



Elections Act 2022

CHAPTER 37

ELECTIONS ACT 2022

PART 1

ADMINISTRATION AND CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

Voter identification, applications for postal and proxy votes, etc

- 1 Voter identification
- 2 Power to make regulations about registration, absent voting and other matters

Postal and proxy voting

- 3 Restriction of period for which person can apply for postal vote
- 4 Handling of postal voting documents by political campaigners
- 5 Handing in postal voting documents
- 6 Limit on number of electors for whom a proxy can vote
- 7 Requirement of secrecy

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- 8 Undue influence

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- 9 Assistance with voting for persons with disabilities

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- 10 Candidate nomination paper: commonly used names
- 11 Home address form: statement of local authority area

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Northern Ireland elections

- 12 Local elections and Assembly elections in Northern Ireland

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- 13 Simple majority system to be used in elections for certain offices

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- 14 Extension of franchise for parliamentary elections: British citizens overseas

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- 15 Voting and candidacy rights of EU citizens

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- 16 Strategy and policy statement
17 Examination of duty to have regard to strategy and policy statement

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- 18 Membership of the Speaker's Committee

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- 19 Criminal proceedings

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- 20 Notional expenditure: use of property etc on behalf of candidates and others
21 Codes of practice on expenses
22 Authorised persons not required to pay expenses through election agent

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- 23 Declaration of assets and liabilities to be provided on application for registration
24 Prohibition on entities being registered political parties and recognised third parties at same time
25 Section 24: transitional provision

Controlled expenditure etc

- 26 Restriction on which third parties may incur controlled expenditure

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- 27 Third parties capable of giving notification for purposes of Part 6 of PPERA
- 28 Recognised third parties: changes to existing limits etc
- 29 Code of practice on controls relating to third parties

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- 30 Disqualification orders
- 31 Vacation of office etc
- 32 Candidates etc
- 33 Holders of relevant elective offices
- 34 Campaigners
- 35 Election etc of a person to the House of Commons who is subject to a disqualification order
- 36 Power to amend Schedule 9
- 37 Interpretation of Part
- 38 Minor and consequential amendments

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- 40 Definitions relating to parties etc

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- 42 Electronic material to which section 41 applies: paid-for material
- 43 Purposes referred to in section 42
- 44 Electronic material to which section 41 applies: other electronic material
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- 46 Electronic material relating to more than one candidate or future candidate
- 47 Exceptions to section 41

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- 51 Notice to take down electronic material in breach of section 41
- 52 Further provision about notice under section 51
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- 56 Notices
- 57 Proceedings for an offence under this Part
- 58 Offences committed by bodies corporate
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- 60 Regulations under this Part
- 61 Meaning of “the Commission”

PART 7

GENERAL

- 62 Review of operation of Act
- 63 Power to amend references to subordinate legislation etc
- 64 Financial provisions
- 65 Interpretation etc
- 66 Extent
- 67 Commencement
- 68 Short title

Schedules

Schedule 1 — Voter identification

- 1 Amendments of RPA 1983
- 2 After section 13BC insert— Electoral identity document: Great Britain
 - (1) An application for an electoral identity document may be...
- 3 (1) Section 13C (electoral identity card: Northern Ireland) is amended...
- 4 (1) Section 13CZA (provision of false information: application for electoral...
 - 5 In section 56 (registration appeals: England and Wales), in subsection...
 - 6 In section 58 (registration appeals: Northern Ireland), in subsection (1),...
 - 7 After section 59 (supplemental provisions as to members of forces...
 - 8 (1) Section 61 (other voting offences) is amended as follows....
 - 9 In section 66B (failure to comply with conditions relating to...
- 10 Schedule 1 (Parliamentary elections rules) is amended in accordance with...
 - 11 After rule 19A insert— Date of birth lists for polling...
 - 12 In rule 25 (provision of polling stations), after paragraph (5)...
 - 13 (1) Rule 26 (appointment of presiding officers and clerks) is...
 - 14 In rule 28 (issue of official poll cards), after paragraph...
 - 15 (1) Rule 29 (equipment of polling stations) is amended as...
 - 16 (1) Rule 35 (questions to be put to voters) is...
 - 17 (1) Rule 37 (voting procedure), as it extends to Northern...
 - 18 (1) Rule 37 (voting procedure), as it extends to England...
 - 19 In rule 38 (votes marked by presiding officer), for paragraph...
 - 20 In rule 39 (voting by persons with disabilities), for paragraph...
 - 21 (1) Rule 40 (tendered ballot papers) is amended as follows....
 - 22 After rule 40ZA insert— Refusal to deliver ballot paper: Great...
 - 23 In rule 40A— (a) for the heading substitute “Refusal to...
 - 24 After rule 40A insert— Collection and disclosure of information relating...
 - 25 In rule 43 (procedure on close of poll), after paragraph...
 - 26 After rule 53A insert— Destruction of date of birth lists:...
 - 27 In rule 54 (sealing up of ballot papers), after paragraph...
 - 28 In rule 55 (delivery of documents to registration officer), after...
 - 29 In rule 56 (orders for production of documents), after paragraph...
 - 30 After rule 56 insert— Inspection of ballot paper refusal list:...

