



Representation of the People Act 1983

1983 CHAPTER 2

PART III

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Mitigation and remission of incapacities

174 Mitigation and remission etc.

(1) Where—

- (a) any person is subject to any incapacity by virtue of the report of an election court, and
- (b) he or some other person in respect of whose acts the incapacity was imposed is on a prosecution acquitted of any of the matters in respect of which the incapacity was imposed,

the court may order that the incapacity shall thenceforth cease so far as it is imposed in respect of those matters.

- (2) Where any person who is subject to any incapacity as mentioned above is on a prosecution convicted of any such matters as are mentioned above, no further incapacity shall be taken to be imposed by reason of the conviction, and the court shall have the like power (if any) to mitigate or remit for the future the incapacity so far as it is imposed by section 160 above in respect of the matters of which he is convicted, as if the incapacity had been imposed by reason of the conviction.
- (3) A court exercising any of the powers conferred by subsections (1) and (2) above shall make an order declaring how far, if at all, the incapacities imposed by virtue of the relevant report remain unaffected by the exercise of that power, and that order shall be conclusive for all purposes.
- (4) Where a person convicted of a corrupt or illegal practice is subsequently reported to have been guilty of that practice by an election court, no further incapacity shall be imposed on him under section 160 by reason of the report.

Changes to legislation: Representation of the People Act 1983, Section 174 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (5) Where any person is subject to any incapacity by virtue of a conviction or of the report of an election court, and any witness who gave evidence against that person upon the proceeding for the conviction or report is convicted of perjury in respect of that evidence, the incapacitated person may apply to the High Court, and the court, if satisfied that the conviction or report so far as respects that person was based upon perjury, may order that the incapacity shall thenceforth cease.

^{F1}(6)

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 174(6) repealed (16.2.2001) by 2000 c. 41, ss. 138(1)(2), 158(2)(3), Sch. 18 para. 18(1)(g), **Sch. 22**, (with ss. 156(6), 158(3)); S.I. 2001/222, art. 2, **Sch. 1 Pt. 1**, Annex (with Sch. 1 Pt. II)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 174 applied (E.W.S.) by S.I. 1986/2209, regs. 2, 3, 5(1)(6)-(8), **Sch. 1 Pt. 1**
 S. 174 applied (N.I.) by S.I. 1986/2250, regs. 2, 3, 5, **Sch. 1 Pt. 1**
 S. 174 applied (N.I.) (25.4.1998) by Northern Ireland Negotiations (Referendum) Order 1998 (S.I. 1998/1126), art. 6, **Sch. 2**
 S. 174 applied (1.3.2003) by The National Assembly for Wales (Representation of the People) Order 2003 (S.I. 2003/284), **art. 110** (with art. 82(1)) (which S.I. was revoked (11.2.2007) by S.I. 2007/236, art. 1(2))
 S. 174 applied (1.3.2003) by The National Assembly for Wales (Representation of the People) Order 2003 (S.I. 2003/284), **art. 111** (with art. 82(1)) (which S.I. was revoked (11.2.2007) by S.I. 2007/236, art. 1(2))
 S. 174 applied (1.3.2003) by The National Assembly for Wales (Representation of the People) Order 2003 (S.I. 2003/284), **art. 123(2)** (with art. 82(1)) (which S.I. was revoked (11.2.2007) by S.I. 2007/236, art. 1(2))
 S. 174 applied (1.3.2003) by The National Assembly for Wales (Representation of the People) Order 2003 (S.I. 2003/284), **art. 124(3)** (with art. 82(1)) (which S.I. was revoked (11.2.2007) by S.I. 2007/236, art. 1(2))
- C2** S. 174 applied (1.2.2007) by The National Assembly for Wales (Representation of the People) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/236), **art. 124(2)** (with arts. 83(1), 137(1))
 S. 174 applied (E.) (28.7.2007) by The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (England) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/2089), **regs. 8, 11, 13**, {Sch. 4 Table 1}
- C3** S. 174 applied (with modifications) (31.7.1997) by Referendums (Scotland and Wales) Act 1997 (c. 61), s. 3, **Sch. 3 para. 13** Table 1
 S. 174 applied (with modifications) (11.3.1999) by The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/787), art. 85(1)-(3), Sch. 6 Pts. I, II (which S.I. was revoked (21.11.2002 except for specified purposes) by S.I. 2002/2779, **arts. 1, 2** (which S.I. was revoked (15.3.2007) by S.I. 2007/937, **art. 2(a)**))
 S. 174 applied (with modifications) (2.4.2001) by The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (England) Regulations 2001 (S.I. 2001/1298), regs. 8, 10(4), **Sch. 3** Table 2 (subject to regs. 9-12, 15-17, 20, 25)
 S. 174 applied (with modifications) (21.11.2002 except for specified purposes) by The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2002 (S.I. 2002/2779), arts. 1, 81, **Sch. 6 Pts. I, II** (which S.I. was revoked (15.3.2007) by S.I. 2007/937, art. 2(a))
 S. 174 applied (W.) (24.3.2004) by The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (Wales) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 2004/870), **reg. 8**, {Sch. 3 Table 2} (which S.I. was revoked (24.7.2008) by S.I. 2008/1848)
- C4** S. 174 extended (W.) (11.3.1999) by S.I. 1999/450, **arts. 124(2)(4), 136(2), 137(2)(3)** (which S.I. was revoked (29.2.2003) by S.I. 2003/284, **art. 1**)

