

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

Changes to legislation: The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 June 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)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2004 No. 293

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE

The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004

Made - - - - 22nd March 2004

Coming into force - - 23rd March 2004

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by sections 5, 6(5) and 7 of the European Parliamentary Elections Act 2002 ^{M1} and by sections 17, 18, 23(2) and 25(3) of the European Parliament (Representation) Act 2003 ^{M2}, being a Minister designated for the purposes of section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 ^{M3} in relation to measures relating to the right of citizens of the Union to vote at and stand as a candidate at European Parliamentary elections ^{M4}, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by the said section 2(2), after consulting the Electoral Commission pursuant to section 7(2)(a) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 ^{M5} and section 17(4) of the European Parliament (Representation) Act 2003, and in accordance with a recommendation of the Electoral Commission under section 8(2) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, hereby makes the following Regulations, a draft of which has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament:

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Instrument modified (23.3.2004) by [The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 \(S.I. 2004/293\)](#), reg. 13, **Sch. 5 paras. 4-11** (with regs. 3-5)
- C2** Instrument modified (temp. from 31.7.2013 until 31.12.2014) (21.6.2013) by [The Elections \(Fresh Signatures for Absent Voters\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1599\)](#), **reg. 4**

Marginal Citations

- M1** 2002 c. 24; the Act was amended by sections 1, 8, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 25, and extended to Gibraltar by section 19, of the [European Parliament \(Representation\) Act 2003 \(c. 7\)](#).
- M2** 2003 c. 7.
- M3** 1972 c. 68.
- M4** S.I. 1993/2661.
- M5** 2000 c. 41.

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PART 1

GENERAL

Citation, commencement and extent

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004.

(2) They shall come into force on the day after the day on which they are made.

(3) They shall extend to England, Wales, Scotland and Gibraltar.

Interpretation

2.—^[F1](1) Unless the context otherwise requires, in these Regulations—

“1983 Act” means the Representation of the People Act 1983;

“1985 Act” means the Representation of the People Act 1985;

“1986 (Scotland) Regulations” means the Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 1986;

“2000 Act” means the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000;

“2001 Franchise Regulations” means the European Parliamentary Elections (Franchise of Relevant Citizens of the Union) Regulations 2001;

“2001 Regulations” means the Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001;

“2001 (Scotland) Regulations” means the Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001;

“2002 Act” means the European Parliamentary Elections Act 2002;

“2003 Act” means the European Parliament (Representation) Act 2003;

“2004 Act” means the European Parliamentary Elections Act 2004 passed by the Gibraltar Parliament;

“2006 Act” means the Electoral Administration Act 2006;

“anonymous entry” in relation to a register of electors, other than the Gibraltar register, is to be construed in accordance with section 9B of the 1983 Act and

“the record of anonymous entries” means the record prepared in pursuance of regulations made under paragraph 8A of Schedule 2 to the 1983 Act; and in relation to the Gibraltar register “anonymous entry” and “the record of anonymous entries” are to be construed in accordance with the equivalent provisions forming part of the law of Gibraltar;

“bank or public holiday” in relation to Gibraltar means a day which is a bank or public holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act and the Interpretation and General Clauses Act;

“citizen of the Union” is to be construed in accordance with Article 8 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, and “relevant citizen of the Union” means such a citizen who is not a Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of the Republic of Ireland;

“the City” means the City of London;

“Combination of Polls Regulations” means the Representation of the People (Combination of Polls) (England and Wales) Regulations 2004;

- “Common Council” means the Common Council of the City;
- “completed corresponding number list” means a list prepared under rule 23 of the European Parliamentary elections rules including the parts which are completed in accordance with rules 32(3)(d) and 41(1)(b) of those rules or paragraph 48(1) of Schedule 2;
- “disability”, in relation to doing a thing, includes a short term inability to do it;
- “dwelling” includes any part of a building where that part is occupied separately as a dwelling;
- “election” means a European Parliamentary election;
- “elector”, in relation to an election, means any person who has for the time being an entry in a register of electors, but does not include those shown in such a register (or, in the case of a person with an anonymous entry in the register, in the record of anonymous entries) as below voting age on the day fixed for the poll;
- “European Parliamentary elections rules” means the rules in Schedule 1 to these Regulations;
- “European Parliamentary election petition” means a petition presented in pursuance of Part 4 of these Regulations;
- “European Parliamentary overseas elector” means a person falling within section 8(4) of the 2002 Act;
- “European Parliamentary overseas elector’s declaration” means a declaration made in pursuance of regulations made under section 3 of the 1985 Act;
- “Gibraltar elector”, in relation to an election, means any person who has for the time being an entry in the Gibraltar register, but does not include those shown in such a register as below voting age on the day fixed for the poll;
- “legal incapacity” includes (in addition to any incapacity by virtue of any subsisting provision of the common law) any disqualification imposed by these Regulations or by any Act;
- “legal process” means a claim form, application, notice, writ, summons or other process;
- “list” means a list of candidates submitted by a registered party to accompany its nomination for election;
- [^{F2}“local counting area” means any of the following as it exists on the day of an election—
- (a) a district in England for which there is a district council,
 - (b) a county in England in which there are no districts with councils,
 - (c) a London borough,
 - (d) the City of London (including the Inner and Middle Temples),
 - (e) the Isles of Scilly,
 - (f) a county or county borough in Wales,
 - (g) a local government area in Scotland, or
 - (h) Gibraltar;]

