

11 May 2021

Written Reply to Parliamentary Question on the Breakdown of Number of Citizens Struck Off and Restored to Registers of Electors in Last 10 Years
Question:

Ms He Ting Ru: To ask the Prime Minister (a) in the last ten years, how many citizens are struck off the Register of Electors after each election, broken down by gender, age and ethnicity; (b) across the last ten years, how many citizens are restored to the Register of Electors each year, broken down by gender, age and ethnicity; and (c) what percentage of citizens are restored only after paying the fee.

Written reply by Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister of Trade and Industry, for the Prime Minister:

After an election, the Elections Department (ELD) will compile a list of voters who did not vote in the election (i.e. non-voters). In accordance with Section 43 of the Parliamentary Elections Act, their names will be expunged from the Registers of Electors (REs), and they can apply to ELD to restore their names, after which they will be able to vote at subsequent elections.

For the General Elections held in 2011, 2015 and 2020, the number of voters whose names were expunged from the REs were 147,396, 155,155 and 111,117, which was 6.67%, 6.30% and 4.20% of the total number of eligible voters at each of these General Elections respectively. Tables A1, A2 and A3 show the breakdown of the profile by age-bands, gender and ethnicity.

Table A1: Voters whose names were expunged - breakdown by age-bands

Age-bands	No. of non-voters		
	GE2011	GE2015	GE2020
21 – 29	30,962	34,514	20,402
30 – 39	32,782	30,372	15,895
40 – 49	27,069	26,063	14,280
50 – 59	21,752	23,097	13,642
60 – 69	12,539	17,113	13,726
70 – 79	9,530	10,540	13,075
80 and above	12,762	13,456	20,097
Total	147,396	155,155	111,117

Table A2: Voters whose names were expunged - breakdown by gender

Gender	No. of non-voters		
	GE2011	GE2015	GE2020
Male	75,560	79,111	53,299
Female	71,836	76,044	57,818
Total	147,396	155,155	111,117

Table A3: Voters whose names were expunged - breakdown by ethnicity

Ethnicity	No. of non-voters		
	GE2011	GE2015	GE2020
Chinese	109,921	112,928	82,975
Malay	13,497	14,187	13,505
Indian	15,279	14,622	11,830
Others	8,699	13,418	2,807
Total	147,396	155,155	111,117

The number of non-voters who apply to restore their names to the REs generally spikes nearer the election period, at key exercises such as the revision of the REs or when ELD sends notification letters to non-voters to remind them to restore their names. Hence, it would not be meaningful to present the data on a yearly basis. Of the 147,396 non-voters from GE2011, 83,100 (56%) restored their names before GE2015, and of the 155,155 non-voters from GE2015, 92,069 (59%) restored their names before GE2020.

Non-voters have to provide a reason for not voting at an election when applying to restore their names to the register. As long as the non-voter has a valid reason for not voting, ELD will restore the name to the register without penalty. In the last 10 years, no citizen had to pay the penalty fee to restore his/her name to the register.