

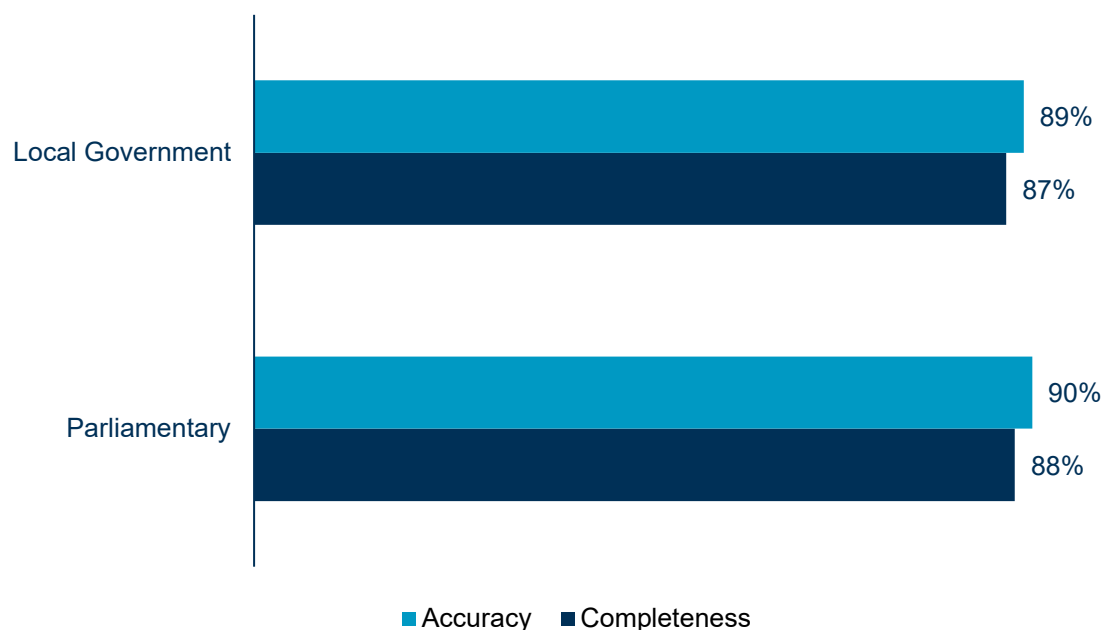
The December 2022 electoral registers in Wales

This factsheet should be read in conjunction with the main report: The Electoral Commission Accuracy and Completeness report 2022 Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The results from this wave show that in Wales in December 2022:

- Local government registers were 87% complete and 89% accurate
- Parliamentary registers were 88% complete and 90% accurate

Figure 1.1: Completeness and accuracy of local government and parliamentary registers in Wales



Base (unweighted): Parliamentary: Completeness 1,410; Accuracy 1,429, Local Government: Completeness 1,485; Accuracy 1,461

Completeness

The local government and parliamentary register in Wales have both seen improvements in completeness since 2018, each increasing by six percentage points. The local government register is now 87% complete (compared with 81% in 2018) and the parliamentary register is now 88% complete (compared with 82%).

Type of completeness errors

Completeness means that every person who is entitled to have an entry on the electoral register is registered. It refers to the percentage of eligible people who are registered at their current address.

A variety of errors can be identified when analysing the completeness of the electoral register. These are categorised as either 'major' or 'minor' errors.

Major errors can be split into three different categories:

- A. The proportion of eligible residents who are currently not included on the register at their current address (i.e., the surveyed address).
- B. Errors relating to someone's name may prevent an individual from casting their vote at a polling station which mean they are not truly registered (e.g., the first name or surname).
- C. Errors which would prevent an eligible elector from casting their vote by suggesting they are ineligible (e.g., an incorrect nationality marker on the parliamentary register or a recorded date of birth which is later than an attainer's birthday).