“the list of proxies” has, in relation to any election, the meaning given by paragraph 5(3) of Schedule 2 to these Regulations;

“mayoral election” means an election conducted under the Local Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007;

“marked register” is the copy of a register of electors marked in accordance with rule 41(1)(c) of the European Parliamentary elections rules;

“marked copy of the postal voters list or the proxy postal voters list” is the copy of that list marked as mentioned in paragraph 60 of Schedule 2 to these Regulations for the purposes of rule 35 of the European Parliamentary elections rules;

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- “national election agent” means the person appointed under regulation 33;
- “nominating officer” means the person registered under the 2000 Act as the officer with responsibility for the matters referred to in section 24(3) of that Act in respect of a registered party;
- “overseas elector” means a person falling within section 8(2)(b) of the 2002 Act or in relation to Gibraltar, a person falling within section 16(2) of the 2003 Act;
- “overseas elector’s declaration” has the meaning given by section 2 of the 1985 Act or, in relation to Gibraltar, paragraph 15 of Schedule 4 to these Regulations;
- “postal voters list” means the list of persons kept in pursuance of paragraph 5(2) of Schedule 2 to these Regulations (persons whose applications to vote by post have been granted);
- “the proxy postal voters list” means the list of persons kept in pursuance of paragraph 7(8) of Schedule 2 to these Regulations (persons whose applications to vote by post as proxy have been granted);
- “proper officer” in England and Wales means a proper officer within the meaning of section 270(3) and (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, or in Scotland, section 235(3) of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1973;
- “referendum” means a referendum conducted under the Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (England) Regulations 2007;
- “register of electors” means any part of—
 - (a) a register of parliamentary or, in the case of peers, local government electors,
 - (b) a register under section 3 of the 1985 Act,
 - (c) a register under regulation 5 of the 2001 Franchise Regulations, and
 - (d) the Gibraltar register,in force within an electoral region at the time of a European Parliamentary election in that region;
- “registered party “ means a party registered under Part 2 of the 2000 Act;
- “registration officer” means an officer appointed under section 8 of the 1983 Act or, in relation to Gibraltar, the European electoral registration officer for Gibraltar;
- [^{F3}“relevant disqualifying decision” has the meaning given by section 10(5A) of the 2002 Act;]
- “relevant registration officer” (except where otherwise provided) means—
 - (a) the registration officer of the local authority in whose area the election is held; or
 - (b) ^{F4}
 - (c) in relation to the City of London, the registration officer for the London borough of Westminster; or
 - (d) in relation to the Scottish electoral region, the returning officer designated under section 6(3) of the 2002 Act; or
 - (e) the European electoral registration officer for Gibraltar as regards documents issued for use in Gibraltar;
- “service voter” means a person who has made a service declaration and is registered or entitled to be registered in pursuance of it;
- “sub-agent” has the meaning given by regulation 35(1) in relation to registered parties under Part 2 of the 2000 Act or regulation 39(1) in relation to individual candidates;
- “universal postal service provider” means a universal service provider within the meaning of [^{F5}Part 3 of the Postal Services Act 2011] and, in relation to Gibraltar, such person or persons

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with the right to exercise the functions of a universal service provider within the meaning of Council Directive No.97/67/EC; and

“voter” means a person voting at an election and includes a person voting as proxy and, except in the European Parliamentary elections rules, a person voting by proxy; and

“vote” (whether noun or verb) is to be construed accordingly, except that in those rules any reference to an elector voting or an elector’s vote is to include a reference to an elector voting by proxy or an elector’s vote given by proxy.]

(2) Part 1 of these Regulations shall (subject to any express provision contained in it) apply to the City as if the City were a London Borough and the Common Council were a London borough council.

For the purposes of this paragraph the Inner Temple and the Middle Temple shall be treated as forming part of the City.

(3) The modifications made by paragraph (2) do not affect regulation 19(3).