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- C5** S. 174 applied (with modifications) (15.3.2007 except for specified purposes) by [The Scottish Parliament \(Elections etc.\) Order 2007 \(S.I. 2007/937\)](#), arts. 1, 83, **Sch. 6 Pts. I, II**
- C6** S. 174 applied (with modifications) (W.) (24.7.2008) by [The Local Authorities \(Conduct of Referendums\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/1848\)](#), **reg. 8**, {Sch. 4 para. 1 Table 1}
- C7** S. 174 applied (with modifications) (1.8.2001) by [The Northern Ireland Assembly \(Elections\) Order 2001 \(S.I. 2001/2599\)](#), art. 3, Sch. 1 (as substituted (10.2.2009) by S.I. 2009/256, arts. 1(2), 3, **Sch. 1**)
- C8** S. 174 applied (with modifications) (30.12.2010 except for specified purposes) by [The Scottish Parliament \(Elections etc.\) Order 2010 \(S.I. 2010/2999\)](#), arts. 1(1), 84(1)(3), **Sch. 6 Pt. 1** (with art. 1(2)(3))
- C9** S. 174 applied (with modifications) (30.12.2010 except for specified purposes) by [The Scottish Parliament \(Elections etc.\) Order 2010 \(S.I. 2010/2999\)](#), arts. 1(1), 84(2)(3), **Sch. 6 Pt. 2** (with art. 1(2)(3))
- C10** S. 174 applied (with modifications) (E.) (9.2.2012) by [The Local Authorities \(Conduct of Referendums\)\(England\) Regulations 2012 \(S.I. 2012/323\)](#), reg. 1, **Sch. 4 para. 1**
- C11** S. 174 applied (with modifications) (18.2.2012) by [The Local Authorities \(Conduct of Referendums\) \(Council Tax Increases\) \(England\) Regulations 2012 \(S.I. 2012/444\)](#), reg. 1, **Sch. 4 para. 1** (with reg. 27)
- C12** S. 174 applied (with modifications) (25.7.2012) by [The Police and Crime Commissioner Elections Order 2012 \(S.I. 2012/1917\)](#), arts. 1(2), 50(6), **Sch. 9 para. 1(5)**
- C13** S. 174 applied (with modifications) (S.) (16.12.2015) by [The Scottish Parliament \(Elections etc.\) Order 2015 \(S.S.I. 2015/425\)](#), arts. 1(1), 82(1)(3), **Sch. 6 Pt. 1** (with art. 1(2))
- C14** S. 174 applied (with modifications) (S.) (16.12.2015) by [The Scottish Parliament \(Elections etc.\) Order 2015 \(S.S.I. 2015/425\)](#), arts. 1(1), 82(2)(3), **Sch. 6 Pt. 2** (with art. 1(2))

