

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to Northern Ireland Act 1998. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

Section 1(1).

POLLS FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 1

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 Sch. 1 amended (16.2.2001) by [2000 c. 41, s. 102](#) (with [s. 156\(6\)](#)); [S.I. 2001/222, art. 2](#), [Sch. 1 Pt. I](#)

- 1 The Secretary of State may by order direct the holding of a poll for the purposes of section 1 on a date specified in the order.
- 2 Subject to paragraph 3, the Secretary of State shall exercise the power under paragraph 1 if at any time it appears likely to him that a majority of those voting would express a wish that Northern Ireland should cease to be part of the United Kingdom and form part of a united Ireland.
- 3 The Secretary of State shall not make an order under paragraph 1 earlier than seven years after the holding of a previous poll under this Schedule.
- 4 (1) An order under this Schedule directing the holding of a poll shall specify—
 - (a) the persons entitled to vote; and
 - (b) the question or questions to be asked.(2) An order—
 - (a) may include any other provision about the poll which the Secretary of State thinks expedient (including the creation of criminal offences); and
 - (b) may apply (with or without modification) any provision of, or made under, any enactment.

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

- Act amendment to earlier affecting provision 2022 c. 48, s. 1 by [2024 c. 2 s. 1](#)
- Act modified (cond.) by [2006 c. 17 Sch. 2 para. 2\(5\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Conditional amendment never in force)

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

- s. 31(2)-(2D) substituted for s. 31(2) (cond.) by [2006 c. 17 Sch. 3 para. 2\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Conditional amendment never in force)
- s. 31(2)-(2D) substituted for s. 31(2) (cond.) by [2006 c. 53 Sch. 3 para. 2\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk to legislation.gov.uk. It is a conditional amendment that was never brought into force. Sch. 3 repealed (10.5.2007) by Northern Ireland (St Andrews Agreement) Act 2006 (c. 53), s. 2(5) (as amended by 2007 c. 4, s. 1(1)), Sch. 4 para. 3 (with s. 1(3)); S.I. 2007/1397, art. 2)
- s. 31(2E) inserted (cond.) by [2006 c. 17 Sch. 3 para. 3\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Conditional amendment never in force)
- Sch. 2 para. 9B inserted by [2009 c. 8 s. 27](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The amending provision was repealed (16.2.2011) without ever being in force by 2010 c. 36, ss. 2(1), 4(2))