Textual Amendments

- F1** Reg. 2(1) substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **3**
- F2** Words in reg. 2(1) substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(a)**
- F3** Words in reg. 2(1) inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(b)**
- F4** Words in reg. 2(1) omitted (1.1.2014) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(c)**
- F5** Words in reg. 2(1) substituted (1.10.2011) by [The Postal Services Act 2011 \(Consequential Modifications and Amendments\) Order 2011 \(S.I. 2011/2085\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 1 para. 60(2)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C3** Reg. 2 modified (23.3.2004) by [The Representation of the People \(Combination of Polls\) \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2004 \(S.I. 2004/294\)](#), regs. 1(1), **7(4)**
- C4** Reg. 2 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)
- C5** Reg. 2 modified (3.8.2012) by [The Neighbourhood Planning \(Referendums\) Regulations 2012 \(S.I. 2012/2031\)](#), regs. 1, 8, 12, 13, **Sch. 4 para. 10**

General application in relation to local government elections in England and Wales

3. In the application of these Regulations in relation to England and Wales, as respects local government elections—

“the 1999 Act” means the Greater London Authority Act 1999;

“Assembly constituency” has the same meaning as in the 1999 Act (see section 2(4) and (5) of that Act);

“Authority election” means—

- (a) any election of the Mayor of London;
- (b) any election of a constituency member of the London Assembly; or
- (c) the election of the London members of the London Assembly at an ordinary election;

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“constituency member”, in relation to the London Assembly, has the same meaning as in the 1999 Act;

“election of a constituency member of the London Assembly” means—

- (a) any such election at an ordinary election; or
- (b) an election under section 10 of the 1999 Act (election to fill a vacancy in an Assembly constituency);

“election of the Mayor of London” means—

- (a) any such election at an ordinary election; or
- (b) an election under section 10 of the 1999 Act (election to fill a vacancy in the office of Mayor of London);

“electoral area” means—

- (a) any electoral division or ward or, in the case of a parish or community in which there are no wards, the parish or community, for which the election of councillors is held under the local government Act;
- (b) Greater London, in the case of—
 - (i) any election of the Mayor of London; or
 - (ii) the election of the London members of the London Assembly at an ordinary election;
- (c) any Assembly constituency for which the election of a constituency member of the London Assembly is held;

“local authority” means the Greater London Authority, a county council, a county borough council, a district council, a London borough council or a parish or community council;

“local government Act” means the Local Government Act 1972 ^{M6};

“local government area” means Greater London, a county, county borough, London borough, district, parish or community;

“local government election” means—

- (a) the election of councillors for any electoral area; or
- (b) any Authority election; and

“London member”, in relation to the London Assembly, has the same meaning as in the 1999 Act.

Marginal Citations

M6 1972 c. 70.

General application to Scotland

4.—(1) This regulation has (in addition to any express application elsewhere in these Regulations) effect for the general application of these Regulations to Scotland, and accordingly—

“electoral area”, in relation to a local government election, means the electoral ward for which the election is held;

“local authority” means a council constituted under section 2 of the Local Government etc (Scotland) Act 1994 ^{M7};

“local government area” means the area of a local authority; and

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“local government election” means an election of councillors by local government electors for an electoral area.

(2) For a reference to the High Court substitute a reference to the Court of Session and for a reference to the county court or a judge of that court substitute a reference to the sheriff.

(3) The power conferred by regulation 22 on the Court of Session to make acts of sederunt for the appointment of judges to hear appeals under that regulation or to fill any vacancy among the judges so appointed is not required to be exercised by statutory instrument.

(4) For a reference to the Director of Public Prosecutions or the Attorney General substitute a reference to the Lord Advocate.

(5) For a reference to a plaintiff or defendant substitute respectively a reference to a pursuer or defender, for a reference to a recognisance substitute a reference to a bond of caution and for a reference to an injunction substitute a reference to an interdict.

^{F6}(6)

Textual Amendments

F6 Reg. 4(6) omitted (30.1.2009) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), 4

Marginal Citations

M7 1994 c. 39.

General application to Gibraltar

5.—(1) This regulation has (in addition to any express application elsewhere in these Regulations) effect for the general application of these Regulations to Gibraltar.

(2) “Gibraltar court”, as respects any purpose, means the court determined by or under the law of Gibraltar to be the court for that purpose.

(3) Except where the contrary intention appears, any reference to—

(a) a level of a fine on the standard scale shall be construed as a reference to that level on the standard scale pursuant to [^{F7}section 550 of, and Part A of Schedule 9 to, the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act 2011]; and

(b) a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum shall be construed as a reference to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale pursuant to [^{F8}section 550 of, and Part A of Schedule 9 to, that Act].

(4) Where reference is made to a time of day, in Gibraltar that reference shall be taken to be the time of day in Gibraltar (and in the United Kingdom that time shall be taken to be the time of day in the United Kingdom) unless otherwise stated.

(5) References in these Regulations to a named [^{F9}Act] are to the Gibraltar [^{F9}Act] of that name.

[^{F10}(6) Any reference to a “civil partner” (wherever it appears) is omitted.

(7) Any reference to section 13B(3B), 13B(3C) or 13B(3D) of the 1983 Act is to be construed as a reference to the equivalent provision forming part of the law of Gibraltar.]

