

Electoral Statistics Update in Scottish Borders, December 2020

A Scottish Borders Insight into the data release by National Records of Scotland, produced by the Corporate Performance and Information R&I Team

Background

The electoral register is a list of all people who are registered to vote in elections and referendums. The creation and maintenance of the electoral register is the responsibility of the local Electoral Registration Office (ERO).

EROs do this on a “rolling” basis which allows the electoral register to be continuously updated. The ERO also conducts an annual data canvass in the Autumn, plus an additional canvas prior to any upcoming elections.

In Scotland, the electoral register for Scottish Parliament and Local Government elections includes 16 and 17 year olds. An Attainer is someone who is due to reach voting age during the currency of the Register. Since December 2020, Attainers include anyone old enough to register to vote and therefore includes 14 or 15 year olds, resulting in increased numbers of attainers in the December register. The “total electorate” figures include attainers.

In Scottish Borders, the 9 Electoral Wards conform to Scottish Borders Area Partnership (locality) boundaries but not to Data Zones. UK Parliamentary boundaries do not conform to Scottish Borders Council area.

There are three reasons why the electorate changes in size:

- Population change
- Interest in politics and voting
- Changes in the rules about who can vote

Latest NRS information on the Electorate in Scottish Borders

UK Parliament electors on the Electoral Register in Scottish Borders constituencies:

2010, 2019 and 2020

	2010 (1 Dec)	
Parliamentary Constituency	Total electorate	Attainers
Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk	74,115	813
Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale	67,066	816

	2019 (1 Dec)	
Parliamentary Constituency	Total electorate	Attainers
Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk	73,144	768
Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale	68,131	637

	2020 (1 Dec)	
Parliamentary Constituency	Total electorate	Attainers
Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk	74,220	747
Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale	67,445	675

**Scottish Parliament and Local Government electors on the Electoral Register
for Scottish Borders Council Area: 2010, 2019 and 2020**

2010 (1 Dec)	
Total electorate	Attainers
90,336	1,032

2019 (1 Dec)		
Total electorate	Attainers	16 and 17 year old electors
92,046	615	1,817

2020 (1 Dec)		
Total electorate	Attainers	16 and 17 year old electors
92,911	1,790	1,721

Local Government electors on the Electoral Register in Scottish Borders, by electoral ward, 2019 and 2020

Electoral Ward Code	Electoral Ward	Number of elected members	1 December 2019		1 December 2020	
			Total electorate	Attainers	Total electorate	Attainers
	Scottish Borders	34	92,046	615	92,911	1,790
S13002767	East Berwickshire	3	8,893	40	8,978	159
S13002763	Galashiels and District	4	11,223	50	11,539	201
S13002770	Hawick and Denholm	3	7,141	43	7,155	150
S13002771	Hawick and Hermitage	3	6,918	38	6,980	103
S13002769	Jedburgh and District	3	7,074	41	7,110	127
S13002768	Kelso and District	3	8,354	61	8,378	144
S13002765	Leaderdale and Melrose	3	8,867	82	8,923	204
S13002766	Mid Berwickshire	3	8,666	80	8,660	187
S13002764	Selkirkshire	3	7,796	46	7,938	144
S13002762	Tweeddale East	3	8,789	81	8,900	205
S13002761	Tweeddale West	3	8,325	53	8,350	166