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- 31 In rule 57 (retention and public inspection of documents), after...
- 32 In rule 58 (disposal of documents in Scotland), after paragraph...
- 33 (1) In the Appendix of Forms, the form of directions...
- 34 Extension of Northern Ireland voter identification provisions to Great Britain
- 35 After section 7(4) of the Elections (Northern Ireland) Act 1985...
- 36 Section 5(2) of the Electoral Fraud (Northern Ireland) Act 2002,...
- 37 After section 8(5) of the Electoral Fraud (Northern Ireland) Act...
- 38 Section 13CZA of RPA 1983 (provision of false information: application...
- 39 After section 27(3) of the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act...
- 40 Consequential repeals

Schedule 2 — Power to make regulations about registration, absent voting and other matters

- 1 Amendments to the Representation of the People Act 1983
- 2 Schedule 2 to RPA 1983 (provision which may be contained...
- 3 (1) Paragraph 1 is amended as follows.
- 4 (1) Paragraph 1A is amended as follows.
- 5 (1) Paragraph 3ZA is amended as follows.
- 6 For paragraph 3A substitute— (1) Provision about— (a) applications for registration in Northern Ireland...
- 7 After paragraph 5 insert— (1) Provision about the manner in which relevant absent voting...
- 8 In paragraph 8B(1), for “or 10ZD” substitute “, 10ZD, 13BD,...
- 9 After paragraph 8B insert— (1) Provision requiring a registration officer in Great Britain to...
- 10 In paragraph 8C(1)— (a) in paragraph (a), for “or 10A”...
- 11 In paragraph 13, after sub-paragraph (1) insert—
- 12 Power to remove signature requirements
- 13 Power to make provision about unique reference numbers: elections in Northern Ireland
- 14 Consequential repeals

Schedule 3 — Restriction of period for which person can apply for postal vote

- 1 Representation of the People Act 2000
- 2 (1) Paragraph 3 (absent vote at elections for definite or...
- 3 (1) Paragraph 7 (voting as proxy) is amended as follows....
- 4 Transitional provision

Schedule 4 — Proxy voting: limits and transitional provision

- 1 Representation of the People Act 1983
- 2 (1) Section 61 (other voting offences) is amended as follows....
- 3 In section 202 (general provisions as to interpretation), in subsection...
- 4 (1) Rule 35 of Schedule 1 (questions to be put...
- 5 In Schedule 2 (provisions which may be contained in regulations...
- 6 Representation of the People Act 1985
- 7 Representation of the People Act 2000
- 8 Termination of certain proxy appointments on the specified day
- 9 (1) This paragraph applies where— (a) a proxy appointment is...
- 10 Termination of applications for certain proxy appointments on the specified day

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11 (1) An application for a proxy appointment that is made...

Schedule 5 — Undue influence: further provision

- 1 Local Government Act 1972
- 2 In section 80 (disqualifications for election and holding office as...
- 3 Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972
- 4 Representation of the People Act 1983
- 5 Greater London Authority Act 1999
- 6 Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009
- 7 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

Schedule 6 — Local elections in Northern Ireland and elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly

Part 1 — LOCAL ELECTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

- 1 Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962
- 2 In section 96 (provisions applying to all persons reported personally...
- 3 In section 108 (penalties for corrupt practices), in subsection (4)(a)(i),...
- 4 In section 112 (incapacities resulting from convictions for corrupt or...
- 5 In section 114 (corrupt and illegal practices committed by agents),...
- 6 Schedule 5 (local elections rules) is amended in accordance with...
- 7 In rule 5 (nomination of candidates), for paragraph (2A) substitute—...
- 8 In rule 12 (publication of statement of persons nominated), in...
- 9 After rule 16A insert— Date of birth lists (1) The returning officer must prepare the following lists for...
- 10 In rule 22 (provision of polling stations), after paragraph (4)...
- 11 In rule 23 (appointment of presiding officers and clerks), in...
- 12 (1) Rule 26 (equipment of polling stations) is amended as...
- 13 (1) Rule 32 (questions to be put to voters) is...
- 14 (1) Rule 34 (voting procedure) is amended as follows.
- 15 In rule 35 (votes marked by presiding officer), in paragraph...
- 16 (1) Rule 36 (voting by persons with disabilities) is amended...
- 17 In rule 37 (tendered ballot papers), in paragraph (2)—
- 18 In rule 38 (refusal to deliver ballot paper), in paragraph...
- 19 In rule 41(1) (sealing and delivery of documents etc), after...
- 20 (1) Rule 56A (destruction of home address forms) is amended...
- 21 In form 1 in the Appendix of Forms (form of...
- 22 In the Appendix of Forms, in form 10 (declaration for...
- 23 Schedule 9 (electoral misdemeanours) is amended in accordance with paragraphs...
- 24 For paragraph 3 substitute— Undue influence (1) A person is guilty of undue influence if the...
- 25 After paragraph 5 insert— Handling of postal voting documents by...
- 26 (1) Paragraph 12A (illegal practices: voting offences) is amended as...
- 27 (1) Paragraph 27 (requirement of secrecy) is amended as follows....
- 28 Local Elections (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
- 29 In paragraph 9(1) of Part 1 of Schedule 2 to...
- 30 Elected Authorities (Northern Ireland) Act 1989
- 31 Elections Act 2001
- 32 Transitional provisions relating to proxy voting
- 34 Consequential repeals
- Part 2 — ELECTIONS TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
- 35 Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001
- 36 In the table, in the right-hand column of the entry...

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- 37 In the table, after the entry for section 112 of...
- 38 In the table, for the entry relating to section 115...
- 39 In the table, after the entry for rule 19A of...
- 40 The entries in the right-hand column of the table in...
- 41 In the entry for rule 31 (notification of requirement of...
- 42 In the entry for rule 37 (voting procedure), before the...
- 43 Against the entry for rule 38 (votes marked by presiding...
- 44 In the table, after the entry for rule 53A of...
- 45 In the entry for section 8 of the Representation of...
- 46 In the Annex, in the form of declaration to be...
- 47 Transitional provisions relating to proxy voting
- 48 (1) This paragraph applies to an application for a proxy...

Schedule 7 — Overseas electors

Part 1 — MINOR AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

- 1 Representation of the People Act 1983
- 2 In section 4 (entitlement to be registered as parliamentary or...
- 3 In section 202(1) (general provisions as to interpretation), for the...
- 4 (1) Schedule 2 (provisions which may be contained in regulations...
- 5 Representation of the People Act 1985
- 6 Finance Act 1996
- 7 Income Tax Act 2007
- 8 Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010
- 9 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011
- 10 House of Lords Reform Act 2014
- 11 Consequential repeals
- Part 2 — TRANSITIONAL PROVISION
- 12 Interpretation of Part
- 13 Pre-commencement applications for registration in a register of
parliamentary electors
- 14 Overseas electors registered pursuant to pre-commencement
applications
- 15 Postal voting
- 16 (1) This paragraph applies where— (a) before the commencement
date,...
- 17 Power to make supplementary provision
- 18 Promoting awareness of changes to overseas elector franchise

Schedule 8 — Voting and candidacy rights of EU citizens

Part 1 — AMENDMENTS TO THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT 1983

- 1 (1) In section 2 of RPA 1983 (local government electors),...

Part 2 — AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO CERTAIN LOCAL ELECTIONS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

- 2 City of London (Various Powers) Act 1957
- 3 Local Government Act 1972
- 4 Greater London Authority Act 1999
- 5 Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009
- 6 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

Part 3 — AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO CERTAIN ELECTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

- 7 Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962
- 8 Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972