Textual Amendments

F7 Words in reg. 5(3)(a) substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), 7(1)

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- F8** Words in reg. 5(3)(b) substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **7(2)**
- F9** Word in reg. 5 substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **5(1)**
- F10** Reg. 5(6)(7) inserted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **5(2)**

Conduct of poll and count in each local counting area

6.—(1) The local returning officer for each local counting area wholly or partly comprised in an electoral region shall be responsible for—

- (a) the conduct of the poll in that area;
- (b) unless the returning officer otherwise directs, the printing of the ballot papers;
- (c) the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers for electors in that area and their proxies;
- (d) the verification of the ballot paper accounts; and
- (e) the counting of the votes given in that area.

[^{F11}(2) The local returning officer for a local counting area that is—

- (a) a district in England,
- (b) a county in England,
- (c) a London borough, or
- (d) a county or county borough in Wales,

shall be the person who, by virtue of section 35 of the 1983 Act, is the returning officer for elections of councillors for the district, county, borough or county borough.]

[^{F11}(2A) The local returning officer for the City of London shall be the person who, by virtue of that section, is the returning officer for elections of councillors for the London borough of Westminster.]

[^{F11}(2B) The local returning officer for the Isles of Scilly shall be the person who, by virtue of that section, is the returning officer for elections to the Council of the Isles of Scilly.]

[^{F11}(2C) The local returning officer for a local government area in Scotland shall be the person who, by virtue of section 41 of the 1983 Act, is the returning officer for elections of councillors for the local authority for that local government area.]

(3) The local returning officer pursuant to section 6(5A)(b) of the 2002 Act ^{M8} shall be the local returning officer for the Gibraltar local counting area.

Textual Amendments

- F11** Reg. 6(2)-(2C) substituted for reg. 6(2)(2A) (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **8**

Marginal Citations

- M8** Subsection 5A was inserted by section 20(1) and (3) of the [European Parliament \(Representation\) Act 2003 \(c. 7\)](#).

Deputies and assistance

7.—(1) A returning officer and a local returning officer may, in writing, appoint deputies to discharge all or any of the functions imposed on them under these Regulations or the provisions applied by these Regulations.

(2) A returning officer may appoint such clerks as may be necessary to assist him in his functions in relation to an election.

Polling districts and places

8.—(1) Every electoral region shall be divided into polling districts and subject to the provisions of this regulation there shall be a polling place designated for each polling district.

(2) Subject to paragraph (4), the polling districts and polling places designated under this regulation shall be the same as those used or designated for parliamentary elections, except where it appears to those responsible for designating parliamentary polling districts and places that special circumstances make it desirable for some other polling district or place to be designated.

(3) An election shall not be questioned by reason of—

- (a) any non-compliance with the provisions of this regulation; or
- (b) any informality relative to polling districts or polling places.

(4) In Gibraltar the polling districts and polling places designated for each district shall be the same as those used or designated for ^{F12}elections to the Gibraltar Parliament].

Textual Amendments

F12 Words in reg. 8(4) substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), 8

Rules for European Parliamentary elections and general duty of returning officers and local returning officers

9.—(1) The proceedings at a European Parliamentary election shall be conducted in accordance with the European Parliamentary elections rules in Schedule 1 to these Regulations.

(2) It is the returning officer's and the local returning officer's general duty at a European Parliamentary election to do all such acts and things as may be necessary for effectually conducting the election in the manner provided by those rules.

(3) The returning officer may give to any local returning officer for a local counting area in the electoral region for which he acts directions relating to the discharge of his functions, including directions requiring the provision to him of any information which that person has or is entitled to have.

(4) It shall be the duty of any local returning officer to whom directions are given under paragraph (3) to discharge his functions in accordance with the directions.

^{F13}(4A) A returning officer or a local returning officer for a European Parliamentary election may take such steps as he thinks appropriate to remedy any act or omission on his part, or on the part of a relevant person, which—

- (a) arises in connection with any function the returning officer or local returning officer or relevant person has in relation to the election, and
- (b) is not in accordance with the European Parliamentary elections rules or other requirements applicable to the election.

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(4B) A returning officer or local returning officer may not under paragraph (4A) re-count the votes given at an election after the result has been declared.

(4C) These are the relevant persons—

- (a) a registration officer;
- (b) a presiding officer;
- (c) a person providing goods or services to the returning officer or local returning officer;
- (d) a deputy of any person mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) or a person appointed to assist, or in the course of his employment assisting, such a person in connection with any function he has in relation to the European Parliamentary election.

(4D) A returning officer or local returning officer for a European Parliamentary election must take such steps as he thinks appropriate to encourage the participation by electors in the electoral process in the area or region for which he acts.

