



Data Protection Privacy Notice for: Register of Electors

Who we are and why do we require your information?

Galway County Council is committed to promoting the economic, social, and cultural development of County Galway and to enhancing the quality of life for its residents. Delivering high-quality, customer-focused services is a core objective of the Council and is reflected in our Corporate Plan.

This commitment includes not only the quality and accessibility of the services we provide, but also the transparency and integrity of our decision-making processes, the efficiency of our operations, and our ability to adapt to changing needs and circumstances.

To provide effective and targeted services to individuals, communities, and businesses across the county, Galway County Council may need to collect, process, and use various types of information. Depending on the service involved, this may include personal data as defined under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Privacy Commitment Statement

Galway County Council has developed this privacy statement to demonstrate our commitment to protecting your personal data and to assure you that, in all your interactions with Galway County Council, we will handle your data securely and in accordance with data protection legislation.

Galway County Council collects, creates, and processes a significant amount of personal data in various formats as part of its daily operations. Our commitment is that any personal data you provide to us will be:

- Collected lawfully, fairly, and in a transparent manner
- Used only for specified, explicit, and legitimate purposes
- Adequate, relevant, and limited to what is necessary for those purposes
- Recorded and stored accurately and securely, and kept up to date where necessary
- Retained only for as long as necessary for the purposes for which it was collected
- Maintained in a form that permits identification of individuals only as long as necessary
- Processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing

This Privacy Notice explains how Galway County Council collects, uses, stores and shares personal data in connection with the preparation and ongoing maintenance of the Register of Electors. It should be read in conjunction with Galway County Council's overarching Privacy Statement and Data Protection Policy, which outlines our organisation-wide approach to data protection.



What Information do we collect?

- Name (First & Last)
- Address including Eircode (current & previous)
- Date of birth
- Nationality (and previous nationality if changed)
- Contact details (email & telephone)
- Personal Public Service Number (PPSN),

How we use this information

The personal data provided is used for the following purposes:

- To compile, maintain and publish an accurate and up-to-date Register of Electors. (statutory register of persons eligible to vote at local, national, European and presidential elections, and at referenda).
- To determine and record an individual's eligibility to vote, including electoral category and voting entitlements.
- To allow individuals to register as new voters.
- To allow individuals to check their electoral details.
- To allow individuals to update or correct their electoral details, including changes of address or citizenship.
- To support identity verification and register integrity checks, including the prevention of duplicate or inaccurate registrations.
- To administer associated electoral processes, including the preparation of electoral lists and the issue of polling cards.
- To enable secure and efficient electoral processes.

The published Register of Electors contains name, address and Eircode only, as required by law.

All other personal data (including PPSN, date of birth and contact details) is not published and is used solely for administrative, verification and integrity purposes in accordance with electoral legislation and data protection law.

What is our lawful basis for processing your Personal Data?

Galway County Council processes Personal Data relating to the Register of Electors in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and applicable Irish law. The lawful bases relied upon for the processing of Personal Data are:

Article 6(1)(c) GDPR: Processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which Galway County Council is subject.



Article 6(1)(e) GDPR: Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in Galway County Council.

Personal Data relating to the Register of Electors is processed in accordance with Galway County Council's statutory obligations under the following legislation:

Electoral Act 1992 (as amended), Electoral Reform Act 2022, Juries Act 1976

Who will your Personal Data be shared with?

Personal data may be shared with:

- **Other local authorities** – where a change of address is to an area outside the County, relevant application details may be shared with the appropriate local authority to update the Register of Electors.
- **Department of Social Protection** – for identity verification purposes
- **Elected Representatives** (Councillors, TDs, MEPs and Senators) and political parties – all information published in the Register of Electors, as required under the Electoral Reform Act 2022.
- **County Registrar and Election Returning Officer** – all information published in the Register of Electors, as required under the Electoral Reform Act 2022.
- **Courts Service** – all information published in the Register of Electors, as required under the Juries Act 1976.
- **An Post** – for the purposes of issuing An Litir Thoghcháin (polling card), using information published in the Register of Electors, in accordance with electoral legislation.

We may share your personal data internally with relevant departments to fulfil the purposes outlined above.

Where personal data is shared externally, Galway County Council ensures that appropriate safeguards are in place, such as contracts, memoranda of understanding, or information-sharing agreements, to comply with data protection legislation.

We may share your data with the following categories of third parties (where relevant):

- IT service providers and software vendors
- Legal and professional advisors
- Government departments and statutory bodies
- Regulatory or law enforcement authorities (where required by law)
- The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) supports and administers Electors Management System (iReg and Check the Register) used by local authorities to manage and maintain the Register of Electors

In certain circumstances, we may be legally required to disclose personal data without such arrangements (e.g., safeguarding concerns).



All data sharing is assessed to ensure it is necessary, proportionate, and secure.

How will we protect your Personal Data?

Any personal data collected will be stored securely and confidentially in accordance with Galway County Council's Privacy Statement and Data Protection Policy.

Data will be stored either on Galway County Council premises or on secure IT platforms located within the European Economic Area (EEA), subject to European data protection standards.

How long will we hold your Personal Data?

Galway County Council will retain your personal data only for as long as necessary to fulfil the purpose of the processing or as required by law, in accordance with our retention policies.



What are your rights?

Under data protection legislation, you have the following rights:

- Right to access your personal data
- Right to rectification of inaccurate data
- Right to erasure (in certain circumstances)
- Right to restrict processing
- Right to object to processing
- Right to data portability (where applicable)
- Right not to be subject to automated decision-making (if applicable)

You may contact Galway County Council's Data Protection Officer at 091 509319 or dpo@galwaycoco.ie

Right of Complaint to the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have received from Galway County Council in relation to your Personal Data, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Data Protection Commission.

You can find further information, including how to make a complaint, on the Data Protection Commission's website at: <https://www.dataprotection.ie/>

You may also contact the Data Protection Commission at:

Data Protection Commission

Canal House
Station Road
Portarlinton
Co. Laois
R32 AP23

Email: info@dataprotection.ie