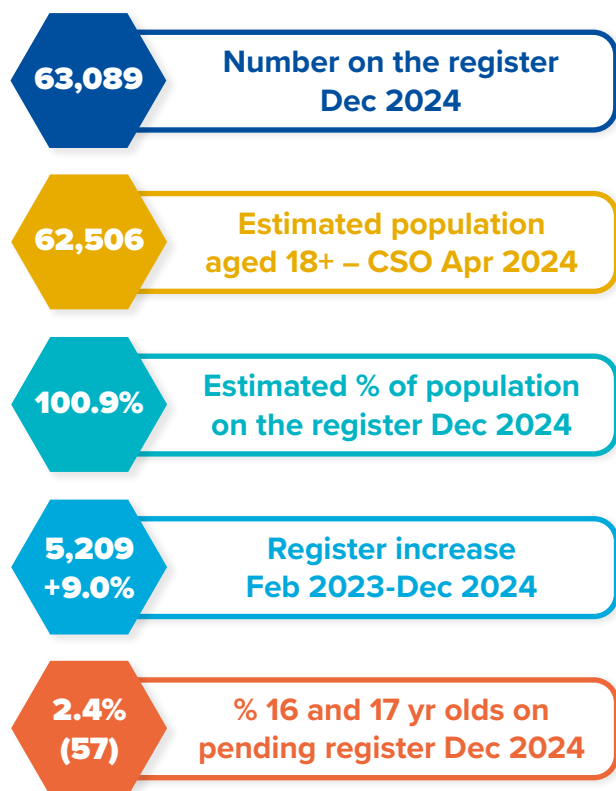
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	38.9%	42.5%	45.3%	48.0%
Eircode	56.6%	60.0%	61.9%	64.0%
DoB + Eir	25.7%	30.3%	34.1%	38.0%
PPSN	3.9%	10.3%	15.7%	20.0%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. The recording of these accuracy indicators supports the identification of duplicate entries, can reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

These reported accuracy indicators, coupled with an estimated 100.9% of potential eligible electors on the electoral register, indicates that Cavan County Council has considerable work to do to improve the accuracy of its electoral register. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	30,466	48.0% [30th]	72.4%
Eircode	40,689	64.0% [14th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	23,880	38.0% [28th]	56.0%
PPSN	12,860	20.0% [18th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Leafleting in GAA match programmes
- ▶ Local media campaign
- ▶ Local event/fair

Assessment

Accuracy

Based on the data provided, the number of electors on the register compared with estimated eligible electors in Cavan, at 100.9%, is the tenth highest in the country. In the context of reported low level of accuracy indicators, this appears to show a high level of inaccuracies on the Cavan register. The percentage of PPSNs collected at 20.0% is below the national average of 22.0%. The percentage of dates of birth collected at 48.0% is substantially below the national average of 72.4%. Eircodes at 64.0% is lower than the national average of 69.8%. Combined dates of birth and Eircodes at 38.0% are significantly below the national average of 56.0%.

It was reported that 2,070 entries were removed from the register between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily duplicate entries, deceased electors and people who had moved away. In 2024 as a whole, there were 1,842 deletions from and 8,162 updates to this register.

The low level of accuracy indicators and the greater number of people on the register than the potential eligible electorate highlights the need for efforts on the part of Cavan County Council to increase the levels of accuracy indicators.

Amongst issues noted by the council were cases of multiple or duplicate applications being made by electors. Staff noticed large amounts of people applied to register for the first time when they were already registered at a different address in the county. As many did not have dates of birth to identify them, staff were required to undertake a time-consuming process to check if it was a new registration or should have been an updated registration.

Completeness

The Cavan register increased by 5,209 people between February 2023 and December 2024.

The fact that the numbers on the register exceed the estimated eligible population is not an indicator that everyone who is entitled to vote is on the register. The registration rate of 100.9% of estimated eligible population, the tenth highest nationwide, appears to indicate that there are considerable inaccuracies on the register.

Until the levels of accuracy are significantly improved it will not be possible to assess the completeness of the Cavan electoral registers.

Resourcing

Cavan County Council was one of seven local authorities that reported no full-time franchise staff in 2023. In early 2024, two full-time staff and two part-time staff were working in the area. While increased staffing was necessary given the electoral events, the council noted that it took time to train new staff on all aspects of the registration process. With no capacity to draw staff from other sections all franchise staff worked overtime to ensure that applications were processed.

Cavan County Council is one of just five local authorities to employ fieldworkers. They were used to distribute flyers and collect Eircodes. There is scope to utilise fieldworkers in a more targeted way to improve register accuracy and completeness.

The council estimated that €132,341 was spent on register costs in 2023. Expenditure of €277,230 was approved for 2024. The council received €40,891 in funding from DHLGH in 2023 to support register-related activities. The council drew down €40,907 of available funding in 2024.

Activities

Cavan County Council undertook some broad-based activities during 2023 to raise awareness of the register, and the registration process. It attended the Virginia Agricultural Show. It ran a local media campaign across newspapers and radio, and did a leaflet drop to all households in the county. Billboards and road signs were used for registration advertising. Flyers were widely distributed. Data was not provided on the impact of these activities, but it was reported that a significant increase in applications was noted.

In relation to activities between June and December 2024, Cavan County Council reported that the franchise team sent emails to all current and retired staff asking them to confirm and update their details; emails were also sent to the GAA County Board, HSE offices and hospitals, government department offices in Cavan, factories and other large organisations asking them to ask their members to confirm details.

The franchise team visited all businesses, schools and offices in Cavan town and put up posters. They set up a registration desk in the local post office for a day in Cavan town. They held two register walk-in clinics in October 2024.

They visited two schools and report that they intend to do so again in the near future. Letters were sent out to some municipal districts.

They ran ads on local radio and in local newspapers.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Cavan County Council's register has some distance to go before accuracy indicators reach the current national averages, which also need to be improved. While acknowledging the substantial volume of applications processed since February 2023, this is a significant concern.

Based on information provided, An Coimisiún believes that the level of prioritisation afforded to the electoral register needs to be significantly improved by this local authority. Insufficient efforts have been made to improve the overall quality of the electoral register which may be a result of a limited level of resourcing. It is likely that after the establishment of the LGERS national electoral register database, considerable and sustained work on the quality of this register will be required.

In light of the quality of this register, based on information provided, it will not be possible to even attempt to estimate, with any degree of satisfaction, either the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered. This will only be possible when the quality of the register is significantly improved before the start of the next electoral cycle in 2029.

Both Cavan County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Clare Overview

Chart 1: Reported Clare electoral register numbers 2023-2024

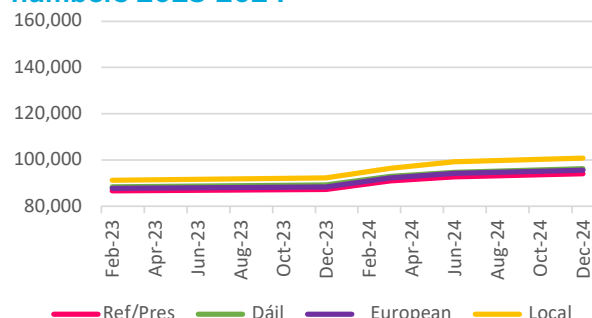


Table 1: Reported Clare electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	91,332	92,261	96,381	99,327	100,881
Dáil	88,495	89,271	92,954	94,736	96,196
European	87,722	88,519	92,289	94,241	95,663
Ref/Pres	86,688	87,416	91,028	92,719	94,079

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Clare County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data shows that there was an overall increase of 10.5% over that period in the numbers registered to vote on the Clare register. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register for all electoral events increased slightly.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 4.1%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 6.5% and 6.1% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 7.8%.

Chart 2: Clare % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

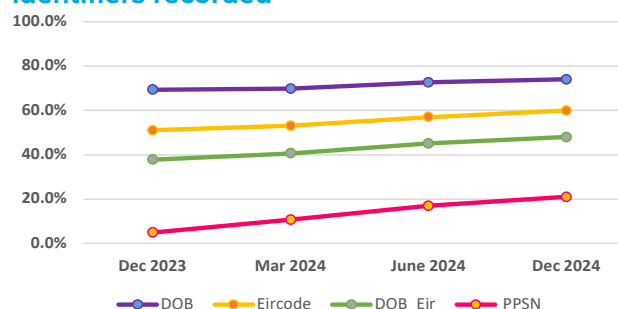


Table 2: Clare % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

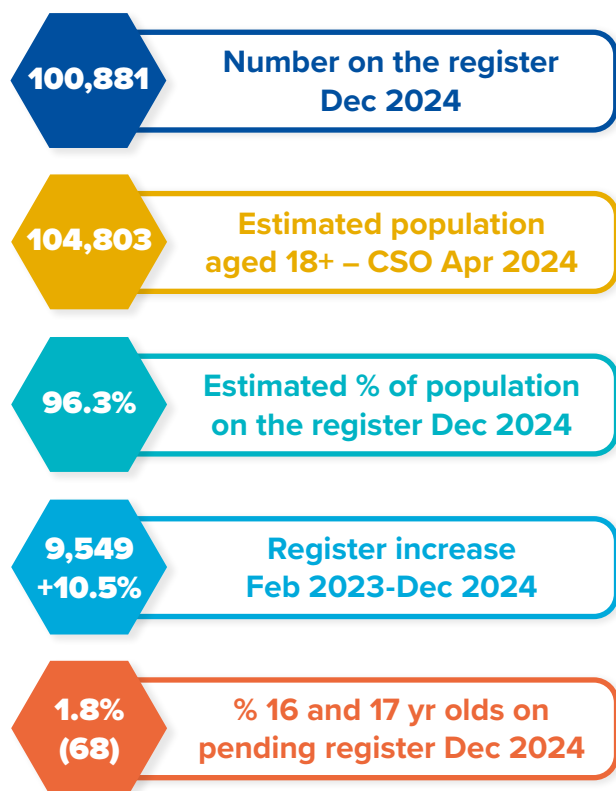
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	69.3%	69.8%	72.7%	74.0%
Eircode	51.0%	53.1%	57.0%	60.0%
DoB + Eir	37.9%	40.7%	45.2%	48.0%
PPSN	4.9%	10.7%	17.0%	21.0%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. The recording of these accuracy indicators supports the identification of duplicate entries, can reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

These reported accuracy indicators, coupled with an estimated 96.3% of potential eligible electors on the electoral register, indicate that Clare County Council has work to do to improve the accuracy of its electoral register. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	74,630	74.0% [13th]	72.4%
Eircode	60,450	60.0% [17th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	48,529	48.0% [16th]	56.0%
PPSN	21,234	21.0% [14th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Leaflet drop to all households
- ▶ Local media campaign

Assessment

Accuracy

Based on the data provided, some 96.3% of the estimated eligible population in Clare are registered to vote. However, given the relatively low levels of accuracy indicators it is likely that this figure is inflated due to duplicate and redundant entries on the register.

The data reported show that Clare County Council is below average with regard to the recording of accuracy indicators, with the exception of dates of birth. 60.0% of electors have an assigned Eircode (national average is 69.8%), 74.0% have a date of birth (national average is 72.4%), and 48.0% of electors have a combined date of birth and Eircode (national average is 56.0%). Some 21.0% of electors have an associated PPSN (national average is 22.0%).

Between December 2022 and March 2024, 3,077 entries were removed from the register, primarily deceased persons or people moving out of the county. In 2024 as a whole, there were 5,695 deletions from and 7,985 updates to this register.

Greater emphasis should be put on increased data collection across all headings to improve the accuracy and quality of the register.

Completeness

The number of people on the electoral register increased by 9,549 between February 2023 and December 2024.

The relatively high registration rate of 96.3% compared to the estimated eligible population is not

necessarily an indicator of high registration levels, particularly when looked at in conjunction with the accuracy indicators.

The completeness of the Clare County Council register cannot be effectively assessed until accuracy indicators are improved.

Resourcing

Clare County Council reported that there was one staff member working full-time on the electoral register in 2023 and 2024, with one part-time staff member in 2023, rising to four in early 2024.

DHLGH funding was used by Clare County Council to fund overtime to ensure that all register applications were processed. The council should ensure that the level of resourcing is sufficient to enable the ongoing management and maintenance of a rolling register, and also has the capacity and capability to undertake the work required to prepare register data for migration to the national shared register.

Clare County Council spent €72,478 on maintaining the electoral register in 2023. The approved council budget for register costs in 2024 was €87,022.

In 2023, DHLGH provided an estimated €48,558 to the council to improve register data quality. In 2024, the council drew down €26,054 of DHLGH available funding.

Activities

Clare County Council undertook a number of broad-based activities during 2023 to raise awareness of the register and the registration process.

A local media campaign was run across newspapers and radio in September and October 2023, in tandem with a leaflet drop to all households in the county. Following this, and campaigns run at national level, the numbers on the register rose by 3,325. The number of PPSNs on the system increased by over 7,500, contributing to the current level of that indicator. It was also noted that there were a number of duplicate applications, as individuals who had difficulty finding themselves on the register re-applied. The council reported it has been working on cleansing register data through polling cards returned by An Post or third parties to help determine whether electors still reside at the addresses provided on the register. The full impact of this project is not yet known.

No further information was provided regarding activities undertaken in advance of the local, European and general elections.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Clare County Council's register is currently in the mid-range compared to other local authorities. However, An Coimisiún believes that the national averages for all indicators need to be increased. While acknowledging the substantial volume of applications processed since February 2023, work needs to be done to increase recording of accuracy indicators to further improve the quality of the register.

Based on the information provided, An Coimisiún does not believe that the management and maintenance of the electoral register is satisfactorily prioritised by this local authority. While there have been some efforts to improve the quality of this register, a higher level of effort needs to be made.

Given the overall quality of this register, based on information provided, it will not be possible to estimate with any degree of certainty either the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered until there is a considerable improvement before the start of the next electoral cycle in 2029.

Both Clare County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Cork City Overview

Chart 1: Reported Cork City electoral register numbers 2023-2024

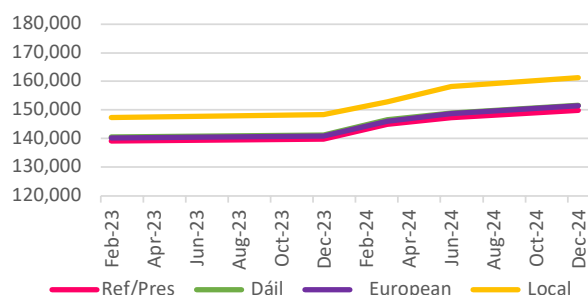


Table 1: Reported Cork City electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	147,411	148,454	152,940	158,280	161,357
Dáil	140,621	141,314	146,514	148,894	151,600
European	140,157	140,827	146,039	148,769	151,402
Ref/Pres	139,061	139,728	144,947	147,244	149,852

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Cork City Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data shows that there was an overall increase of 9.5% over that period in the numbers registered to vote on the Cork City Council register. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register were relatively stable with an increase of just 0.7%.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 3.7%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 6.6% and 5.6% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 7.3%.

Chart 2: Cork City % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

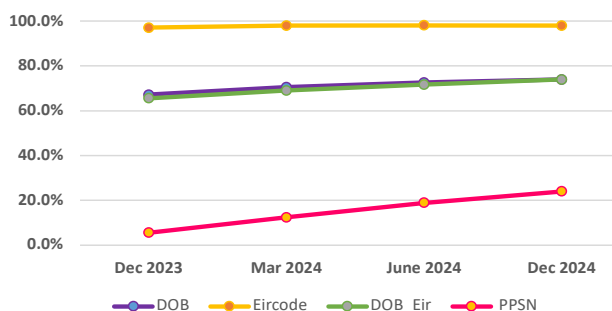


Table 2: Cork City % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	67.2%	70.5%	72.7%	74.0%
Eircode	97.1%	98.1%	98.1%	98.0%
DoB + Eir	65.6%	69.1%	71.7%	74.0%
PPSN	5.6%	12.4%	18.9%	24.0%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. The recording of this information reduces the potential for duplicate entries, can reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

The reported data, combined with an estimated registration rate of 90.5%, indicates that Cork City Council has been one of the more effective local authorities with regard to recording of data for each elector. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	120,102	74.0% [14th]	72.4%
Eircode	158,810	98.0% [6th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	118,767	74.0% [6th]	56.0%
PPSN	38,881	24.0% [8th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Leaflet mailout
- ▶ Local radio
- ▶ Election materials (letters, posters, flyers) distributed to businesses, schools and colleges
- ▶ Engagement with homeless units and refuge centres regarding application options
- ▶ Engagement with hospitals and nursing homes regarding postal and special voting
- ▶ Correspondence with residents of apartments/duplexes regarding registration/detail updates in advance of the general election

*Cork City and County data is not delineated in CSO population and migration statistics for 2024. The estimated population figure for Cork City based on the proportion of Cork City and County population residing in Cork City as per 2022 Census data (38.3%)

Assessment

Accuracy

Data provided indicates that 90.5% of the estimated eligible population in Cork City were on the electoral register in December 2024. In the context of high recordings reported across three of the four accuracy indicators, it appears that the Cork City register is more accurate than the national average.

Cork City Council is in the top ten local authorities for three of the four accuracy indicators. 98.0% of electors have an assigned Eircode (national average is 69.8%), 74.0% have a date of birth (national average is 72.4%), and 74.0% of electors have a combined date of birth and Eircode (national average is 56.0%). Some 24.0% of electors have an associated PPSN (national average is 22.0%).

Cork City Council has been taking measures to improve the accuracy of the register, particularly dates of birth and Eircodes. In advance of the Family and Care referendums, a mail-out to 13,500

electors resulted in 4,800 responses that helped improve accuracy. The council reports that register ‘cleansing’ is carried out after each electoral event. Duplicate entries at the same address are very rare and are flagged for deletion. Follow-up enquiries and potential deletions take place where polling cards are returned, indicating that an elector is no longer at the address listed on the register. The council reported that there were approximately 3,000 deletions using March referendum polling cards returned and Third-Party Claim forms.

Cork City Council contacted hospitals and nursing homes before electoral events to update postal and special voter lists.

Completeness

The Cork City register increased by 13,946 people between February 2023 and December 2024. This represented an increase of 9.5%.

The overall registration rate is 90.5%. In the context of reported relatively high accuracy indicators, it is suggestive of the Cork City Council register being one of the more accurate registers.

However, it will only be possible to have a more precise understanding of the registration rate when there is a shared national database and accuracy indicators are improved further. Given the work already undertaken, it appears that Cork City Council should be in a good position to address accuracy and completeness after the migration to LGERS.

Resourcing

Cork City Council reported that three full-time and one part-time staff worked in the franchise section in 2023, increasing to five full-time and two part-time staff in 2024. An additional seven part-time staff assisted with processing applications received in advance of the March referendums.

At a meeting between An Coimisiún and Cork City Council, it was clear that the franchise function is accorded a good level of priority in the local authority. This is borne out by some of the relatively high accuracy indicators. An Coimisiún recommends that this continues.

The council reported challenges faced by the franchise section. These included the impact of the gap between the last round of electoral events on the number of applications to be processed, preparation for elections and resourcing issues. It reported that as well as additional trained resources, significant overtime was required.

2,835 online applications were received in the week before the local and European elections application deadline, and 7,768 online applications in the week before the deadline for the general election. 16 staff members were trained to give additional support to manage this workload. All applications were reported to have been successfully processed. It was noted that it would not have been possible to process these applications without significant organisation and staff flexibility.

Cork City Council should ensure that the level of resourcing is sufficient to enable the ongoing management and maintenance of the rolling register and to manage spikes in activity. There should also be capacity and capability to undertake the work required to prepare register data for migration to the national shared register within the planned timeframes.

It was reported that €226,800 was spent on the register by the council in 2023. €283,300 was approved for 2024.

Cork City Council received €64,305 in funding from DHLGH in 2023 to support register-related activities. In 2024, the council received €64,397 from DHLGH for this work.

Activities

In addition to the mail-out referred to above, Cork City Council undertook local media and leafleting campaigns to increase awareness of the registration process. It also engaged in targeted outreach activities including visits to colleges, community/cultural events and shopping centres. The franchise team worked with the migrant and refugee rights group, Nasc and the council's Local Authority Integration Team to raise awareness around registration amongst 'new communities' in advance of the local elections. A number of registration awareness events were arranged in City Hall, colleges and some community locations.

It was reported that the impact of these activities was mixed in terms of engagement and that such activities are dependent on resources being available, which should be considered in the context of workforce planning into the future.

In advance of the Dáil election, all apartment and duplex locations in the local authority (15,318) received a letter encouraging voter updates/registration.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Cork City's register appears to be one of the more accurate given the high levels of all accuracy indicators provided. However, work needs to be done to increase the number of dates of birth and PPSNs recorded. The council appears to be well placed to continue to increase accuracy and to undertake activities to increase completeness.

Based on the information provided, An Coimisiún considers that the electoral register is generally afforded a reasonable level of prioritisation by this local authority. There have clearly been sustained and generally successful efforts to improve the quality of its register. However, further work will be required following the establishment of the LGERS national electoral register database.

Although An Coimisiún considers this to be one of the better-quality registers, it is still not possible to estimate the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered. More improvement is required before the start of the next electoral cycle in 2029.

Both Cork City Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Cork County Overview

Chart 1: Reported Cork County electoral register numbers 2023-2024

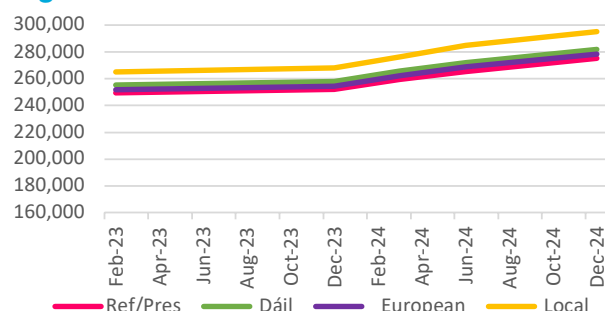


Table 1: Reported Cork County electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	265,281	268,225	276,242	285,129	295,060
Dáil	255,391	258,056	265,729	272,023	281,863
European	251,691	254,292	262,120	268,872	278,574
Ref/Pres	249,504	252,063	259,689	265,591	275,204

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Cork County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data reported shows that there was an overall increase of 11.2% over that period in the numbers registered to vote. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register increased by just over 1.0%.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 3.0%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 6.3% and 5.7% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 9.2%.

Chart 2: Cork County % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

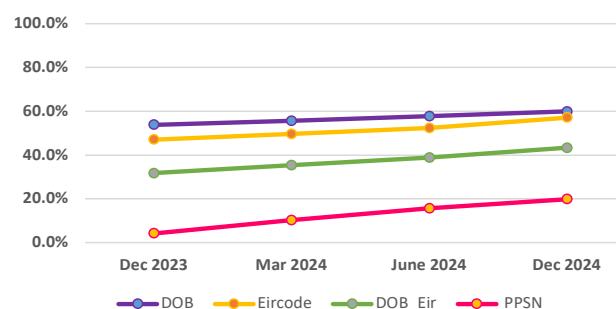


Table 2: Cork County % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

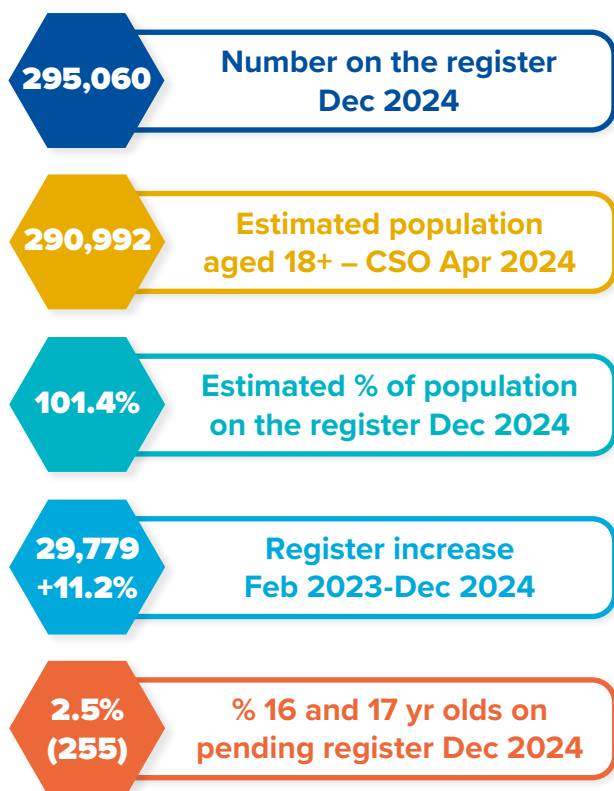
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	53.8%	55.6%	57.8%	60.0%
Eircode	47.2%	49.7%	52.4%	57.2%
DoB + Eir	31.7%	35.4%	38.9%	43.3%
PPSN	4.2%	10.3%	15.8%	19.9%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. The recording of this information can assist in minimising duplicate entries, reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

The reported data, which includes a low level of coverage of key variables such as date of birth, PPSN and Eircode data, coupled with an estimated 101.4% of the potential eligible population on the electoral register, indicates that Cork County Council appears to have considerable work to do to improve the overall quality of its electoral register. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	177,049	60.0% [26th]	72.4%
Eircode	168,811	57.2% [18th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	127,880	43.3% [24th]	56.0%
PPSN	58,820	19.9% [21st]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Stand at Cork Summer Show
- ▶ Correspondence with c. 24,800 electors in two Local Electoral Areas
- ▶ Local media campaign

Assessment

Accuracy

Based on reported data, the number of electors reported on the register compared with estimated eligible electors in Cork County, at 101.4%, is the seventh highest in the country. In the context of low levels of accuracy indicators this is likely to indicate a high level of inaccuracies on the Cork County register. The percentage of PPSNs collected at 19.9% is below the national average of 22.0%. The percentage of dates of birth collected at 60.0% is well below the national average of 72.4%. Eircodes collected at 57.2% is significantly below the national average of 69.8%. Combined dates of birth and Eircodes at 43.3% is also significantly below the national average of 56.0%.

Cork County Council reported that duplicate registrations were identified during the registration application process by carrying out a search on each name or date of birth or PPSN for applications for new registrations and updates of details. Individual electors were contacted where necessary to confirm correct details to avoid duplication. However, it was not always possible to do this for old records that did not have an associated date of birth or PPSN. The council notes that it is not possible to run a report on duplications under the current iReg system, so it is difficult to quantify numbers. However, a report will be run to identify duplications as one of the stages of migrating data from iReg to voter.ie, which the council welcomes.

The council reported receiving numerous complaints after the referendums from electors that could not vote as their citizenship was not updated on the register. Electors understood incorrectly that the register was linked to other systems where their citizenship would have been updated automatically.

It was reported that 6,597 entries were removed from the register between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily duplicate entries, deceased electors and people who had moved away. In 2024 as a whole, there were 13,425 deletions from and 29,889 updates to this register.

The low level of accuracy indicators and the greater number of people on the register than the potential eligible electorate highlights the need for efforts on the part of Cork County Council to increase the levels of accuracy indicators.

Completeness

The Cork County register increased by 29,779 people between February 2023 and December 2024. This was an increase of more than 11.0%.

The fact that the reported numbers on the register exceed the estimated eligible population is not an indicator that everyone in Cork County who is entitled to vote is on the register. The registration rate of 101.4% of estimated eligible population, the seventh highest nationwide, appears to indicate that there are considerable inaccuracies on the register.

Until the levels of accuracy are significantly improved, it will not be possible to assess the completeness of the Cork County electoral register.

Resourcing

Cork County Council reported that three staff worked full-time and two part-time in the franchise unit in both 2023 and 2024, supported by around 10 additional staff to assist in preparing for electoral events.

Cork County Council advised that the franchise team temporarily resourced staff from other sections, trained and supervised them and used overtime to register the electors in time for each electoral event during 2024. The tight registration deadlines in advance of the general election presented the greatest challenge. It was reported that a cohort of people registered on *checktheregister.ie* past the given deadline and could not vote.

It is estimated that Cork County Council spent €152,672 in 2023 on maintaining the register. It approved expenditure on register costs of €193,016 for 2024. In 2023, funding of €83,432 was made available to the council from DHLGH to improve register data quality. In 2024, the council received €86,872 for this work from DHLGH.

Activities

The council wrote to 24,800 electors in two Local Electoral Areas with the highest number of electors without dates of birth, PPSNs or Eircodes. A high level of responses was reported, with 3,556 additions, 5,649 modifications and 897 deletions to the register.

The council reported that it ran a significant local media campaign to increase awareness of the registration process during 2023. It was reported during initial survey responses that this resulted in over 1,600 new registrations, and around 4,100 amendments. It also had a stand at the Cork Summer Show.

The council reported that it contacted all schools and nursing homes before the referendums, local election and general election to encourage voters to register and/or check their details.

The franchise team held clinics in nine libraries across Cork County throughout October 2024 to encourage people to register and/or update their details. Advertisements were placed in local and

regional newspapers to advertise this initiative. A bilingual radio campaign was run on local radio stations. Advertisements were placed on the council website and social media to encourage people to register and update their details, including updating citizenship.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Cork County Council's register has some distance to go before accuracy indicators reach the current national averages, which also need to be improved. While acknowledging the substantial volume of applications processed since February 2023, this is a significant concern.

Based on information provided, An Coimisiún recommends that the level of prioritisation afforded to the electoral register be significantly improved by this local authority. Insufficient efforts have been made to improve the overall quality of the electoral register which may be a result of a limited level of resourcing. It is likely that after the establishment of the LGERS national electoral register database, considerable and sustained work on the quality of this register will be required.

In light of the quality of this register, based on information provided, it will not be possible to even attempt to estimate, with any degree of satisfaction, either the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered. This will only be possible when the quality of the register is significantly improved before the start of the next electoral cycle in 2029.

Both Cork County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Donegal Overview

Chart 1: Reported Donegal electoral register numbers 2023-2024

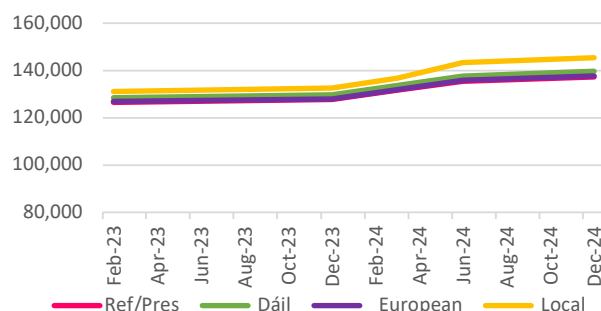


Table 1: Reported Donegal electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	131,253	132,533	136,878	143,337	145,443
Dáil	128,502	129,643	133,686	137,739	139,707
European	126,923	128,017	131,930	135,841	137,716
Ref/Pres	126,634	127,729	131,637	135,493	137,370

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Donegal County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data provided shows that there was an overall increase of 10.8% over that period in the numbers registered to vote. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register for all electoral events were largely unchanged.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 3.1%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 8.2% and 6.1% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 7.8%.

Chart 2: Donegal % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

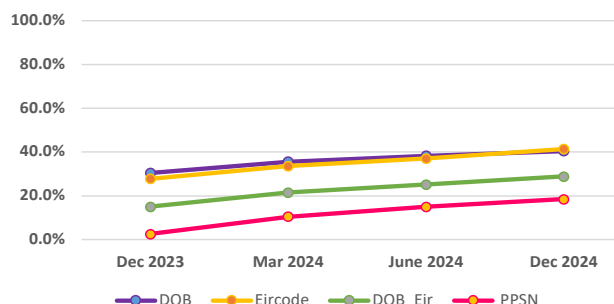


Table 2: Donegal % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

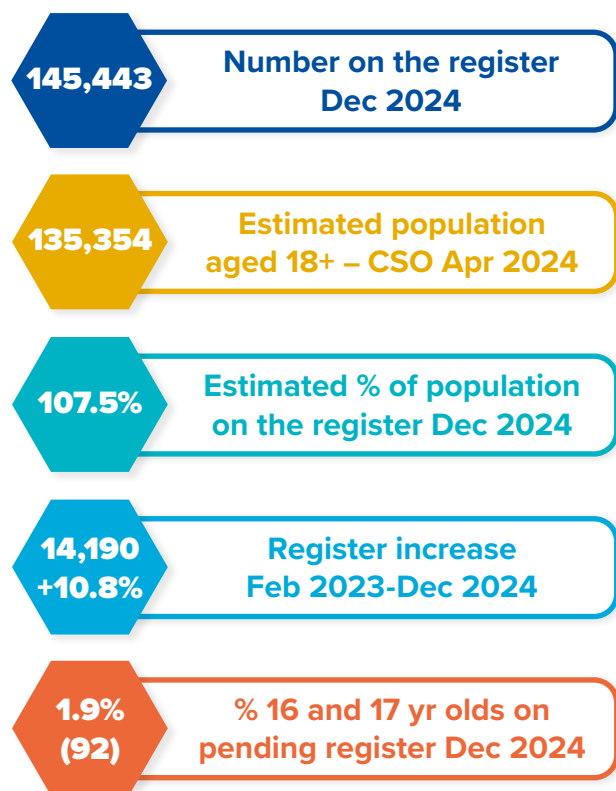
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	30.5%	35.6%	38.3%	40.5%
Eircode	27.8%	33.7%	37.0%	41.4%
DoB + Eir	15.0%	21.5%	25.2%	28.8%
PPSN	2.5%	10.5%	14.9%	18.5%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. The recording of these accuracy indicators supports the identification of duplicate entries, can reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

These reported accuracy indicators, coupled with an estimated 107.5% of the potential eligible population on the electoral register, highlights that Donegal County Council appears to have considerable work to do to improve the overall quality of its electoral register. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	59,064	40.5% [31st]	72.4%
Eircode	60,320	41.4% [30th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	41,953	28.8% [31st]	56.0%
PPSN	26,858	18.5% [28th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Leaflet drop to every household
- ▶ Local media campaign/billboards
- ▶ Bus shelter advertising

Assessment

Accuracy

Based on the data provided, the number of electors reported on the register compared with estimated eligible electors in Donegal, at 107.5%, is the second highest in the country. This indicates a high level of inaccuracies on the Donegal register, particularly in the context of very low level of accuracy indicators. The percentage of PPSNs reported at 18.5% is below the national average of 22.0%. The percentage of dates of birth collected at 40.5% is substantially below the national average of 72.4%, as is the case for Eircodes at 41.4% (national average is 69.8%). Combined dates of birth and Eircodes at a reported 28.8% is also significantly below the national average of 56.0%. Donegal County Council has the lowest levels for two of the accuracy indicators and is among the lowest for the other two.