(4E) A returning officer or local returning officer must have regard to any guidance issued by the Electoral Commission for the purposes of paragraph (4D) of this Regulation.]

(5) No European Parliamentary election shall be declared invalid by reason of any act or omission by the returning officer, local returning officer or any other person in breach of his official duty in connection with the election or otherwise of the European Parliamentary elections rules if it appears to the tribunal having cognizance of the question that—

- (a) the election was so conducted as to be substantially in accordance with the law as to elections; and
- (b) the act or omission did not affect its result.

Textual Amendments

F13 Reg. 9(4A)-(4E) inserted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), 9

Absent voting

10. Schedule 2, which makes provision with respect to the manner of voting at elections, and in particular absent voting, shall have effect.

Combination of polls

11. Where the poll at a European Parliamentary election is to be taken together with—

- (a) the poll at a parliamentary or local government election under section 15(1) or (2) of the 1985 Act; or
- (b) the poll at a mayoral election or a referendum in accordance with regulations made under sections 44 and 105 or 45 and 105 of the Local Government Act 2000 ^{M9},

or two or more such polls, the European Parliamentary elections rules shall have effect subject to—

- (i) in England and Wales, the modifications in Part 1 of Schedule 3 to these Regulations, and
- (ii) in Scotland, the modifications in Part 2 of that Schedule.

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Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C6** Reg. 11 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)
- C7** Reg. 11 modified (3.8.2012) by [The Neighbourhood Planning \(Referendums\) Regulations 2012 \(S.I. 2012/2031\)](#), regs. 1, 8, 12, 13, **Sch. 4 para. 11**

Marginal Citations

- M9** [2000 c. 22](#). Section 44 was amended by paragraphs 18 (1) and (2) of Schedule 21 to, and section 45 was amended by paragraphs 18 (1), (3) and (4) to Schedule 21 to, the [Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 \(c. 41\)](#).

Entitlement to registration and legal incapacity to vote in Gibraltar

12. Schedule 4, which makes provision as to—

- (a) legal incapacity to vote in Gibraltar as an elector at a European Parliamentary election; and
- (b) entitlement to registration in the Gibraltar register,

shall have effect.

Modification of the 2003 Act and these Regulations for 2004 elections in relation to citizens of Accession States

^{F14}**13.**

Textual Amendments

- F14** Reg. 13 omitted (30.1.2009) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **10**

Title of returning officers and local returning officers

14. A European Parliamentary election is not liable to be questioned by reason of a defect in the title, or want of title, of the person presiding at or conducting the election, if that person was then in actual possession of, or acting in, the office giving the right to preside at or conduct the election.

Payments by and to returning officers and local returning officers

15.—^{F15}(1) [^{F16}Subject to regulation 15A,] a returning officer or a local returning officer may recover his charges in respect of services rendered, or expenses incurred, for or in connection with a European Parliamentary election if—

- (a) the services were necessarily rendered, or the expenses were necessarily incurred, for the efficient and effective conduct of the election; and
- (b) the total of his charges does not exceed the amount (“the overall maximum recoverable amount”) specified in, or determined in accordance with, an order made by the Secretary of State.

(2) An order under paragraph (1) may specify, or make provision for determining in accordance with the order, a maximum recoverable amount for services or expenses of any specified description

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and, subject to paragraph (3), the returning officer or local returning officer may not recover more than that amount in respect of any such services or expenses.

- (3) The Secretary of State may, in a particular case, authorise the payment of—
- (a) more than the overall recoverable amount, or
 - (b) more than the specified maximum recoverable amount for any specified services or expenses,

if he is satisfied that the conditions in paragraph (4) are met.

- (4) The conditions referred to in paragraph (3) are—
- (a) that it was reasonable for the returning officer concerned to render the services or incur the expenses; and
 - (b) that the charges in question are reasonable.]

(5) The power to make orders under paragraph (1) shall be exercised by statutory instrument and section 1 of the Statutory Instruments Act 1946^{M10} shall apply accordingly; and any such order may make different provision for different cases, circumstances or areas and may contain such incidental, supplemental, saving or transitional provisions as the Secretary of State thinks fit.

(6) The amount of any charges recoverable in accordance with this regulation shall be charged on and paid out of the Consolidated Fund on an account being submitted to the Secretary of State, but the Secretary of State may if he thinks fit before payment, apply for the account to be taxed under the provisions of regulation 16.

(7) Where the superannuation contributions required to be paid by a local authority in respect of any person are increased by any fee paid under this regulation as part of a returning officer's or local returning officer's charges at a European Parliamentary election, then on an account being submitted to the Secretary of State a sum equal to the increase shall be charged on and paid out of the Consolidated Fund to the authority.

(8) On the returning officer's or local returning officer's request for an advance on account of his charges, the Secretary of State may, on such terms as he thinks fit, make such an advance.

