

Date Provided: 20 May 2021

Title: Warden or Assisted Living Schemes

Ref: EFOI 13550

I would like to formally request the following information from yourselves, to confirm that the Ballot Secrecy Act of 1872 is being observed and that it is impossible without a court order to associate my vote with my name and/or address.

- 1. The name and vendor of the software in use*
- 2. The policies in place to protect a voters identity*
- 3. The procedures required to associate a voters details with a ballot*
- 4. The number of people who have access to both the list of people issued with ballots (Attendees) and the ballot numbers assigned to each voter/register number. (Including those within the external company the data is stored with)*
- 5. Information on any security practices in place to ensure that one cannot concatenate information from these documents to ascertain a voters selection on a ballot.*
- 6. Finally, information on where this data is being stored and how long it is being stored for on this digital system. (I have already been made aware it is stored offsite by an external company)*

Response by Eastbourne Borough Council

- 1. The name and vendor of the software in use*
Modern Democracy Ltd, Software is called Modern Polling App and Preside App
- 2. The policies in place to protect a voters identity*
The procedure this year is no different to previous elections, Presiding Officers have always recorded the elector number associated with each ballot paper, this is usually done on a paper list known as a Corresponding Number List (CNL). This year these details were recorded on the tablets as the ballot paper QR codes were scanned before being handed to electors. The Returning Officer is required to keep the CNL in a separately sealed envelope to that containing the counted ballot papers. This year there are no paper lists and this information is held electronically

and following the count, the counted ballot papers are sealed in sacks at the count venue and transported to a secure location at the Council and stored for 12 months. These can only be opened on the order of a Court.

Modern Democracy is an ISO27001 certified Company and adheres to the principles of GDPR

3. *The procedures required to associate a voters details with a ballot*
The digital marked register and digital CNL are stored separately and securely. The process to associate an elector's details with the ballot paper number that they were issued with is the same as with the paper based system. The ballot papers can only be accessed following a Court order. There is no way to know how an elector voted from the digital marked register and digital CNL. Access to the digital files is subject to the same regulations and penalties as access to the paper ones.

4. *The number of people who have access to both the list of people issued with ballots (Attendees) and the ballot numbers assigned to each voter/register number. (Including those within the external company the data is stored with)*
Access to the systems within Modern Democracy is limited to the Development team, comprising of 4 people. The Eastbourne Borough Council Elections Team have access to the Modern Democracy system with individual password protected accounts, comprising 3 people.

5. *Information on any security practices in place to ensure that one cannot concatenate information from these documents to ascertain a voters selection on a ballot.*
A voter's selection on a ballot is not stored digitally. The physical ballots are sealed and stored securely at the Council and Modern Democracy has no access to them. So it is not possible to concatenate files to determine a voters selection on a ballot paper. As previously stated, according to current legislation the sealed documents must be stored for one year, during which time they may only be accessed after a Court order and they are confidentially destroyed after 12 months.

6. *6. Finally, information on where this data is being stored and how long it is being stored for on this digital system. (I have already been made aware it is stored offsite by an external company)*
Information is stored in EU-West-2(London data centre) for 1 year in accordance with the legislation