It was reported that 495 entries were removed from the register between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily duplicate entries, deceased electors and people who had moved away. In 2024 as a whole, there were 2,994 deletions from and 695 updates to this register.

The very low level of accuracy indicators and the significantly greater number of people on the local register than are potentially eligible highlights the need for Donegal County Council to significantly increase the levels of accuracy indicators to support the identification of duplicate and redundant entries.

Amongst issues noted by the council, a key concern were cases of duplicate applications being made by electors. This was a recurring issue in each electoral event in 2024. This primarily related to existing electors unable to find themselves on checktheregister.ie and new and existing electors not receiving an acknowledgement email which resulted in numerous repeated applications. This was an issue reported by a number of local authorities.

Completeness

The Donegal register increased by 14,190 people between February 2023 and December 2024. This was an increase of more than 10% and required significant work by the franchise staff to ensure that people entitled to vote at an electoral event were registered in time.

The fact that the numbers on the register exceed the estimated eligible population is not an indicator that everyone in Donegal who is entitled to vote is on the register. The registration rate of 107.5% of estimated eligible population, the second highest nationwide, appears to indicate that there are considerable inaccuracies on the register.

Until the levels of accuracy are significantly improved it will not be possible to assess the completeness of the Donegal electoral register.

Resourcing

Limited staff resources are currently dedicated to the management and maintenance of the Donegal register. It was reported that there was just one person working full-time in the franchise area in 2023. This was among the lowest staffing levels recorded for a local authority. Resourcing increased to two full-time and two part-time staff in 2024.

This indicates the need for an adequate level of resourcing. This need will be ongoing as preparatory work for the national shared register progresses and then to improve the accuracy of the register. It is also important to bear in mind the ongoing resourcing requirements of maintaining a rolling register.

Donegal County Council estimated that €129,152 was spent on the register in 2023. Expenditure of €129,422 was approved for 2024. The council received €55,012 in funding from DHLGH in 2023 to support register-related activities. In 2024, the council drew down €55,001 from DHLGH available funding.

Activities

Donegal County Council sent leaflets to every household in the county and carried out local media campaigns to raise awareness across the general population in relation to registration, and changes to the registration process, including pre-registration for 16 and 17-year-olds. These activities reportedly resulted in an additional estimated 4,200 new applications and 1,154 changes to elector details. A member of staff participated in a live information session on a local radio station to promote registering to vote prior to the referendums in March.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Donegal County Council's register has a considerable distance to go before accuracy indicators reach even current national averages, which also need to be improved. While acknowledging the substantial volume of applications processed since February 2023, this is a significant concern.

Based on information provided, An Coimisiún believes that the level of prioritisation afforded to the electoral register needs to be significantly improved by this local authority. Insufficient efforts have been made to improve the overall quality of the electoral register which may be a result of a limited level of resourcing. It is likely that after the establishment of the LGERS national electoral register database, considerable and sustained work on the quality of this register will be required.

In light of the quality of this register, based on information provided, it will not be possible to even attempt to estimate, with any degree of satisfaction, either the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered. This will only be possible when the quality of the register is significantly improved before the start of the next electoral cycle in 2029.

Both Donegal County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report. It is the view of An Coimisiún that the priority given to the register by Donegal County Council must improve dramatically.

Dublin City Overview

Chart 1: Reported DCC electoral register numbers 2023-2024

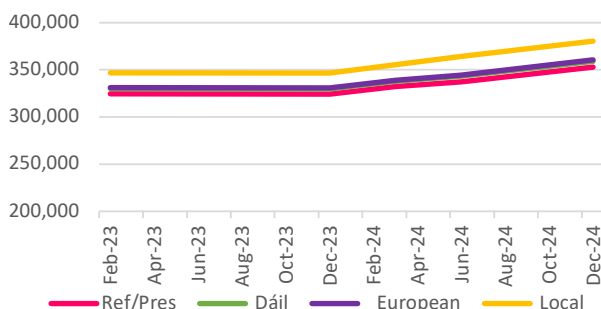


Table 1: Reported DCC electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	346,568	346,694	355,202	364,303	380,433
Dáil	331,323	330,834	338,797	344,461	358,827
European	330,217	329,739	337,712	343,052	360,195
Ref/Pres	324,544	324,043	332,002	337,295	352,768

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Dublin City Council (DCC) for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data shows that there was an overall increase of 9.8% over that period in the numbers registered to vote on the DCC register. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register for all electoral events were relatively stable.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 2.5%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 5.1% and 4.1% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 8.8%.

Chart 2: DCC % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

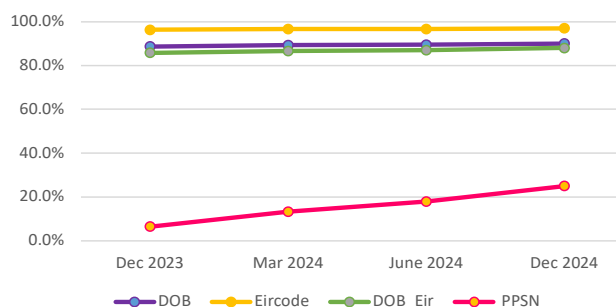


Table 2: DCC % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

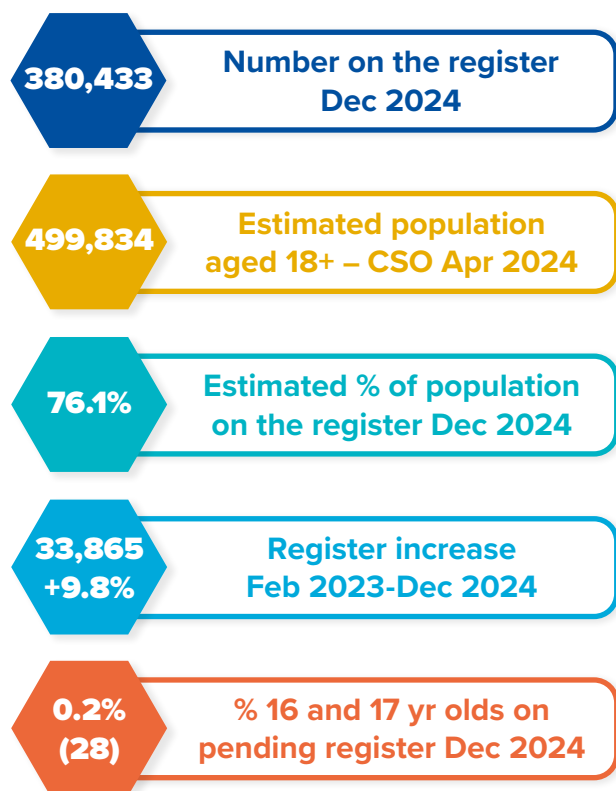
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	88.7%	89.4%	89.5%	90.0%
Eircode	96.3%	96.7%	96.7%	97.0%
DoB + Eir	85.7%	86.6%	86.9%	88.0%
PPSN	6.4%	13.2%	18.0%	25.0%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. Currently, the recording of this information assists in running reports across the four Dublin registers to assist in minimising duplicate entries. It can reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

The data reported suggest that DCC has been one of the more effective local authorities with regard to recording of data for each elector. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	342,740	90.0% [5th]	72.4%
Eircode	368,723	97.0% [7th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	333,625	88.0% [3rd]	56.0%
PPSN	96,460	25.0% [6th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Joint *voter.ie* awareness campaign across the four Dublin local authorities
- ▶ Leaflet drop targeting city council tenants
- ▶ County fair/show
- ▶ Engagement with secondary schools and universities

Assessment

Accuracy

Data indicates that 76.1% of the estimated eligible population in the DCC area were on the electoral register in December 2024. This is the lowest percentage of registered electors across all local authorities. However, in the context of very high accuracy indicators this appears to be one of the more accurate registers.

DCC is in the top ten local authorities for all four accuracy indicators. 97.0% of electors have an assigned Eircode (national average is 69.8%), 90.0% have a date of birth (national average is 72.4%), and 88.0% of electors have a combined date of birth and Eircode (national average is 56.0%). Some 25.0% of electors have an associated PPSN (national average is 22.0%). DCC has worked with the other Dublin local authorities on a campaign to promote the use of their common registration platform, *voter.ie*, and updating of register details.

The fact that the Dublin local authorities share a register database helps reduce the risk of duplicate entries within the Dublin area. It was reported that 12,452 entries were removed from the register between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily deceased electors and people who had moved away. In 2024, there were 7,449 deletions from and 25,113 updates to this register.

Completeness

The registration rate of 76.1% of estimated eligible population indicates that there is considerable potential to improve completeness and encourage eligible voters to register.

The DCC register increased by 33,865 people between February 2023 and December 2024.

Having achieved high levels of accuracy, DCC should identify underrepresented cohorts of the electorate with a view to increasing completeness.

Resourcing

DCC reported that there were 2.8 staff working full-time on the register in 2023, and 4.8 staff in 2024. Eight additional full-time staff and five part-time staff were assigned to the registration team to assist with applications for the March referendums. Overtime was also used to manage the surge in applications within the deadlines, although it was noted that the recruitment of temporary staff to manage work at busy times would reduce the requirement for constant overtime. DCC highlighted the importance of staff training on registration systems, processes and deadline stages.

DCC should ensure that the level of resourcing is sufficient to enable the ongoing management and maintenance of the rolling register, to plan for and manage any spikes in activity, and any activities that need to be undertaken to improve completeness.

DCC had the highest budgets for franchise functions. The council spent €913,401 maintaining the register in 2023 and the approved budget for 2024 was €747,903. For 2023, €125,008 was drawn down by DCC from DHLGH funding to improve the quality of register data. In 2024, DCC drew down €102,420 of available DHLGH funding.

Activities

As well as a broad campaign – “Have You Voter.ie’d?” – run in collaboration with the other Dublin local authorities, DCC undertook a number of broad and targeted activities to raise awareness of the registration process, and increase registration.

An information leaflet and registration form were included in DCC packs for 3,000 new local authority tenants – an initiative which could be replicated by other local authorities. All 78 secondary schools in the DCC council area were contacted to encourage students aged 16-18 to either register to vote or to add their names to the pending electors list. As a result, there was an increase of over 320 pre-registrations. DCC, along with Fingal County Council, had a pop-up stand in DCU and TU Dublin during Freshers Week, leading to an additional 82 registrations. DCC also attended the annual Rose Festival in Raheny resulting in an additional 147 electors registering.

Overall assessment and recommendations

DCC’s register appears to be one of the more accurate with high levels of all accuracy indicators. The apparently low level of registrations is a concern and highlights the need for engagement with communities to increase registration of underrepresented cohorts.

Based on the information provided, An Coimisiún considers that the electoral register is generally afforded a reasonable level of prioritisation by this local authority. There have clearly been sustained and generally successful efforts to improve the quality of its register. However, further work will be required following the establishment of the LGERS national electoral register database.

An Coimisiún considers this to be one of the better-quality registers. Given the accuracy indicators it is possible to have a level of confidence in its reported registration rate, turnout at electoral events and be able to estimate the numbers of people who are not registered. It is likely that further improvements will come with the establishment of LGERS and continued commitment.

Having achieved high levels of accuracy, DCC should identify underrepresented cohorts of the electorate with a view to increasing completeness.

Both DCC and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Overview

Chart 1: Reported DLR electoral register numbers 2023-2024

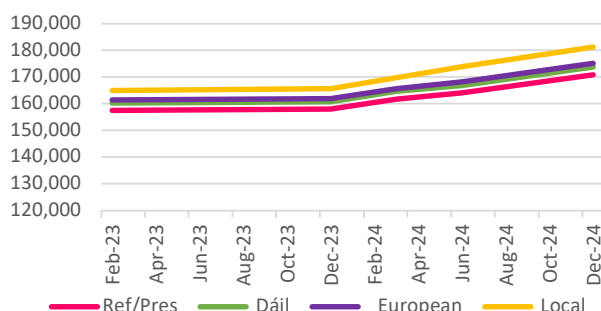


Table 1: Reported DLR electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	164,902	165,632	169,771	173,894	181,112
Dáil	160,283	160,713	164,556	166,816	173,821
European	161,378	161,794	165,638	168,117	175,104
Ref/Pres	157,479	157,921	161,772	164,009	170,849

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (DLR) County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data reported shows that there was an overall increase of 9.8% over that period in the numbers registered to vote on the DLR register. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register for all electoral events were relatively stable, increasing by just 0.4%.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 2.4%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 5.0% and 3.9% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 8.2%.

Chart 2: DLR % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

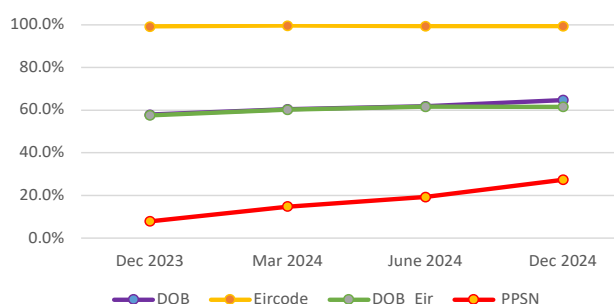


Table 2: DLR % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

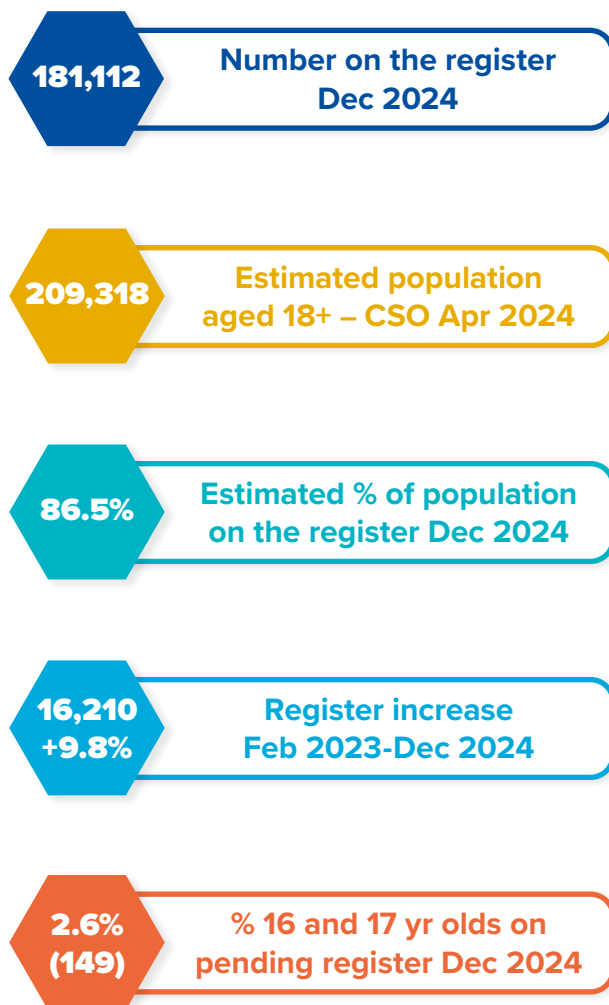
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	57.9%	60.5%	61.8%	64.8%
Eircode	99.2%	99.6%	99.3%	99.4%
DoB + Eir	57.6%	60.2%	61.6%	61.6%
PPSN	7.9%	14.9%	19.4%	27.5%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual data provided for electors on the register. Currently, the recording of this information assists in running duplication reports across the four Dublin registers to identify duplicate entries. This can reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

The data reported suggests that DLR has been one of the more effective local authorities with regard to recording of data for each elector. However, the percentage of recorded dates of birth is low and is in the lowest third in the country. This should be increased. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy Indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	117,366	64.8% [23rd]	72.4%
Eircode	179,959	99.4% [1st]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	117,025	61.6% [11th]	56.0%
PPSN	49,759	27.5% [3rd]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ A variety of ad campaigns – movie theatres, train stations, shopping centres, bus shelters and BigBelly bins
- ▶ Visits to University College Dublin and IADT with voter registration and information stand
- ▶ All DLR libraries and pop-up shop in Dún Laoghaire
- ▶ Visits to third level institutions with voter registration and information stands
- ▶ Sharing register information with elected members
- ▶ Council staff canteen – voter registration and information stand
- ▶ Secondary school letters and merchandise
- ▶ Correspondence with electors about Dáil boundary changes and registration
- ▶ Southside Action Travellers Group visit – voter registration and information
- ▶ Coffee Morning: 'TogetHER in Politics' Women's Experience in Politics Panel Discussion – voter registration and information stand

Assessment

Accuracy

Data provided by DLR indicates that some 86.5% of the estimated eligible population are registered to vote. This is one of the lowest percentages of registered electors across all local authorities. While work remains to be done to improve completeness, in the context of relatively high accuracy indicators this appears to be one of the more accurate registers in terms of the collection of Date of birth, Eircode and PPSN.

DLR is in the top ten local authorities for two of the four accuracy indicators. 99.4% of electors have an assigned Eircode (national average is 69.8%), 61.6% have a combined date of birth and Eircode (national average is 56.0%), and 27.5% of electors have an associated PPSN (national average is 22.0%). Dates of birth at 64.8% are comparatively low but the council noted that it had made some proactive efforts in this regard. When corresponding with electors regarding boundary changes, it also used the opportunity to request additional dates of birth. This resulted in 1,365 additional dates of birth recorded from correspondence with 3,000 electors. DLR has also worked with the other Dublin local authorities on a campaign to promote the use of their common registration platform, *voter.ie*, and updating of register details.

The fact that the Dublin local authorities already share a register database reduces the risk of duplicate entries. It was reported that 4,849 entries were removed from the register between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily deceased electors and people who had moved away. In 2024 as a whole, there were 3,979 deletions from and 13,324 updates to this register.

The council made the point that, despite national and local campaigns, there are still many long-time registered electors who are unaware that personal data is required by local authorities to improve the quality of the register.

Completeness

The DLR register increased by 16,210 people between February 2023 and December 2024.

The registration rate of 86.5% of estimated eligible population indicates that there is potential to improve completeness.

DLR should identify underrepresented cohorts of the electorate with a view to increasing completeness.

Resourcing

DLR advised that the Dundrum Area Office Team manage the Register of Electors as part of their roles, which also include other duties. While no staff worked full-time on the register, eight spent 50.0% of their time on the register. A temporary clerical officer was appointed to assist with the register in advance of the March referendums. Staff also worked overtime to manage application spikes. DLR noted that the short timelines ahead of the November Dáil election raised resourcing challenges. On the closing date for registration, there were over 5,000 applications to be processed within a four-day timeframe.

In advance of the general election, seven staff worked full-time on processing register applications, and an additional nine were assigned to register-related work. Staff were required to work long hours and over weekends to process applications full-time ahead of electoral events.

DLR County Council spent €234,400 on maintaining the register in 2023. The approved budget for 2024 register costs was €286,200.

DHLGH funding of €66,150 was made available to the council to improve the quality of register data. In 2024, DLR drew down €66,024 of available DHLGH funding.

Activities

As well as a broad campaign – “Have You Voter.ie’d?” – run in collaboration with the three other Dublin local authorities, DLR undertook a range of broad-based and targeted activities to increase awareness of, and engagement with, the electoral register, and to increase register accuracy. These included student events in UCD and the IADT aimed at younger electors, which reportedly resulted in over 250 amendments.

DLR reported that it contacted all local secondary schools to encourage TY students, and their families, to register, resulting in 966 registrations, 1,705 amendments and 632 removals. Stands were set up in local libraries, at an Age Friendly Expo and a shopping centre. As a result, there were 591 amendments and additions to the register. To further increase accuracy, DLR contacted electors with no associated date of birth and 1,365 responses were received from 3,000 letters issued. DLR also undertook targeted activities including a visit to the Southside Action Travellers Group.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Based on the data provided, DLR’s register appears to be one of the more accurate with some high levels of accuracy indicators. However, DLR should continue work progressed to increase dates of birth and PPSNs recorded. It should also build on activities undertaken throughout 2024 and engage further with communities to increase registration of underrepresented cohorts and improve register completeness.

Based on the information provided, An Coimisiún considers that the electoral register is generally afforded a reasonable level of prioritisation by this local authority. There have been sustained and generally successful efforts to improve the quality of its register. However, further work will be required following the establishment of the LGERS national electoral register database.

Although An Coimisiún considers this to be one of the better-quality registers, it is still not possible to estimate the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered. More improvement is required before the start of the next electoral cycle in 2029.

Both Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Fingal Overview

Chart 1: Reported Fingal electoral register numbers 2023-2024

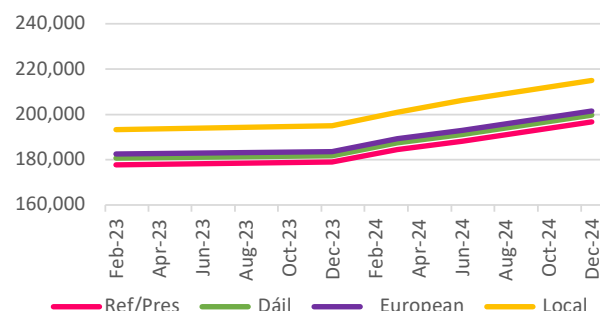


Table 1: Reported Fingal electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	193,449	195,005	200,946	206,321	215,006
Dáil	180,687	181,915	187,545	191,077	199,721
European	182,563	183,720	189,331	193,045	201,670
Ref/Pres	177,836	179,052	184,655	188,167	196,704

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Fingal County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data shows that there was an overall increase of 11.1% over that period in the numbers registered to vote on the Fingal register. In **2023**, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register were stable, rising by less than 1.0%.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 3.1%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 5.8% and 5.1% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 9.8%.

Chart 2: Fingal % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

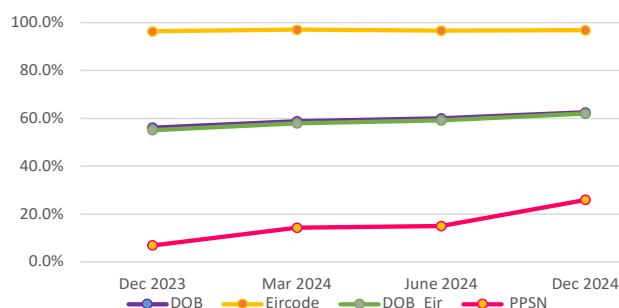


Table 2: Fingal % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

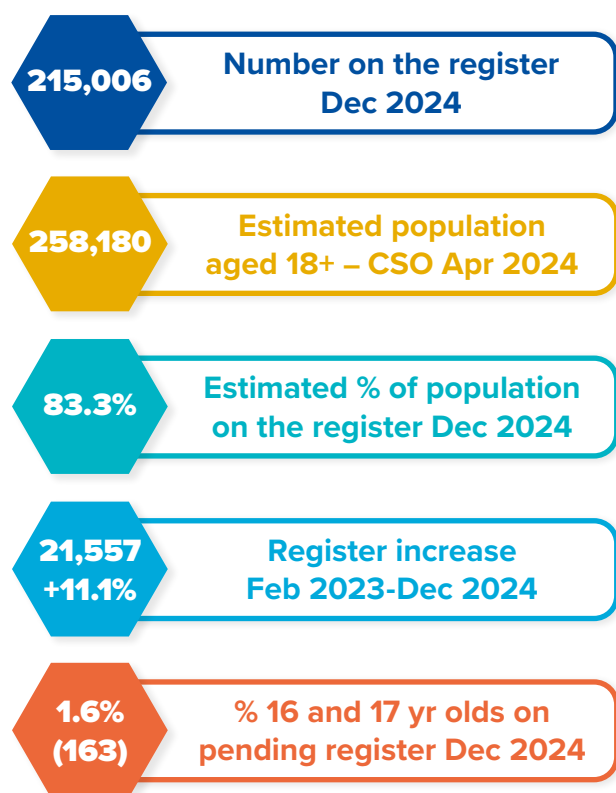
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	56.1%	58.9%	60.1%	62.5%
Eircode	96.3%	97.0%	96.7%	96.8%
DoB + Eir	55.1%	57.9%	59.2%	62.0%
PPSN	7.0%	14.3%	15.0%	26.0%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. Currently the recording of this information assists in running duplication reports across the four Dublin registers to identify duplicate entries. This can reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

The reported data, combined with an estimated registration rate of 83.3% show that Fingal County Council has been one of the more effective local authorities with regard to recording of data for each elector with the exception of its recording of dates of birth. The percentage of dates of birth is the lowest of the Dublin local authorities and in the lowest third in the country. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	134,444	62.5% [24th]	72.4%
Eircode	208,241	96.8% [8th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	132,623	62.0% [10th]	56.0%
PPSN	55,088	26.0% [5th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Joint *voter.ie* awareness campaign across the four Dublin local authorities
- ▶ Leaflet drop
- ▶ County fair/show
- ▶ Engagement with community groups
- ▶ Engagement with universities

Assessment

Accuracy

The data provided indicates that some 83.3% of the estimated Fingal eligible population are registered to vote. This is lower than the majority of other local authorities, but should be viewed in conjunction with accuracy indicators. 96.8% of electors have an assigned Eircode, well above the national average of 69.8%, while 26.0% of electors have an associated PPSN (national average of 22.0%). These results place the council in the top ten local authorities for both these accuracy indicators. The council is also in the top ten local authorities for combined dates of birth and Eircodes at 62.0%, compared to the national average of 56.0%. However, the council is below the national average of 72.4% in relation to dates of birth with 62.5% recorded.

Like other local authorities, Fingal County Council reported that duplicate and multiple applications were a significant issue in advance of electoral events. These often resulted from electors being unable to find themselves on the register, and therefore applying as new electors. The lack of accurate data on the register for each elector required that duplicate checks to be carried out manually, which was challenging given registration deadlines.

4,951 entries were removed from the register between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily deceased persons or people who had moved away. In 2024 as a whole, there were 3,976 deletions from and 13,822 updates to this register.

The fact that the four Dublin local authorities have shared a register database since 2019 reduces the risk of duplicate entries. However continued efforts should be made to increase accuracy.

Completeness

The registration rate relative to the estimated eligible population at 83.3% is lower than almost all other local authorities. While the level of completeness is still a little difficult to discern when data gaps remain on the register, it can be inferred at this point that the figure of 83.3% is one of the more accurate estimates of the rate of registration.

The Fingal County Council register increased by 21,557 between February 2023 and December 2024. This represents an increase of 11.1%.

Fingal County Council should make efforts to increase levels of completeness, and to determine the groups towards which activities to improve registration should be directed.

Resourcing

Fingal County Council reported that four full-time and one part-time staff worked on the electoral register in 2023, with an additional part-time staff member working in the area in 2024. Three more part-time staff processed applications in advance of the March referendums, and overtime was worked.

The council reported that the registration timelines for electoral events, particularly the general election, posed challenges in terms of resourcing as it was difficult to anticipate potential application levels and plan accordingly. Additional resourcing and overtime were required to manage applications.

The council should ensure that the level of resourcing is sufficient to enable the ongoing management and maintenance of the rolling register, to plan for and manage any spikes in activity, and any activities that need to be undertaken to improve accuracy and completeness.

The council estimates that an additional €256,000 was spent on maintaining the register in 2023. €334,000 was approved for 2024.

In 2023, €82,037 was made available to the council from DHLGH to improve the quality of register data. In 2024, Fingal County Council received €23,978 for this work from DHLGH.

Activities

As well as a broad campaign – “Have You Voter.ie’d?” – run in collaboration with the three other Dublin local authorities, Fingal County Council undertook a number of other activities to raise awareness of the registration process and increase registration. It had stands in Technical University Dublin and Dublin City University in 2023, which resulted in c. 1,600 registrations. It also attended five social inclusion events organised or supported by the council’s community department. These resulted in 1,512 applications to the register and updates. Fingal County Council also had stands at the Flavours of Fingal County Show (610 new applications and updated details) and at local shopping centres (1,773 new applications and updates).

In the lead up to all electoral events, Fingal County Council ran a campaign across print, social media and bus shelters encouraging people to ensure they had updated their details on the register or registered to vote. Along with posts on the council channels, the campaigns also included paid advertisements in local newspapers and paid boosts on social media platforms.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Fingal County Council reported some high levels of accuracy indicators, particularly in terms of Eircodes recorded. However, further efforts are required to address low recording of dates of birth, and to increase PPSNs. The council should also make efforts to target activities to increase registration.

Based on the information provided, An Coimisiún considers that the electoral register is generally afforded a reasonable level of prioritisation by this local authority. There have clearly been sustained and generally successful efforts to improve the quality of its register. However, further work will be required following the establishment of the LGERS national electoral register database.

Although An Coimisiún considers this to be one of the better-quality registers, except for the collection of dates of birth which need to be considerably improved, it is still not possible to estimate the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered. More improvement is required before the start of the next electoral cycle in 2029.

Both Fingal County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Galway City Overview

Chart 1: Reported Galway City electoral register numbers 2023-2024

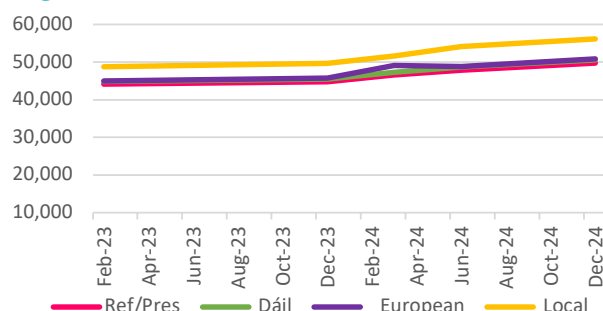


Table 1: Reported Galway City electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	48,760	49,612	51,649	54,147	56,201
Dáil	44,804	45,500	47,255	48,630	50,561
European	45,020	45,752	49,143	48,890	50,791
Ref/Pres	44,141	44,819	46,551	47,876	49,749

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Galway City Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The reported data shows that there was an overall increase of 15.3% over that period in the numbers registered to vote on the Galway City register. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register increased slightly by around 1.7%.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 3.9%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 6.9% and 9.1% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 11.1%.

Chart 2: Galway City % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

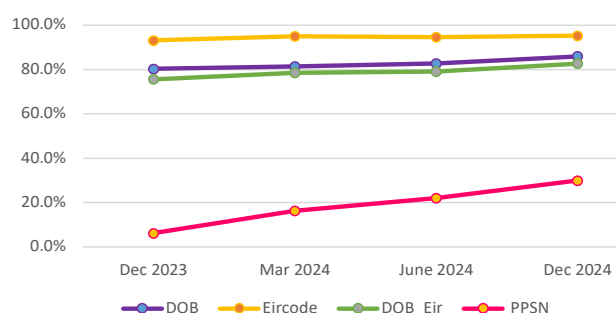


Table 2: Galway City % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	80.3%	81.4%	82.8%	86.0%
Eircode	93.1%	94.9%	94.5%	95.2%
DoB_Eir	75.6%	78.6%	79.1%	82.7%
PPSN	6.3%	16.4%	22.1%	30.0%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. The recording of these accuracy indicators supports the identification of duplicate entries, can reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

These reported accuracy indicators, coupled with an estimated 84.0% of potential eligible electors on the electoral register, suggest that Galway City Council has been one of the more effective local authorities with regard to recording of accuracy indicators for each elector. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline Data

56,201

**Number on the register
Dec 2024**

66,884

**Estimated population
aged 18+ – CSO Apr 2024**

84.0%

**Estimated % of population
on the register Dec 2024**

**7,441
+15.3%**

**Register increase
Feb 2023-Dec 2024**

**0.9%
(19)**

**% 16 and 17 yr olds on
pending register Dec 2024**

Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	48,334	86.0% [6th]	72.4%
Eircode	53,530	95.2% [9th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	46,504	82.7% [5th]	56.0%
PPSN	16,837	30.0% [2nd]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Local media and social media campaigns
- ▶ Leaflet distribution
- ▶ Community outreach, including workshops, townhalls and local events
- ▶ Collaboration with elected members to reach underrepresented populations
- ▶ Registration drives in schools and universities
- ▶ Correspondence with registered voters to update details

Assessment

Accuracy

Data provided by Galway City Council indicates that 84.0% of the estimated eligible population of the Galway City Council area are registered to vote. This is the third lowest percentage of registered electors across all local authorities. However, accuracy indicators suggest that this may be one of the more accurate of the 31 registers.