(9) Regulations by the Secretary of State may make provision as to the time when and the manner and form in which accounts are to be rendered to the Secretary of State for the purposes of the payment of a returning officer's or local returning officer's charges, and may include different provision for different cases, circumstances or areas.

(10) Any exercise by the Secretary of State of his functions under [F17 paragraph (1)] shall require the consent of the Treasury.

Textual Amendments

- F15** Reg. 15(1)-(4) substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **11(a)**
- F16** Words in reg. 15(1) inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **9**
- F17** Words in reg. 15(10) substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **11(b)**

Marginal Citations

- M10** 1946 c. 36.

[^{F18}Inadequate performance of returning officer or local returning officer: reduction of charges

15A.—(1) This regulation applies to a service rendered by a returning officer or a local returning officer (referred to in this regulation as the “relevant officer”) for or in connection with a European Parliamentary election which, in the opinion of the Electoral Commission, was inadequately performed.

(2) The Commission may recommend to the Secretary of State that the relevant officer is entitled under regulation 15(1) to no more than a specified amount (which may be nil) in respect of that service.

- (3) In making a recommendation under paragraph (2), the Commission must have regard to—
- (a) if the election concerned is a general election of MEPs, any report prepared under section 5 of the 2000 Act on the administration of that election;
 - (b) any assessment of the level of performance of the relevant officer in relation to that election under section 9B(4) of the 2000 Act;
 - (c) any representations made to the Commission by the relevant officer in respect of the performance of the service; and
 - (d) any other information relating to the performance of the service by the relevant officer that has been provided to the Commission.

(4) Where the Commission makes a recommendation under paragraph (2), the relevant officer is entitled under regulation 15(1) to no more than the amount (which may be nil) determined by the Secretary of State, having regard to the recommendation by the Commission.]

Textual Amendments

F18 Reg. 15A inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), 10

Taxation of returning officer’s and local returning officer’s account

16.—(1) An application for a returning officer’s or local returning officer’s account to be taxed shall be made—

- (a) where the account relates to an election in an electoral region in England or Wales, to the county court,
- (b) where the account relates to an election in Scotland, to the Auditor of the Court of Session,
- (c) where the account is the account of the local returning officer for the Gibraltar local counting area, to the Gibraltar court,

and in this regulation the expression “the court” means that court or Auditor.

(2) On any such application the court has jurisdiction to tax the account in such manner and at such time and place as the court thinks fit, and finally to determine the amount payable to the returning officer.

(3) On any such application the returning officer or local returning officer may apply to the court to examine any claim made by any person against him in respect of matters charged in the account; and the court, after notice given to the claimant and after giving him an opportunity to be heard and to tender any evidence, may allow or disallow or reduce the claim objected to with or without costs; and the determination of the court shall be final for all purposes and as against all persons.

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(4) In paragraph (1)(a), the reference to an account which relates to an electoral region in England shall be construed as including a reference to an account which relates to the whole of the combined region.

Effect of registers

17.—(1) Any entry in the register of electors, if it gives a date as that on which the person named will attain voting age, shall for any purpose of this Part relating to him as elector be conclusive that until the date given in the entry he is not of voting age nor entitled to be treated as an elector except for the purposes of an election at which the day fixed for the poll is that or a later date.

[^{F19}(1A) Paragraph (1) applies to an entry in the record of anonymous entries as it applies to an entry in the register of electors.]

(2) A person whose registration as an elector or entry in the list of proxies entitles him to vote shall not be excluded from voting on any of the following grounds: but this shall not prevent the rejection of the vote on a scrutiny, or affect his liability to any penalty for voting.

The grounds are—

- (a) that he is not of voting age;
 - (b) that he is not, or, on the relevant date or the date of his appointment (as the case may be), was not—
 - (i) a Commonwealth citizen;
 - (ii) a citizen of the Republic of Ireland;
 - (iii) in the case of a person registered as a European Parliamentary elector in pursuance of an overseas elector’s declaration, a British citizen;
 - (iv) in the case of a person registered as an elector or entered in the list of proxies by virtue of being a relevant citizen of the Union, a relevant citizen of the Union;
 - (c) that he is, or, on the relevant date or the date of his appointment (as the case may be), was, otherwise subject to any other legal incapacity to vote.
- (3) In paragraph (2) “the relevant date” means—
- (a) in relation to a person registered in the register in question as published in accordance with section 13(1) of the 1983 Act ^{M11}, the 15th October immediately preceding the date of publication of the register;
 - (b) in relation to a person registered in the Gibraltar register, the date on which an application for registration is made or treated as having been made by virtue of paragraph 6 of Schedule 4;
 - (c) in relation to any other person registered in the register in question, the relevant date for the purposes of section 4 of the 1983 Act ^{M12}.
- (4) In the case of Gibraltar electors—
- (a) omit paragraph (2)(b)(ii); and
 - (b) in paragraph (2)(b)(iii) for “British citizen”, substitute “ Commonwealth citizen ”.

