



# Representation of the People Act 1983

## 1983 CHAPTER 2

### PART I

#### PARLIAMENTARY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FRANCHISE AND ITS EXERCISE

##### *Registration of parliamentary and local government electors*

#### **[<sup>F1</sup>9A Registration officers: duty to take necessary steps**

- (1) Each registration officer must take all steps that are necessary for the purpose of complying with his duty to maintain the registers under section 9 above [<sup>F2</sup>and [<sup>F3</sup>—
- (a) in the case of a registration officer in Great Britain, for the purpose of securing that, so far as is reasonably practicable, persons who are entitled to be registered in a register (and no others) are registered in it, and
  - (b) in the case of the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland, for the purpose of meeting the relevant registration objectives].]
- (2) The steps include—
- <sup>F4</sup>(za) [ for the purposes of a register of parliamentary electors in Great Britain, or a register of local government electors in England [<sup>F5</sup>or in Scotland][<sup>F6</sup>or Wales], sending to any address at least one communication to be used for the canvass under section 9D below;]
  - <sup>F7</sup>(zb) [ for the purposes of a register maintained by the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland under section 9—
    - (i) no earlier than 1 July in a year in which a canvass under section 10 is conducted, sending to any address a notice that includes the following information—
      - (aa) details of the canvass, including any time by which the form to be used for the purposes of the canvass is to be submitted,
      - (bb) an invitation to submit that form through the UK digital service, and
      - (cc) instructions on how to do so;

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(ii) at any time after sending the notices under sub-paragraph (i), sending the form to be used for the purposes of the canvass to any non-responding registered person;]

<sup>F8</sup>(a) .....

(b) making on one or more occasions house to house inquiries under [<sup>F9</sup>section 9D(5) or 10(5)];

[ for the purposes of a register of parliamentary electors in Great Britain, or a register of local government electors in England [<sup>F11</sup>or in Scotland][<sup>F12</sup>or in Wales], making on one or more occasions contact with persons by telephone;]

(c) making contact by such other means as the registration officer thinks appropriate with persons who do not have an entry in a register;

(d) inspecting any records held by any person which he is permitted to inspect under or by virtue of any enactment or rule of law;

(e) providing training to persons under his direction or control in connection with the carrying out of the duty.

<sup>F13</sup>(2A) [ In relation to the registration of local government electors in Scotland, subsections (1) and (2)(b) do not require a registration officer to make house to house inquiries in relation to any person under the age of 16.]

<sup>F14</sup>(2A) [ In relation to the registration of local government electors in Wales, subsections (1) and (2)(b) do not require a registration officer to make house to house inquiries in relation to any person under the age of 16.]

(3) Regulations made by the Secretary of State may amend subsection (2) by—

(a) varying any of the paragraphs in that subsection;

(b) inserting any paragraph;

(c) repealing any paragraph.]

<sup>F15</sup>(4) In this section—

“non-responding registered person”, in relation to a canvass, means a person who—

(a) is registered in a register in respect of an address in Northern Ireland, and  
(b) has not responded to the canvass;

“the UK digital service” has the same meaning as in section 10ZF below, and references to submitting a form through the UK digital service shall be construed in accordance with subsection (4) of that section.]

#### Extent Information

**E1** S. 9A extended (N.I.) (13.5.2014) by [Northern Ireland \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 2014 \(c. 13\)](#), **ss. 18(1)(a)**, 28(4)

#### Textual Amendments

**F1** S. 9A inserted (E.W.S.) (11.9.2006) by [Electoral Administration Act 2006 \(c. 22\)](#), **ss. 9(1)**, 77; S.I. 2006/1972, **art. 3**, **Sch. 1 para. 1** (subject to transitional provisions in **art. 4**, **Sch. 2**)

**F2** Words in s. 9A(1) inserted (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. 6(2)** (with **Sch. 5**); S.I. 2014/414, **art. 5(m)**; S.I. 2014/2439, **art. 2(l)**

**F3** Words in s. 9A(1) substituted (10.6.2014 for E.W., 15.9.2014 for N.I., 19.9.2014 for S.) by [Northern Ireland \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 2014 \(c. 13\)](#), **ss. 18(3)(a)**, 28(4)(5)

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- F4** S. 9A(2)(za) inserted (31.12.2019) by [The Representation of the People \(Annual Canvass\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/1451\)](#), regs. 1(3), **3(a)**
- F5** Words in s. 9A(2)(za) inserted (S.) (3.3.2020) by [The Representation of the People \(Annual Canvass\) Amendment \(Scotland\) Order 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/62\)](#), arts. 1(1), **3(a)**
- F6** Words in s. 9A(2)(za) inserted (E.W.) (22.1.2020) by [The Representation of the People \(Annual Canvass\) \(Amendment\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/50\)](#), regs. 2, **4(a)**
- F7** S. 9A(2)(zb) inserted (6.7.2020) by [The Representation of the People \(Electronic Communications and Amendment\) \(Northern Ireland\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/581\)](#), regs. 1(2), **3(2)(a)**
- F8** S. 9A(2)(a) omitted (6.7.2020) by virtue of [The Representation of the People \(Electronic Communications and Amendment\) \(Northern Ireland\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/581\)](#), regs. 1(2), **3(2)(b)**
- F9** Words in s. 9A(2)(b) substituted (10.6.2014 for E.W., 15.9.2014 for N.I., 19.9.2014 for S.) by [Northern Ireland \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 2014 \(c. 13\)](#), ss. **18(3)(c)**, 28(4)(5)
- F10** S. 9A(2)(ba) inserted (31.12.2019) by [The Representation of the People \(Annual Canvass\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/1451\)](#), regs. 1(3), **3(c)**
- F11** Words in s. 9A(2)(ba) inserted (S.) (3.3.2020) by [The Representation of the People \(Annual Canvass\) Amendment \(Scotland\) Order 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/62\)](#), arts. 1(1), **3(c)**
- F12** Words in s. 9A(2)(ba) inserted (E.W.) (22.1.2020) by [The Representation of the People \(Annual Canvass\) \(Amendment\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/50\)](#), regs. 2, **4(c)**
- F13** S. 9A(2A) inserted (S.) (25.7.2015) by [Scottish Elections \(Reduction of Voting Age\) Act 2015 \(asp 7\)](#), ss. **2(1)**, 21
- F14** S. 9A(2A) inserted (E.W.) (1.6.2020) by [Senedd and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2020 \(anaw 1\)](#), ss. **13(1)**, 42(3)(a)
- F15** S. 9A(4) inserted (6.7.2020) by [The Representation of the People \(Electronic Communications and Amendment\) \(Northern Ireland\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/581\)](#), regs. 1(2), **3(3)**

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**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C1** S. 9A applied (with modifications) (S.) (8.8.2013) by [Scottish Independence Referendum \(Franchise\) Act 2013 \(asp 13\)](#), ss. 6, 13(1), sch. 1 Pts. 1, 2 (with s. 13(2))

**Changes to legislation:**

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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\(4\)](#)