

**Annual canvass 2020**  
**Briefing Note No. 20-24**

**Service:** Electoral Services  
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The way the annual canvass is carried out is changing.

Each year the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) has a legal requirement to conduct an annual canvass to ensure the electoral register is accurate and complete.

The 2020 annual canvass has been reformed by the Cabinet Office. They have set new instructions for the ERO to follow and these are set in law.

For those properties where there may not be any changes to the information held, Electoral Services will email the residents in the property on 7 July where they have provided the council with an email address.

If the same email address has been used for more than one resident, then they will receive more than one email. Only one person within the household needs to respond to the email.

People need to respond to this email to either confirm the information is correct or to advise electoral services of any changes.

If a response is not received, then a form will be sent to them by post at the beginning of August and they will only need to respond to that if the information has changed.

For those properties where we are aware there may be changes which is around 58k properties, they will be sent a form later in July.

If neither of those options gets a response, canvassers may visit properties later in the autumn (observing any social distance measures in place), and they will have equipment to confirm residents' details there and then.

Everyone is being encouraged to respond electronically if they can, as this is much more convenient for the resident, and saves the council valuable money and time.

Last year, 200,571 responses were received during the annual canvass and 85,562 responded via telephone, text or online.

More details, including FAQs can be found at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/elections](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/elections)