With regard to indicators of accuracy, 95.2% of electors in Galway City are reported to have an assigned Eircode (national average is 69.8%), 86.0% have an assigned date of birth (national average is 72.4%) and 82.7% both an associated date of birth and Eircode (national average is 56.0%). Some 30.0% of electors have an associated PPSN (national average is 22.0%).

The council reported that 658 entries were removed from the register between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily deceased electors and electors who had moved from the county. In 2024 as a whole, there were 4,002 deletions from and 9,440 updates to this register.

Galway City Council appears to have been successful in strengthening the accuracy of the register. These efforts should be built on, particularly to increase the PPSNs recorded. The council advised that it has made efforts to allay any concerns on the part of electors in providing their PPSN by raising awareness as to how elector information is protected.

Completeness

The Galway City register increased by 7,441 people between February 2023 and December 2024. This represented a 15.3% increase in registrations, one of the largest in the country.

The registration rate of 84.0% of the estimated eligible population indicates the potential to improve the completeness of the register.

In addition to further improving the accuracy of the register, Galway City Council appears to be well placed to engage in activities that raise awareness of the registration process among groups or geographic areas that may be less represented on the register, and indicated that it has undertaken some activities, including collaboration with local councillors.

Resourcing

Galway City Council reported that two staff worked full-time and two worked part-time in the franchise team in 2023 and 2024. In 2024, additional staff were assigned on a temporary basis to assist with clearing applications in advance of each electoral event.

In addition to temporarily assigned staff, weekend and evening overtime was required to process applications. Galway City Council noted that more training should be provided, particularly in advance of electoral events. It also highlighted the importance of ensuring that there are sufficiently trained staff who can be called upon during surges in activity.

Galway City Council should ensure that the level of resourcing is sufficient to plan for and manage any spikes in activity, and any activities that need to be undertaken to migrate to LGERS and to improve accuracy and address completeness. There should also be sufficient capacity and capability to undertake the work required to prepare register data for migration to the national shared register within the planned timeframes.

It is estimated that €149,938 was spent on the register by the council in 2023. Expenditure on register-related costs of €150,429 was approved for 2024.


Galway City Council received €41,265 in funding from DHLGH in 2023 to support register-related activities. In 2024, the council drew down €41,354 of DHLGH available funding.

Activities

Galway City Council reported to have been proactive in increasing registrations and register accuracy. In advance of the Family and Care referendums, the council used a broad-based local media campaign including local newspapers, radio and social media to encourage electors to check the register and amend their details as needed. Further activities undertaken in advance of other electoral events during 2024 included community outreach which involved workshops, townhalls and local events; collaboration with elected members to reach underrepresented populations; registration drives in schools and universities and correspondence with registered voters to encourage them to update their details on the register.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Data provided by Galway City Council suggests that its register is one of the more accurate, with high levels for all accuracy indicators. Galway City Council is well placed to further increase accuracy and to undertake targeted activities to increase its completeness rate, and has already made some efforts in this regard. It also appears that to have been successful in proactively managing and maintaining the register.



Based on the information provided, An Coimisiún considers that the electoral register is generally afforded a reasonable level of prioritisation by this local authority. There have clearly been sustained and generally successful efforts to improve the quality of its register. However, it is expected that further work will be required following the establishment of the LGERS national electoral register database.

An Coimisiún considers this to be one of the better-quality registers. Given the accuracy indicators it is possible to have a level of confidence in its reported registration rate, turnout at electoral events and be able to estimate the numbers of people who are not registered. It is likely that further improvements will come with the establishment of LGERS and continued commitment. More improvement is required before the start of the next electoral cycle in 2029.

Both Galway City Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Galway County Overview

Chart 1: Reported Galway County electoral register numbers 2023-2024

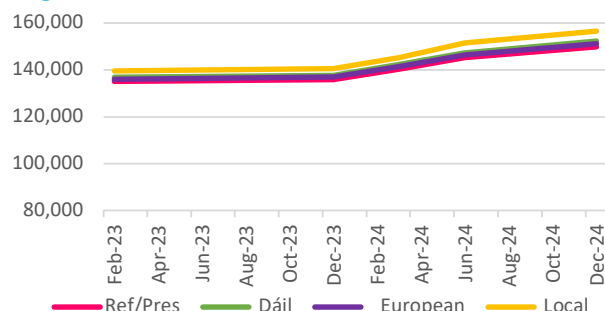


Table 1: Reported Galway County electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	139,523	140,530	145,395	151,578	156,617
Dáil	136,875	137,750	142,338	147,313	152,273
European	136,107	136,940	141,438	146,368	151,156
Ref/Pres	135,033	135,872	140,362	145,196	149,985

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Galway County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data shows that there was an overall increase of 12.3% over that period in the numbers registered to vote on the Galway County register. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register for all electoral events increased slightly, by less than 1.0%.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 3.3%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 7.9% and 6.9% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 10.5%.

Chart 2: Galway County % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

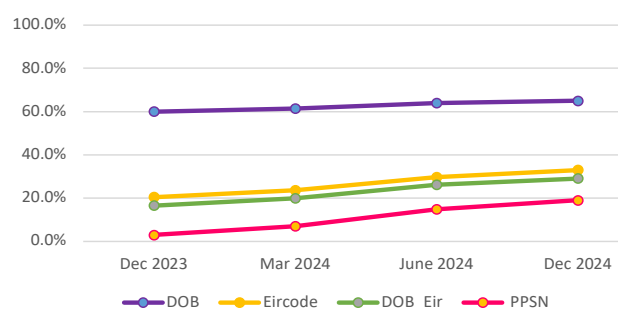


Table 2: Galway County % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

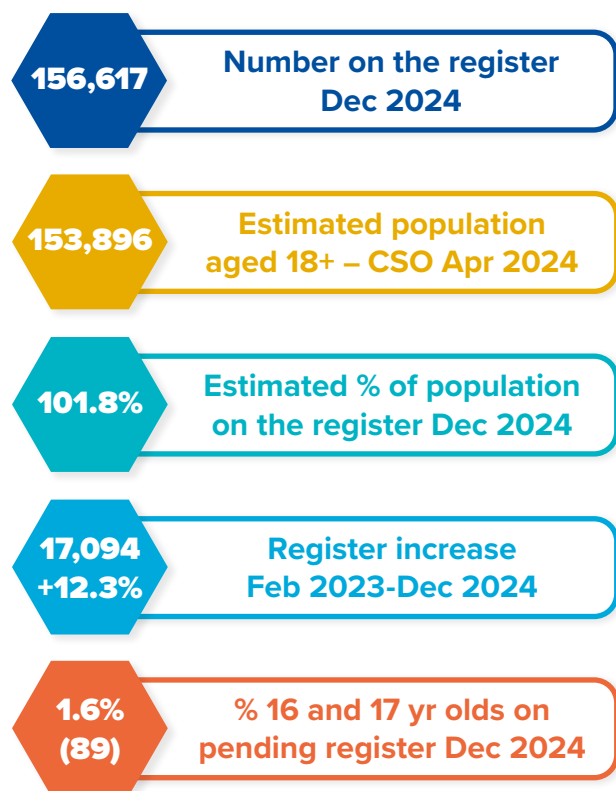
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	60.0%	61.5%	63.9%	65.0%
Eircode	20.4%	23.6%	29.6%	33.0%
DoB_Eir	16.6%	19.9%	26.1%	29.0%
PPSN	2.9%	7.0%	14.9%	19.0%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. The recording of these accuracy indicators supports the identification of duplicate entries, can reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

These reported accuracy indicators, coupled with an estimated 101.8% of potential eligible electors on the electoral register, indicates that Galway County Council has considerable work to undertake to improve the accuracy of its electoral register. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	102,541	65.0% [22nd]	72.4%
Eircode	51,377	33.0% [31st]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	46,084	29.0% [30th]	56.0%
PPSN	29,380	19.0% [26th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Leaflets sent to every household
- ▶ Local media campaign
- ▶ Social media
- ▶ Engagement with secondary schools

Assessment

Accuracy

The number of electors on the register compared with estimated eligible electors in Galway County is 101.8%. This is the sixth highest in the country and in the context of low levels of accuracy indicators appears to indicate a high level of inaccuracies on the Galway County register. The percentage of PPSNs collected at 19.0% is below the national average of 22.0%. Similarly, the percentage of dates of birth collected at 65.0% is well below the national average of 72.4%, as is the case for combined dates of birth and Eircodes at 29.0% (national average is 56.0%). The level of Eircodes collected at 33.0% is the lowest reported in the country and is less than half the national average of 69.8%.

It was reported that 3,526 entries were removed from the register between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily duplicate entries, deceased electors and people who had moved away. In 2024 as a whole, there were 6,043 deletions from and 8,499 updates to the register.

The low level of accuracy indicators and the greater number of people on the register than the potential eligible electorate highlights the need for Galway County Council to significantly increase the levels of accuracy indicators in line with the recommendations of this report.

Galway County Council reported a large number of applications for persons already registered in the run-up to electoral events. Electors can have difficulty finding their details on the *checktheregister.ie* website. This may result in them submitting an application to register to vote when an update of an existing record may be all that was required. These required scarce resources to clarify and address.

Completeness

The fact that the numbers on the register exceed the estimated eligible population is not an indicator that everyone who is entitled to vote in Galway County is on the register. The registration rate of 101.8% of estimated eligible population, one of the highest nationwide, appears to indicate considerable inaccuracies on the register.

The Galway County Council register increased by 17,094 people between February 2023 and December 2024. This was an increase of 12.3% which was one of the largest percentage increases in registrations in the country during this period. These required significant work to process and ensure that those entitled to vote were registered in time for each electoral event and the local authority is to be commended for this.

Until the levels of accuracy are significantly improved, it will not be possible to accurately assess the completeness of the Galway County electoral register.

Resourcing

Galway County Council reported that there were two full-time and one part-time staff working in the franchise unit in 2023, rising to three full-time and one part-time staff in 2024. Nine additional part-time staff were assigned to assist with processing applications in advance of the Family and Care referendums. There were over 12,000 additions, deletions and updates to the register between January 2023 and March 2024, highlighting the extent of the work which the franchise unit managed during that period.

Similarly to other local authorities, Galway County Council reported that tight registration deadlines for the general election were challenging in terms of resourcing. From the Writ date on 8 November to closing date for receipt of applications on 12 November, the franchise team received over 5,000 applications via *checktheregister.ie*, in addition to 2,000 applications received from 1 to 7 November.


It was reported that staff from outside the franchise team, previously trained for electoral events, were called in to assist in processing applications received. Overtime was arranged to ensure all valid applications received prior to the deadline were processed and to ensure all electors eligible to vote at the general election were added to the register and included on the balancing list. To expedite processing applications “Register for the First Time” applications were prioritised for processing to ensure first-time applicants were included on the register, and were filtered to identify duplicate applications.

Galway County Council should ensure that the level of resourcing assigned to the franchise unit is adequate on an ongoing basis to increase accuracy rates and to support the work required to develop the national shared register within the planned timeframes. It is also important to bear in mind the ongoing resourcing requirements of maintaining a rolling register.

Galway County Council estimated that a further €182,802 was spent on the register in 2023. Expenditure of €246,466 was approved for 2024. It received €59,233 in funding from DHLGH in 2023 to support register-related activities and drew down €59,322 in 2024.

Activities

Galway County Council deployed a number of broad-based initiatives towards the end of 2023 to increase public awareness of how to register and change their details on the register. Leaflets were issued to 63,700 households in the county, and local and social media campaigns were run. Galway County Council was also one of a number of local authorities to engage with secondary schools. It circulated posters to all secondary schools in the county to encourage registration and pre-registration for 16/17-year-olds. According to the council it was difficult to quantify the impact of these initiatives, which were run around the same timeframe as national campaigns. However, it reported that one third of all *checktheregister.ie* applications were submitted after they had been run.



Locally, the franchise team worked with members of the Oireachtas and elected members providing advice and support regarding the registration and updating of records by electors in their constituency areas. In addition, a member of staff was interviewed on local radio to provide information on registration in advance of the local and European elections.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Based on the data provided, Galway County Council's register has some distance to go before accuracy indicators reach even the current national averages, which also need to be improved. While acknowledging the substantial volume of applications processed since February 2023, this is a significant concern.

Based on information provided, An Coimisiún believes that the level of prioritisation afforded to the electoral register needs to be significantly improved by this local authority. Insufficient efforts have been made to improve the overall quality of the electoral register which may be a result of a limited level of resourcing. It is likely that after the establishment of the LGERS national electoral register database, considerable and sustained work on the quality of this register will be required.

In light of the quality of this register, based on information provided, it will not be possible to even attempt to estimate, with any degree of satisfaction, either the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered. This will only be possible when the quality of the register is significantly improved before the start of the next electoral cycle in 2029.

Both Galway County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Kerry Overview

Chart 1: Reported Kerry electoral register numbers 2023-2024

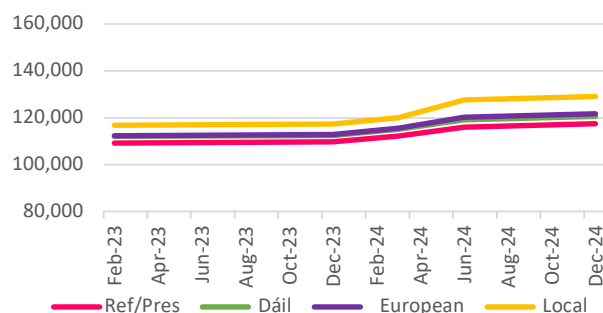


Table 1: Reported Kerry electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	116,793	117,367	120,134	127,694	129,121
Dáil	112,142	112,509	115,097	119,173	120,599
European	112,496	112,888	115,535	120,320	121,793
Ref/Pres	109,366	109,695	112,263	116,090	117,559

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Kerry County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data shows that there was an overall increase of 10.6% over that period in the numbers registered to vote on the Kerry register. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register for all electoral events were fairly stable.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 2.3%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 8.8% and 6.6% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 7.2%.

Chart 2: Kerry % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

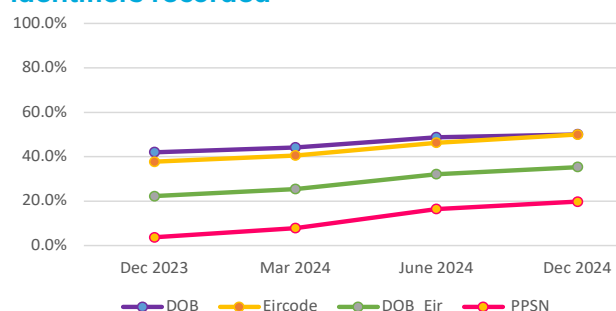


Table 2: Kerry % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

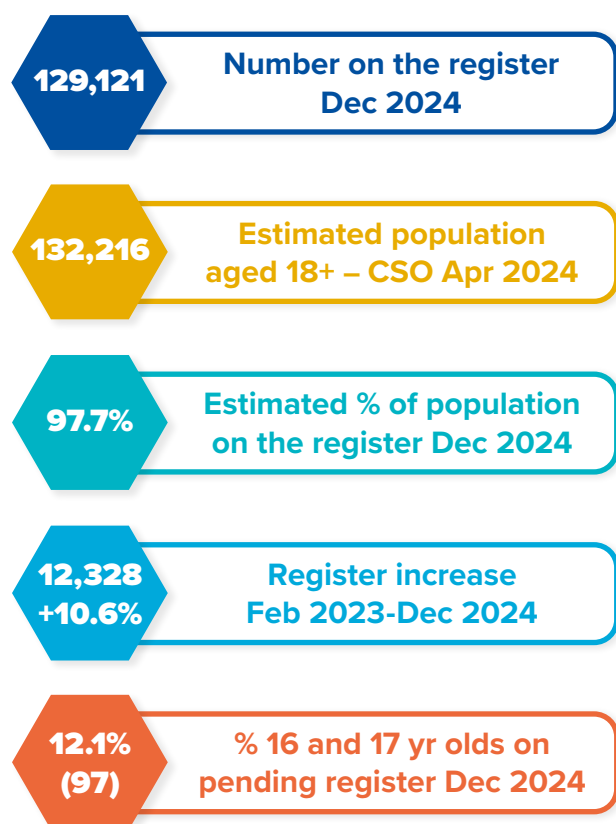
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	42.0%	44.1%	48.8%	50.0%
Eircode	37.7%	40.5%	46.3%	50.0%
DoB_Eir	22.2%	25.3%	32.1%	35.3%
PPSN	3.6%	7.8%	16.3%	19.7%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. The recording of this information supports the identification of duplicate entries, minimises the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

Based on these reported accuracy indicators coupled with an estimated 97.7% of potential eligible electors on the electoral register, Kerry County Council appears to have considerable work to do to improve the accuracy of its electoral register. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	65,235	50.0% [29th]	72.4%
Eircode	64,516	50.0% [28th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	45,604	35.3% [29th]	56.0%
PPSN	25,410	19.7% [22nd]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Targeted leafleting of new housing estates
- ▶ Local media campaign
- ▶ Social media
- ▶ Engagement with nursing homes

Assessment

Accuracy

The number of electors on the register compared with estimated eligible electors in Kerry is 97.7%. In the context of the reported low level of accuracy indicators, this appears to show a high level of inaccuracies on the Kerry register. The percentage of PPSNs collected at 19.7% is below the national average of 22.0%. In relation to Eircodes, the 50.0% collected is substantially below the national average of 69.8%. The percentage of dates of birth collected, at 50.0%, is also well below the national average of 72.4%. Combined dates of birth and Eircodes at 35.3% are also well below the national average of 56.0%. Kerry County Council ranks near the bottom of all local authorities for three of the accuracy indicators. It is the third or second lowest for dates of birth, Eircodes and combined dates of birth and Eircodes.

It was reported that 10,405 entries were removed from the register between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily duplicate entries, deceased electors and people who had moved away. In 2024 as a whole, there were 7,352 deletions from and 8,599 updates to this register. This represented a significant volume of work by the franchise team.

The low level of accuracy indicators and the estimated relatively high number of people on the register compared to the potential eligible electorate highlights the need for efforts on the part of Kerry County Council to increase the levels of accuracy indicators.

Completeness

The Kerry register increased by 12,328 people between February 2023 and December 2024. This represented an increase of 10.6%.

The fact that the number on the register is nearing the estimated eligible population is not an indicator that everyone who is entitled to vote is on the register. The registration rate of 97.7% of estimated eligible population appears to indicate that there may be considerable inaccuracies on the register.

Until the levels of accuracy are significantly improved it will not be possible to assess the completeness of the Kerry electoral register.

Resourcing

Kerry County Council reported that there were three staff working full-time in the franchise unit in 2023 and 2024, and an additional part-time member of staff was added in 2024. Nine additional staff were assigned to assist in the run-up to the Family and Care referendums.

Kerry County Council estimated that €208,000 was spent on the register in 2023. Expenditure of €200,000 was approved for 2024. The council received €9,936 in funding from DHLGH in 2023 to support register-related activities. It was reported that €53,247 was drawn down in 2024 and that this funding helped with overtime costs.

Activities

Kerry County Council undertook a number of broad-based as well as targeted activities to raise awareness of the register and increase registration. It communicated information on registration via local radio and social media. The franchise unit worked with the planning department to target new housing developments for leafleting. Where registration forms were received from a property in a new housing estate where there were no other entries on the electoral register, staff posted hard copies of registration forms to each of the houses in that estate, to ensure that all houses in that estate were captured. The council also canvassed all nursing homes in the county (25) to raise awareness of the special vote provision for residents.

Initiatives such as these can be built on to further improve the accuracy and completeness of the register over time, and to raise awareness of electoral processes across diverse groups. They can also be replicated by other local authorities.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Kerry County Council's register has some distance to go before accuracy indicators reach even current national averages, which also need to be improved. While acknowledging the substantial volume of applications processed since February 2023, this is a significant concern.

Based on the information provided, An Coimisiún does not believe that the management and maintenance of the electoral register is satisfactorily prioritised by this local authority. While there have been some efforts to improve the quality of this register, a higher level of effort needs to be made.

Given the overall quality of this register, based on information provided, it will not be possible to estimate with any degree of certainty either the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered until there is considerable improvement before the start of the next electoral cycle in 2029.

Both Kerry County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Kildare Overview

Chart 1: Reported Kildare electoral register numbers 2023-2024

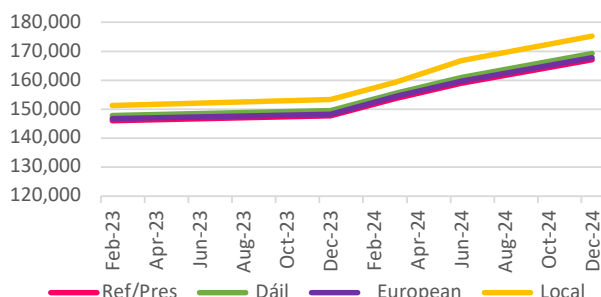


Table 1: Reported Kildare electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	151,289	153,291	159,358	166,719	175,314
Dáil	147,838	149,463	155,516	160,906	169,152
European	146,737	148,314	154,368	159,738	167,834
Ref/Pres	146,076	147,653	153,708	158,925	167,009

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Kildare County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data provided shows that there was an overall increase of 15.9% over that period in the numbers registered to vote on the Kildare register. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register increased by just over 1%.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 4.1%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 8.8% and 7.7% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 13.2%.

Chart 2: Kildare % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

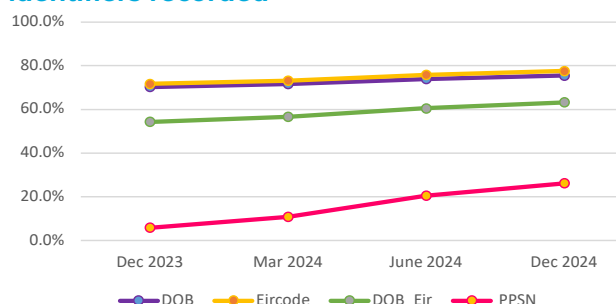


Table 2: Kildare % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

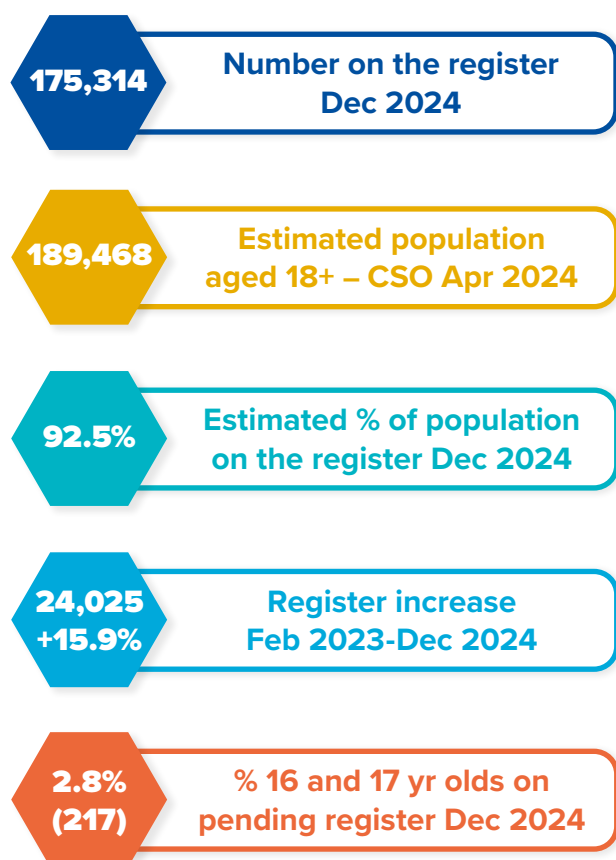
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	70.3%	71.6%	73.9%	75.5%
Eircode	71.7%	73.1%	75.8%	77.5%
DoB + Eir	54.3%	56.6%	60.5%	63.2%
PPSN	5.9%	10.9%	20.6%	26.2%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. The recording of this information can assist in minimising duplicate entries, reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

The reported data combined with an estimated registration rate of 92.5% indicates that Kildare County Council has been one of the more effective local authorities with regard to recording of data for each elector, however there is still scope for improvement in terms of the accuracy indicators. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	132,504	75.5% [12th]	72.4%
Eircode	136,095	77.5% [12th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	110,941	63.2% [9th]	56.0%
PPSN	46,068	26.2% [4th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Leaflet drop to c. 8,000 new addresses
- ▶ Engagement with secondary schools
- ▶ Outdoor advertising
- ▶ Social media
- ▶ Presentations to elected members on registration process
- ▶ Produced 'Guide to Canvassing', including information on how to register

Assessment

Accuracy

The reported data indicate that some 92.5% of the estimated Kildare electorate are registered to vote. The 92.5% coverage rate, while positive, is still likely to include duplicates and redundant records of one form or another and the national averages for accuracy indicators also need further improvement. In that context, while the work undertaken to date is certainly positive, there is still scope for further improvement.

The percentage of electors on the register with an associated date of birth is 75.5%, slightly above the national average of 72.4%. 77.5% of registered electors have an associated Eircode (national average is 69.8%). Kildare County Council has proactively worked to capture missing Eircodes by using GIS mapping and the reporting function on the register database to validate and import Eircodes. 63.2% of electors have an associated date of birth and Eircode (national average is 56.0%). 26.2% of electors have an associated PPSN (national average is 22.0%).

It was reported that 3,949 entries were removed between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily deceased electors and electors who have moved away. In 2024 as a whole, there were 4,796 deletions from and 22,031 updates to this register.

It was reported by the council that Kildare, being in the Greater Dublin Area, experiences significant movement of electors from Dublin. This can be challenging as there is currently no

shared database with the Dublin authorities. This will be improved through the development of the national shared database.

Continued efforts should be made to increase accuracy, particularly in relation to PPSNs, to improve the overall quality of the register.

Completeness

The data provided show that the register increased by 24,025 or 15.9% between February 2023 and December 2024. This was one of the highest reported percentage increases in the country.

The reported registration rate of 92.5% relative to the estimated eligible population is potentially higher than the actual rate, when duplicates and redundant entries on one form or another are considered. The level of completeness cannot be adequately assessed until the levels of accuracy indicators are further improved.

Information provided by Kildare County Council indicates that it has been proactive in reaching out to new communities. It engaged in a collaborative project with the council's building control and IT teams in 2023. Information on housing developments constructed since the 2019 election, developments under construction, and estimated occupation and Eircode assignment dates informed a targeted leaflet drop to c. 8,000 occupied new addresses.

Resourcing

Kildare County Council reported that 1.8 staff worked full-time and three staff part-time on the register in 2023, rising to 3.8 and three respectively in 2024. An additional 15 staff were assigned to work overtime on processing register applications in advance of the March referendums. For the local elections, the total of additional staff rose from 15 to 25.

The manual nature of the *checktheregister.ie* and iReg system was noted. The fact that processing times can vary across local authorities but messaging around registration is centralised can also be problematic, giving rise to electors submitting multiple applications creating further resourcing pressures.

The council noted the impact that demographics plays on maintenance of the register, advising that population growth in excess of national trends, and the relatively young populace places severe pressure on the Kildare franchise team. In 2024, the requirement to process large volumes of applications limited the team's ability to engage in in-person outreach activities.

Kildare County Council should ensure continued effective resourcing to enable the ongoing management and maintenance of the register, and that there is the capacity and capability to undertake the work required to prepare register data for migration to the national shared register. The council has advised that, as part of its workforce planning process, it is assessing future staffing needs in the context of the demographic make-up of the county.

€229,140 was spent on the register by Kildare County Council in 2023. €235,000 was approved for 2024.

Kildare County Council received an additional €68,393 in funding from DHLGH in 2023 to support register-related activities. In 2024 the council received €68,321 from DHLGH for this work.

Activities

As well as the project targeted at residents of new housing developments, outlined above, Kildare County Council undertook an outdoor advertising campaign at bus shelters around the county.

It reported engagements with two secondary schools which more than doubled the pending register between January 2023 and March 2024.

Prior to the local elections, presentations were given to elected members regarding the voter registration process. As part of the candidate nomination process the council produced and provided a 'Guide to Canvassing' to all candidates, navigated candidates through the voter registration process, addressed many public misconceptions encountered and gave access to a range of educational and awareness-building voter registration materials.

Kildare County Council carried out a significant newspaper and radio advertising campaign around the local and general elections. It also carried out extensive social media activity.

The council highlighted the potential for GIS mapping of Eircodes searchable by date. This capability to map Eircodes which are searchable by date will assist Kildare County Council to prepare targeted multi-annual planned activities to promote registration. However, it reported that any such mapping exercise would be subject to adequate resources.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Continued efforts should be made to increase the accuracy of Kildare's register across all accuracy indicators, but particularly in relation to PPSNs. Kildare County Council appears to be proactive in the management of its register and have ideas as to how accuracy and completeness can be improved. It appears to be looking strategically at how these can be accomplished through workforce planning while being cognisant of specific demographic pressures.

Based on the information provided, An Coimisiún considers that the electoral register is generally afforded a reasonable level of prioritisation by this local authority. There have clearly been sustained and generally successful efforts to improve the quality of its register. However, it is expected that further work will be required following the establishment of the LGERS national electoral register database.

Although An Coimisiún considers this to be one of the better-quality registers, it is still not possible to estimate the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered. More improvement is required before the start of the next electoral cycle in 2029.

Both Kildare County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Kilkenny Overview

Chart 1: Reported Kilkenny electoral register numbers 2023-2024

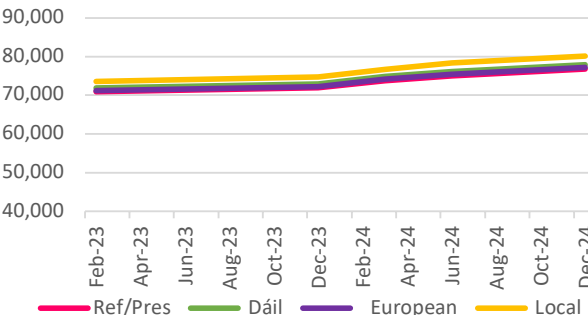


Table 1: Reported Kilkenny electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	73,516	74,678	76,712	78,382	80,201
Dáil	71,905	72,929	74,895	76,138	77,894
European	71,216	72,223	74,147	75,427	77,142
Ref/Pres	70,944	71,924	73,827	75,041	76,763

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Kilkenny County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data reported shows that there was an overall increase of 9.1% over that period in the numbers registered to vote. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register rose by around 1.6%.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 2.6%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 5.0% and 4.4% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 6.8%.

Chart 2: Kilkenny % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

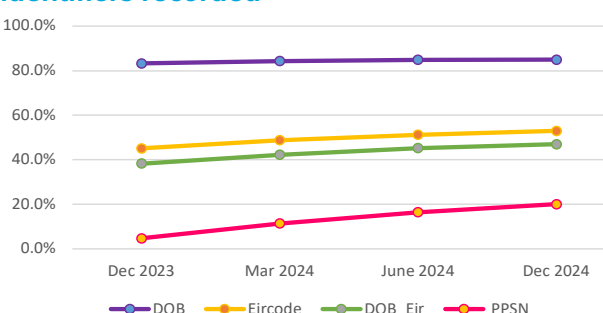


Table 2: Kilkenny % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

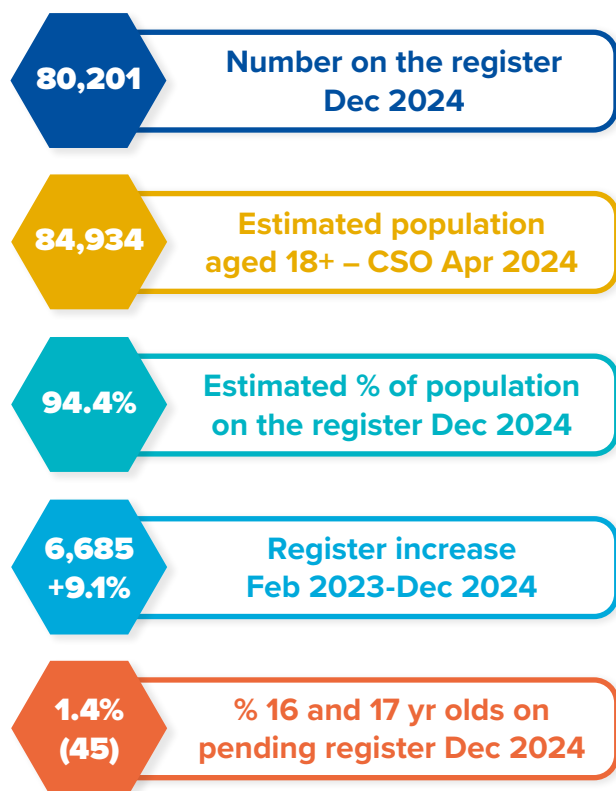
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	83.2%	84.4%	84.9%	85.0%
Eircode	45.1%	48.7%	51.2%	53.0%
DoB + Eir	38.3%	42.3%	45.2%	47.0%
PPSN	4.7%	11.4%	16.4%	20.0%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register.. The recording of this information reduces the potential for duplicate entries, can reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

The reported data, coupled with an estimated 94.4% of potential eligible electors on the electoral register, suggests that Kilkenny County Council needs to make concerted efforts to improve the overall quality of its electoral register. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	68,580	85.0% [7th]	72.4%
Eircode	42,772	53.0% [23rd]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	38,053	47.0% [18th]	56.0%
PPSN	16,254	20.0% [19th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Leaflet drop to all households
- ▶ Local media campaign
- ▶ Outdoor advertising
- ▶ Engagement with networks

Assessment

Accuracy

Based on the data provided, the number of electors on the register, at 94.4% of the estimated electorate, may be indicative inaccuracies in the Kilkenny electoral register, particularly when taken in conjunction with relatively low levels for three of the four accuracy indicators.