Minor errors are those which would not prevent someone from casting their vote (for example, an entry with a spelling error). Completeness errors in Wales are broadly similar to Great Britain as a whole. The highest proportion of major errors remain due to eligible residents not being registered at their current address, similarly to 2018. Minor errors are found for 8.8% of eligible residents in Wales.

Table 1: Types of completeness errors on the local government registers in Wales

	Wales		Great Britain	
	2018	2022	2018	2022
Major errors total	18.5%	13.2%	16.9%	14.1%
Major errors – (a)				
Living at address but not named on register	18.2%	12.4%	16.5%	13.4%
Major errors – (b)	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.7%
First name and/or surname wrong on register	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	0.7%
First name and/or surname missing on register	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Middle name wrong on register (where necessary)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Major errors – (c)	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.1%

Incorrect nationality marker that excludes from a register	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
DoB on register later than actual DoB	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.1%
Minor errors total	11.5%	8.8%	8.2%	8.6%
First name/surname on register misspelled	0.9%	0.8%	1.3%	0.6%
First name/surname on register incomplete	0.6%	0.3%	0.5%	0.3%
Middle name missing from register	9.1%	6.4%	7.2%	6.5%
Middle name or initials misspelled or incomplete on register	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.2%
Middle name or initial wrong on register	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
Person does not have a middle name but middle name on registers (respondents only)	0.6%	0.6%	1.3%	1.1%
Surname is/assumed to be previous surname	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%

Base (unweighted): December 2018: Wales – 1,368; GB – 9,679

Base (unweighted): December 2022: Wales – 1,485; GB – 9,495

Patterns have remained the same since 2018 among key demographic groups, with lower levels of registration among younger people, both private and local authority renters and those who have recently moved to their address. As shown in Table 2, the most substantial increases have been among younger people, private renters and those belonging to the DE social group.

Table 2: Local government register completeness by key characteristics in Wales

		Wales		Great Britain	
		2018	2022	2018	2022
Urban/rural	Urban	81%	87%	83%	85%
	Rural	81%	86%	85%	89%
Gender	Male	80%	86%	83%	85%

	Female	82%	87%	83%	87%
Age	18 - 34	66%	79%	68%	71%
	35 - 44	78%	82%	82%	84%
	45 - 54	85%	90%	90%	91%
	55 - 64	92%	91%	90%	94%
	65+	92%	97%	94%	96%
	Tenure	Owner occupied	91%	94%	91%
Buying on mortgage/shared ownership		78%	84%	86%	88%
Private renters		60%	73%	58%	65%
Local authority renters		86%	73%	84%	79%
Housing Association renter		76%	82%	82%	79%
Socio-economic group		AB	87%	87%	86%
	C1	82%	86%	85%	86%
	C2	82%	89%	80%	86%
	DE	76%	85%	80%	81%
	Adults in household	1	82%	90%	86%
2		83%	87%	84%	88%
3 - 5				81%	82%
6+		77%	85%	78%	79%
Duration at address		Up to 1 year			36%
	1 - 2 years	45%	53%	71%	72%
	2 - 5 years	83%	83%	84%	82%
	5 - 10 years	83%	86%	90%	91%
	10 - 16 years	88%	91%	88%	92%
	16 years +	91%	95%	92%	95%
	Nationality	UK and RoI	82%	88%	86%

EU	58%*	70%*	54%	70%
Commonwealth			62%	66%

Base (unweighted): December 2018: Wales – 1,368; GB – 9,679

Base (unweighted): December 2022: Wales – 1,485; GB – 9,495 * Warning – small bases sizes.

Accuracy

The table below shows the types of error found on the December 2022 local government registers. As for Great Britain overall, the highest proportion of major accuracy errors (those which would prevent someone from voting, or incorrectly allow someone to vote) relate to entries where the individual on the register no longer lives at the address (9.3%). In Wales, 9.0% of entries contain minor errors which would not prevent someone from voting.