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- 9 Elected Authorities (Northern Ireland) Act 1989
- 10 Northern Ireland Act 1998
- 11 Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001
 - Part 4 — TRANSITIONAL PROVISION ETC
- 12 Holders of elected offices
- 13 Power to make transitional and saving provision
 - Schedule 9 — Offences for purposes of Part 5
 - Part 1 — COMMON LAW OFFENCES
 - 1 Offences under the law of England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland
 - 2 Murder.
 - 3 Offences under the law of England and Wales and Northern Ireland
 - 4 Manslaughter.
 - 5 Offences under the law of Scotland
 - 6 Assault to the danger of life.
 - 7 Assault to severe injury.
 - 8 Assault with intent to rape or ravish.
 - 9 Assault other than a kind listed in paragraphs 6 to...
 - 10 Breach of the peace.
 - 11 Culpable homicide.
 - 12 Culpable and reckless conduct.
 - 13 Culpable and reckless endangering of the public.
 - 14 Culpable and reckless fire-raising.
 - 15 Drugging.
 - 16 Extortion.
 - 17 Malicious mischief.
 - 18 Mobbing and rioting.
 - 19 Uttering threats.
 - 20 Wilful fire-raising.
 - 21 Offences under the law of Northern Ireland
 - 22 Riot.
 - Part 2 — STATUTORY OFFENCES
 - 23 Offences against the Person Act 1861
 - 24 Explosive Substances Act 1883
 - 25 Theft Act 1968
 - 26 Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969
 - 27 Criminal Damage Act 1971
 - 28 Protection from Eviction Act 1977
 - 29 Criminal Law Act 1977
 - 30 Criminal Damage (Northern Ireland) Order 1977
 - 31 Rent (Northern Ireland) Order 1978
 - 32 Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981
 - 33 Taking of Hostages Act 1982
 - 34 Rent (Scotland) Act 1984
 - 35 Public Order Act 1986
 - 36 Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987
 - 37 Criminal Justice Act 1988
 - 38 Malicious Communications Act 1988
 - 39 Malicious Communications (Northern Ireland) Order 1988
 - 40 Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992
 - 41 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994
 - 42 Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995

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- 43 Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- 44 Protection from Harassment (Northern Ireland) Order 1997
- 45 Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- 46 Communications Act 2003
- 47 Sexual Offences Act 2003
- 48 Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008
- 49 Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 (asp 9)
- 50 Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 (asp 13)
- 51 Serious Crime Act 2015
- 52 Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 (asp 14)
- 52A Online Safety Act 2023
 - Part 3 — INCHOATE OFFENCES
 - 53 (1) An inchoate offence in relation to an offence listed...

Schedule 10 — Disqualification orders: minor and consequential amendments

- 1 Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962
- 2 Local Government Act 1972
- 3 Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972
- 4 Representation of the People Act 1983
- 5 Northern Ireland Act 1998
- 6 Greater London Authority Act 1999
- 7 Government of Wales Act 2006
- 8 Armed Forces Act 2006
- 9 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011
- 10 Sentencing Act 2020

Schedule 11 — Illegal practices

- 1 Candidates etc at parliamentary, Northern Ireland Assembly and local elections
- 2 Candidates etc at elections to the Scottish Parliament
- 3 Candidates etc at elections to Senedd Cymru
- 4 Candidates etc at local elections in Scotland
- 5 Candidates etc at local elections in Northern Ireland
- 6 Candidates at police and crime commissioner elections
- 7 MPs and recall petitions

Schedule 12 — Supply of information etc

- 1 Supply of information etc
- 2 Court order for disclosure of information etc
- 3 (1) This paragraph applies if a relevant enforcer has given...
- 4 Power to make copies and records
- 5 Authorisation to be in writing
- 6 Legal professional privilege
- 7 Admissibility of information
- 8 Application of restrictions on disclosure
- 9 Meaning of “relevant enforcer”

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 15 coming into force by [S.I. 2023/1145 reg. 5\(a\)](#)
- s. 34(6) words inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 9 para. 3](#)
- Sch. 8 para. 1(1)-(8) coming into force by [S.I. 2023/1145 reg. 5\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 8 para. 1(9)-(12) coming into force by [S.I. 2023/1145 reg. 5\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 8 para. 2(1)-(3) coming into force by [S.I. 2023/1145 reg. 5\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 8 para. 2(4) coming into force by [S.I. 2023/1145 reg. 5\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 8 para. 3 coming into force by [S.I. 2023/1145 reg. 5\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 8 para. 4 coming into force by [S.I. 2023/1145 reg. 5\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 8 para. 5 coming into force by [S.I. 2023/1145 reg. 5\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 8 para. 6(1)(2)(4)-(6) coming into force by [S.I. 2023/1145 reg. 5\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 8 para. 6(3) coming into force by [S.I. 2023/1145 reg. 5\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 8 para. 7 coming into force by [S.I. 2023/1145 reg. 5\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 8 para. 8 coming into force by [S.I. 2023/1145 reg. 5\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 8 para. 9 coming into force by [S.I. 2023/1145 reg. 5\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 8 para. 10 coming into force by [S.I. 2023/1145 reg. 5\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 8 para. 11 coming into force by [S.I. 2023/1145 reg. 5\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 8 para. 12 coming into force by [S.I. 2023/1145 reg. 5\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 8 para. 3-5 savings for amendments by 2022 c. 37, Sch 8 paras 3-5 by [S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 1718](#)

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

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

- Sch. 8 para. 12(4)(da) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 4 para. 230](#)
- Sch. 9 para. 35(ea) inserted by [2023 c. 47 s. 3\(3\)](#)