53.0% of Kilkenny electors have an assigned Eircode (national average is 69.8%), 85.0% have a date of birth (national average is 72.4%), and 47.0% of electors have a combined date of birth and Eircode (national average is 56.0%). Some 20.0% of electors have an associated PPSN (national average is 22.0%). Kilkenny County Council has recorded relatively low numbers of Eircodes. The council is to be commended for having achieved such a high rate of records with dates of birth. However, a focus on initiatives that will increase the number of Eircodes and PPSNs recorded will improve accuracy.

Kilkenny County Council advised of instances where electors submitted multiple applications when they could not locate themselves on *checktheregister.ie*. These were time-consuming to manage.

It was reported that between December 2022 and March 2024, 1,319 entries were removed from the register primarily due to duplicate entries, deceased electors and people who had moved away. In 2024 as a whole, there were 3,545 deletions from and 9,568 updates to this register.

The mixed level of accuracy indicators and the relatively high registration rate highlights the need for Kilkenny County Council to increase the levels of accuracy indicators to support the identification of duplicate and redundant entries.

Completeness

The electoral register in Kilkenny increased by 6,685 people between February 2023 and December 2024, an increase of over 9.0%.

The registration rate of 94.4% of the estimated eligible population is not necessarily an indicator that almost everyone who is entitled to vote is on the register, particularly when looked at in conjunction with the rates of accuracy indicators. Rather, this may be a product of the inaccuracy of the register due to duplicate and redundant entries.

The completeness of the register cannot be effectively assessed until accuracy indicators are improved.

Resourcing

Kilkenny County Council was the only local authority to report that it has no full-time or part-time staff working directly on the electoral register. There are a number of full-time staff working in the Corporate Services area, in which responsibility for the electoral register rests. Funding provided by DHLGH to support electoral register activities was used to hire a clerical officer to deal with applications. It was also reported that two additional staff were trained to process applications, and that staff worked overtime to clear backlogs.

The council noted that the introduction of online registration has transformed the management of the franchise function. While it has facilitated easier access for electors to update or add their details, the workload required to process these applications has increased substantially. Eircodes need to be validated and PPSNs checked. Where discrepancies or data mismatches occur, contact must be made with the elector, and applications cannot progress until clarification is received.

The five electoral events held in 2024 underscored these challenges, necessitating significant resources, including overtime and the assignment of additional staff to process applications. In addition to online applications, paper forms continued to be submitted by the public and adjoining local authorities.

To meet this demand, all Corporate staff were reassigned from their regular duties to process applications. The same staff worked overtime from January to the end of May to process register applications and changes.

Kilkenny County Council spent €37,700 maintaining the register in 2023. €80,100 was approved for 2024. In 2023, DHLGH provided €44,612 to the council to improve register data quality. In 2024, the same amount was also provided by DHLGH to the council for this work, €44,612.

Activities

Kilkenny County Council undertook a number of broad-based activities during 2023 to raise awareness of the register and the registration process. These included a local media campaign, advertisements on bus shelters and distribution of 26,900 information leaflets to all households. The combined impact of these activities was reported as 4,064 additions, 1,080 deletions and 6,494 modifications. The bus shelter campaign was reported by the council as leading to the most additions (2,911), deletions (871) and modifications (4,554).

The council reported that between June and December 2024, it linked with various groups, including the Public Participation Network (PPN) and Age Friendly Ireland, to promote registration and updating of details.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Kilkenny County Council's electoral register has some distance to go before accuracy indicators reach even current national averages, which also need to be improved. While acknowledging the substantial volume of applications processed since February 2023, and the considerable pressures that staff were under to manage and maintain the register throughout 2024 with limited resources, this is a significant concern.

Based on the information provided, An Coimisiún does not believe that the management and maintenance of the electoral register is satisfactorily prioritised by this local authority. While there have been some efforts to improve the quality of this register, a higher level of effort needs to be made.

Given the overall quality of this register, based on information provided, it will not possible to estimate with any degree of certainty either the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered until there is considerable improvement before the start of the next electoral cycle in 2029.

Both Kilkenny County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Laois Overview

Chart 1: Reported Laois electoral register numbers 2023-2024

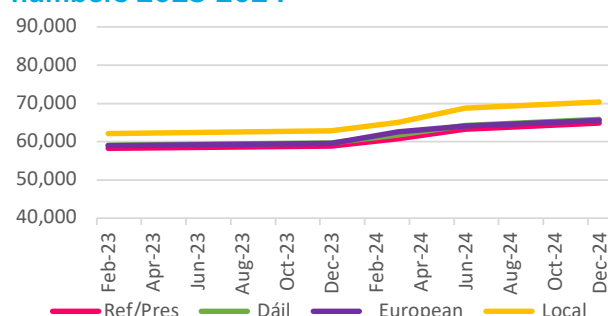


Table 1: Reported Laois electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	62,087	62,779	65,022	68,772	70,402
Dáil	59,087	59,674	61,763	64,280	65,847
European	58,939	59,505	62,548	64,049	65,584
Ref/Pres	58,207	58,784	60,836	63,284	64,816

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Laois County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data reported shows that there was an overall increase of 13.4% over that period in the numbers registered to vote. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register increased by 1.1%.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 3.5%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 9.5% and 7.6% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 10.3%.

Chart 2: Laois % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

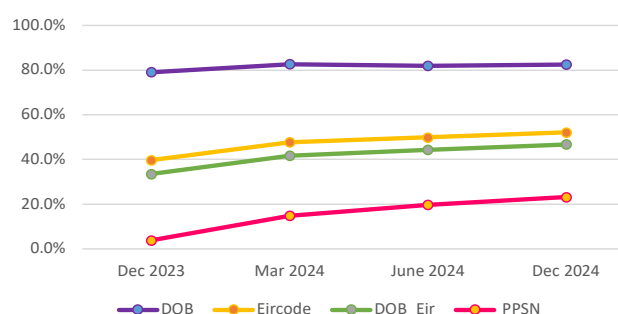


Table 2: Laois % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

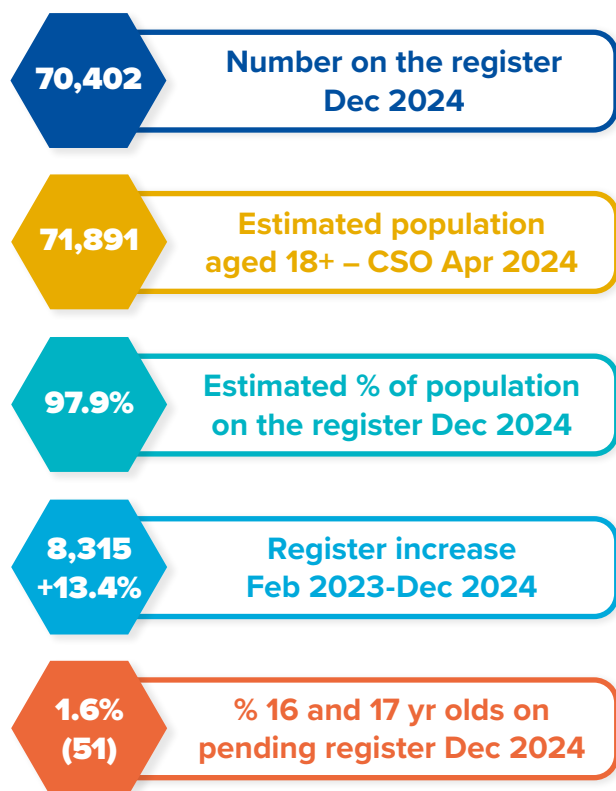
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	79.1%	82.6%	81.9%	82.5%
Eircode	39.7%	47.7%	49.9%	52.1%
DoB + Eir	33.5%	41.8%	44.4%	46.8%
PPSN	3.8%	14.8%	19.7%	23.2%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. The recording of this information can assist in minimising duplicate entries, reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

The reported data, which includes a mixed level of coverage of key variables such as date of birth, PPSN and Eircode, coupled with an estimated 97.9% of potential eligible electors on the electoral register, indicates that Laois County Council has considerable work to do to improve the overall quality of its electoral register. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	58,183	82.5% [8th]	72.4%
Eircode	36,774	52.1% [26th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	33,034	46.8% [19th]	56.0%
PPSN	16,368	23.2% [11th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Local media campaign
- ▶ Correspondence seeking register data
- ▶ Library event
- ▶ Attendance at National Ploughing Championships

Assessment

Accuracy

Based on the data provided, the number of electors on the register compared with estimated eligible electors in Laois is 97.9%. In the context of a mixed level of accuracy indicators this indicates a relatively high level of inaccuracies on the Laois register. The percentage of PPSNs collected at 23.2% is above the national average of 22.0%. The percentage of dates of birth collected at 82.5% is substantially above the national average of 72.4%. However, Eircodes collected at 52.1% is noticeably lower than the national average of 69.8%. Combined dates of birth and Eircodes collected at 46.8% stands well below the national average of 56.0%. It should be noted that all national averages need considerable improvement.

It was reported that 3,808 entries were removed from the register between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily duplicate entries, deceased electors and people who had moved away. In 2024 as a whole, there were 6,132 deletions from and 1,740 updates to this register.

The mixed level of accuracy indicators and the relatively high apparent registration rate on the register highlights the need for efforts on the part of Laois County Council to increase the levels of accuracy indicators to support the identification of duplicate and redundant entries.

Laois County Council franchise team reported a significant number of applications being received at the last minute before the register closed for an electoral event. Some were duplicates of applications already submitted and awaiting processing.

The closing date for receipt of applications for the general election was 12 November. Between 1 and 12 November the daily number of applications received ranged from 27 (1 Nov) to 631 (12 Nov). Over the 12 days, 2,549 applications were received that had to be processed in time for the Balancing List to be published ahead of the election. On the 13 November, the council had approximately 1,829 applications to process for inclusion on the Balancing List. The Balancing Lists were supplied to the County Registrar on the 20 November 2024. This illustrates how tight timelines were with little or no capacity to manage issues arising.

The council noted that it may not be possible to assign staff from other areas due to work priorities while closer to polling day staff may be less effective due to tiredness.

Laois County Council reported that duplicate entries were a significant issue that required significant resources. Each of these applications had to be processed in the same way as any other submitted.

Completeness

The Laois register increased by 8,315 people between February 2023 and December 2024. This represents an increase of 13.4%.

The fact that the numbers on the register are nearing the estimated eligible population is not an indicator that everyone who is entitled to vote is on the register. The registration rate of 97.9% of estimated eligible population, when viewed in the context of a need to improve the levels of accuracy indicators collected, appears to indicate considerable inaccuracies on the register.

Until the levels of accuracy are significantly improved it will not be possible to assess the completeness of the Laois electoral register.

Resourcing

Laois County Council reported that there was one staff member working full-time and 8.4 part-time on the electoral register in 2023. This rose to three full-time and 8.4 part-time staff in 2024. A further three staff were assigned part-time to assist with register work leading up to the March referendums. This appears to be one of the relatively higher levels of staffing. However, the council noted the challenges of having an adequate level of trained staff to work on processing applications, changes and the capacity to undertake data cleansing. The council also noted that the franchise function is now part of daily duties rather than an issue which arises in advance of an electoral event.

Laois County Council estimated that €61,000 was spent on the register in 2023. Expenditure of €98,000 was approved for 2024. The council received €42,625 in funding from DHLGH in 2023 to support register-related activities. In 2024, DHLGH provided €42,586 to the council for this work.

Activities

Laois County Council undertook a number of broad-based as well as targeted activities to raise awareness of the register and the registration process. It wrote to over 2,200 electors in three Municipal Districts requesting updated details. It ran a local media campaign in newspapers and on radio. It also held events in eight local libraries and attended the National Ploughing Championships to engage directly with electors. Register staff engaged with electors through participation in Age Friendly and Live Well events, and inclusion of information on the register in the monthly Age Friendly Ireland newsletter. The impact of these activities was not quantified. The council reported that it was not able to undertake any activities to promote registration in advance of the 2024 local, European or general elections as its main focus was on processing applications.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Laois County Council's register has made some good progress with regard to dates of birth and PPSNs while there is some distance to go before Eircodes reach the current national averages, which also need to be improved. While acknowledging the substantial volume of applications processed since February 2023, this is a significant concern.

Based on the information provided, An Coimisiún does not believe that the management and maintenance of the electoral register is satisfactorily prioritised by this local authority. While there have been some efforts to improve the quality of this register, a higher level of effort needs to be made.

Given the overall quality of this register, based on information provided, it will not possible to estimate with any degree of certainty either the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered until there is considerable improvement before the start of the next electoral cycle in 2029.

Both Laois County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Leitrim Overview

Chart 1: Reported Leitrim electoral register numbers 2023-2024

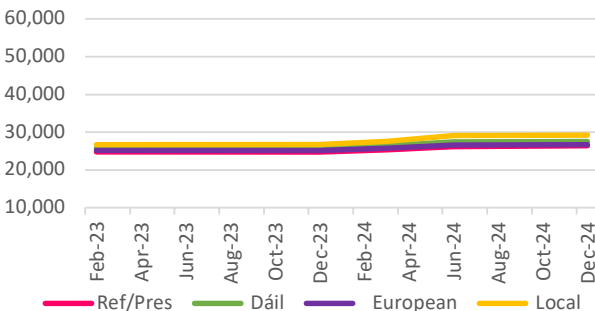


Table 1: Reported Leitrim electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	26,692	26,747	27,521	29,036	29,167
Dáil	25,796	25,811	26,492	27,398	27,566
European	25,123	25,111	25,756	26,575	26,736
Ref/Pres	24,762	24,754	25,394	26,182	26,350

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Leitrim County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data provided shows that there was an overall increase of 9.3% over that period in the numbers registered to vote on the Leitrim register. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register for all electoral events were relatively stable.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 2.6%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 8.6% and 5.8% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 6.8%.

Chart 2: Leitrim % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

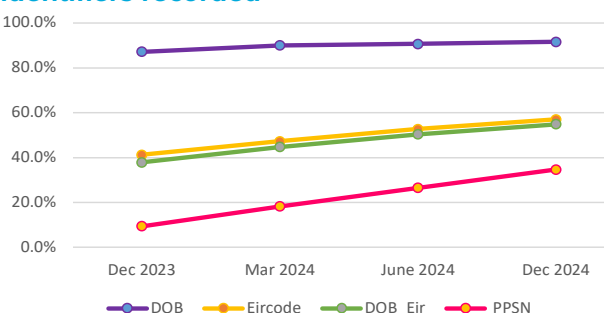


Table 2: Leitrim % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

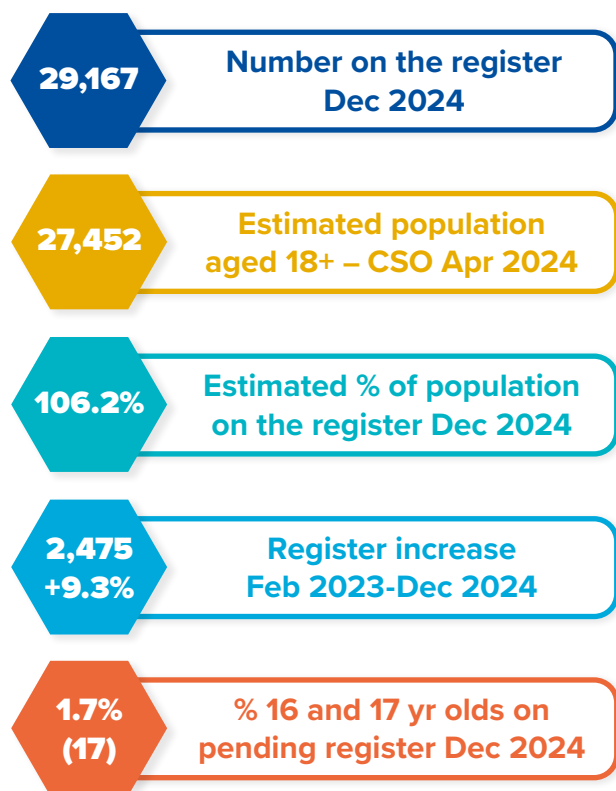
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	87.3%	90.1%	90.8%	91.7%
Eircode	41.2%	47.3%	52.7%	57.0%
DoB + Eir	37.9%	44.8%	50.4%	54.9%
PPSN	9.3%	18.3%	26.6%	34.7%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. The recording of this information can assist in minimising duplicate entries, reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

The reported data, coupled with an estimated 106.2% of potential eligible electors on the electoral register, indicates that Leitrim County Council appears to have considerable work to do to improve the overall quality of its electoral register. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	26,762	91.7% [4th]	72.4%
Eircode	16,645	57.0% [19th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	16,012	54.9% [14th]	56.0%
PPSN	10,117	34.7% [1st]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Leaflet drop to every house in the county
- ▶ Targeted correspondence with 4,500 electors with no dates of birth on register
- ▶ Social media posts
- ▶ Attendance at two community fairs

Assessment

Accuracy

The data provided shows that the number of electors on the register compared with estimated eligible electors in Leitrim, at 106.2%, is the third highest in the country. This suggests a high level of inaccuracies on the Leitrim register, particularly in the context of a mixed level of accuracy indicators. The percentage of PPSNs collected at 34.7% is the highest in the country and is well over the national average of 22.0%. This is a notable achievement. The percentage of dates of birth collected at 91.7% is the fourth highest in the country, substantially exceeding the national average of 72.4%. Eircodes collected, however, at 57.0% is noticeably lower than the national average of 69.8%. Combined dates of birth and Eircodes collected at 54.9% is just under the national average of 56.0%. It should be noted that all national averages need to increase.

It was reported that 1,600 entries were removed from the register between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily duplicate entries, deceased electors and people who had moved away. In 2024 as a whole, there were 1,729 deletions from and 7,734 updates to this register.

The mixed level of accuracy indicators and the significantly greater number of people on the register than the potential eligible electorate highlights the need for efforts on the part of Leitrim County Council to increase the levels of accuracy indicators.

Leitrim County Council reported that a significant number of people registered for the referendums and general election after the registers had closed, which may have resulted from national registration campaigns. This was experienced to a much lesser extent before the local and European elections.

It was reported that duplicate applications are an ongoing occurrence on *checktheregister.ie*. Staff consider that people are not correctly updating their details or are unsure if they are registered and are registering again. Before an entry is added to the register a search is carried out for a person's name (including in the case of 'new registrations').

Completeness

Based on the data provided, the Leitrim register increased by 2,475 people between February 2023 and December 2024. This represents an increase of 9.3%.

The fact that the numbers on the register exceed the estimated eligible population is not an indicator that everyone who is entitled to vote is on the register. The registration rate of 106.2% of estimated eligible population, the third highest nationwide, appears to indicate that there are considerable inaccuracies on the register.

The council report that returning to Leitrim to vote is popular and may in part account for the very high percentage of registration of the estimated eligible population. However, until the levels of accuracy are further improved it will not be possible to assess the completeness of the Leitrim electoral register.

Resourcing

It was reported that there were just 0.75 full-time staff, and two part-time staff working in the franchise unit in 2023 and 2024. This appears to be a low number to manage and maintain the register and prepare for electoral events. This may also impact the capacity of the council to manage the preparatory work required for the LGERS project.

Leitrim County Council estimated that €33,240 was spent on the register in 2023. Expenditure of €130,000 was approved for 2024. The council received €33,000 in funding from DHLGH in 2023 to support register-related activities. The council received €33,230 for this work in 2024.

Activities

Leitrim County Council undertook activities including a leaflet drop to all households in the county. It was reported that this resulted in around 600 updates to the register. It also corresponded with 4,500 registered electors whose date of birth were not held. It was reported that roughly 1,500 responses were received, resulting in an increase in dates of birth records and other details, and the removal of 400 entries from the register.

The council used social media to raise awareness across the general population about registration, and changes to the registration process. Staff attended two community fair events.

The council reported that during the second half of 2024, it promoted registration and updating the register through its social media channels and at public counters in council offices.

In addition, it reported it was in the process of writing to all electors for whom it holds incomplete data – i.e. missing Eircode, date of birth, PPSN. It provides a copy of the registration form and people can reply by Freepost or use *checktheregister.ie*. A response rate of around 25.0% was reported.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Leitrim County Council's register has some distance to go before all four accuracy indicators reach the current national averages, which also need to be improved. While acknowledging the substantial volume of applications processed since February 2023, this is a significant concern.

However, the very high PPSN rate is very notable and illustrates what can be done, even by a local authority with limited resources.

Based on information provided, An Coimisiún believes that the level of prioritisation afforded to the electoral register needs to be improved by this local authority. Insufficient efforts have been made to improve the overall quality of the electoral register which may be a result of a limited level of resourcing. It is likely that after the establishment of the LGERS national electoral register database sustained work on the quality of this register will be required.

In light of the quality of this register, based on information provided, it will not be possible to even attempt to estimate, with any degree of satisfaction, either the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered. This will only be possible when the quality of the register is significantly improved before the start of the next electoral cycle in 2029.

Both Leitrim County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Limerick City and County Overview

Chart 1: Reported Limerick electoral register numbers 2023-2024

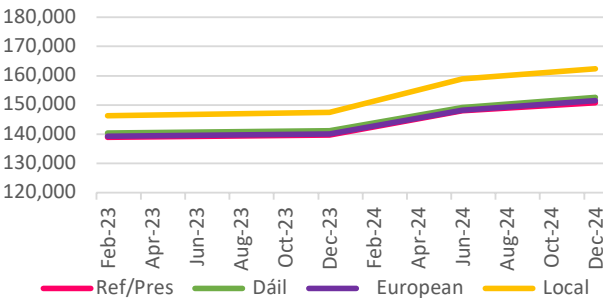


Table 1: Reported Limerick electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	146,278	147,433	NP	158,821	162,431
Dáil	140,488	141,166	NP	149,136	152,566
European	139,358	140,027	NP	148,114	151,531
Ref/Pres	138,994	139,644	NP	147,934	150,757

***Not Provided (NP)** Limerick City and County Council could not provide electorate data for March 2024.

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Limerick City and County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data provided shows that there was an overall increase of 11.0% over that period in the numbers registered to vote on the Limerick register. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register were relatively stable, increasing by less than 1.0%.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 2.1%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 7.7% and 5.8% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 8.1%.

Chart 2: Limerick % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

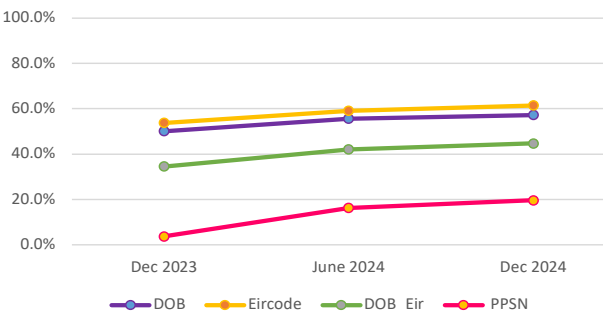


Table 2: Limerick % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	50.1%	NP	55.6%	57.2%
Eircode	53.8%	NP	59.0%	61.4%
DoB + Eir	34.6%	NP	42.1%	44.7%
PPSN	3.8%	NP	16.3%	19.6%

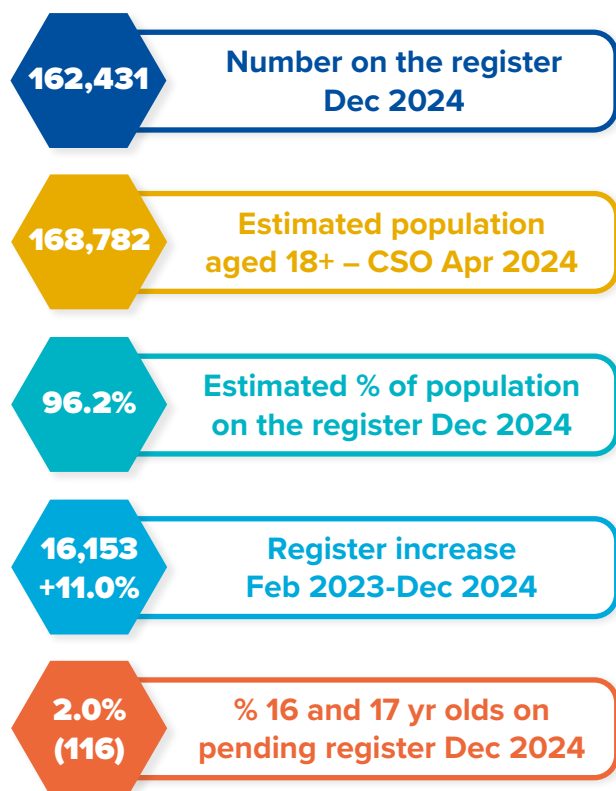
***Not Provided (NP)** Limerick City and County Council could not provide electorate data for March 2024.

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. The recording of this information can assist in minimising duplicate entries, reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

The reported data, which includes low level of coverage of key variables such as date of birth, PPSN and Eircode, coupled with an estimated 96.2% of potential eligible electors on the electoral register, indicates that Limerick City and County Council needs to make significant efforts to increase the overall quality of its electoral register. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	92,943	57.2% [28th]	72.4%
Eircode	99,783	61.4% [16th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	72,677	44.7% [23rd]	56.0%
PPSN	31,861	19.6% [23rd]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Attendance at Limerick Show
- ▶ Engagement with community groups
- ▶ Correspondence seeking register data

Assessment

Accuracy

The data provided appears to indicate that 96.2% of the estimated eligible population of Limerick City and County are registered to vote. However, given the relatively low levels of accuracy indicators it is likely that this figure is inflated due to duplicate and redundant entries on the register.

Limerick City and County Council has below average accuracy indicators across all headings. 61.4% of electors have an assigned Eircode (national average is 69.8%), 57.2% have a date of birth (national average is 72.4%), and 44.7% of electors have a combined date of birth and Eircode (national average is 56.0%). Some 19.6% of electors have an associated PPSN (national average is 22.0%).

Regarding accuracy, Limerick City and County Council noted that the Department of Social Protection PPSN checking system that is linked to *checktheregister.ie* does not automatically update when an elector's citizenship status changes, e.g. when they become Irish citizens. This gives rise to an additional administrative burden when electors apply as Irish citizens, but this does not align with their PPSN record, and requires further engagement with the applicant. This was reported by a number of local authorities.

Limerick City and County Council advised that duplicate and multiple applications created difficulties in advance of electoral events. This is also referenced in the section on resourcing below. It was noted that each application from *checktheregister.ie* must be reviewed – it cannot be assumed that multiple applications are all the same and only deal with the latest one.

It was reported that 4,244 entries were removed between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily deceased electors and electors who had moved away. In 2024 as a whole, there were 5,490 deletions from and 14,254 updates to this register.

The low level of accuracy indicators and the apparently high registration rate relative to the estimated eligible electorate highlights the need for sustained efforts on the part of Limerick City and County Council to increase the levels of data collected across all headings to improve the quality of the register.

Completeness

The Limerick City and County register increased by 16,153 between February 2023 and December 2024. This was an increase of 11.0%

The high registration rate relative to the estimated eligible population, at 96.2%, is not necessarily an accurate indication of registration rates, as it is likely to be a product of inaccuracies on the register due to duplicate and redundant entries.

It is not possible to estimate the level of completeness of the Limerick City and County electoral register with the current levels of accuracy indicators.

Resourcing

Limerick City and County Council reported two full-time staff working on the register in 2023, increasing to four in early 2024. It should be noted that, with the first directly elected mayor election in June, staff had to prepare for six electoral events in 2024. Staff working on the register also have responsibility for a range of other corporate functions. An additional seven staff were assigned to the register team to assist with processing applications in advance of the March referendums, and overtime was used to manage additional work.

The council reported that there is always a significant surge in applications to register in the 48 hours before an electoral event. This is compounded by the fact that polling cards issue to electors on the rolling register in the first instance, and then to electors who applied later and who are on the Balancing List. Electors who do not receive their polling information card in the initial run can sometimes assume that they are not registered and then re-apply.

The challenges caused by surges in applications are exacerbated by increases in queries and correspondence. In advance of the local, European and general elections, additional staff from other departments were brought in to assist with processing applications and responding to queries. The training of these staff presented a challenge.

It is estimated that Limerick City and County Council spent €73,060 on the register in 2023 and approved €68,935 expenditure on the electoral register for 2024. The council did not draw down DHLGH available funding in 2023 to support register-related activities. In 2024, DHLGH provided €62,009 to the council for this work.

Limerick City and County Council should ensure that the level of resourcing is sufficient for the ongoing management and maintenance of the rolling register, and that there is the capacity and capability to undertake the work required to prepare register data for migration to the national shared register.

Activities

Limerick City and County Council undertook activities during 2023-24 to raise awareness of electoral registration processes. It attended the Limerick Show. Information was not provided on the specific impacts of these events. The council advised that it was not possible to undertake additional activities in 2024 given the work associated with managing the register.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Limerick City and County Council's register has some distance to go before all four accuracy indicators reach even the current national averages, which also have considerable scope for improvement. While acknowledging the resourcing pressures of managing and maintaining the register during a year with five electoral events, this is a cause for concern.

Based on the information provided, An Coimisiún does not believe that the management and maintenance of the electoral register is satisfactorily prioritised by this local authority. While there have been some efforts to improve the quality of this register, a higher level of effort needs to be made.

Given the overall quality of this register, based on information provided, it will not possible to estimate with any degree of certainty either the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered until there is considerable improvement before the start of the next electoral cycle in 2029.

Both Limerick City and County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Longford Overview

Chart 1: Reported Longford electoral register numbers 2023-2024

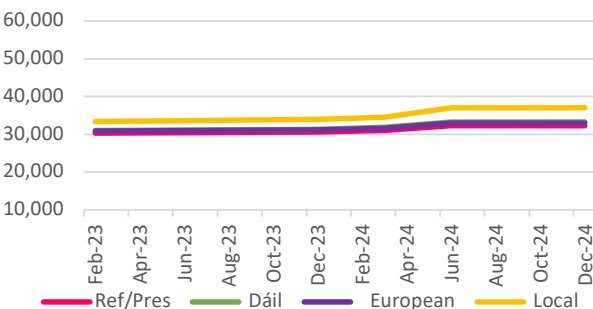


Table 1: Reported Longford electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	33,302	33,896	34,505	37,033	37,022
Dáil	31,053	31,363	31,874	33,205	33,199
European	30,827	31,108	31,639	32,943	32,989
Ref/Pres	30,261	30,549	31,041	32,278	32,303

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Longford County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data provided shows that there was an overall increase of 11.2% over that period in the numbers registered to vote on the Longford register. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register for all electoral events increased by 1.8%.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 1.6%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 9.3% and 5.9% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 5.9%.