Textual Amendments

F19 Reg. 17(1A) inserted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **12(2)**

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Marginal Citations

- M11** Section 13 was amended by paragraphs 1 and 6 of Schedule 1 to the Representation of the People act 2000 (c. 2).
- M12** Section 4 was amended by section 1(2) of the Representation of the People act 2000 (c. 2).

Effect of misdescription

18. No misnomer or inaccurate description of any person or place named—

- (a) in the register of electors, or
- (b) in any list, record, proxy paper, nomination paper, ballot paper, notice or other document required for the purposes of this Part of these Regulations,

affects the full operation of the document with respect to that person or place in any case where the description of the person or place is such as to be commonly understood.

Discharge of registration duties

19.—(1) Any of the duties and powers of a registration officer may be performed and exercised by any deputy for the time being approved by the council which appointed the registration officer, and the provisions of these Regulations apply to any such deputy so far as respects any duties or powers to be performed or exercised by him as they apply to the registration officer.

(2) In England and Wales, any acts authorised or required to be done by or with respect to the registration officer may, in the event of his incapacity to act or of a vacancy, be done by or with respect to the proper officer of the council by whom the registration officer was appointed.

(3) It shall be the duty—

- (a) in England, of a district council or London borough council,
- (b) in Wales, of a county or county borough council, and
- (c) in Scotland, of every local authority,

to assign such officers to assist the registration officer as may be required for carrying out his functions under these Regulations.

(4) This regulation shall apply as respects the European Parliamentary electoral registration officer for Gibraltar with the following modifications—

- (a) in paragraph (1), for “approved by the council which appointed the registration officer”, substitute “appointed for that purpose by the [F20Clerk of the Gibraltar Parliament] ”;
- (b) in paragraph (2)—
 - (i) for “In England and Wales”, substitute “In Gibraltar ”; and
 - (ii) for the words from “the proper officer” to the end, substitute “any deputy appointed under paragraph (1) ”; and
- (c) in paragraph (3), insert after sub-paragraph (c)—

“(d) in Gibraltar, the Government of Gibraltar.”.

Textual Amendments

- F20** Words in reg. 19(4)(a) substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), 13

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Payment of expenses of registration

20.—(1) Any expenses properly incurred by a registration officer in the performance of his functions under these Regulations (in these Regulations referred to as “registration expenses”) shall be paid by the local authority by whom the registration officer was appointed.

(2) Any fees paid to the registration officer under these Regulations shall be accounted for by him and paid to the local authority by whom he was appointed.

(3) On the request of a registration officer for an advance on account of registration expenses the local authority by whom the registration officer was appointed may, if they think fit, make such an advance to him of such an amount and subject to such conditions as they may approve.

(4) Any registration expenses or contributions to them paid by the Common Council shall be paid out of the general rate and any sums paid to the Common Council under this regulation shall be placed to the credit of that rate.

(5) This regulation does not apply to the European Parliamentary electoral registration officer for Gibraltar.

Registration appeals: England and Wales

21.—^{F21}(1) Subject to paragraph (2), an appeal lies to the county court from any decision under these Regulations of the registration officer—

(a) disallowing a person’s application to vote by post or proxy as elector or to vote by post as proxy, or

(b) to remove a person’s entry from the lists of postal voters or of proxy postal voters,

in any case where the application or entry is not related to a particular election only.]

(2) No appeal lies where the person desiring to appeal has not availed himself of a prescribed right to be heard by or make representations to the registration officer on the matter which is the subject of the appeal, or has not given the prescribed notice of appeal within the prescribed time.

(3) No appeal lies from the decision of the Court of Appeal on appeal from a decision of the county court under this regulation.

(4) An appeal to the county court or Court of Appeal by virtue of this regulation which is pending when notice of an election is given shall not prejudice the operation as respects the election of the decision appealed against, and anything done in pursuance of the decision shall be as good as if no such appeal had been brought and shall not be affected by the decision of the appeal.

(5) Notice shall be sent to the registration officer in manner provided by rules of court of the decision of the county court or of the Court of Appeal on any appeal by virtue of this regulation.

(6) The registration officer shall undertake such duties in connection with appeals brought by virtue of this regulation as are set out in paragraph 21 of Schedule 2 and shall on any such appeal be deemed to be a party to the proceedings, and the registration expenses payable to a registration officer shall include any expenses properly incurred by him by virtue of this paragraph.

(7) In paragraph (2) “prescribed” means prescribed by paragraph 21 of Schedule 2.

(8) This regulation applies to Gibraltar subject to the following modifications—

(a) any reference to the county court shall be construed as a reference to the Gibraltar court; and

(b) any reference to the Court of Appeal shall be construed as a reference to the Gibraltar Court of Appeal.

