

About this publication	Description
Publication title	Electoral Statistics for Scotland as at 1st December 2020
Description	Summary data on the number of people registered to vote in Parliamentary and Local Government elections as recorded on the Electoral Register - available for various electoral geographies and voter eligibilities.
Theme	Population and Migration
Topic	Population and Migration
Format	Excel workbooks, CSV files and PDF files
Data source(s)	Local Electoral Registration Officers
Date that data is acquired	December 2020
Publication Release date	30 th March 2021
Frequency	Annual. Publications in this series are normally annual, with a reference date of 1 st December. In two years (2014 and 2015) the reference date was in March to facilitate the introduction of Individual Electoral Registration (IER). The publication then reverted back to the usual reference date of 1 st December from 2015. To inform the next UK parliamentary boundary review, and to mitigate the potential impact of COVID-19 on the annual canvass for updating the electoral registers, NRS carried out a one-off supplementary collection of data on the electoral registers as at 2 March 2020; the Office for National Statistics carried out a corresponding exercise for England and Wales.
Timeframe of data and timeliness	Data as at 1 st December 2020. Release is generally coordinated with publication of UK data by Office for National Statistics (ONS).
Continuity of data	Data available on the NRS website going back to 1996. However, relevant geographies for Westminster Constituencies and Local Government Electoral Wards have changed substantially since then. Therefore, continuity is limited to national and Council area totals.
Revisions statement	Electoral statistics are collected by the 15 Electoral Registration Offices as a result of the annual canvass. Whilst the Register is dynamic through a process called “rolling registration” throughout the year, the data we publish shows the state of the register at a point in time. Revisions and

	<p>corrections to previously published statistics are dealt with in accordance with the Scottish Government Statistician Group corporate policy statement on revisions and corrections - a copy of which is available on the Scottish Government website.</p>
Concepts and definitions	<p>Further information on the National Records of Scotland's Electoral Statistics can be found in the Background information, available in the main publication.</p>
Relevance and key uses of the statistics	<p>The Electoral Register is a key element of the maintenance of democracy in the UK. The vast majority of the population are recorded on the Register, and for that reason it provides an important comparator for population estimates between census years.</p>
Accuracy	<p>Responsibility for maintenance of the Electoral Register lies with local authorities, and much effort is put into ensuring that the register is as accurate as possible. However, it should be noted that these statistics summarise those included on the register, and not necessarily the entitlement to vote.</p>
Completeness	<p>The published statistics are a summary of the complete Electoral Register as at 1st December 2020.</p>
Comparability	<p>Electoral Statistics for Scotland are published to allow comparison with the other constituent countries of the UK where possible.</p>
Accessibility	<p>It is the policy of National Records of Scotland to make its website and products accessible according to published guidelines. More information is available at: https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/accessibility</p>
Coherence and clarity	<p>The statistics are provided in Excel, PDF and CSV formats. They are designed to be consistent and incorporate comparable historical data where appropriate.</p>
Value type and unit of measure	<p>All electoral statistics are provided on the basis of the count of eligible people on the Electoral Register.</p>
Official Statistics designation	<p>National Statistics</p>
UK Statistics Authority Assessment	<p>Assessed by the UK Statistics Authority in 2011. More information can be found within the UK Statistic Authority – Assessments section on the NRS website.</p>

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