Chart 2: Longford % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

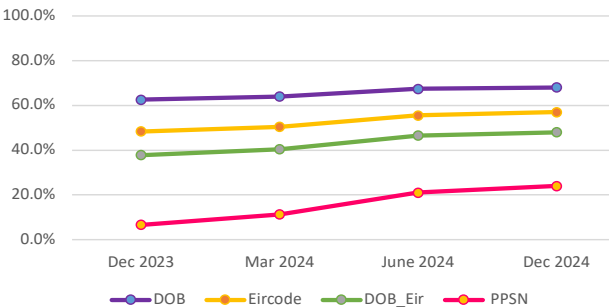


Table 2: Longford % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

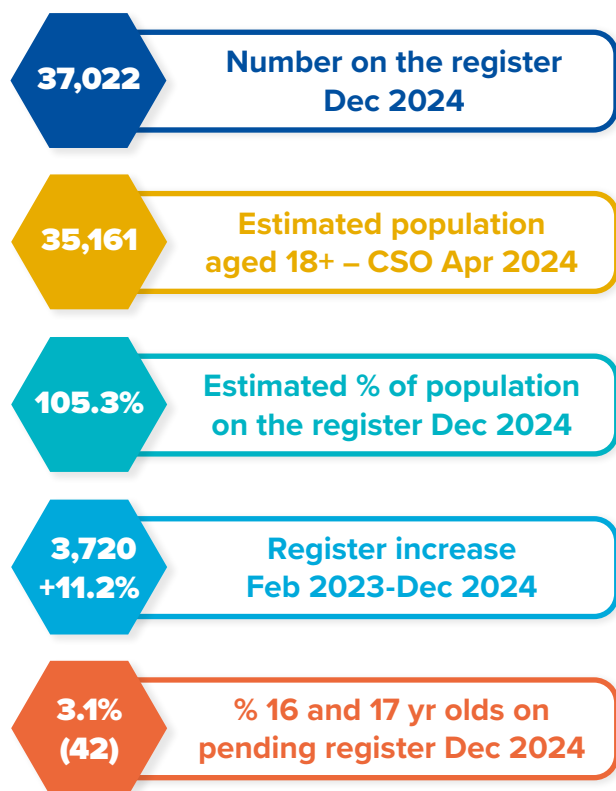
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	62.5%	63.9%	67.4%	68.0%
Eircode	48.4%	50.5%	55.5%	57.0%
DoB + Eir	37.8%	40.4%	46.5%	48.0%
PPSN	6.7%	11.3%	21.1%	24.0%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. Currently, the recording of this information assists in reducing duplicate entries, minimises the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

The reported data, which includes low level of coverage of key variables such as date of birth, PPSN and Eircode, coupled with an estimated 105.3% of potential eligible electors on the electoral register, indicates that Longford County Council has considerable work to do to improve the overall quality of its electoral register. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	25,359	68.0% [20th]	72.4%
Eircode	21,121	57.0% [20th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	17,880	48.0% [17th]	56.0%
PPSN	8,732	24.0% [9th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Engagement with secondary schools
- ▶ Engagement with nursing homes
- ▶ Engagement with community groups

Assessment

Accuracy

Based on the data provided, the number of electors on the register compared with estimated eligible electors in Longford, at 105.3%, is the fourth highest in the country. In the context of low coverage levels for the accuracy indicators, this indicates a high level of inaccuracies on the Longford register. The percentage of PPSNs collected at 24.0% is higher the national average of 22.0%, however it should be noted that this national average needs significant improvement. In relation to Eircodes, the 57.0% collected is noticeably below the national average of 69.8%. The percentage of dates of birth collected at 68.0% is also below the national average of 72.4%. Combined dates of birth and Eircodes collected at 48.0% are also below the national average of 56.0%.

It was reported that an estimated 856 entries were removed from the register between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily duplicate entries, deceased electors and people who had moved away. In 2024 as a whole, there were 2,039 deletions from and 4,121 updates to this register.

The relatively low level of three accuracy indicators and the high number of people on the register compared to the potential eligible electorate highlights the need for efforts on the part of Longford County Council to increase the levels of accuracy indicators.

Council staff reported many duplicates where people had registered earlier in the year and re-registered with the exact same details. Staff understood, from speaking to electors, that this happened because they could not locate themselves on *checktheregister.ie*. According to the

council every application was carefully checked against the previous registration to ensure any update to the existing registration was made and likewise to ensure duplicate registrations were avoided.

Franchise staff reported a large volume of online applications with incomplete postal addresses and/or Eircodes which added a significant workload in the processing of applications. This was further impacted by the expiration of the Eircode API, which meant that there was no integrated Eircode check within the registration system.

Completeness

The total number of entries on the Longford register increased by 3,720 between February 2023 and December 2024. That is an increase of 11.2%.

The fact that the numbers on the register exceed the estimated eligible population is not an indicator that everyone who is entitled to vote is on the register. The registration rate of 105.3% of estimated eligible population, the fourth highest nationwide, appears to indicate that there are considerable inaccuracies on the register.

Until the levels of accuracy indicators are significantly improved, it will not be possible to assess the completeness of the Longford electoral register.

Resourcing

Longford County Council reported that there were two staff working full-time in the franchise unit, with a further six working part-time in 2023 and 2024. For a local authority of its population size, it appears to be one of the better resourced.

Longford County Council reported that the volume of applications received within a short timeframe in advance of electoral events meant that it was difficult to process all applications. This was ameliorated by working overtime and by leaving non-urgent work to the side while applications were processed. The tight turnaround times/cut-off for applications, in particular in the run up to the general election, meant that a lot of applications were received after cut-off and could not be processed. The large volume of applications that required follow-up queries, emails, phone calls, slowed down the processing. Longford County Council reported that it processed all applications that were received by the cut-off date.

The council estimated that €84,966 was spent on the register in 2023. Expenditure of €91,962 was approved for 2024. Longford County Council received €35,156 in funding from DHLGH in 2023 to support register-related activities. In 2024, the council drew down €35,137 of available DHLGH funding.

Activities

Longford County Council reported that it undertook a number of targeted activities during 2023 to raise awareness of the register and registration process. The council held a *checktheregister.ie* demonstration and information session at all secondary schools in the county. It held information sessions on registration and special/postal voting in nursing homes and for Active Age groups. The council attended a range of local events including the Longford Agricultural Show, Services to Unemployed Day, Longford Pride Family Fun Day and Migrant and Ukrainian Response Group meetings. It reported that each of these activities resulted in 30-80 registrations and increased awareness of the registration process and individual responsibility in ensuring that register details are up-to-date. Following the referendums, correspondence was issued to individuals whose polling cards were returned undelivered, which resulted in a reported c. 200 amendments.

The council reported that in the second half of 2024 staff undertook the following activities:

- An Post mail drop to every household in the county
- Pop-up stand in the Post Office to encourage electors to vote
- Several advertising campaigns on social media advising electors to update details

Overall assessment and recommendations

Longford County Council's register has some distance to go before three of the four accuracy indicators reach the national averages, which also need to be improved. While acknowledging the substantial volume of applications processed since February 2023, this is a significant concern.

Based on information provided, An Coimisiún recommends that the level of prioritisation afforded to the electoral register needs to be significantly improved by this local authority. Insufficient efforts have been made to improve the overall quality of the electoral register which may be a result of a limited level of resourcing. It is likely that after the establishment of the LGERS national electoral register database, considerable and sustained work on the quality of this register will be required.

In light of the quality of this register, based on information provided, it will not be possible to even attempt to estimate, with any degree of satisfaction, either the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered. This will only be possible when the quality of the register is significantly improved before the start of the next electoral cycle in 2029.

Both Longford County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Louth Overview

Chart 1: Reported Louth electoral register numbers 2023-2024

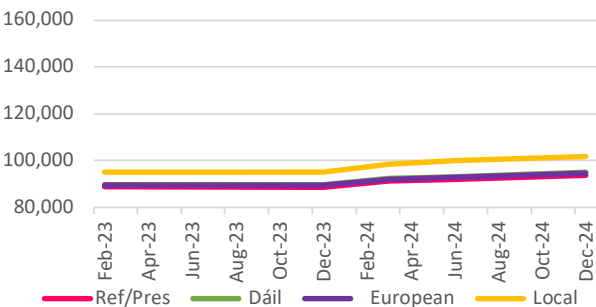


Table 1: Reported Louth electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	95,056	95,097	98,347	99,897	101,777
Dáil	89,753	89,627	92,335	93,055	94,874
European	89,436	89,288	91,980	92,724	94,482
Ref/Pres	88,754	88,600	91,255	91,942	93,712

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Louth County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data shows that there was an overall increase of 7.1% over that period in the numbers registered to vote on the Louth register. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the local register were relatively stable. These declines were attributable mainly to low numbers of new registrations and deletions of redundant or duplicate entries.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 3.0%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 5.0% and 3.8% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 5.9%.

Chart 2: Louth % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

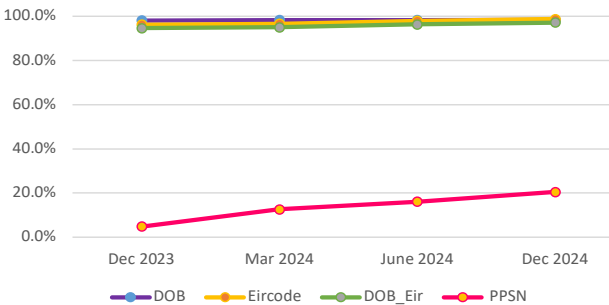


Table 2: Louth % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

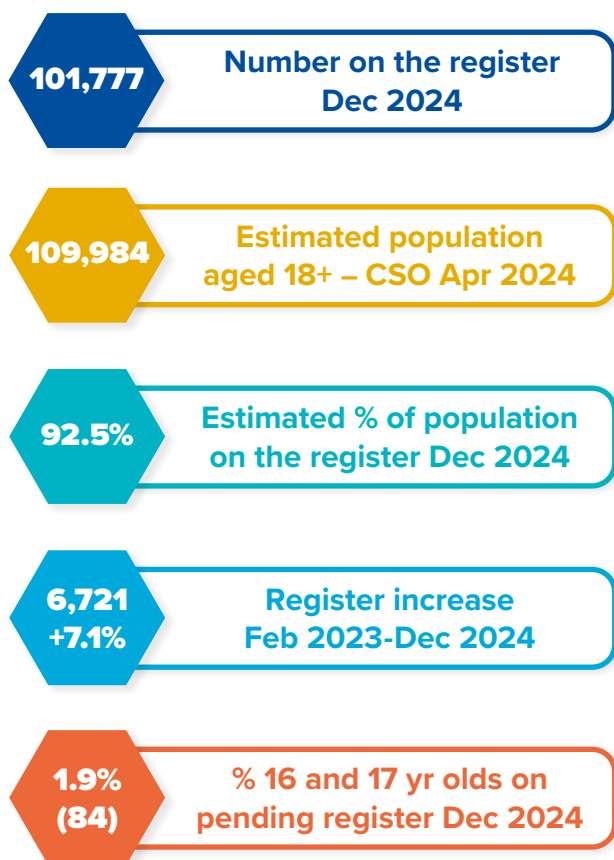
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	98.0%	98.2%	98.2%	98.3%
Eircode	96.2%	96.5%	97.9%	98.7%
DoB + Eir	94.5%	95.0%	96.2%	97.1%
PPSN	4.9%	12.7%	16.1%	20.5%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. The recording of this information supports the identification of duplicate entries, minimises the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

Based on these reported accuracy indicators, the data indicates that Louth County Council has been one of the more effective local authorities with regard to recording of data for each elector. This suggests that the percentage of the eligible population on the register, at 92.5%, is likely to be a more realistic estimate than those local authorities with lower accuracy indicators. As in all cases, further analysis of the register is required.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline Data



Accuracy Indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	100,112	98.3% [3rd]	72.4%
Eircode	100,487	98.7% [3rd]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	98,883	97.1% [2nd]	56.0%
PPSN	20,863	20.5% [16th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Household leaflet drop, including targetting of new estates
- ▶ Local media campaign
- ▶ Social media
- ▶ Billboard and bus shelter advertisements
- ▶ Staff attendance at events
- ▶ Distribution of promotional merchandise at events

Assessment

Accuracy

Data indicates that some 92.5% of the estimated eligible population of Louth were registered to vote in December 2024. While this appears to be relatively low, given the overall high levels of reported accuracy indicators, it is likely to be one of the more realistic estimates. The percentage of electors with an associated PPSN is 20.5%, below the national average of 22.0%. However, the reported percentage of other indicators is very high. The percentage of dates of birth reported as being recorded was 98.3%, well above the national average of 72.4%, the percentage of Eircodes recorded was 98.7% (national average is 69.8%), while combined dates of birth and Eircodes were at 97.1%, the second highest reported in the country and well above the national average of 56.0%.

These figures are largely the result of a collaborative project undertaken in 2022 between the franchise team, GIS (Geographical Information Systems) Co-Ordinator and the targeted use of fieldworkers. The register team continues to work collaboratively with the IT section to increase accuracy. It is one of just five local authorities to employ fieldworkers. Four fieldworkers are employed to gather Eircodes, do leaflet drops, raise awareness and provide updates on deceased electors.

Between December 2022 and March 2024, Louth County Council reported that 7,292 entries were removed from the register, primarily deceased electors and people who have moved away. During 2024 as a whole, 5,985 entries were removed from the register and 7,765 updates were also made, demonstrating an ongoing commitment to data accuracy. The council deals with

duplicate entries twice annually and carries out a variety of accuracy checks that were not generally reported as being carried out by other local authorities. When the council identifies potential duplicate entries, it makes contact with relevant electors as necessary to clarify their details. Fieldworkers may also be requested to investigate potential duplicates.

The planned and targeted work, using available technology and fieldworkers where necessary, provides a useful model for other local authorities. Louth County Council has a continual focus on increasing accuracy. For example, each week its IT department produces an Eircode status report identifying any Eircode inputted incorrectly. This is immediately flagged and amended. This type of ongoing monitoring and review was not highlighted by any other local authority. A sustained emphasis on accuracy indicators will improve the quality and integrity of the register.

Completeness

The registration rate relative to the estimated eligible population at 92.5% appears to be positive, given the overall high levels of accuracy. Obviously, there is still scope to improve this completeness rate and given the work carried out on accuracy the local authority is well placed to do this.

Between February 2023 and December 2024, the Louth electoral register increased by 6,721 electors.

Louth County Council appears to be well placed to undertake activities that raise awareness of the registration process among groups or geographic areas that are less represented on the register.

Resourcing

Louth County Council reported some of the highest staffing levels for a local authority of its size. There were two full-time, and six part-time franchise staff in 2023, increasing to four full-time and seven part-time staff in 2024. The additional staffing and the provision of overtime assisted in managing additional work in advance of all electoral events. The council highlighted the importance of staff training in preparation for electoral events.

Louth County Council reported huge challenges experienced in registering electors for all electoral events, in particular with regard to staffing and time constraints. Louth County Council were inundated with online applications via *checktheregister.ie*, and staff had to be drafted in from different sections of the organisation to assist with processing these. Staff worked overtime in the evenings and at weekends.

It was reported that €177,920 was spent on the register by the council in 2023. Expenditure on register-related costs of €145,386 was approved for 2024.

Louth County Council received €50,496 in funding from DHLGH in 2023 to support register-related activities. The council drew down €50,481 in 2024.

Activities

In addition to the use of fieldworkers (as outlined above), Louth County Council engaged in a number of broad-based activities during 2023-24 to increase awareness of the registration process, including local media campaigns, leaflet drops and the distribution of promotional material at events. With regard to activities undertaken in advance of the local, European and general elections to promote registration and updating of elector details, Louth County Council bought billboard and bus shelter advertising throughout the county to promote registration.

Leaflet drops were carried out at new housing estates in Drogheda and social media was utilised to promote registration. Staff also attended various external events. Data was not provided with regard to the specific impacts of these events, but an increase in registrations and register amendments was noted.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Louth's register appears to be one of the more accurate in the country. It is apparent that this is the result of a high level of prioritisation and work on the register over a period of time.

Based on the reported data, Louth's register has high levels of all accuracy indicators. Work remains to increase the collection and capture of PPSNs, as is the case with all other registers across the country. Data supplied suggests a relatively high level of completeness and Louth County Council is well placed to target activities to increase this rate further.

Based on the information provided, An Coimisiún considers that the electoral register is afforded a good level of prioritisation by this local authority. There have clearly been sustained and generally successful efforts to improve the quality of its register. However, while further work will be required following the establishment of the LGERS national electoral register database, based on data reported it is likely that this will be less than in many other local authorities.

An Coimisiún considers this to be one of the better-quality registers in the country. Given the accuracy indicators it is possible to have a level of confidence in its reported registration rate, turnout at electoral events and be able to estimate the numbers of people who are not registered. It is likely that further improvements will come with the establishment of LGERS.

Both Louth County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Mayo Overview

Chart 1: Reported Mayo electoral register numbers 2023-2024

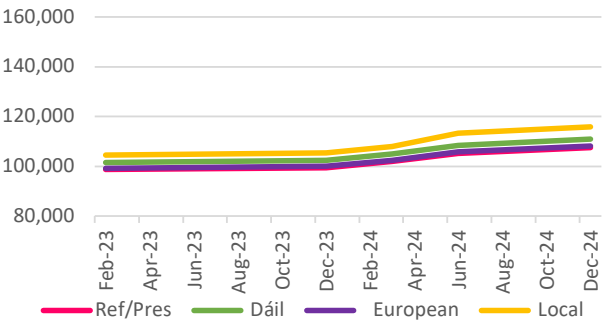


Table 1: Reported Mayo electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	104,438	105,365	107,887	113,319	115,878
Dáil	101,565	102,408	104,922	108,500	111,015
European	99,199	99,998	102,507	105,892	108,185
Ref/Pres	98,709	99,495	102,003	105,294	107,584

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Mayo County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data provided shows that there was an overall increase of 11.0% over that period in the numbers registered to vote on the Mayo register. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register increased by less than 1%.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 2.5%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 7.5% and 5.9% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 8.4%.

Chart 2: Mayo % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

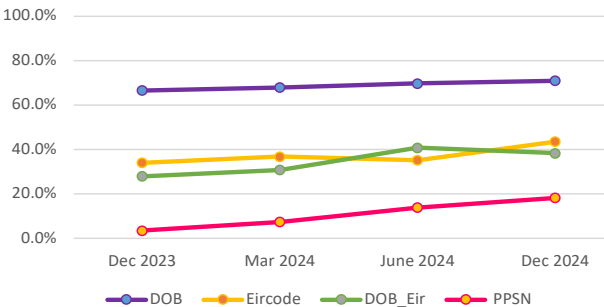


Table 2: Mayo % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

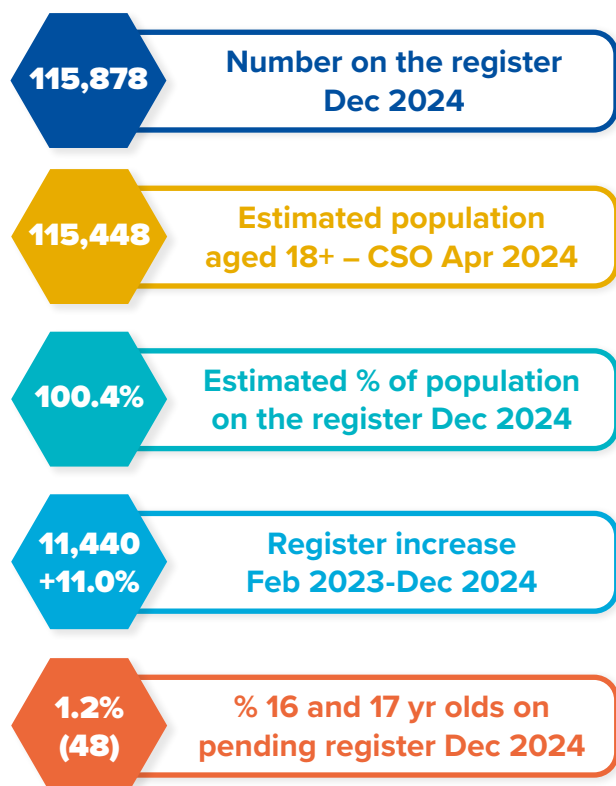
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	66.6%	68.0%	69.7%	71.0%
Eircode	34.1%	36.8%	35.3%	43.6%
DoB + Eir	28.0%	30.8%	40.8%	38.3%
PPSN	3.5%	7.4%	13.8%	18.2%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. The recording of this information can assist in minimising duplicate entries, reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

The reported data, which includes low level of coverage of key variables such as date of birth, PPSN and Eircode, coupled with an estimated 100.4% of potential eligible electors on the electoral register, indicates that Mayo County Council has considerable work to do to improve the overall quality of its electoral register. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	82,202	71.0% [16th]	72.4%
Eircode	50,548	43.6% [29th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	44,366	38.3% [27th]	56.0%
PPSN	21,101	18.2% [29th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Leafleting
- ▶ Local media/pitch ads
- ▶ Correspondence with electors

Assessment

Accuracy

Based on reported data, the number of electors on the register compared with estimated eligible electors in Mayo is 100.4%. In the context of a low level of coverage of key variables such as date of birth, PPSN and Eircode this indicates a high level of inaccuracies on the Mayo register. The percentage of PPSNs collected, at 18.2%, is below the national average of 22.0%. The percentage of dates of birth collected, at 71.0%, is below the national average of 72.4%. Eircodes at 43.6% is significantly below the national average of 69.8%. Combined dates of birth and Eircodes at 38.3% is also significantly below the national average of 56.0%. It should be noted that the national averages also need significant improvement.

It was reported that 1,883 entries were removed from the register between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily duplicate entries, deceased electors and people who had moved away. Mayo County Council reported 4,253 deletions from and 7,352 updates to this register during 2024.

The low level of accuracy indicators and the significantly greater number of people on the register than the potential eligible electorate highlights the need for efforts by Mayo County Council to increase levels of accuracy indicators.

Amongst issues noted by the council, a key concern were cases of multiple or duplicate applications being made by electors. This was a recurring issue in each electoral event in 2024.

Between April and November 2024, prior to the European and local and general elections, a total of 1,390 duplicate or multiple registration entries were received.

Another issue reported by Mayo County Council was that there was a huge volume of applications between the Polling Day Order sign-off and closing date for receipt of applications for the Balancing List. This occurred at the European, local and general elections. In the 16 days before the general election, 4,620 changes were made to the Balancing List as well as 859 duplicates checked.

It was reported that 15 extra staff supported franchise staff processing these changes. Some of the extra staff needed training while all worked overtime in the evenings and weekends to overcome the volume of applications received. Applications for updates and/or duplicate applications were put on hold for processing after the polling events.

Completeness

The Mayo register increased by 11,440 people between February 2023 and December 2024.

The fact that the numbers on the register exceed the estimated eligible population is not an indicator that everyone who is entitled to vote is on the register. The registration rate of 100.4% of estimated eligible population appears to indicate considerable inaccuracies on the register.

Until the levels of accuracy indicators are significantly improved it will not be possible to assess the completeness of the Mayo electoral register.

Resourcing

Based on its initial return, Mayo County Council was one of seven local authorities that reported there were no staff working full-time in the franchise unit in 2023 and 2024. It reported one staff member working part-time on franchise functions. However, in an update provided in January 2025, the council referred to three franchise staff. Some 15 staff were reassigned from other areas to assist with preparations for the Family and Care referendums.

Mayo County Council needs to review the level of staffing assigned to the franchise function to ensure that is resourced to effectively manage and maintain the register and to support the work required to migrate to the national shared electoral register database. It is also important to bear in mind the ongoing resourcing requirements of maintaining a rolling register.

It is estimated that Mayo County Council spent €146,319 in 2023 on maintaining the register. It approved expenditure on register costs of €147,368 for 2024. In 2023, funding of €50,186 was made available to the council from DHLGH to improve register data quality. In 2024, DHLGH provided €50,195 to the council for this work.

Activities

Mayo County Council deployed broad-based initiatives to raise awareness in relation to voter registration and changes to registration during 2023-24. Leaflets were circulated to 57,300 households in the county between November 2023 and March 2024, as well as a local media campaign, some outdoor advertising and use of pull-up banners in libraries and promotional events. It was reported that the combined impact of these initiatives was a significant increase in additions and amendments to the register. However, this was not quantified.

Mayo County Council reported that between June and December 2024 it sent letters to each nursing home to inform residents of the special voting facility.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Mayo County Council's register has some distance to go before all its accuracy indicators reach even the current national averages, which also need to be improved. Eircodes need to be significantly improved. While acknowledging the substantial volume of applications processed since February 2023, this is a significant concern.

Based on information provided, An Coimisiún recommends that the level of prioritisation afforded to the electoral register be significantly improved by this local authority. Insufficient efforts have been made to improve the overall quality of the electoral register which may be a result of a limited level of resourcing. It is likely that after the establishment of the LGERS national electoral register database, considerable and sustained work on the quality of this register will be required.

In light of the quality of this register, based on information provided, it will not be possible to even attempt to estimate, with any degree of satisfaction, either the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered. This will only be possible when the quality of the register is significantly improved before the start of the next electoral cycle in 2029.

Both Mayo County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Meath Overview

Chart 1: Reported Meath electoral register numbers 2023-2024

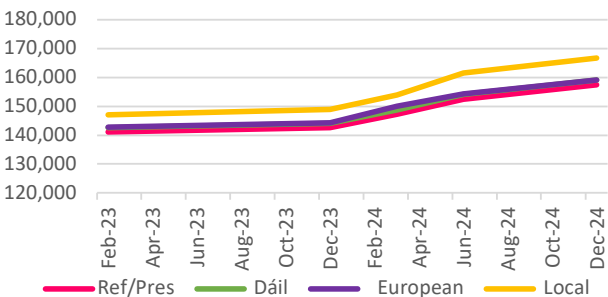


Table 1: Reported Meath electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	147,109	148,854	153,878	161,513	166,678
Dáil	142,626	144,102	148,781	154,148	159,093
European	142,852	144,362	149,960	154,324	159,192
Ref/Pres	141,133	142,607	147,238	152,491	157,358

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Meath County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data provided shows that there was an overall increase of 13.3% over that period in the numbers registered to vote on the Meath register. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register for all electoral events increased by around 1.0%.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 3.2%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 8.5% and 6.9% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 10.3%.

Chart 2: Meath % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

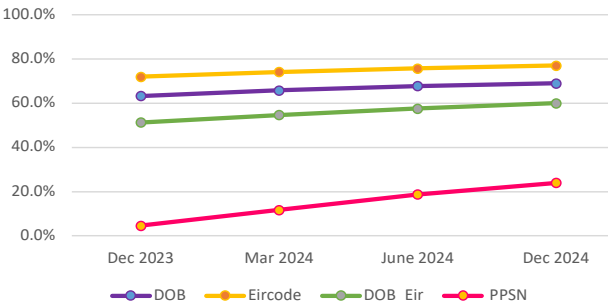


Table 2: Meath % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

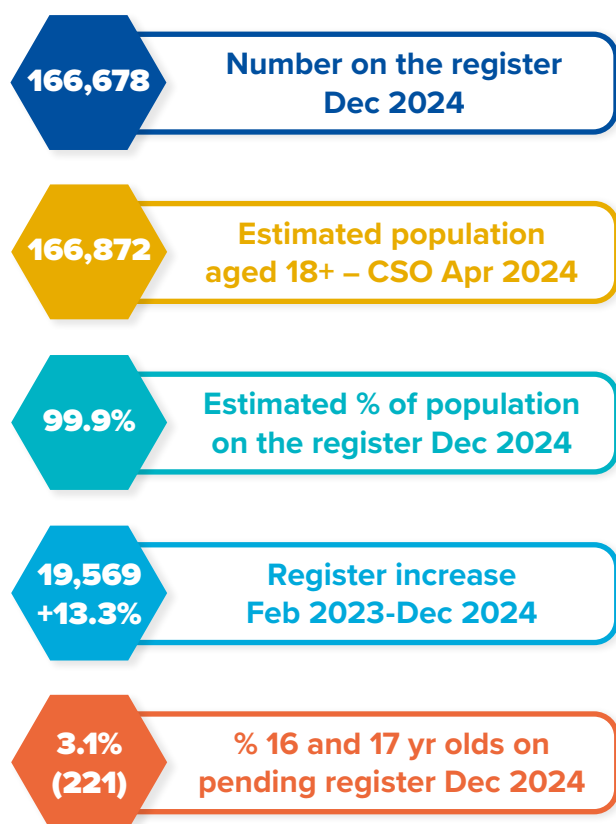
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	63.3%	65.8%	67.8%	69.0%
Eircode	72.0%	74.2%	75.7%	77.0%
DoB + Eir	51.3%	54.6%	57.6%	60.0%
PPSN	4.6%	11.7%	18.8%	24.0%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. Currently, the recording of this information assists in reducing duplicate entries, minimises the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

The reported data indicates that an estimated 99.9% of potential eligible electors are on the electoral register, however mid-range levels of coverage of key variables such as date of birth, PPSN and Eircode indicates that Meath County Council has work to undertake to improve the overall quality of its electoral register. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	115,685	69% [18th]	72.4%
Eircode	128,616	77% [13th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	99,904	60% [12th]	56.0%
PPSN	39,494	24% [10th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Leaflet drop to 14,100 households
- ▶ Joint local radio campaign with Louth County Council
- ▶ Engagement with secondary schools
- ▶ Engagement with community groups
- ▶ Pop up events

Assessment

Accuracy

Based on the data provided the number of electors on the register compared with estimated eligible electors in Meath is 99.9%. In the context of a series of mid-range level of accuracy indicators, this is suggestive of a comparatively high level of inaccuracies on the Meath register. The percentage of PPSNs collected at 24.0% is above the national average of 22.0%, although it should be noted that this is a low national average which needs to improve significantly. Eircodes collected at 77.0% is above the national average of 69.8%. Combined dates of birth and Eircodes at 60.0% are also above the national average of 56.0%. However, the percentage of dates of birth collected at 69.0% is below the national average of 72.4%. In general, the national average for each of the accuracy indicators needs to improve and, in that context, there is scope for improvement.

It was reported that an estimated 4,711 entries were removed from the register between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily duplicate entries, deceased electors and people who had moved away. In 2024 as a whole, there were 5,728 deletions from and 20,799 updates to this register.

The reported level of accuracy indicators and the relatively high number of people on the register compared to the potential eligible electorate highlights the need for efforts on the part of Meath County Council to increase the levels of accuracy indicators.

The council also noted the following challenges during electoral events in 2024:

- the volume of applications exceeded expectations
- available resources/training
- time constraints involved to meet the statutory requirements
- staff burnout
- working with non-integrated systems — *checktheregister.ie* and the back office iReg system
- management of day-to-day workloads along with franchise work
- electors who could not find themselves on *checktheregister.ie*, submitted new registration applications
- public relations campaign caused confusion as electors thought they were required to register for each electoral event
- delay in processing caused electors to resubmit applications

Actions taken to address challenges included staff being sourced from other service departments; basic training provided to staff on data input and use of overtime.

Completeness

The Meath register increased by 19,569 people between February 2023 and December 2024. This was an increase of 13.3%, which was one of the highest in the country.

The fact that the numbers on the register nearly match the estimated eligible population is not an indicator that everyone who is entitled to vote is on the register.

Until the levels of accuracy are significantly improved it will not be possible to assess the quality of the completeness of the Meath electoral register.

Resourcing

Meath County Council reported three staff worked full-time, and eight part-time on the register in 2023. An additional full-time staff resource was added in 2024. This is one of the higher levels of staffing across all local authorities. It was noted that a range of corporate functions also fall within the remit of these staff. Also, six additional full-time staff were assigned to the register team to assist with processing applications in advance of the March referendums.

The council estimated that €48,639 was spent on the register in 2023. Expenditure of €49,186 was approved for 2024. Meath County Council received €63,987 in funding from DHLGH in 2023 to support register-related activities. In 2024, the council drew down €63,872 of available DHLGH funding.

Activities

Meath County Council reported undertaking a number of broad-based activities during 2023, including local radio campaigns (including joint adverts with Louth County Council) to encourage both registration and updates. It also engaged in a number of activities, targeted at young and potential pending electors, including Comhairle na nÓg and visiting a secondary school. It also engaged with the Public Participation Network, the Cultúr Migrants Centre and Meath Partnership. The council reported these activities resulted in increases in register updates – with over 1,600 applications, modifications and deletions in Q4 2023.

The council reported that during the second half of 2024 it promoted registration through social media.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Meath County Council's register is in the mid-range of four accuracy indicators compared to national averages, which also need to be improved. While acknowledging the substantial volume of applications processed since February 2023, this is a concern. These issues highlight the need for the council to continue to improve collection of missing accuracy indicator data. Following that, the council could then focus on engagement with communities to increase registration of underrepresented cohorts.

Based on information provided, An Coimisiún believes that the level of prioritisation afforded to the electoral register still needs to be improved by this local authority. Inadequate efforts have been made to improve the overall quality of the electoral register which may be a result of a limited level of resourcing. It is likely that after the establishment of the LGERS national electoral register database, considerable and sustained work on the quality of this register will be required.

In light of the quality of this register, based on information provided, it will not be possible to estimate, with any degree of satisfaction, either the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered. This will only be possible when the quality of the register is significantly improved before the start of the next electoral cycle in 2029.

Both Meath County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Monaghan Overview

Chart 1: Reported Monaghan electoral register numbers 2023-2024

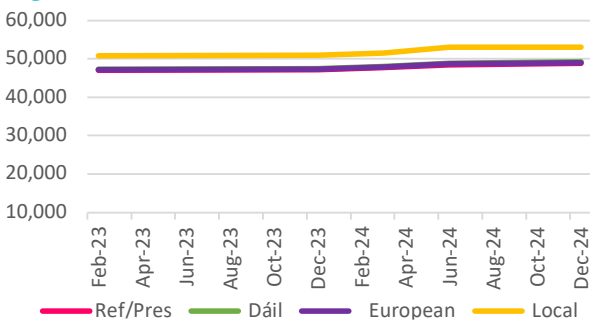


Table 1: Reported Monaghan electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	50,722	50,906	51,543	52,975	52,967
Dáil	47,323	47,445	48,055	48,843	49,190
European	47,177	47,286	47,888	48,697	49,016
Ref/Pres	47,018	47,127	47,728	48,481	48,809

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Monaghan County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data provided shows that there was an overall increase of 4.4% over that period in the numbers registered to vote on the Monaghan register. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register were relatively flat, increasing by 0.4%.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 1.3%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 4.1% and 3.0% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 3.7%.

