Edinburgh's postal voters urged to vote now

The council tell us that **more than 76**% of Edinburgh's postal voters have already had their say in the Scottish Independence Referendum.

Of the 81,648 people who applied to vote in the poll by post, 62,310 have already been returned to the Counting Officer.

In total 377,413 people in Edinburgh have registered to vote in the Referendum.

City of Edinburgh Council postal vote staff began verifying the returned postal votes yesterday, Thursday, in preparation for the count next week.

But the 24% of people still to return their postal voting pack are being urged to send it as soon as possible, to ensure it arrives with the Returning Officer by 10pm on Thursday, 18 September.

Sue Bruce, Chief Executive of City of Edinburgh Council and Counting Officer for Edinburgh, said: "I am pleased see such a high turnout of postal voters with less than a week to go until the Referendum, but it is essential that all those who have not yet returned their postal voting packs do so as soon as possible.

"It is important that people plan ahead and don't leave it until the last minute — in order to have your say you must make sure your vote is posted in time to arrive with the Returning Officer by Thursday."

Those who applied to vote by post should have received a postal voting pack, which includes a ballot paper, a postal voting statement, an 'A' envelope to put the completed ballot

paper in and a 'B' envelope in which to return the 'A' envelope.

Postal voting statements must be completed with the correct date of birth and signature and returned with the ballot paper or the vote will not be counted.

The Scottish Independence Referendum will take place across Scotland on Thursday, 18th September. For those planning to vote in person, information on where and how to vote is available on polling cards and on the <u>Council website</u>.

Members of the public who are unsure of whether they have registered to vote can also find further information on the Lothian Valuation Joint Board website.