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act Representation of the People Acts amended by [1985 c. 50 Sch. 1 para. 24](#)
- Act power to amend conferred by [2009 c. 12 s. 34\(3\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 30-34 repealed (10.6.2014 for E.W., 15.9.2014 for N.I., 19.9.2014 for S.) by Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (c. 6), s. 27(1), Sch. 4 para. 24(b) (with Sch. 5); S.I. 2014/414, art. 5(m); S.I. 2014/2439, art. 2(l))
- Blanket amendment words substituted by [S.I. 2011/1043 art. 34](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 9(2A) inserted by [2021 asc 1 s. 18\(2\)](#)
- s. 9E(1A) inserted by [2021 asc 1 s. 18\(4\)](#)
- s. 9ZA inserted by [2021 asc 1 s. 18\(3\)](#)
- s. 10(4C)(4D) inserted by [2009 c. 12 s. 33\(3\)\(e\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 30-34 repealed (10.6.2014 for E.W., 15.9.2014 for N.I., 19.9.2014 for S.) by Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (c. 6), s. 27(1), Sch. 4 para. 24(b) (with Sch. 5); S.I. 2014/414, art. 5(m); S.I. 2014/2439, art. 2(l))
- s. 10A(1C)(1D) inserted by [2009 c. 12 s. 33\(5\)\(d\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 30-34 repealed (10.6.2014 for E.W., 15.9.2014 for N.I., 19.9.2014 for S.) by Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (c. 6), s. 27(1), Sch. 4 para. 24(b) (with Sch. 5); S.I. 2014/414, art. 5(m); S.I. 2014/2439, art. 2(l))
- s. 10ZE(2A) inserted by [2021 asc 1 s. 18\(5\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 10ZE(4A) inserted by [2021 asc 1 s. 18\(5\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 10ZE(5A)-(5C) inserted by [2021 asc 1 s. 18\(5\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 13A(1)(zc) inserted by [2021 asc 1 s. 18\(6\)](#)
- s. 13A(2C)(2D) inserted by [2009 c. 12 s. 33\(6\)\(d\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 30-34 repealed (10.6.2014 for E.W., 15.9.2014 for N.I., 19.9.2014 for S.) by Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (c. 6), s. 27(1), Sch. 4 para. 24(b) (with Sch. 5); S.I. 2014/414, art. 5(m); S.I. 2014/2439, art. 2(l))
- s. 16(1)(e) words substituted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 8 para. 1\(5\)](#)
- s. 16(1)(e) words substituted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 8 para. 1\(6\)](#)
- s. 49(5)(b)(iia) inserted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 8 para. 1\(8\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 56(1)(azaa) inserted by [2021 asc 1 s. 18\(9\)](#)
- s. 62C applied (with modifications) by S.I. 2012/2031, Sch. 4 Pt. 1 Table 1 (as amended) by [S.I. 2023/1141 reg. 7\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 62C applied (with modifications) by S.I. 2012/2031, Sch. 8 Table 1 (as amended) by [S.I. 2023/1141 reg. 7\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 62C applied (with modifications) by S.I. 2012/323, Sch. 4 Table 1 (as amended) by [S.I. 2023/1141 reg. 5\(a\)](#)
- s. 62C applied (with modifications) by S.I. 2012/444, Sch. 4 Table 1 (as amended) by [S.I. 2023/1141 reg. 6\(a\)](#)
- s. 62C inserted by [2023 c. 12 s. 1](#)
- s. 63(3)(ba) inserted by [2006 c. 22 s. 7](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 7 repealed (2.4.2013) without ever being in force by 2013 c. 6, s. 23; S.I. 2013/702, art. 3(e))
- s. 81(4A)(4B) inserted by [2006 asp 14 s. 19\(2\)](#)

