

Have you registered to vote?

People who live with mental ill-health have the same right to vote in local and general elections as anyone else. The important thing is to register to vote. There has been confusion around how to do this if you are currently in hospital or don't have a fixed address, but in fact it's a simple process. **This information is non-party political and for use in supporting people to exercise their right to choose their elected representatives in the UK Parliament.** Once you've registered to vote you can decide whether you vote or not, as well as who you vote for. If you're not registered you can't make that decision later on.

You can vote if you:

- Are receiving community treatment
- Are a voluntary inpatient
- Are under a civil section (e.g. a non-forensic section)
- Are homeless/have no fixed abode/are in B&B accommodation

How to register:

To vote you must be on the electoral register. You can register to vote online ([click here](#)) or by post.

To contact your local electoral services you can enter your postcode [here](#).

If you want to print the forms and send to your local authority, you can download them [here](#).

Once you are registered to vote you can register for a postal vote. You don't have to give a reason. You'll need to do this by downloading a form [here](#) and sending it to your local Electoral Registration Office.

What address to use if you are in hospital:

If you have been in hospital long enough to be considered a resident, you can use the hospital address to register to vote.

If you are a short-term patient with stable accommodation you can register to vote using your usual address.

If you are a short-term patient with no address outside of hospital you may need to make a 'declaration of local connection'. This will also be the case for anyone who has no fixed abode or lives in B&B accommodation.

More information on registering to vote whilst homeless can be found [here](#).

Deadline to register to vote

The deadline is midnight on 26 November. If you are applying for a postal vote, the deadline is 5pm on 26 November if you live in England, Scotland or Wales and 5pm on 21 November if you live in Northern Ireland. If you want to register a proxy voter, you can do so online – [click here](#).