

## 1985 No. 333

**ELECTORAL LAW****Electoral Law (Registration Rules) (Variation) Order (Northern Ireland) 1985**

*Made* . . . . . 22nd November 1985

*Coming into operation* . . . . . 3rd February 1986

*To be laid before Parliament*

The Secretary of State in pursuance of section 28(5) of the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962(a) hereby makes the following Order:—

*Citation and Commencement*

1. This Order may be cited as the Electoral Law (Registration Rules) (Variation) Order (Northern Ireland) 1985 and shall come into operation on 3rd February 1986.

Provided that this Order shall not have effect in respect of any register of electors prior to the registers of electors which are required to be published not later than 15th February 1986 or any data relating to such registers.

*Copies of the electors list and register*

2.—(1) Rule 26 of the Registration Rules in Schedule 3 to the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962 shall be amended in accordance with the following paragraphs of this Article.

(2) In paragraph (1), for the words “An electoral officer” there shall be substituted the words “The Chief Electoral Officer”.

(3) In paragraph (2)(b)—

(a) for the words “registration officer” there shall be substituted the words “Chief Electoral Officer”;

(b) in sub-paragraph (a), for the words “15p for each one thousand (or part of one thousand)” there shall be substituted the words “20p for each thousand (or remaining part of one thousand)”;

(c) in sub-paragraph (b), for the words “£1·50 for each one thousand (or part of one thousand)” there shall be substituted the words “£2 for each thousand (or remaining part of one thousand)”.

(4) Paragraph (3) shall cease to have effect.

*Supply of data and labels*

3. After Rule 26 of the Registration Rules in Schedule 3 to the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962, there shall be inserted the following Rules:—

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(a) 1962 c. 14 (N.I.), as modified by paragraph 4 of Schedule 5 to the Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973 (c. 36) and S.I. 1973/2163, Article 8  
 (b) Paragraph (2) of Rule 26 was substituted by S.R. 1980 No. 16, Article 5, and amended by S.R. 1983 No. 319, Article 2

**“26A. Supply of data**

(1) This Rule applies where the Chief Electoral Officer is a data user.

(2) In this Rule:—

“data” and “data user” have the same meaning as in section 1 of the Data Protection Act 1984(a);

“data to which this Rule applies” means data consisting of the names of those persons included in the register of electors, together with any data, other than data to which paragraph (3) applies, consisting of information relating to them including—

- (i) their electoral numbers;
- (ii) except where the address is excluded from the register under rule 20(1A) (as inserted by Article 3(1) of the Electoral Law (Registration Rules) (Variation No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 1980(b), their addresses; and
- (iii) any distinguishing letter; and

“holds” has the same meaning as in section 1(5) of the Data Protection Act 1984.

(3) The Chief Electoral Officer shall not supply data which consists of information (including addresses) which is not required to be published in the register of electors in accordance with those provisions of this Act, the Representation of the People Act 1983(c) or the Representation of the People (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1983(d) which relate to the registration of electors.

(4) Any obligation on the Chief Electoral Officer to supply data under this Rule imposes only an obligation to supply such data recorded in the form in which he holds it.

(5) The Chief Electoral Officer shall, on payment of a fee determined in accordance with paragraph (6), supply to a person, who is entitled to free copies of the current register under Rule 26(1), so much of the data to which this Rule applies as relates to the part or parts of the register to which such a person is so entitled.

(6) The fee for a person supplied with data under paragraph (5) shall be at the rate of £1.50 for each thousand (or remaining part of one thousand) names in the data supplied, or £25, whichever is the greater.

(7) The Chief Electoral Officer may, on payment of a fee at the rate of £15 for each thousand (or remaining part of one thousand) names in the data supplied, supply data to which this Rule applies to a person other than a person to whom paragraph (5) applies.

**26B. Supply of labels**

(1) This Rule applies where the Chief Electoral Officer is a data user.

(2) In this Rule:—

“data” and “data user” have the same meaning as in section 1 of the Data Protection Act 1984; and

“relevant information” means the name and address of any elector whose name and address appear on the register of electors; and such other information as appears on the register as the Chief Electoral Officer thinks fit, but not information constituting data to which Rule 26A(3) applies.

(a) 1984 c. 35

(b) S.R. (N.I.) 1980 No. 354

(c) 1983 c. 2

(d) S.I. 1983/436

(3) An application under this Rule may request the Chief Electoral Officer to supply labels containing relevant information extracted from data to which Rule 26A(3) applies in respect of part only of the area for which the Chief Electoral Officer is authorised by this Rule to supply such labels; and, if the Chief Electoral Officer supplies labels under this Rule, he shall comply with that request.

(4) The Chief Electoral Officer may, on payment of a fee at the rate of £10 for each thousand (or remaining part of one thousand) labels supplied, supply to a person, who is entitled to free copies of the current register under Rule 26(1), labels containing relevant information extracted from so much of the data to which Rule 26A applies as relates to the part or parts of the register to which such a person is so entitled.

(5) The Chief Electoral Officer may, on payment of a fee at the rate of £20 for each thousand (or remaining part of one thousand) labels supplied, supply labels containing relevant information extracted from data to which Rule 26A applies to a person other than a person to whom paragraph (4) applies.”

*Tom King*

One of Her Majesty's Principal  
Secretaries of State.

Northern Ireland Office.  
22nd November 1985.

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Order.)*

This Order amends the Registration Rules in Schedule 3 to the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962. It makes two main changes.

First, the two rates of fee for the sale of the register of electors set out in Rule 26(2) of the Registration Rules are increased by Article 2(3)(b) and (c) of this Order. The lower rate (which is increased from 15p for each thousand names in the register to 20p for each thousand names) is chargeable to persons who have been supplied with copies of the register free of charge pursuant to Rule 26(1) and who want further copies of it; the higher rate (which is increased from £1.50 for each thousand names in the register to £2 for each thousand names) is chargeable to anyone else.

Second, Article 3 of this Order inserts new provisions into the Registration Rules providing for the supply of data (which, by virtue of Rule 26A(2) (as inserted), has the same meaning as in the Data Protection Act 1984) and labels containing relevant information extracted from data. The new provisions apply only where the Chief Electoral Officer is a data user (within the meaning of the Data Protection Act 1984). That Officer is required by Rule 26A(5) (as inserted by Article 3) to supply data consisting of information which is published in the register of electors to persons supplied with the register pursuant to Rule 26(1), on payment of the fee set out in Rule 26A(6) (as inserted). Supply to other persons (for whom the fee is higher) is discretionary under Rule 26A(7) (as inserted). The supply of labels containing relevant information extracted from data under Rule 26B (as inserted) is discretionary in all cases, but persons supplied with the register under Rule 26(1) can be supplied on payment of a fee at a lower rate than others.