- s. 113(7)(b)(c) inserted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 15\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- s. 114(4) inserted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 16](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- s. 115(3) inserted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 17](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- s. 139(6A) inserted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 19\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- s. 165(3A) inserted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 20](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- s. 201(2B) inserted by [2009 c. 12 s. 33\(9\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 30-34 repealed (10.6.2014 for E.W., 15.9.2014 for N.I., 19.9.2014 for S.) by Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (c. 6), s. 27(1), Sch. 4 para. 24(b) (with Sch. 5); S.I. 2014/414, art. 5(m); S.I. 2014/2439, art. 2(l))
- s. 203A applied (with modifications) by S.I. 2001/2599, Sch. 1 table (as amended) by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 8 para. 11\(3\)](#)
- s. 203A203B applied by 1989 c. 3, Sch. 1 Pt. 1 (as amended) by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 8 para. 9\(4\)](#)
- s. 203B applied (with modifications) by S.I. 2001/2599, Sch. 1 table (as amended) by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 8 para. 11\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 37A inserted by [2011 c. 1 s. 9\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 9 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(a))
- Sch. 1 rule 45A45B inserted by [2011 c. 1 s. 9\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 9 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(a))
- Sch. 1 rule 46(3) inserted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 5\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 47(3A)(3B) inserted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 6\(4\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 40(1B)(a) repealed by [2006 c. 22 Sch. 2](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 18 substituted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 2](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 47(4)(d) substituted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 6\(5\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 61(2)(c) substituted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 10\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 62 substituted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 11\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 47(1)(aa)(b) substituted for Sch. 1 rule 47(1)(b) by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 6\(2\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 47(2)-(2E) substituted for Sch. 1 rule 47(2) by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 6\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))

- Sch. 1 rule 47(4)(aa)(b) substituted for Sch. 1 rule 47(4)(b) by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 6\(5\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 4949A substituted for Sch. 1 rule 49 by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 7](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 50(1)(a)(aa)(ab)(b)(c) substituted for Sch. 1 rule 50(1)(a)-(c) by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 8](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 61(2)(a)(aa) substituted for Sch. 1 rule 61(2)(a) by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 10\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 46(1)(1A) substituted for rule 46(1) by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 5\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 46(2) words inserted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 5\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 47 heading words inserted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 6\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 29(5) words substituted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 3](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 44(5) words substituted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 4](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 47(1) words substituted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 6\(2\)\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 47(1)(d) words substituted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 6\(2\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 53(4) words substituted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 9](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 61(1) words substituted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 10\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 2 para. 1(4ZA)-(4ZC) inserted by [2009 c. 12 s. 33\(10\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 30-34 repealed (10.6.2014 for E.W., 15.9.2014 for N.I., 19.9.2014 for S.) by Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (c. 6), s. 27(1), Sch. 4 para. 24(b) (with Sch. 5); S.I. 2014/414, art. 5(m); S.I. 2014/2439, art. 2(l))
- Sch. 2 para. 1(6A) inserted by [2009 c. 12 s. 33\(10\)\(e\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 30-34 repealed (10.6.2014 for E.W., 15.9.2014 for N.I., 19.9.2014 for S.) by Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (c. 6), s. 27(1), Sch. 4 para. 24(b) (with Sch. 5); S.I. 2014/414, art. 5(m); S.I. 2014/2439, art. 2(l))
- Sch. 2 para. 5C inserted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 4 para. 5](#)
- Sch. 6A applied (with modifications) by S.I. 2001/2599, Sch. 1 table (as inserted) by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 8 para. 11\(4\)](#)
- Sch. 6A applied by 1989 c. 3, Sch. 1 Pt. 1 (as amended) by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 8 para. 9\(4\)](#)