Edited Electoral Register

Ministry of Justice consult on the future of the Edited Electoral Register

The edited electoral register is an important resource for fundraising organisations in terms of effective targetting and ensure contact details are up to date.

Last year, the Institute lobbied members of the House of Lords to counter a proposed amendment which would abolish the use of the edited electoral register. This would have stopped charities having access to this up to date information.

As a result of lobbying the amendment was not initially passed. Instead, it was decided to go out to consultation on the matter so that the impact of abolishing the edited register could be fully understood.

The Ministry of Justice opened a consultation until 23 February 2010 on the future of the edited register. Copies of the consultation may be accessed **online**.

Institute Response

We are extremely concerned about the proposals as it is the biggest source of accurate data of the UK population and their home address.

The data enables charities to fundraise more effectively through improved accuracy as well as helping to reduce junk mail. Charities are able to verify the information they hold on their databases and check new donors' details. If access to this data was removed, mail is more likely to be wrongly addressed, annoying potential donors which could lower their inclination to donate.

Such inaccuracies can increase the costs of fundraising for charities as more mailings are wasted, at a time when pressures on fundraising are already high.

The Mail Preference Service already allows people to opt-out of mailings so it is not believed that removing access to the edited register would reduce junk mail. On the contrary, in fact.

To avoid the alleged confusion for people who do not understand how to opt-out of the Edited Register, we believe clearly information should be given to the public.

Read the Institute's full consultation response.

Early Day Motion

The Ministry of Justice is considering the consultation responses but the abolition is being seriously considered.

In light of this, Dan Rogerson MP is tabling an Early Day Motion in support of the register.

View the Early Day Motion.

ACT NOW!

Join the campaign to save the edited electoral register. Ask your MP to sign the Early Day Motion to keep the register.

Search for your local MP.

We have prepared a draft letter for you to send to your local MP.

Download the draft letter.

Related Links

- **Ministry of Justice Consultation**
- **Edited Electoral Register Consultation Response**
- **Contact the Policy Team**

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