Table 3: Type of errors in accuracy on local government registers in Wales

	Wales		Great Britain	
	2018	2022	2018	2022
Major errors total	8.8%	10.8%	11.2%	11.7%
Major errors – (a)				
No corresponding name taken at address	8.2%	9.3%	10.4%	9.8%
Major errors – (b)	0.2%	0.6%	0.7%	1.1%
First name and/or surname wrong on register	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%	0.7%
First name and/or surname missing on register	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
UK/Irish/Commonwealth marked as qualifying foreign national present	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%
Major errors – (c)	0.4%	0.9%	0.5%	0.7%
Name on register corresponds to ineligible name on survey	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.3%
Attainers – DOB missing or wrong	0.0%	0.8%	0.1%	0.2%
Qualifying foreign national with marker missing	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Minor errors total	7.9%	9.0%	9.1%	8.8%

First name/surname on register misspelled	0.6%	0.9%	1.2%	0.7%
First name/surname on register incomplete	0.4%	0.3%	0.5%	0.3%
Middle name missing from register	6.1%	6.6%	6.4%	6.6%
Middle name or initials misspelled or incomplete on register	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.2%
Middle name or initial wrong on register	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
Person does not have a middle name but middle name on registers (respondents only)	0.6%	0.6%	1.3%	1.1%
Surname is/assumed to be previous surname	0.2%	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%
First/middle/surname in different order on register	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
DoB earlier on register for attainer	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Bases (unweighted): Great Britain: Dec 2022 (9,479); Dec 2018 (9,155)

Bases (unweighted): Wales: Dec 2022 (1,461); Dec 2018 (1,283)

Patterns in Wales among key demographics are similar to Great Britain as a whole. Private renters and those where residents have been living at their address for a shorter duration are less likely to have an accurate entry on the register.

Table 4: Accuracy of local government register by key demographics in Wales

		Wales		Great Britain	
		2018	2022	2018	2022
Urban/Rural	Urban	88%	89%	88%	88%
	Rural	91%	89%	91%	91%
Tenure	Owner occupied	94%	95%	95%	96%
	Buying on mortgage/shared ownership	93%	92%	95%	91%
	Private renters	82%	78%	81%	77%
	Local authority renters	91%	88%*	92%	88%

	Housing Association renter	91%	85%	91%	90%
Socio-economic group	AB	93%	92%	94%	91%
	C1	96%	93%	93%	91%
	C2	95%	93%	93%	93%
	DE	86%	88%	89%	89%
Duration at address	Up to 1 year			56%	53%
		73%	69%		
	1 - 2 years			93%	84%
	2 - 5 years	92%	93%	94%	91%
	5 - 10 years	93%	91%	96%	94%
	10 - 16 years	96%	92%	95%	94%
	16 years +	95%	96%	95%	95%

Bases (unweighted): Great Britain: Dec 2022 (9,479); Dec 2018 (9,155)

Bases (unweighted): Wales: Dec 2022 (1,461); Dec 2018 (1,283)

Quantifying accuracy and completeness

Using the percentage figures produced from this research, it is possible to estimate the number of people in the population of Wales who are not correctly registered, or who have inaccuracies in their register entries. These estimates are provided in Table 5.

However, it is important to be aware that these can only be estimates for several reasons – these are detailed in the main report, which should be read in conjunction with this factsheet to ensure the limitations of these estimates are understood.

Table 5: Quantifying accuracy and completeness in Wales

		December 2018	December 2022
Completeness	Local government register	406,000 - 557,000	276,000 - 404,000
	Parliamentary registers	376,000 - 522,000	232,000 - 349,000
Accuracy	Local government register	197,000 - 333,000	205,000 - 304,000
	Parliamentary registers	194,000 - 332,000	179,000 - 271,000

It should also be noted that the range presented above does not mean that there should be an additional 276,000 - 404,000 entries on the register. Those within this 'not correctly registered' total will include those who are included on the register but at a previous address (an inaccurate entry).