Chart 2: Monaghan % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

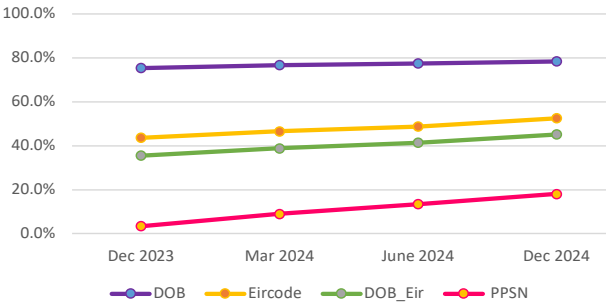


Table 2: Monaghan % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

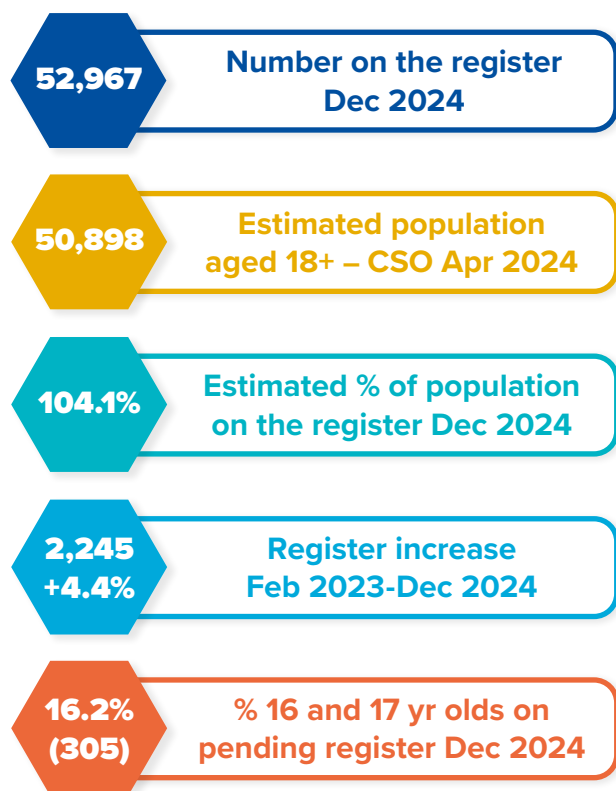
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	75.4%	76.7%	77.4%	78.4%
Eircode	43.7%	46.6%	48.8%	52.5%
DoB + Eir	35.6%	38.9%	41.4%	45.2%
PPSN	3.5%	9.0%	13.4%	18.0%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. Currently, the recording of this information assists in reducing duplicate entries, minimises the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

The reported data, which highlights low level of coverage of key accuracy indicators such as date of birth, PPSN and Eircode, coupled with an estimated 104.1% of potential eligible electors being on the electoral register, indicates that Monaghan County Council has considerable work to do to improve the accuracy of its electoral register. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	41,770	78.4% [9th]	72.4%
Eircode	27,977	52.5% [25th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	24,061	45.2% [20th]	56.0%
PPSN	9,605	18.0% [30th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Local awareness campaigns
- ▶ Workshops and presentations to local interest groups
- ▶ Registration events in secondary schools
- ▶ Analysis of register data

Assessment

Accuracy

The reported number of electors on the register compared with estimated eligible electors in Monaghan, at 104.1%, is the fifth highest in the country. In the context of the low level of accuracy indicators this indicates a high level of inaccuracy on the Monaghan register. The percentage of PPSNs collected at 18.0% is below the national average of 22.0%. Eircodes at 52.5% is substantially below the national average of 69.8%. The percentage of dates of birth at 78.4% is above the national average of 72.4%. However, combined dates of birth and Eircodes at 45.2% is also notably below the national average of 56.0%.

It was reported that 1,614 entries were removed from the register between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily duplicate entries, deceased electors and people who had moved away. In 2024 as a whole, there were 2,934 deletions from and 7,202 updates to this register.

Monaghan County Council advised that after the June elections it carried out a targeted campaign attempting to contact persons whose polling information card had been returned by An Post. It also issued correspondence to persons in one municipal district for whom it did not hold a PPSN, date of birth or Eircode. This generated a number of transactions, whereby people confirmed that they had left the area and were living elsewhere. In other instances, their post was returned by An Post indicating they were no longer at their specified address.

The low level of some accuracy indicators and the significantly greater number of people on the

register than the potential eligible electorate highlights the need for renewed efforts on the part of Monaghan County Council to increase the levels of accuracy indicators.

During the local elections, the council reported that the franchise team faced challenges due to an unprecedented volume of applications, necessitating the allocation of additional resources.

Monaghan County Council reported that the timeframes at the general election were excessively tight. It reported receiving the equivalent of 80.0% of the local elections' application volume, but only had 25.0% of the processing time to manage it.

The council reported the franchise team dedicating considerable time to addressing public queries regarding the inability to apply for postal votes, which further stretched resources. Verification of a local group of postal vote applications based on occupational circumstances took significant time. According to the council this delayed operations by at least two full days.

Unlike some other local authorities, Monaghan County Council reported that duplicate registrations did not pose a significant issue for the council. When electors submitted details already processed, staff simply added a comment onto the application and filed it away in their electronic filing system and then processed.

Completeness

The Monaghan register increased by 2,245 people between February 2023 and December 2024. This was an increase of 4.4%.

The fact that the numbers on the register exceed the estimated eligible population is not an indicator that everyone who is entitled to vote is on the register. The registration rate of 104.1% of estimated eligible population, the fifth highest nationwide, in combination with low rates of accuracy indicators, appears to indicate that there are considerable inaccuracies on the register.

Until the levels of accuracy are significantly improved it will not be possible to assess the completeness of the Monaghan electoral registers.

Resourcing

Monaghan County Council advised that there were one full-time and one part-time staff member working in the franchise area in 2023. This increased to three full-time and four part-time staff in 2024. The council was also one of just five local authorities to employ fieldworkers.

Monaghan County Council estimated that €34,606 was spent on the register in 2023. Expenditure of €78,760 was approved for 2024. The council received €38,175 in funding from DHLGH in 2023 to support register-related activities. In 2024, the council drew down €38,197 of available DHLGH funding.

Activities

Despite limited resources during 2023, Monaghan County Council engaged in some of the highest levels of register-related activities. These were both broad scope and targeted initiatives, which had a positive impact on the register.

The council reported that it carried out a comprehensive quantitative and qualitative analysis to get an overview of the status of the register, to inform a strategy for improving register quality. This informed activities undertaken to improve the quality of the register (outlined below), which resulted in an improvement of accuracy indicators.

Monaghan County Council rolled out two local awareness raising campaigns, including advertising campaigns, outdoor advertising, radio advertising and the use of a local social influencer. It held workshops and talks with local groups (Women's Assembly, Age Friendly Alliance, Fáilte Isteach Group, DisAbility Network).

It was one of a number of local authorities to engage with secondary schools. Fieldworkers held registration events and workshops at nine secondary schools. The council reported that from June to December 2024 it conducted visits to secondary schools, focusing on batch registration and pre-registration. The council reported one of the highest rates of pending electors at 16.2% of estimated eligible population.

In addition, it reported carrying out a social media campaign. However, it reported it was unable to pursue additional initiatives due to time constraints.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Monaghan County Council's register has some distance to go before three of the four accuracy indicators reach the current national averages, which also need to be improved. While acknowledging the substantial volume of applications processed since February 2023 and the work to improve accuracy, significant work remains.

Based on the information provided, An Coimisiún does not believe that the management and maintenance of the electoral register is satisfactorily prioritised by this local authority. While there have been some efforts to improve the quality of this register, a higher level of effort needs to be made.

Given the overall quality of this register, based on information provided, it will not possible to estimate with any degree of certainty either the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered until there is considerable improvement before the start of the next electoral cycle in 2029.

Both Monaghan County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Offaly Overview

Chart 1: Reported Offaly electoral register numbers 2023-2024

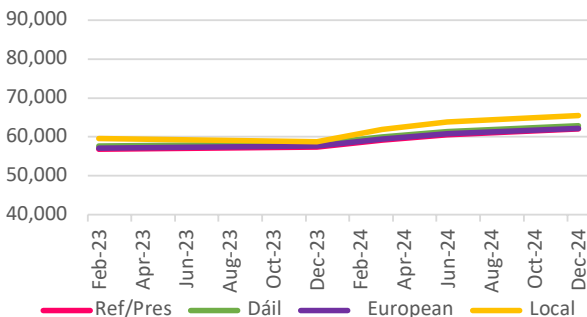


Table 1: Reported Offaly electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	59,531	58,746	61,959	63,849	65,436
Dáil	57,598	58,155	59,954	61,327	62,837
European	57,035	57,572	59,366	60,734	62,237
Ref/Pres	56,840	57,377	59,170	60,504	62,009

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Offaly County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data provided shows that there was an overall increase of 9.9% over that period in the numbers registered to vote on the Offaly register. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register for all electoral events increased slightly by around 1% in the case of presidential, Dáil and European electors, and fell slightly in the case of local electors.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 3.1%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 8.7% and 5.5% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 8.1%.

Chart 2: Offaly % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

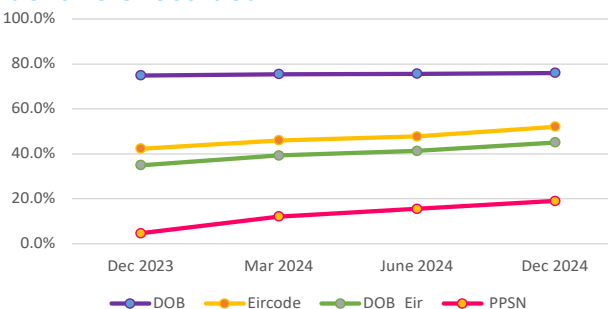


Table 2: Offaly % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

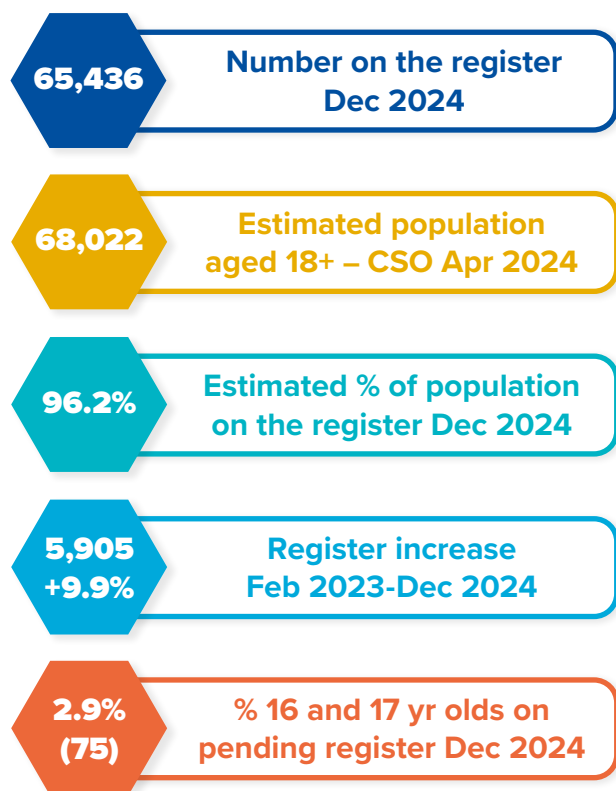
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	74.9%	75.4%	75.6%	76.0%
Eircode	42.2%	46.0%	47.7%	52.0%
DoB + Eir	34.9%	39.2%	41.2%	45.0%
PPSN	4.6%	12.0%	15.4%	19.0%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. The recording of these accuracy indicators supports the identification of duplicate entries, can reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

These reported accuracy indicators, coupled with an estimated 96.2% of potential eligible electors on the electoral register, indicates that Offaly County Council needs to make concerted efforts to increase the overall quality of its electoral register. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	50,068	76.0% [11th]	72.4%
Eircode	33,834	52.0% [27th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	29,427	45.0% [21st]	56.0%
PPSN	12,620	19.0% [27th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Mail drop to new housing estates
- ▶ Engagement with two community groups
- ▶ Attended National Ploughing Championships
- ▶ Social media

Assessment

Accuracy

Based on figures provided by the local authority, 96.2% of the estimated eligible Offaly population are on the register. While this is a relatively high percentage, the low rates of accuracy indicators suggest significant work remains to be undertaken to improve the accuracy of the Offaly electoral register. 52.0% of electors have an assigned Eircode (national average is 69.8%), 76.0% have a date of birth (national average is 72.4%), and just 45.0% of electors have a combined date of birth and Eircode (national average is 56.0%). Some 19.0% of electors have an associated PPSN (national average is 22.0%).

Offaly County Council reported that given the tight timelines involved it decided to defer the processing of requests for changes of address after the general election in order to prioritise the processing of the new elector requests.

The council noted the challenge of managing duplicate applications from electors that are already on the register. It advised there were around 120 of these in advance of the general election.

Offaly County Council reported some work to remove duplicate and redundant entries. It reported that an estimated 470 register entries were removed in 2022 and 700 in 2023. In 2024 as a whole, there were 2,369 deletions from and 5,301 updates to the register.

Completeness

The increase on the electoral register between February 2023 and December 2024 was 5,905. This was an increase of 9.9%.

The high registration rate relative to the estimated eligible population is not an indicator that a very high percentage of the eligible Offaly population is on the register. Rather, it is more likely the result of duplicate and redundant entries.

The completeness of the Offaly register cannot be effectively assessed until accuracy is improved.

Resourcing

Offaly County Council was one of seven local authorities that reported no staff working full-time in the franchise unit in 2023 and 2024. Two clerical officer staff worked part-time in the area in 2023 and 2024, supported by an unquantified number of staff from other areas in the run-up to the Family and Care referendums. This is a very low level of resourcing.

Like a number of other local authorities, Offaly County Council reported that staff faced challenges in registering electors in time for electoral events, especially prior to the general election, for which registration deadlines were particularly tight. It reported that trained staff were deployed quickly to deal with the unexpected volume of activity. The inability of electors to change their citizenship status via *checktheregister.ie* was noted as an additional administrative burden, as electors must contact the local authority directly to make such a change.

The council reported concerns around preparing for the migration to *voter.ie*, highlighting the importance of the work means it should be carried out by knowledgeable staff.

It is estimated that €8,929 was spent on the register in 2023. The same amount has been approved for 2024. Offaly County Council received €41,134 in funding from DHLGH in 2023 to support register-related activities and €41,145 in 2024.

Activities

Offaly County Council undertook a limited number of activities to raise awareness of the register and increase registration. A mail drop to new housing estates was arranged, which increased changes to address applications. The council also held awareness raising events for Age Friendly Ireland, Comhairle na nÓg and had a stand at the National Ploughing Championships. The impact of these activities was not quantified. The low number of activities, one of the lowest levels recorded by any local authority, may be linked to the low level of resourcing assigned to the franchise area.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Offaly County Council's register has some distance to go before three of the four accuracy indicators reach even the current national averages, which also need to be improved. While acknowledging the considerable work undertaken by Offaly County Council to manage and maintain the register since February 2023, the low coverage rates on the accuracy indicators is a concern.

Based on the information provided, An Coimisiún does not believe that the management and maintenance of the electoral register is satisfactorily prioritised by this local authority. While there have been some efforts to improve the quality of this register, a higher level of effort needs to be made.

Given the overall quality of this register, based on information provided, it will not possible to estimate with any degree of certainty the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered until there is considerable improvement. This will only be possible if the quality of the register is significantly improved before the start of the next electoral cycle in 2029.

Both Offaly County Council and the DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Roscommon Overview

Chart 1: Reported Roscommon electoral register numbers 2023-2024

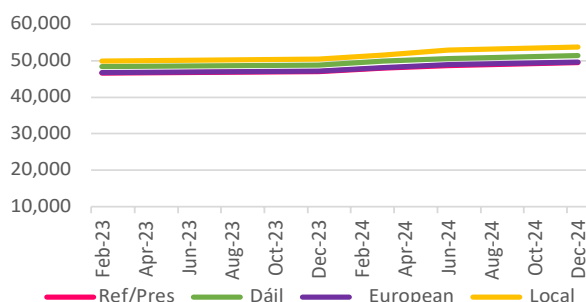


Table 1: Reported Roscommon electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	49,985	50,434	51,636	52,936	53,724
Dáil	48,457	48,798	49,885	50,652	51,417
European	46,806	47,128	48,184	48,938	49,663
Ref/Pres	46,651	46,975	48,031	48,726	49,446

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Roscommon County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data provided shows that there was an overall increase of 7.5% over that period in the numbers registered to vote on the Roscommon register. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register for all electoral events increased very slightly by between 0.7% and 0.9%.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 2.2%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 3.8% and 5.0% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 5.4%.

Chart 2: Roscommon % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

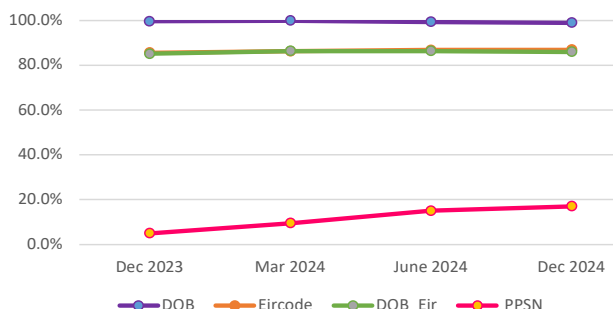


Table 2: Roscommon % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

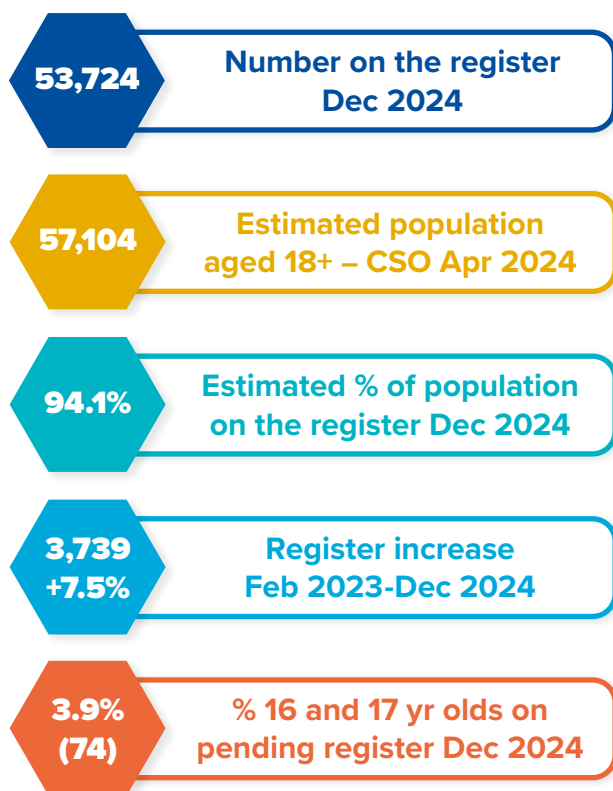
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	99.7%	100.0%	99.4%	99.0%
Eircode	85.7%	86.3%	86.9%	87.0%
DoB_Eir	85.2%	86.4%	86.4%	86.0%
PPSN	5.0%	9.5%	15.1%	17.6%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. The recording of this information can assist in minimising duplicate entries, reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

Based on these reported accuracy indicators, the data suggests that Roscommon County Council has been one of the more effective local authorities with regard to recording of data for each elector. This suggests that the percentage of the eligible population on the register, at 94.1%, may be a more realistic estimate than those local authorities with lower accuracy indicators. As in all cases, further analysis of the register is required.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	53,466	99.0% [2nd]	72.4%
Eircode	46,960	87.0% [10th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	46,734	86.0% [4th]	56.0%
PPSN	9, 474	17.6% [31st]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Visits to secondary schools
- ▶ Pop-up registration days in two libraries
- ▶ Fieldworkers
- ▶ Social media campaigns

Assessment

Accuracy

The data provided indicates that 94.1% of the estimated eligible population of Roscommon are registered to vote. In the context of very high rates of date of birth and combined dates of birth and Eircode data collected, this may be one of the more realistic estimates of registration rate. It is reported that 99.0% of electors have a recorded date of birth (national average is 72.4%), 87.0% have an assigned Eircode (national average is 69.8%), and 86.0% of electors have a combined date of birth and Eircode (national average is 56.0%). However, the proportion of PPSNs collected at 17.6% is below the national average of 22.0% and is the lowest percentage recorded in the country.

Roscommon County Council appears to have been successful in improving accuracy in 2023, mainly by using field workers to make house to house enquiries. It was reported that some 2,589 deceased electors and redundant entries were removed from the register between December 2022 and March 2024. In 2024 as a whole, there were 1,811 deletions from and 3,981 updates to this register.

Roscommon County Council noted that duplicate entries, which create a significant administrative burden, can arise when electors are unable to find themselves on *checktheregister.ie*, and then submit a new application. It was reported that a key reason that electors were unable to find themselves on the register was variations in townland spellings. There is no “smart search” facility on *checktheregister.ie*, which means that the names/townlands entered by the elector must be an exact match to the details recorded on the system. Given the tight timeframe leading up to the November general election, duplicates were managed through direct contact with an elector, rather than the usual process of rejecting an application and seeking additional information from the applicant.

Completeness

Between February 2023 and December 2024, the Roscommon electoral register increased by 3,739, an increase of 7.5%.

Based on the data provided, the registration rate relative to the estimated eligible population is 94.1%. The accuracy of the register can be improved through increased recording of PPSNs. Based on information provided, this registration rate may be one of the more realistic in the country. However, this can only be verified when the overall accuracy of the register can be verified.

Given the work carried out to date on accuracy indicators, Roscommon County Council appears to be well placed to engage in activities that raise awareness of the registration process among groups or geographic areas that are less represented on the register.

Resourcing

Roscommon County Council reported that there was one staff member working full-time on the electoral register in 2023 and 2024, with one part-time staff member in 2023, rising to four in 2024.

Like many local authorities, the council noted that the timeframe from when the general election was called to the closing of the register was challenging to manage, in particular dealing with queries from the general public, postal voters and special voters. The same staff were dealing with queries, working to resolve issues raised as well as to process applications, adding to the overtime requirement.

It was reported that the extent of manual work involved in processing applications, and management of duplications and applications that were submitted to Roscommon County Council in error, added to the administrative burden. Additional staff were drafted in from corporate services and other sections to assist with processing the volume of applications.

Deadlines for closing the rolling register and the Balancing List varied across local authorities, and appeared to be driven by printer deadlines for the production of polling information cards. This inconsistency led to issues with regard to processing changes of address between local authority areas.

Roscommon County Council is one of just five local authorities that employ fieldworkers. It is notable that they were reportedly successful in increasing the percentage of Eircodes from 53% to 86.0% in 2023. The fieldworkers were provided with tablets and ESRI Licences to identify household Eircodes. In addition to Eircode checks, they carried out door-to-door verifications of registrations, amending errors and updating addresses. As a largely rural county, the work in relation to Eircodes was of particular value. The council views its use of fieldworkers as the most effective way of ensuring accurate and complete information on the register.

Roscommon County Council should ensure resourcing is sufficient to enable the ongoing management and maintenance of the rolling register, and that there is the capacity and capability to undertake the work required to prepare register data for migration to the national shared register.

It was reported that €50,200 was spent on the register by Roscommon County Council in 2023. Expenditure on register-related costs of €106,100 was approved for 2024.

Roscommon County Council received €39,031 in funding from DHLGH in 2023 to support register-related activities. The council drew down €39,017 of available DHLGH funding in 2024.

Activities

In addition to fieldworkers, as outlined above, Roscommon County Council undertook targeted activities to raise awareness of the register and the registration process. At the start of the year, it was one of a number of local authorities that engaged directly with secondary schools to encourage student registration, with over 400 pre-registrations reported. It also held a “pop-up” registration day in two libraries.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Roscommon’s register appears to be one of the more accurate registers with high levels for three of the four accuracy indicators. However, the overall quality of the register needs to be strengthened through higher recording of elector PPSNs.

Based on the information provided, An Coimisiún recommends that the management and maintenance of the electoral register should be given greater priority by this local authority. While there have been some efforts to improve the quality of this register, a higher level of effort is required.

Given the overall quality of this register, based on information provided, it is currently not possible to estimate with any satisfactory degree of certainty the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered until there is considerable improvement.

Roscommon is a relatively small local authority area but the council has managed to undertake considerable work that has improved the quality of its register. Roscommon County Council is well placed to target activities to further increase accuracy and address completeness.

Both Roscommon County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Sligo Overview

Chart 1: Reported Sligo electoral register numbers 2023-2024

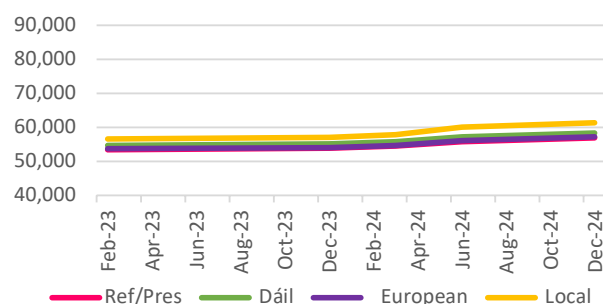


Table 1: Reported Sligo electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	56,562	57,088	57,823	60,074	61,351
Dáil	54,714	55,157	55,811	57,206	58,389
European	53,706	54,098	54,744	56,093	57,217
Ref/Pres	53,487	53,884	54,530	55,831	56,953

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Sligo County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data shows that there was an overall increase of 8.5% over that period in the numbers registered to vote on the Sligo register. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register for all electoral events increased slightly.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 1.2%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 5.2% and 3.7% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 5.9%.

Chart 2: Sligo % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

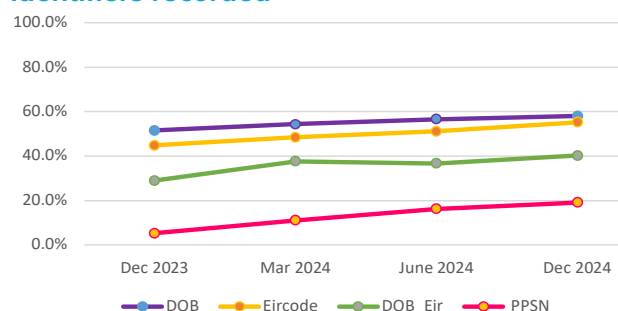


Table 2: Sligo % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

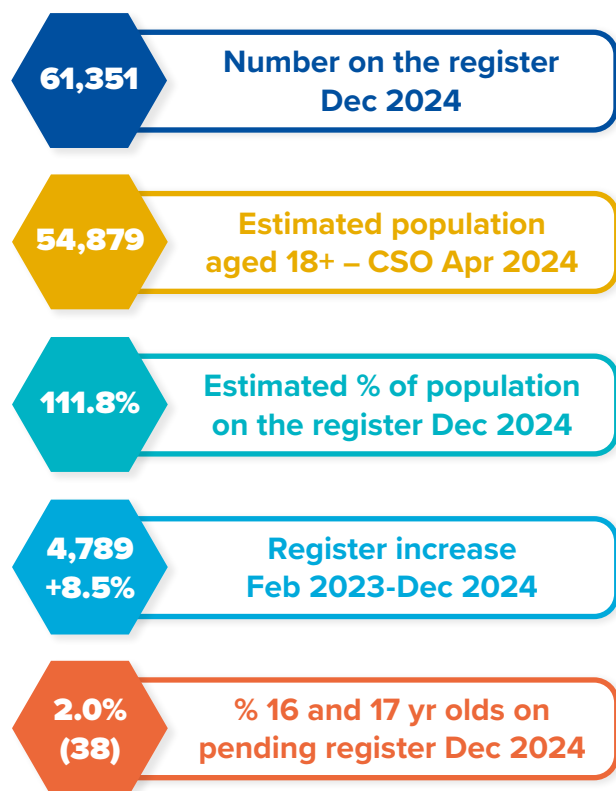
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	51.6%	54.4%	56.6%	58.0%
Eircode	44.9%	48.4%	51.1%	55.3%
DoB_Eir	29.0%	37.7%	36.8%	40.3%
PPSN	5.3%	11.1%	16.3%	19.1%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. The recording of these accuracy indicators supports the identification of duplicate entries, can reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

Based on these reported accuracy indicators, coupled with an estimated 111.8% of potential eligible electors on the electoral register, indicates that Sligo County Council has very considerable work to do to improve the accuracy of its electoral register. As in all cases, further analysis of the register is required.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	35,585	58.0% [27th]	72.4%
Eircode	33,898	55.3% [21st]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	24,723	40.3% [26th]	56.0%
PPSN	11,736	19.1% [25th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Leaflet drop to 22,000 households
- ▶ Local media campaign
- ▶ Wrote to all local secondary schools

Assessment

Accuracy

The number of electors on the register compared with estimated eligible electors in Sligo, at 111.8%, is the highest in the country. This indicates a high level of inaccuracies on the Sligo register, particularly in the context of low level of accuracy indicators.

Based on the reported data, the percentage of PPSNs collected at 19.1% is somewhat below the national average of 22.0%. The percentage of dates of birth collected at 58.0% is well below the national average of 72.4%, as is the case for of Eircodes at 55.3% (national average is 69.8%). Combined dates of birth and Eircodes at 40.3% is also below the national average of 56.0%.

It was reported that 2,361 entries were removed from the register between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily duplicate entries, deceased electors and people who had moved away. In 2024 as a whole, there were 2,488 deletions from and 10,510 updates to this register.

The reported very low level of accuracy indicators and the significantly greater number of people on the register than the potential eligible electorate indicates the need for considerable and concerted efforts on the part of Sligo County Council to increase the levels of accuracy indicators.

Completeness

The Sligo register increased by 4,789 people between February 2023 and December 2024.

The fact that the numbers on the register exceed the estimated eligible population is not an indicator that everyone who is entitled to vote is on the register. The registration rate of 111.8%

of estimated eligible population, the highest nationwide, appears to indicate that there are considerable inaccuracies on the register.

Until the levels of accuracy are significantly improved it will not be possible to assess the completeness of the Sligo electoral registers.

Resourcing

It was reported that there was just one person working full-time in the franchise unit in 2023-2024, together with three part-time staff. An additional two staff were assigned to work on processing applications in the run-up to the March referendums. Part-time staff worked full-time. In addition, overtime was required in weeks before the referendums. No additional information was provided in relation to the management of other electoral events during 2024.

This is a small team to manage and maintain the register, while also preparing for electoral events, particularly given that it was also reported that there is very little experience within Sligo County Council of working on electoral events.

This indicates the need for an adequate level of resourcing to ensure that migration to the LGERS is achieved and the accuracy of the register is improved. It is also important to bear in mind the ongoing resourcing requirements of managing and maintaining a rolling register.

It is estimated that Sligo County Council spent €45,514 on the register in 2023 and approved €61,000 expenditure on the electoral register for 2024. The council received €39,000 in funding from DHLGH in 2023 to support register-related activities. In 2024, it was reported that the council drew down €14,900 in DHLGH funding.

Activities

Sligo County Council sent leaflets to 22,000 households. It ran an extensive local media campaign to raise awareness in relation to registration, particularly among older age cohorts. Over the course of the two-month campaign, over 1,200 applications were received on *checktheregister.ie*. The council wrote to all secondary schools in the county to encourage student registration. However, the impact of this initiative was not provided.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Sligo County Council's register has considerable work to do before all four accuracy indicators reach even the current national averages, which also need to be improved. While acknowledging the substantial volume of applications processed since February 2023, this is a significant concern.

Based on information provided, An Coimisiún recommends that the level of prioritisation afforded to the electoral register be significantly improved by this local authority. Insufficient efforts have been made to improve the overall quality of the electoral register which may be a result of a limited level of resourcing. It is likely that after the establishment of the LGERS national electoral register database, considerable and sustained work on the quality of this register will be required.

In light of the quality of this register, based on information provided, it will not be possible to even attempt to estimate, with any degree of satisfaction, either the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered. This will only be possible when the quality of the register is significantly improved.

Both Sligo County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

South Dublin Overview

Chart 1: Reported South Dublin electoral register numbers 2023-2024

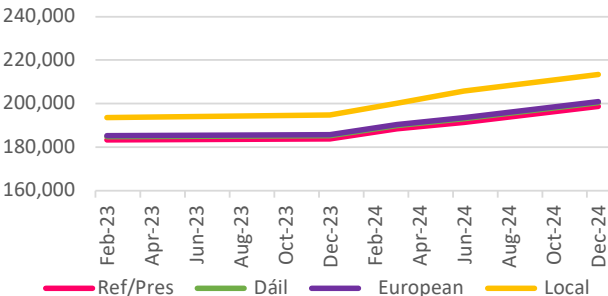


Table 1: Reported South Dublin electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	193,754	194,899	200,125	205,738	213,329
Dáil	184,859	185,428	190,025	193,064	200,499
European	185,354	185,915	190,525	193,597	201,026
Ref/Pres	183,291	183,849	188,451	191,446	198,809

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for South Dublin County Council (SDCC) for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data provided shows an overall increase of 10.1% over that period in the numbers registered to vote on the South Dublin register. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register were stable, rising by less than 1%.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 2.5%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 5.6% and 4.1% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 8.1%.

Chart 2: South Dublin % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

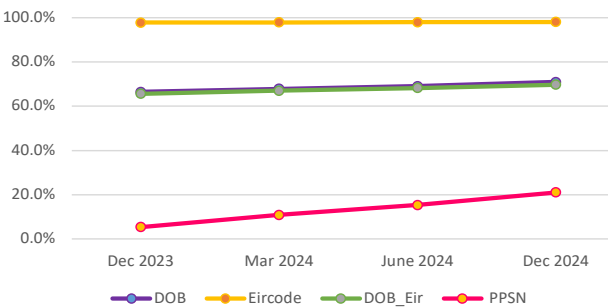


Table 2: South Dublin % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	66.5%	67.9%	69.1%	71.0%
Eircode	97.9%	98.0%	98.1%	98.2%
DoB + Eir	65.6%	67.0%	68.3%	69.8%
PPSN	5.3%	10.8%	15.4%	21.0%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. Currently, the recording of this information assists in running duplication reports across the four Dublin registers to identify duplicate entries. This can reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

These reported accuracy indicators, coupled with an estimated 91.0% of potential eligible electors on the electoral register, indicates that SDCC has been relatively effective with regard to recording of data for each elector. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	150,550	71.0% [17th]	72.4%
Eircode	209,407	98.2% [5th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	148,916	69.8% [7th]	56.0%
PPSN	45,688	21.0% [15th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Joint *voter.ie* awareness campaign across the four Dublin local authorities
- ▶ Correspondence seeking register data
- ▶ Engagement with 11 community groups as part of joint *voter.ie* campaign
- ▶ Engagement with secondary schools and third level institutions

Assessment

Accuracy

The data provided indicates that some 91.0% of the potential eligible population of South Dublin are registered to vote. However, there are mixed levels of accuracy indicators. Work remains to be done to increase dates of birth and PPSNs recorded.

South Dublin is in the top five counties in terms of Eircodes with 98.2% – well above the national average of 69.8%. 69.8% of register entries include combined dates of birth and Eircodes above the national average of 56.0%. 71.0% of electors have their date of birth recorded, which is slightly below the national average of 72.4%. 21.0% of electors have an associated PPSN, which again is slightly below the national average of 22.0%.

The fact that the Dublin local authorities have shared a register database since 2018 reduces the relative risk of duplicate entries across the Dublin local authorities. However, individual elector data must be recorded to enable cross-checking across the four Dublin registers.

SDCC reported that duplicate registration applications were a challenge in the run-up to the electoral events. Significant numbers of applicants who were already registered within the four Dublin local authorities submitted applications to register for the first time when changing address, rather than updating their existing details. The *voter.ie* system was able to identify many of these instances. However, those without DoB or PPSN may not be identified as a possible duplicate,

which highlights the importance of these accuracy indicators. The council noted the importance of clear communications, which encourage registered electors to ensure that their details are up to date, and confirm that repeated registration in advance of electoral events is not required.

SDCC reported a common challenge of electors incorrectly assuming that changes to citizenship are automatically notified to local authorities for registration purposes. It also noted some accuracy and timing issues with regard to postal voter data received from other state agencies, such as DFAT, An Garda Síochána and the Defence Forces.

It was reported that 4,633 entries were removed from the register between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily deceased electors and people who had moved away. In 2024 as a whole, there were 2,765 deletions from and 9,984 updates to this register.

SDCC appears to have been proactive in increasing the accuracy of the register. It undertook a project to input Eircodes on some 199,000 existing elector accounts on *voter.ie* in 2023. It worked with the other Dublin local authorities to promote the use of *voter.ie* and updating of electors' details. However, it is noted that SDCC's recording of PPSNs is the lowest of the four Dublin local authorities. As is the case in Fingal and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, recordings of dates of birth are relatively low when compared nationally.

Completeness

The South Dublin register increased by 19,575 people between February 2023 and December 2024. This represents an increase of 10.1%

Based on the data provided, the registration rate relative to the estimated eligible population is 91.0%. The accuracy of the register can be improved through increased recording of PPSNs and dates of birth. Despite the fact that the registration rate is one of the lowest recorded, the relatively high reported accuracy indicators suggest that the registration rate may be one of the more realistic in the country. However, this can only be verified when the overall accuracy of the register can be verified.

SDCC should identify underrepresented cohorts of the electorate with a view to increasing completeness.

Resourcing

SDCC reported that in 2023 there were two staff working full-time, and eight part-time on the electoral register, and three full-time and six part-time in 2024. Staff worked overtime to ensure that all applications were processed in advance of the March referendums. SDCC reported a "significant influx" of registrations on *voter.ie* close to, or on the registration deadline for electoral events. This led to pressure on the system and a backlog that had to be managed through deployment of additional staff resources and overtime.

Given that recording of dates of birth and Eircodes is slightly lower than on other Dublin registers, resources may be required to undertake activities that will increase the level of accuracy.

The council spent €292,100 on maintaining the register in 2023. The approved budget for 2024 register costs was €248,900.

In 2023, DHLGH funding of €69,443 was made available to the council to improve the quality of register data. In 2024, SDCC drew down €77,120 of the available DHLGH funding.

Activities

It was reported that a range of activities were undertaken throughout 2023 and 2024. As well as a broad campaign – “Have You Voter.ie’d?” – that was run in collaboration with the three other Dublin local authorities, SDCC undertook a number of targeted activities to raise awareness of the registration process, and increase registration. It participated in a community services fun day, which resulted in around 70 registrations/details changes, and engaged with second and third-level students, which reportedly resulted in over 200 registrations/details changes. SDCC also undertook an Eircode update exercise to input Eircodes on all existing elector accounts on *voter.ie*.

More generally, additional advertising for *voter.ie* was launched utilising Luas digital panels, bus stop displays, and advertisements in cinemas and local print throughout the South Dublin administrative area.

Overall assessment and recommendations

South Dublin’s register appears to be one of the more accurate as there are relatively high recordings of two accuracy indicators. However, the extent of elector dates of birth and PPSNs recorded should be improved. Given the level of registrations there is scope for SDCC to build on this to target engagement with communities to increase registration of underrepresented cohorts.

Based on the information provided, An Coimisiún considers that the electoral register is generally afforded a reasonable level of prioritisation by this local authority. There have clearly been sustained and generally successful efforts to improve the quality of its register. However, further work will be required following the establishment of the LGERS national electoral register database.

Although An Coimisiún considers this to be one of the better-quality registers, it is still not possible to accurately estimate the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered. More improvement is required.

South Dublin County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Tipperary Overview

Chart 1: Reported Tipperary electoral register numbers 2023-2024

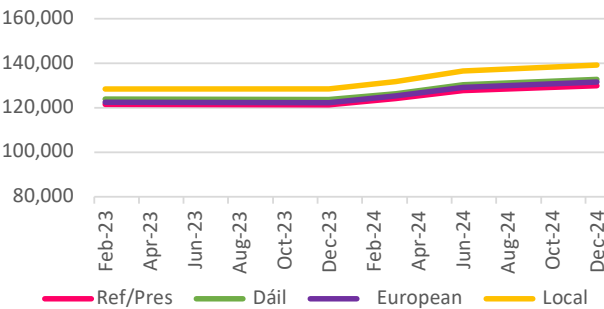


Table 1: Reported Tipperary electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	128,478	128,426	131,704	136,504	139,040
Dáil	123,876	123,712	126,176	130,185	132,630
European	122,418	122,268	125,270	129,073	131,466
Ref/Pres	121,473	121,278	124,176	127,544	129,904

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Tipperary County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data provided shows that there was an overall increase of 8.2% over that period in the numbers registered to vote on the Tipperary register. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register were stable.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 2.4%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 6.3% and 5.6% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 7.2%.

Chart 2: Tipperary % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

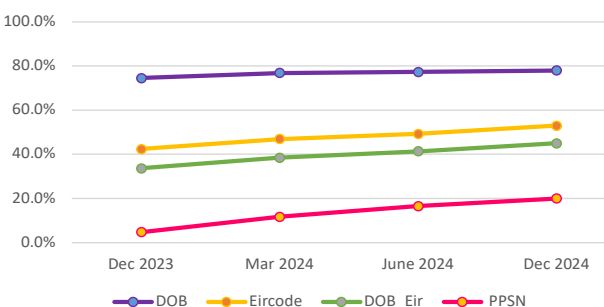


Table 2: Tipperary % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

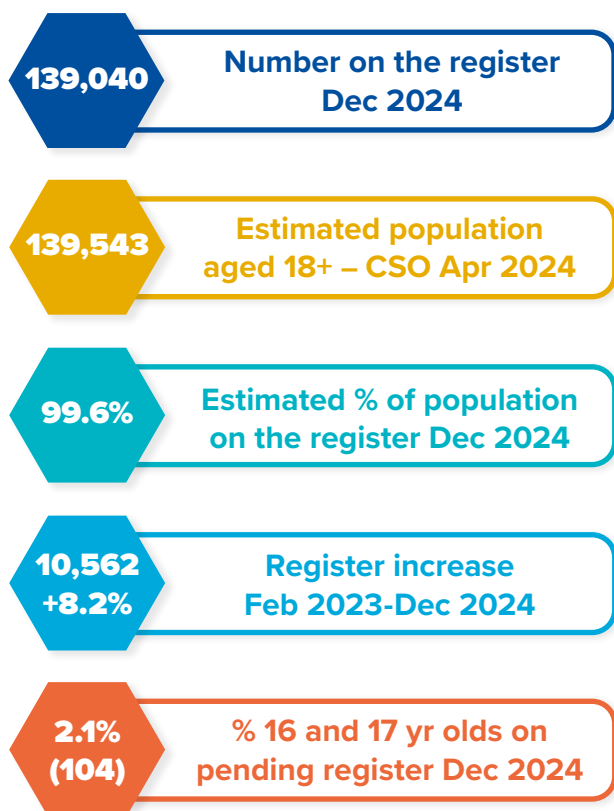
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	74.6%	76.8%	77.3%	78.0%
Eircode	42.4%	46.9%	49.3%	53.0%
DoB + Eir	33.6%	38.5%	41.3%	45.0%
PPSN	4.7%	11.7%	16.5%	20.0%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. The recording of these accuracy indicators supports the identification of duplicate entries, can reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

The reported data, combined with an estimated registration rate of 99.6% indicates that Tipperary County Council has considerable work to do to improve the accuracy of its electoral register. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	108,929	78% [10th]	72.4%
Eircode	73,156	53% [24th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	62,326	45% [22nd]	56.0%
PPSN	28,298	20% [20th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Leaflet drop to 67,600 households
- ▶ Correspondence, including with 'duplicate' electors
- ▶ Social media campaign
- ▶ Stand at National Ploughing Championships

Assessment

Accuracy

Based on the data provided, the number of electors on the register compared with estimated eligible electors in Tipperary is at 99.6%. In the context of low level of three accuracy indicators this indicates a high level of inaccuracies on the Tipperary register. The percentage of PPSNs collected at 20.0% is below the national average of 22.0%. Eircodes at 53.0% is substantially below the national average of 69.8%. Combined dates of birth and Eircodes at 45.0% are also well below the national average of 56.0%. However, on a positive note, the percentage of dates of birth collected at 78.0% is above the national average of 72.4%, but it should be noted that this needs to increase.

It was reported that an estimated 2,160 entries were removed from the register between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily duplicate entries, deceased electors and people who had moved away. In 2024 as a whole, there were 6,456 deletions from and 13,104 updates to this register.

The low level of some accuracy indicators and the relatively high number of people on the register compared to the potential eligible electorate highlights the need for Tipperary County Council to increase the levels of accuracy indicators.

The council considers that an ongoing campaign may lead people to actively update their registration details throughout the year, rather than waiting until the weeks preceding an electoral event. An influx of registrations resulted in additional staff being drafted in and a number of weeks of overtime being necessary.

Tipperary County Council reported that there were duplicate entries in the run-up to all 2024 electoral events. Some people submitted numerous applications in the build-up to the election, all of which had to be processed to determine if there were any new details, which was very time-consuming.

Completeness

The Tipperary register increased by 10,562 people between February 2023 and December 2024. This was an increase of 8.2%.

The fact that the numbers on the register nearly match the estimated eligible population is not an indicator that everyone who is entitled to vote is on the register. Despite the registration rate of 99.6% of estimated eligible population, the low levels of accuracy indicators appear to indicate that there may be considerable inaccuracies on the register.

Until the levels of accuracy are significantly improved it will not be possible to assess the completeness of the Tipperary electoral registers.

Resourcing

Tipperary County Council reported that there were three staff (one full-time and two part-time staff) working in the franchise area in 2023 and 2024. Tipperary County Council is one of just five local authorities that employed fieldworkers who provided support to the franchise staff.

The council estimated that €90,869 was spent on the register in 2023. Expenditure of €98,865 was approved for 2024. Tipperary County Council received €55,234 in funding from DHLGH in 2023 to support register-related activities. In 2024, the council drew down €55,135 of the available DHLGH funding.

Activities

Tipperary County Council reported that it undertook a number of activities to improve the accuracy and completeness of the register.

67,600 leaflets were distributed to increase awareness of *checktheregister.ie* to residential addresses in Tipperary.

In a more targeted initiative, 1,232 letters were issued to potential duplicates on the register – those with the same name and same date of birth. This resulted in a reported c. 300 responses and subsequent amendments. 15,570 letters were issued to residents in Carrick-on-Suir to raise awareness of the need to keep electoral register details updated. It was reported that some 3,000 returns were received. In addition, the council attended the National Ploughing Championships to provide information to attendees on the register. A social media campaign aimed at younger electors (18-30 years) was also rolled out.

In the latter part of the year, Tipperary County Council reported that QR Code Posters were placed in all municipal district buildings and libraries.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Tipperary County Council's register has some distance to go before two of the four accuracy indicators reach the current national averages, which also need to be improved. While acknowledging the substantial volume of applications processed since February 2023, this is a significant concern.

Based on information provided, An Coimisiún recommends that the level of prioritisation to the electoral register needs to be significantly improved by this local authority. Insufficient efforts have been made to improve the overall quality of the electoral register which may be a result of a limited level of resourcing. It is likely that after the establishment of the LGERS national electoral register database, considerable and sustained work on the quality of this register will be required.

In light of the quality of this register, based on information provided, it will not be possible to even attempt to estimate, with any degree of satisfaction, the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered. This will only be possible when the quality of the register is significantly improved.

Both Tipperary County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Waterford City and County Overview

Chart 1: Reported Waterford City and County electoral register numbers 2023-2024

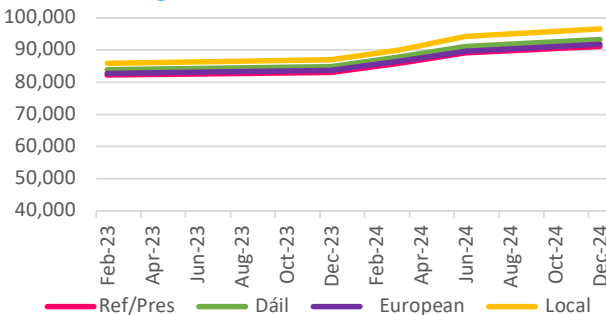


Table 1: Reported Waterford City and County electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	85,837	86,918	89,993	94,335	96,632
Dáil	83,872	84,832	87,742	91,047	93,259
European	82,751	83,657	86,503	89,697	91,842
Ref/Pres	82,195	83,093	85,910	89,085	91,208

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Waterford City and County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data reported shows that there was an overall increase of 12.6% over that period in the numbers registered to vote. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register for all electoral events increased slightly by 1.3%.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 3.4%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 8.5% and 7.2% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 9.9%.

Chart 2: Waterford City and County % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

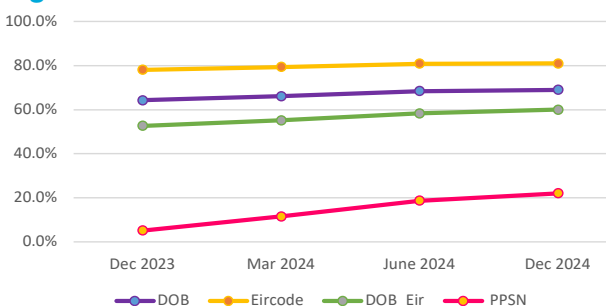


Table 2: Waterford City and County % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

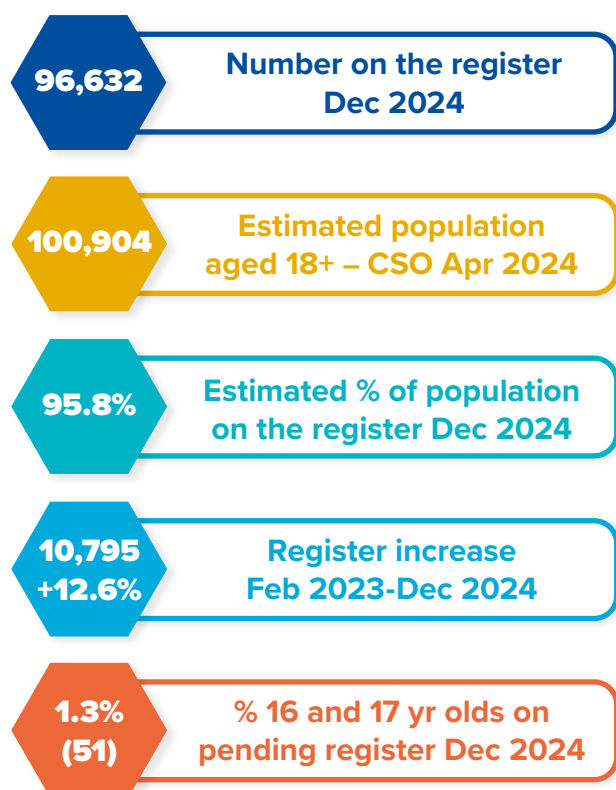
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	64.3%	66.1%	68.4%	69.0%
Eircode	78.1%	79.4%	80.9%	81.0%
DoB + Eir	52.7%	55.2%	58.4%	60.0%
PPSN	5.2%	11.5%	18.7%	22.0%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. The recording of these accuracy indicators supports the identification of duplicate entries, can reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

The reported data, which includes a moderate level of coverage of key variables such as date of birth, PPSN and Eircode, coupled with an estimated 95.8% of potential eligible electors on the electoral register, indicates that Waterford City and County Council has considerable work to do to improve the overall quality of its electoral register. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	67,395	69.0% [19th]	72.4%
Eircode	79,049	81.0% [11th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	58,153	60.0% [13th]	56.0%
PPSN	21,928	22.0% [13th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Leaflets distributed to 40,000 households
- ▶ Engagement with community groups and universities
- ▶ Local radio
- ▶ Public events in four shopping centres

Assessment

Accuracy

The number of electors on the register compared with estimated eligible electors in Waterford is 95.8%. In the context of accuracy indicators around the national average, which also need to be improved, this suggests a relatively high level of inaccuracies remain on the Waterford register.

It is reported that 81.0% of electors have an assigned Eircode (national average is 69.8%), and 60.0% of electors have a combined date of birth and Eircode (national average is 56.0%). 69.0% have a date of birth (national average is 72.4%) while some 22.0% of electors have an associated PPSN (the same as the national average).

Waterford City and County Council reported that, despite national campaigns, there was a general lack of awareness among many registered electors that additional data is required by local authorities to improve the quality and integrity of the register. It noted that personal engagement with electors through local events helped raise awareness of this need.

It was reported that an estimated 2,181 entries were deleted from the register between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily duplicate entries, deceased electors and people who had moved away. In 2024 as a whole, there were 3,073 deletions from and 11,530 updates to this register.

Similarly to other local authorities, Waterford City and County Council highlighted duplicate applications as an issue particularly by electors who were unable to find themselves on the register.

The moderate level of accuracy indicators and the relatively high number of people on the register than are potentially eligible highlights the need for Waterford City and County Council to increase the levels of accuracy indicators, to support the identification of duplicate and redundant entries.

Completeness

The electoral register in Waterford increased by 10,795 people between February 2023 and December 2024. This represents an increase of 12.6%.

The registration rate of 95.8% of estimated eligible population is not necessarily an indicator that almost everyone who is entitled to vote is on the register, particularly when looked at in conjunction with moderate accuracy indicators.

Until the levels of accuracy are significantly improved it will not be possible to assess the completeness of the Waterford electoral register.

Resourcing

Waterford City and County Council reported that there was one staff working full-time on the electoral register in 2023, and 2 in 2024 and one part-time staff in each year. An additional three part-time staff assisted with the register in advance of the March referendums, and overtime was worked.

The council reported that the closing date for receipt of applications in advance of the general election and the deadlines for completion of the balancing list and polling information card electoral list were very tight and proved highly challenging. Deadlines were achieved by engaging staff members from other sections of the local authority for processing and by working long hours of overtime.

€98,174 was spent on the register by Waterford City and County Council in 2023. €118,066 was approved for 2024. The council received around €46,488 in funding from DHLGH in 2023 to support register-related activities. In 2024, the council drew down €48,444 of the available DHLGH funding.

Activities

Waterford City and County Council undertook a range of broad-based and targeted activities to raise awareness of the registration process and to encourage registration. 40,000 leaflets were distributed to households across the county to increase engagement with *checktheregister.ie*. A local radio campaign was run, and registration events were held in four shopping centres. Events were held for specific groups. Staff attended South East Technical University in September, in advance of the general election to promote registration among the students. Staff also attended an Age Friendly event which particularly targeted existing but incomplete registrations. The full impact of these events was not reported, but the council advised that there were registrations on the days they were held.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Waterford City and County Council's electoral register is reported to be around the national average for accuracy indicators with the exception of dates of birth which is slightly below. However, all these national averages need to improve. While acknowledging the substantial volume of applications processed since February 2023 and the considerable work undertaken by staff to raise awareness of new registration processes, the levels of accuracy indicators is still a concern. The council should make efforts to increase the percentage of accuracy indicators recorded.

Based on the information provided, An Coimisiún does not believe that the management and maintenance of the electoral register is satisfactorily prioritised by this local authority. While there have been some efforts to improve the quality of this register, a higher level of effort needs to be made.

Given the overall quality of this register, based on information provided, it will not possible to estimate the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered until there is considerable improvement.

Both Waterford City and County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Westmeath Overview

Chart 1: Reported Westmeath electoral register numbers 2023-2024

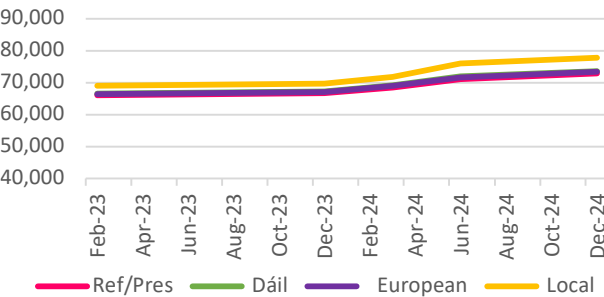


Table 1: Reported Westmeath electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	68,984	69,643	71,760	75,957	77,834
Dáil	66,627	67,307	69,192	71,916	73,665
European	66,460	67,129	68,972	71,705	73,432
Ref/Pres	66,009	66,663	68,494	71,131	72,830

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Westmeath County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data reported shows that there was an overall increase of 12.8% over that period in the numbers registered to vote on the Westmeath register. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register were relatively stable.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 2.7%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 9.1% and 6.8% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 9.4%.

Chart 2: Westmeath % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

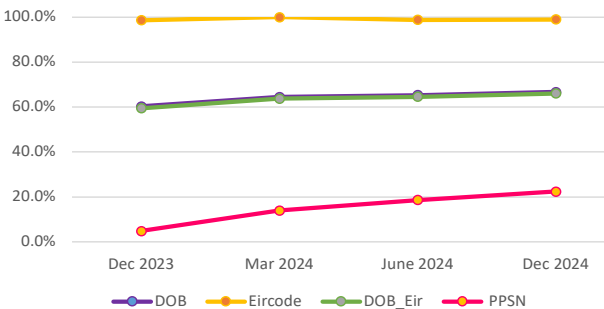


Table 2: Westmeath % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

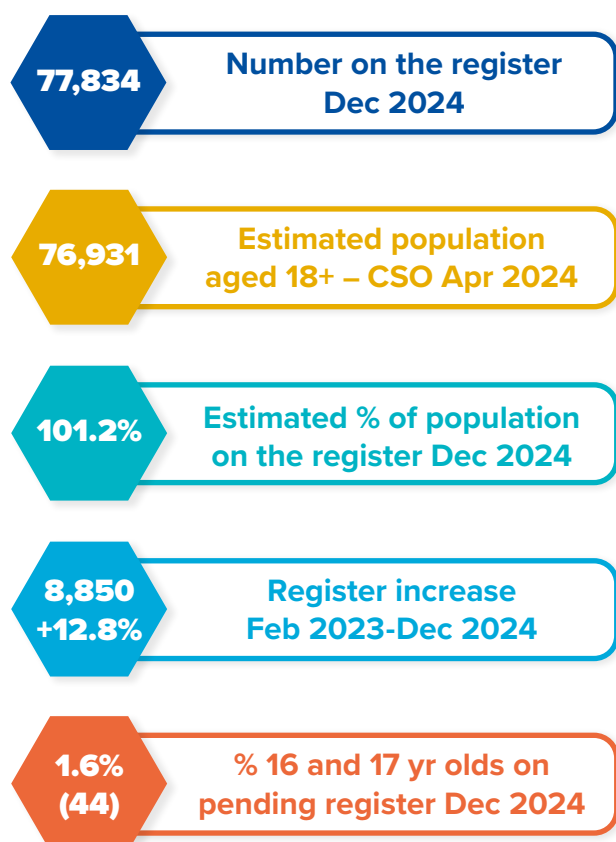
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	60.3%	64.5%	65.3%	66.7%
Eircode	98.6%	100.0%	98.8%	99.0%
DoB + Eir	59.5%	63.8%	64.6%	66.1%
PPSN	4.8%	13.9%	18.6%	22.4%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. The recording of these accuracy indicators supports the identification of duplicate entries, can reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

These reported accuracy indicators, coupled with an estimated 101.2% of potential electors on the electoral register, indicates that Westmeath County Council has considerable work to do with regard to increasing the overall quality of the register. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	51,947	66.7% [21st]	72.4%
Eircode	77,032	99.0% [2nd]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	51,431	66.1% [8th]	56.0%
PPSN	17,457	22.4% [12th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Leafleting to over 33,000 households across the county
- ▶ Local media campaign – radio and newspaper
- ▶ Engagement with community groups
- ▶ Awareness raising through use of “Check the Register” stamp on all outgoing post

Assessment

Accuracy

Data provided appears to indicate that 101.2% of the estimated eligible population in Westmeath were on the electoral register in December 2024. This is the eighth highest percentage of registered electors across all local authorities. In the context of mixed levels of accuracy indicators, Westmeath County Council needs to work to improve its accuracy indicators, particularly dates of birth.

Based on information provided Westmeath County Council is in the top ten local authorities for two of the accuracy indicators. 99.0% of electors are reported to have an assigned Eircode (national average is 69.8%), and 66.1% of electors are reported to have both date of birth and Eircode (average is 56.0%) recorded. 66.7% have a date of birth which is below the national average of 72.4%. 22.4% of electors have an associated PPSN (national average is 22.0%).

It was reported that an estimated 961 entries were removed from the register between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily duplicate entries, deceased electors and people who had moved away. In 2024 as a whole, there were 2,420 deletions from and 12,209 updates to this register.

The low level of some accuracy indicators and the greater number of people on the register than are potentially eligible highlights the need for continued efforts on the part of Westmeath County Council to increase the levels of accuracy indicators.

Completeness

The Westmeath register increased by 8,850 people between February 2023 and December 2024. This was an increase of more than 12.8%.

The fact that the number on the register is higher than the estimated eligible population is not an indicator that everyone who is entitled to vote is on the register. The registration rate of 101.2% of estimated eligible population appears to indicate that there are inaccuracies on the register.

Until the levels of accuracy are significantly improved it will not be possible to assess the completeness of the Westmeath electoral registers.

Resourcing

Westmeath County Council reported 1.5 staff working full-time on the electoral register in 2023, rising to 1.75 staff in 2024, with two staff working part-time across both years.

The council estimated that €74,045 was spent on the register in 2023. Expenditure of €34,773 was approved for 2024. Westmeath County Council received €43,319 in funding from DHLGH in 2023 to support register-related activities and €35,890 in 2024.

Activities

Westmeath County Council undertook a number of broad-based activities during 2023 to raise awareness of the register and the registration process. It advertised in local newspapers and radio. It distributed leaflets to over 33,000 addresses seeking additional information. All outgoing council post was franked with “ChecktheRegister” to increase familiarity with the online portal.

In a more targeted activity, Westmeath County Council presented to the Comhairle na nÓg AGM in November 2023, at which 11 schools were represented, regarding registration and the pending register.

As a result, the council advise that some 2,857 people were added to the electoral register, including 51 to the pending register.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Westmeath County Council’s register has some good accuracy indicators, but has some distance to go before all four accuracy indicators reach the current national averages, which also need to be improved. While acknowledging the substantial volume of applications processed since February 2023, the apparently high level of registrations compared to the estimated eligible population is a concern and highlights the need for the council to continue to improve collection of accuracy indicator data.

Based on information provided, An Coimisiún believes that the level of prioritisation afforded to the electoral register needs to be improved by this local authority. Greater efforts are required to improve the overall quality of the electoral register which may be a result of a limited level of resourcing. It is likely that after the establishment of the LGERS national electoral register database, sustained work on the quality of this register will be required.

In light of the quality of this register, based on information provided, it is not possible to accurately estimate the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered. This will only be possible when the quality of the register is improved.

Both Westmeath County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Wexford Overview

Chart 1: Reported Wexford electoral register numbers 2023-2024

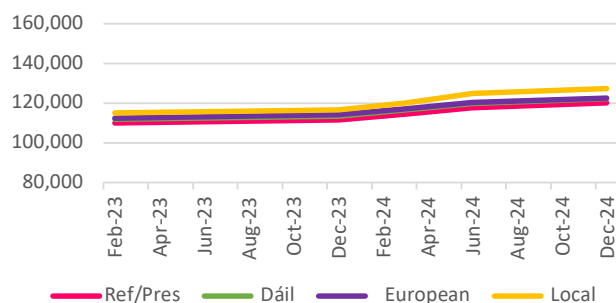


Table 1: Reported Wexford electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	115,096	116,762	120,204	124,832	127,350
Dáil	111,798	113,314	116,589	119,953	122,307
European	112,533	114,237	117,165	120,429	122,702
Ref/Pres	110,036	111,440	114,631	117,821	120,073

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Wexford County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The data reported shows that there was an overall increase of 10.6% over that period in the numbers registered to vote. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register for all electoral events increased slightly by 1.4%.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 2.9%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024 there were increases of 6.9% and 5.4% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 7.9%.

Chart 2: Wexford % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

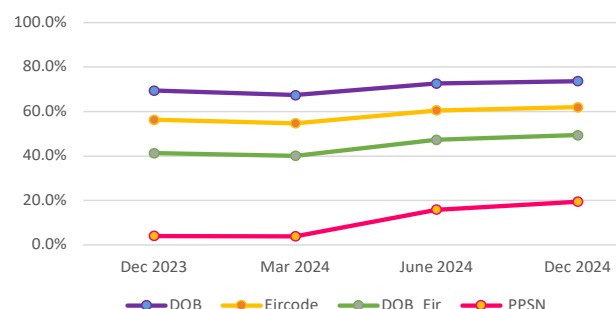


Table 2: Wexford % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

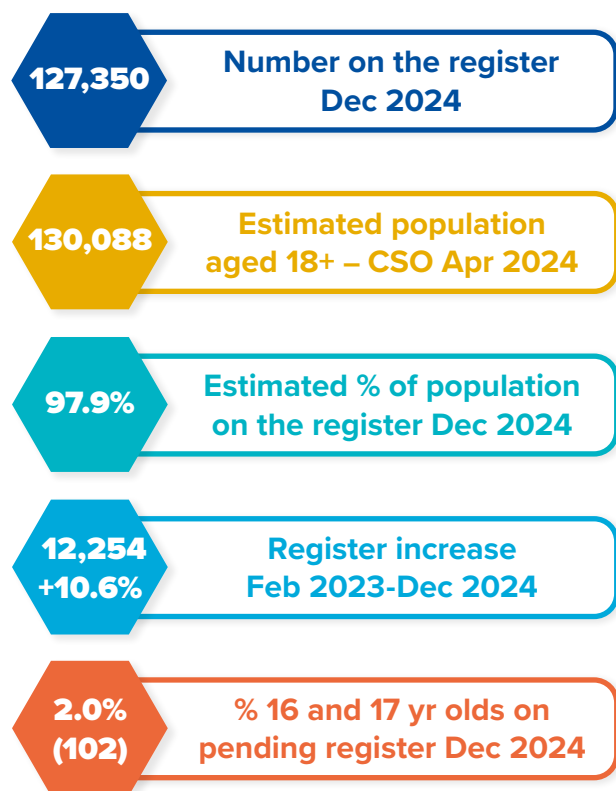
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	69.4%	67.4%	72.7%	73.7%
Eircode	56.3%	54.7%	60.5%	62.0%
DoB_Eir	41.3%	40.1%	47.4%	49.4%
PPSN	4.1%	4.0%	15.9%	19.5%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. The recording of these accuracy indicators supports the identification of duplicate entries, can reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

The reported data, which includes a mid-range level of coverage of key variables such as date of birth, PPSN and Eircode, despite an estimated 97.9% of potential eligible electors on the electoral register, indicates that Wexford County Council has considerable work to do to improve the overall quality of its electoral register. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data



Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	93,883	73.7% [15th]	72.4%
Eircode	79,004	62.0% [15th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	62,942	49.4% [15th]	56.0%
PPSN	24,872	19.5% [24th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- Social media campaign
- Engagement with secondary schools
- Engagement with nursing homes
- Eircode project

Assessment

Accuracy

Based on the data provided, the number of electors on the register compared with estimated eligible electors in Wexford is at 97.9%. In the context of a mid-range level of accuracy indicators, this is suggestive of a high level of inaccuracies on the Wexford register.

The percentage of PPSNs collected at 19.5% is below the national average of 22.0%, which also needs considerable improvement. In relation to Eircodes, the 62.0% collected is also below the national average of 69.8%. Combined dates of birth and Eircodes collected at 49.4% are also below the national average of 56.0%. However, on a positive note, the percentage of dates of birth at 73.7% is just above the national average of 72.4%.

It was reported that an estimated 2,330 entries were removed from the register between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily duplicate entries, deceased electors and people who had moved away. In 2024 as a whole, there were 7,829 deletions from and 7,668 updates to this register.

The mid-range level of three accuracy indicators and the relatively high number of people on the register compared to the potential eligible electorate highlights the need for efforts on the part of Wexford County Council to increase the levels of accuracy indicators.

The main challenge faced during 2024 was the processing of the very high volume of applications to register or update details in time for the electoral events, especially between the calling of each event and the closing date for applications. On November 11 alone, prior to the general election, there were 1,157 applications on *checktheregister.ie*.

It was estimated that over 25,000 applications to register or update details submitted to Wexford County Council during 2024. Of these, almost 10,600 were new electors added to the register. Additional staff from other areas of the council assisted the franchise team.

For each event, the council reported prioritising certain types of applications. The normal procedure of reverting to an applicant during processing if an anomaly was found in information submitted was suspended in order to process all applications to register in time for the electoral events. In such cases, the applicant was added to the register and the application was flagged. Follow up took place after the election whereby the applicant was contacted, and their record was amended as necessary.

According to Wexford County Council, a similar approach was taken to duplicate applications. Usually, an application to register from a person who, for example, because of their date of birth may have been registered previously, is held and the applicant is contacted to ascertain if they have been previously registered. To enable applications to be processed on time these applications were added to the register and contacted at a later date.

Completeness

The Wexford register increased by 12,254 people between February 2023 and December 2024. This represents an increase of 10.6%.

The fact that the numbers on the register nearly match the estimated eligible population is not an indicator that everyone who is entitled to vote is on the register. Despite the registration rate of 97.9% of estimated eligible population, the low level of accuracy indicators appears to suggest that there may be considerable inaccuracies on the register.

Until the levels of accuracy are significantly improved it will not be possible to assess the completeness of the Wexford electoral registers.

Resourcing

Wexford County Council reported that three staff worked part-time on the register in 2023 and 2024, supported by temporary staff (three in 2023 and 4 in 2024). The council noted that the staff were relatively inexperienced. All were appointed after October 2022 but are reported to have benefitted from participation in a South East Regional Networking Group, more experienced colleagues in other local authorities and through national training events hosted by the DHLGH and the LGMA.

Wexford County Council estimated that €126,570 was spent on the register in 2023. Expenditure of €185,376 was approved for 2024. The council received €54,549 in funding from DHLGH in 2023 to support register-related activities and €54,478 in 2024.

Activities

Wexford County Council undertook targeted activities to raise awareness of the register and the registration process. It was one of a number of local authorities that engaged directly with secondary schools to encourage student registration. It was one of three local authorities that engaged with nursing homes. It also undertook activities to increase accuracy and completeness of special and postal voter lists. In a broader initiative, voter registration was promoted via social media.

The council reported that during the second half of 2024 staff did not have the capacity to undertake extra activities to promote registration or updating of details by electors.

During interviews on local radio, the local election Returning Officer (a member of council staff) encouraged people to register to vote. No other activities were carried out at local level to promote voter registration or update of voter details between the local and European elections and the general election. It reported that all available staff resources were fully occupied in dealing with the large number of applications received as a result of national media campaigns.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Wexford County Council's register has some distance to go before all accuracy indicators reach the current national averages, which also need to be improved. While acknowledging the substantial volume of applications processed since February 2023 the mid-range level of accuracy indicators is a concern.

Based on the information provided, An Coimisiún does not believe that the management and maintenance of the electoral register is satisfactorily prioritised by this local authority. While there have been some efforts to improve the quality of this register, a higher level of effort needs to be made.

Given the overall quality of this register, based on information provided, it will not possible to estimate with any degree of certainty either the registration rate for the county, turnout at electoral events or the numbers of people who are not registered until there is considerable improvement before the start of the next electoral cycle in 2029.

Both Wexford County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Wicklow Overview

Chart 1: Reported Wicklow electoral register numbers 2023-2024

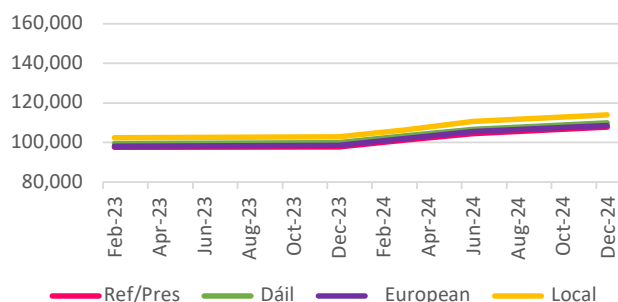


Table 1: Reported Wicklow electoral register numbers 2023-2024

	Feb-23	Dec-23	Mar-24 (Ref)	Jun-24 (EU, L)	Dec-24 (GE Nov)
Local	102,441	102,999	106,542	110,810	114,153
Dáil	99,627	99,984	103,439	106,744	109,995
European	98,264	98,655	102,184	105,613	108,779
Ref/Pres	97,597	97,939	101,406	104,622	107,773

The data presented in **Chart 1** and **Table 1** covers the reported electoral register numbers for Wicklow County Council for the period February 2023 to December 2024. The reported data shows that there was an overall increase of 11.4% over that period in the numbers registered to vote. In 2023, during which there were no electoral events, numbers on the register were stable.

Registers for electoral events

Family and Care Referendums: Between December 2023 and March 2024, the period leading up to the Family and Care referendums, electors for this event increased by 3.5%.

Local and European Elections: In the period between December 2023 and the local and European elections in June 2024, there were increases of 7.6% and 7.1% respectively.

General Election: Between December 2023 and December 2024 (GE 29 November), electors on the register for Dáil elections increased by 10.0%.

Chart 2: Wicklow % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

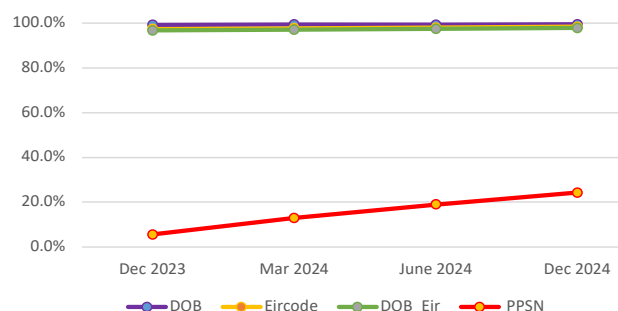


Table 2: Wicklow % of registered electors – identifiers recorded

	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Dec-24
DoB	99.3%	99.5%	99.4%	99.5%
Eircode	97.4%	97.8%	98.0%	98.4%
DoB_Eir	96.8%	97.2%	97.4%	97.9%
PPSN	5.6%	13.0%	19.0%	24.2%

Chart 2 and **Table 2** show the reported change in individual accuracy indicator data recorded for electors on the register. The recording of these accuracy indicators supports the identification of duplicate entries, can reduce the risk of removing the wrong elector when someone is deceased and can assist in ensuring that any detail changes sought are made to the appropriate elector. It can also support the identification of redundant or dormant records e.g. those who have moved away or who are no longer in the country.

Based on these reported accuracy indicators, the data suggests that Wicklow County Council has been one of the more effective local authorities with regard to recording of data for each elector. This suggests that the percentage of the eligible population on the register, at 92.5%, is likely to be a more realistic estimate than those local authorities with lower accuracy indicators. As in all cases, further analysis of the registers is required, including the carrying out of accuracy audits.

Insights February 2023 to December 2024

Headline data

114,153

**Number on the register
Dec 2024**

123,472

**Estimated population
aged 18+ – CSO Apr 2024**

92.5%

**Estimated % of population
on the register Dec 2024**

11,712

+11.4%

**Register increase
Feb 2023-Dec 2024**

2.3%

(107)

**% 16 and 17 yr olds on
pending register Dec 2024**

Accuracy indicators – December 2024

Indicator	Number recorded on register	% [Ranking in brackets]	Local authority averages
Date of birth	113,637	99.5% [1st]	72.4%
Eircode	112,444	98.4% [4th]	69.8%
Date of birth + Eircode	111,863	97.9% [1st]	56.0%
PPSN	27,693	24.2% [7th]	22.0%

Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Attendance and distribution of merchandise at a local agricultural show, as well as at the National Ploughing Championships
- ▶ Social media campaigns
- ▶ Advertisements in local newspaper
- ▶ Registration promotional material provided to secondary schools

Assessment

Accuracy

The data provided indicates that some 92.5% of Wicklow's estimated eligible population are registered to vote. Given the very high levels of accuracy indicators this appears to be one of the more accurate registers in the country. Wicklow County Council is in the top seven local authorities for all four accuracy indicators. It is the most effective local authority in recording elector dates of birth and combined dates of birth and Eircodes. 98.4% of electors have an assigned Eircode (national average is 69.8%), 99.5% have a date of birth (national average is 72.4%), and 97.9% of electors have a combined date of birth and Eircode (national average is 56.0%). Some 24.2% of electors have an associated PPSN (national average is 22.0%).

It was reported that 4,589 entries were removed from the register between December 2022 and March 2024, primarily deceased electors and people who had moved away. In 2024 as a whole, there were 4,986 deletions from and 10,767 updates to this register.

Wicklow County Council has made a concerted effort to capture missing Eircodes. This was achieved by using the reporting function on the register database to identify electors without Eircodes. These electors were then written to requesting Eircodes and other identifiers, with a reported response rate of 94%. It was noted that while this was a time-consuming exercise, it was a relatively easy process. It may be a useful model for other local authorities.

Completeness

The Wicklow register increased by 11,712 people between February 2023 and December 2024. This represents an increase of 11.4%.

The high registration rate relative to the estimated eligible population at 92.5% may be one of the more accurate estimates of registration given the context of very high accuracy indicators.

Having achieved high levels of accuracy Wicklow County Council should continue to maintain these levels and to identify underrepresented cohorts of the electorate with a view to increasing completeness.

The council appears to be in a good position to undertake this awareness raising work among groups or geographic areas that may be less represented on the register.

Resourcing

Wicklow County Council reported that there were three full-time staff (including one temporary staff member) working on the electoral register in 2023, and five in 2024, including three temporary staff. The hiring of temporary staff was done with funding provided by DHLGH for the purpose of supporting register-related activities. Overtime was worked in the run-up to all electoral events in 2024.

While Wicklow County Council has one of the better resourced franchise functions, it was noted that the legislative timeframes, together with the ease of access for members of the public to register online, meant that managing the surge of applications in advance of the general election was reported to be a “staggering” challenge. This was met by deploying additional resources from other departments and overtime.

It is reported that €132,784 was spent on the register by the council in 2023. Expenditure on register related costs of €240,737 was approved for 2024. Wicklow County Council received around €52,129 in funding from DHLGH in 2023 to support register-related activities. In 2024, Wicklow drew down €53,147 of DHLGH available funding.


Activities

In addition to impactful initiatives to support accuracy outlined above, Wicklow County Council have undertaken a number of broad-based activities to raise awareness of the registration process, increase registrations and strengthen accuracy. These included local campaigns and social media campaigns throughout the year, as well as attendance at an agricultural show and the National Ploughing Championships. The council engaged with secondary schools, providing registration promotional material for displaying in schools. The impacts of these activities were not quantified.

Overall assessment and recommendations

Wicklow’s register appears to be one of the most accurate in the country. It is apparent that this is the result of a high level of prioritisation and work on the register over a period of time. With high levels of accuracy indicators, Wicklow County Council appears to be well placed to target activities to increase its registration rate, and ensure that accuracy is maintained. It is clear that the council prioritises its electoral register function and manages and maintains the quality of the register.

There have clearly been sustained and generally successful efforts to improve the quality of its register. However, while further work will be required following the establishment of the LGERS national electoral register database based on data reported it is likely that this will be less than in many other local authorities.



An Coimisiún considers this to be one of the better-quality registers in the country. Given the accuracy indicators it is possible to have a level of confidence in its reported registration rate, turnout at electoral events and be able to estimate the numbers of people who are not registered. It is likely that further improvements will come with the establishment of LGERS.

Both Wicklow County Council and DHLGH should ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to progress the LGERS project and to implement the recommendations in this report.

Appendix

Oversight of electoral register — first annual survey for completion by local authorities. Issued to local authorities March 2024.

Introduction

Under Section 98 of the *Electoral Reform Act 2022*, the *Electoral Act, 1992* has been amended to include a new reporting requirement (Section 20A). Each registration authority shall, on an annual basis and by such date as may be specified to it by An Coimisiún Toghcháin, submit a report to An Coimisiún which shall include the following:

- a. information on the activities undertaken and measures applied by the registration authority in the preceding calendar year to ensure the maintenance of a complete and accurate Electoral Register for its registration area;
- b. information on the activities undertaken and measures applied by the registration authority under paragraph (a) in the preceding calendar year to evaluate whether, and if so, how, those activities and measures have contributed to the maintenance of a complete and accurate Electoral Register for its registration area;
- c. such other matters as may be directed by An Coimisiún in relation to the performance of the functions of a registration authority.

Under Section 69(2) of the *Electoral Reform Act 2022*, An Coimisiún Toghcháin, is required on an annual basis, to publish and lay before each House of the Oireachtas, a report setting out:

- a. such research, if any, carried out by the Commission under subsection (1);
- b. the Commission's assessment of the status and functioning of the electoral register maintained by registration authorities and any recommendations the Commission considers necessary to maintain or enhance the integrity of the electoral register and the registration process.

Survey format

- This survey seeks responses to a range of questions across the following 7 themes:
 1. Constituency Data to inform the extent of the completeness of the Electoral Register
 2. Accuracy of the current Electoral Register
 3. Activities undertaken to improve the completeness and accuracy of the register
 4. Maintaining the Electoral Register
 - Resourcing of the franchise function (staffing and financial);
 - Training and supports provided to franchise staff
 5. System Security
 6. Challenges to the maintenance of a complete and accurate Electoral Register
 7. Maintenance of the register for the Family and Care referendums
- Both quantitative and qualitative information is sought in Registration Authority responses.
- The option is provided under Section 3 to highlight areas of good practice and innovation with regard to maintenance of the Register, which may be included as case studies in the Report of An Coimisiún Toghcháin. The template also provides an opportunity to identify the challenges of maintaining an accurate and complete Register.
- Responses received from the Registration Authorities will be sense-checked against and supplemented by information from other sources, including the Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the LGMA, the CSO and the NCSC.

- The Report will also be informed by engagement with other key stakeholders, including public representatives and Returning Officers, and research into other jurisdictions.

Date for Submission of Survey Responses

We are asking that this survey be completed in full by **close of business on 22 April, 2024** and to be returned to operations@electoralcommission.ie by that date with the subject line **First Annual Electoral Register Survey April 2024**.

Reporting Survey

- Please answer all 7 parts comprehensively.
- Please note that An Coimisiún Toghcháin may publish all or part of your survey responses and may aggregate data across Registration Authorities in the Report.
- Responses will come within scope of FOI and may be published in whole or in part after publication of the Report to the Oireachtas.

1. Constituency Data - Completeness of the Electoral Register

Purpose of data: The data provided will provide an overview of the Registration Authority size and scope, and will provide baseline register data with regard to the completeness of the register, that is, every person who is entitled to have an entry in an electoral register is registered.

1.1 Population and Configuration: Please clarify source used including electronic links if publically available e.g. CSO data from Census 2022

Population and configuration	Figure	Source of data
Population of Registration Authority area		
Population of Registration area aged 18+ years		
Population of Registration area aged 16/17 years		
Number of Dáil constituencies within Registration Authority area		
Number of LEAs within Registration Authority area		
Number of Electoral Districts within Registration Authority area		
Number of Councillors		
Number of TDs		

1.2 Breakdown of electors as at midnight 7 March 2024:

Breakdown of electors	Number	% of electorate
Total electors		
Presidential electors		
Dáil electors		
Local electors		
European electors		
Postal Voters – please provide information for each category		
Gardaí		
Defence Forces		
Diplomats & spouses		
Illness/Disability		

Occupation		
Students		
Prisoners		
Anonymous		
Special Voters – please provide information for each category		
Nursing homes		
Hospitals		
Mental health treatment centres		
Pending Electors (16/17 year-old persons)		
If <u>available</u> please note top 3 nationalities in your registration area with associated numbers.	1. 2. 3.	

1.3 Level of registration/detail change activity

	Jan-Dec 2022	Jan-Dec 2023	Jan-March 2024
Number of online registrations processed			
Number of online changes to details processed			
Number of paper applications processed			
Number of paper changes to details processed			
Number of people removed from register *			
*If exact figure is not available please provide the nearest estimate. If estimated figure included please mark as Est			

2. Accuracy of the Electoral Register

Purpose of data: The data will give an overview of the current accuracy of the Electoral Register, that is, the correctness of details on the register

2.1 Please complete the following table:

Breakdown of electors	Number	% of electorate
Number on register with DoB populated		
Number on register with PPSN populated		
Number on register with Eircode populated		
Number on register with email address populated		
Number with contact number		
Combined DoB and Eircode provided		
Number on register with no fixed abode		

Overall number removed from the register in 2023		
Breakdown of numbers removed from the register Reasons where available (estimated no. can be provided):		
Deceased		
Moved to another Registration Authority area		
Emigrated		
Duplicate		
Requested removal		
Other – please specify		

2.2 What system generated reports and external data sources do you use to verify data accuracy and completeness? Please complete table below:

Data source	Purpose for which data is used, e.g. information on deceased electors etc.

3. Activities to improve the accuracy and completeness of the register

Purpose of data/information: The information will demonstrate the extent to which Registration Authorities are actively trying to strengthen the accuracy of the data on the register, and increase its completeness, including through engagement with under-reached groups.

3.1 Details of local campaigns and activities, January 2023 – March 2024. Please complete the table below for each activity. Please include additional table(s) as needed.

Activity	
Aim of Activity	
Target Audience [^]	
Impact on Electoral Register*	
Expenditure (Local Authority funding)	
Expenditure (Dept. of Housing, Local Government & Heritage funding)	
Total Expenditure (LA and DHLGH funding)	

[^] Target Audience should indicate what age group or demographic or type of elector the campaign or activity was aimed at. For instance, was a campaign aimed at increasing the number of electors with no fixed abode registering or the number of pending electors registering (16/17 year olds) or was it aimed at decreasing the number of people whose entries are missing Eircodes or dates of birth?

*Impact should include number of new applications during/post campaign activity; number of changes to personal details during/post campaign or activity; queries received during/post campaign or activity and any other impacts observed.

Activity	
Aim of Activity	
Target Audience	
Impact on Electoral Register*	
Expenditure (Local Authority funding)	
Expenditure (Dept. of Housing, Local; Government & Heritage funding)	
Total Expenditure (LA and DHLGH funding)	

Activity	
Aim of Activity	
Target Audience^	
Impact on Electoral Register*	
Expenditure (Local Authority funding)	
Expenditure (Dept. of Housing, Local; Government & Heritage funding)	
Total Expenditure (LA and DHLGH funding)	
Number on register with no fixed abode	

Activity	
Aim of Activity	
Target Audience^	
Impact on Electoral Register*	
Expenditure (Local Authority funding)	
Expenditure (Dept. of Housing, Local; Government & Heritage funding)	
Total Expenditure (LA and DHLGH funding)	
Number on register with no fixed abode	

3.2 Deployment of Fieldworkers

- Does the Registration Authority employ fieldworkers to support the accuracy and completeness of the register? Please tick

YES	
NO	

3.2.1 If you answered “yes” to question 3.2, please provide the following information:

Year	
Number of Fieldworkers employed	
Other functions of Field Workers if applicable, e.g. Revenue Inspectors	
Activities undertaken	
Impact, using data where possible, e.g. increase in data fields completed, additions to register etc.	
Expenditure (overall expenditure on fieldworkers during 2023)	

3.2.2 If you responded “No” to question 3.2, please provide the following information:

Year in which fieldworkers were most recently employed	
Number of Fieldworkers employed	
Other functions of Field Workers if applicable, e.g. Revenue Inspectors	
Activities undertaken	
Impact, using data where possible, e.g. increase in data fields completed, additions to register etc.	
Expenditure	
Reasons for not continuing to use fieldworkers	

3.3 Do you have a communications or public engagement strategy in place for 2024 to strengthen the accuracy and completeness of the Electoral Register?

YES	
NO	

3.4 Two national campaigns were run by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage during 2023 (June and November). What were the impacts of these campaigns on the Electoral Register? Please provide data where available.

Month of Campaign	Additions to Register	Changes to Details on Register	Other impacts
June 2023			
November 2023			

3.5 An Coimisiún Toghcháin, The Electoral Commission, ran registration and referendum information campaigns from 4 January – 7 March 2024. What were the impacts of these campaigns on the Electoral Register? Please provide data where available.

Month of Campaign	Additions to Register	Changes to Details on Register	Other impacts
January			
February			
March			

3.6 What were the impacts of any local authority run registration campaigns on the Electoral Register during 2023? Please provide data where available. Please include additional rows if needed.

Month of Campaign	Additions to Register	Changes to Details on Register	Other impacts

3.7 What are the main issues that have been raised by members of the public, local representatives or representative groups through correspondence, meetings or other engagements from January 2023-March 2024 with the Registration Authority in relation to the electoral register? Please complete the table below. Please enter N/A where issues were not raised. Please do not identify individual names.

Issue raised:	Numbers of issues raised by:		
	Individuals	Public Representatives	Representative Groups
Functionality of <i>checktheregister.ie</i> or <i>voter.ie</i>			
How to register			
How to change details on register			
Difficulties in changing details on <i>checktheregister.ie</i> or <i>voter.ie</i>			
PPSN Requirement to register/change details			
DoB Requirement to register/change details			
Eircode Requirement to register/change details			
Claim of being removed from register			
Asked to be removed from register			
Postal voting			
Special voting			
Accessibility issues			
No Fixed Abode			
Request for referendum booklet			
Information re. polling stations			
Other issues: Please specify below. Please add rows to table as needed.	Individuals	Public Representatives	Representative Groups

Case Study

Please provide a short description of an activity or innovation which you undertook during 2023 or 2024 to date to strengthen accuracy and/or completeness of the Electoral Register. Include information on the reason why this particular activity was decided upon, how it was run, who was involved, and the impacts. Some examples provided may be used as case studies in the Report of An Coimisiún. You may wish to include the following information:

- Purpose of activity
- New innovation or tried and tested?
- Rationale: Why this activity chosen?
- Management: How was the activity managed? How many of the team were involved? Were particular skill sets needed?
- Impacts: What were the qualitative and quantitative impacts? Were there any unforeseen impacts?
- Lessons learned: What, if anything would you do differently? Were there learnings that will inform other projects/activities? If this innovation or activity was deemed successful do you plan to continue it in future?

Case Study Title:

4. Maintaining the Electoral Register

Purpose of data/information: The data and information provided will indicate the extent of resources assigned to the Franchise function within Registration Authorities and provide context as to the experience of Franchise staff, and the levels of support provided to them in their roles.

Please provide details of the following:

4.1 Staff resources 2023 and 2024. The provision of data for both 2023 and 2024 will be a useful for comparing resourcing in years where electoral events took place to those in which there were no electoral events:

	2023	2024
Number of Local Authority Staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full-time (FTE) Part-time 		
Number of staff in Division that incorporates Franchise function (please name Division) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full-time (FTE) Part-time 		
Number of staff working full-time in Franchise unit, i.e. 100% of their time in Franchise unit		
Number of staff working part-time in Franchise unit and part-time in other units/ Divisions		
Estimated number of staff in RA with experience of working on electoral events		
Please list other functions that come within the remit of Franchise staff		

4.2 Training supports/Networking opportunities: Training opportunities and networking events attended by Franchise staff, relevant to the Franchise function in 2023 and 2024.

Event	Organiser, e.g. LGMA, Dept. of HLGH	Purpose	No. of RA attendees

4.3 Financial resourcing:

	2023	2024 (estimated)
Local Authority Budget 2023		
Franchise Unit Budget 2023		
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Funding		
Total Funding Available (Franchise Unit Budget & DHLGH Funding)		

5. System Security

Purpose of data/information: The data and information provided will seek to demonstrate that appropriate measures are in place to protect the security of the register

Is an individual (DO NOT INCLUDE NAME), at an appropriate level in the organisation, accountable for the maintenance of the Electoral Register for your Registration Authority? Please note that this question relates to the register itself, and not the technology underpinning the register. Please also note that responses to this section of the report will not be made publically available.

YES	
NO	

If yes, can you answer Yes/No that the accountable individual is familiar with the following – :

Question for verification	Yes/No
The technical assets that underpin the electoral register, e.g. how many servers it requires and where are they located, dependencies on service providers etc.	
The threats that have the potential to impact the electoral register	
The measures that are in place to manage the risks to the electoral register?	
Incident response procedures	
How often incident response procedures are tested	
Recovery time of system	

6. Challenges to the maintenance of a complete and accurate Electoral Register

6.1 Please outline the key challenges to the maintenance of a complete and accurate register, in the context of the modernisation of the registration process (including online registration via *checktheregister.ie*, introduction of the rolling register, use of PPS numbers, introduction of pre-registration and greater accessibility of the register to those who wish to remain anonymous or have no fixed address), and suggestions of measures to address these challenges. These challenges may include issues relating public engagement; functionality of the *checktheregister.ie* application; functionality of iReq; *voter.ie*; etc.

[illegible]

Please provide any further comments

6.2 Please outline benefits and opportunities for the Franchise Team associated with the modernisation of the electoral register, including online registration via *checktheregister.ie*, introduction of the rolling register, use of PPS numbers, introduction of pre-registration and greater accessibility of the register to those who wish to remain anonymous or have no fixed address.

[illegible]

Additional Information – Post Electoral Event Insights

7. Maintenance of Electoral Register for Electoral Event – Family and Care Referendums 8 March 2024

Purpose of data: The data and information provided will provide insights into the effectiveness of the management and maintenance of the electoral register in preparation for an electoral event and provide learning for future electoral events. **Similar data will be sought after each electoral event.**

7.1 Please provide details as follows as an indicator of the levels of activity associated with the Family and Care Referendums.

	Number/Estimate
Number of applications to register received via Voter.ie/Check the Register 1 Jan - 20 Feb 2024	
Number of applications for postal vote received by 12 February, 2024	
Number of applications for special vote received by 12 February, 2024	
Number of paper applications to register received 1 Jan - 20 Feb 2024	
Number of applications to change details via Voter.ie/Check the Register 1 Jan - 20 Feb 2024	
Number of paper applications to change details 1 Jan - 20 Feb 2024	
Number of applications/detail changes processed in advance of preparation of the published register	
Number of applications/detail changes processed for balancing list	
Number of applications/detail changes received by 20 February but not processed in time for inclusion on balancing list	
In relation to the above, where available, please provide breakdown of applications and register changes that were not processed in time for inclusion on balancing list e.g. X changes of address not processed; Y deletions not processed etc.	
Number of additional staff not included in reply to Q4.1 above assigned to Franchise function to assist with applications for Family and Care referendums	
Staff assigned full-time	
Staff assigned part-time	
Number of staff with access to iReg system	
Number of applications by electors with no fixed abode to use RA address for correspondence	
Number of applications by those with no fixed abode to use An Post Address Point/Address Pal facility	

7.2 Approach to management and maintenance of register

**What measures/processes supported effective management of additional applications?
This information will increase understanding of the approach taken to manage the increased activity on the Electoral Register in advance of the Family and Care referendums.**

Where applications received during January/February 2024 were not processed, what were the reasons for this?

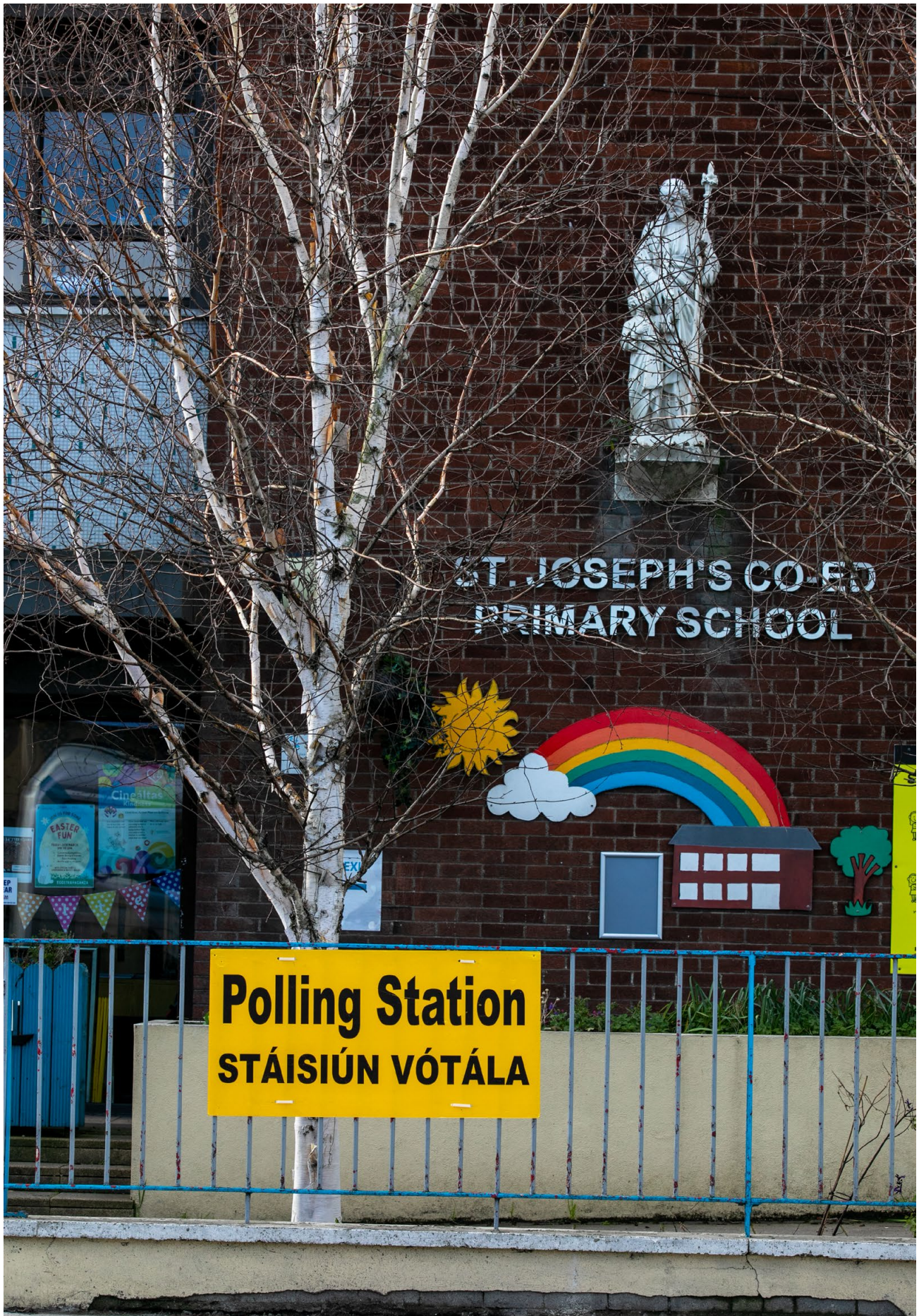
7.3 Lessons Learned


What were the “lessons learned” in relation to the management and maintenance of the electoral register during preparations for the Family and Care referendums?

7.4 Issues raised in advance of, and after, Family and Care Referendums regarding the Electoral Register and related issues. Please provide data in relation to the issues set out below where available, and applicable, and add additional issues, which were raised with you in advance of, and after 8 March. Please include N/A where issue was not raised, or information not available where this is the case.

Issue raised	Number of incidences recorded by staff where available	Issue raised but number of incidences not recorded
Individual not on register, but had applied to register in time		
Individual's details not changed, but had applied to change details on time		
Individual not added to register (where individual assumed that this is done automatically)		
Deceased person not removed from register		
Address not changed on register (individual had not changed details, but assumed that details were changed automatically)		
Citizenship status not changed on register (individual had applied to change status, but was not processed)		
Citizenship status not changed on register (individual assumed status was changed automatically)		
Polling card received by individual not entitled to vote in Referendum (not Irish citizen)		
Polling card not received		
Duplicate polling cards received		
Polling card received for deceased elector		

Please provide further comments as required regarding issues raised by members of the public regarding the Electoral Register.





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