Textual Amendments

- F21** Reg. 21(1) substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), 14

Registration appeals: Scotland

22.—(1) Regulation 21 applies to Scotland subject to the following modifications—

- (a) paragraph (3) shall be omitted;
- (b) an appeal lies on any point of law from any decision of the sheriff under this regulation to the court of three judges constituted under paragraph (2); and
- (c) for any reference to the Court of Appeal there shall be substituted a reference to that court of three judges.

(2) The court for hearing appeals under sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph (1) shall consist of three judges of the Court of Session who shall be appointed by the Court of Session by act of sederunt and of whom one judge shall be appointed from each division of the Inner House and one from the Lords Ordinary in the Outer House; and the Principal Clerk of Session shall be clerk of the court.

(3) The Court of Session may by act of sederunt fill any vacancy in the court of three judges, and regulate its sittings and forms of process so as to carry out the provisions of these Regulations; and acts of sederunt under this regulation may be made, and the court of three judges may sit, either during the sitting of the Court of Session or in vacation or recess.

Personation

23.—(1) A person shall be guilty of a corrupt practice if he commits, or aids, abets, counsels or procures the commission of, the offence of personation.

(2) A person shall be deemed to be guilty of personation at a European Parliamentary election if he—

- (a) votes in person or by post as some other person, whether as an elector or as proxy, and whether that other person is living or dead or is a fictitious person; or
- (b) votes in person or by post as proxy—
 - (i) for a person whom he knows or has reasonable grounds for supposing to be dead or to be a fictitious person; or
 - (ii) when he knows or has reasonable grounds for supposing that his appointment as proxy is no longer in force.

(3) For the purposes of this regulation, a person who has applied for a ballot paper for the purpose of voting in person or who has marked, whether validly or not, and returned a ballot paper issued for the purpose of voting by post, shall be deemed to have voted.

Other voting offences

24.—(1) A person shall be guilty of an offence if—

- (a) he votes in person or by post, whether as an elector or as proxy, or applies to vote by proxy or by post as elector at a European Parliamentary election knowing that he is subject to a legal incapacity to vote at the election; or
- (b) he applies for the appointment of a proxy to vote for him at any European Parliamentary election knowing that he is or the person to be appointed is subject to a legal incapacity to vote at the election; or

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- (c) he votes, whether in person or by post, as proxy for some other person at a European Parliamentary election, knowing that that person is subject to a legal incapacity to vote.

For the purposes of this paragraph references to a person being subject to a legal incapacity to vote do not, in relation to things done before polling day at the election or first election at or for which they are done, include his being below voting age if he will be of voting age on that day.

(2) References in paragraph (1) to legal incapacity to vote at a European Parliamentary election include incapacity to vote at the kind of election from which the entitlement to vote at a European Parliamentary election derives.

- (3) A person shall be guilty of an offence if—

- (a) he votes as elector otherwise than by proxy either—

(i) more than once in the same electoral region at any European Parliamentary election;
or

(ii) in more than one electoral region at a European Parliamentary election, or

(iii) in any electoral region at a European Parliamentary election when there is in force an appointment of a person to vote as his proxy at the election in respect of an address other than the address by virtue of which he votes as elector; or

- (b) he votes as elector in person at a European Parliamentary election at which he is entitled to vote by post; or

- (c) he votes as elector in person at a European Parliamentary election, knowing that a person appointed to vote as his proxy at the election either has already voted in person at the election or is entitled to vote by post at the election; or

- (d) he applies for a person to be appointed as his proxy to vote for him at European Parliamentary elections in any electoral region without applying for the cancellation of a previous appointment of a third person then in force in respect of that or another electoral region or without withdrawing a pending application for such an appointment in respect of that or another electoral region.

- (4) A person shall be guilty of an offence if—

- (a) he votes as proxy for the same elector either—

(i) more than once in the same electoral region at any European Parliamentary election;
or

(ii) in more than one electoral region at a European Parliamentary election; or

- (b) he votes in person as proxy for an elector at a European Parliamentary election at which he is entitled to vote by post as proxy for that elector; or

- (c) he votes in person as proxy for an elector at a European Parliamentary election knowing that the elector has already voted in person at the election.

(5) A person shall also be guilty of an offence if he votes at a European Parliamentary election in any electoral region as proxy for more than two persons of whom he is not the [^{F22}spouse, civil partner], parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild.

(6) A person shall also be guilty of an offence if he knowingly induces or procures some other person to do an act which is, or but for that other person's want of knowledge would be, an offence by that other person under the foregoing paragraphs of this regulation.

(7) For the purposes of this regulation a person who has applied for a ballot paper for the purpose of voting in person, or who has marked, whether validly or not, and returned a ballot paper issued for the purpose of voting by post, shall be deemed to have voted, but for the purpose of determining whether an application for a ballot paper constitutes an offence under paragraph (5), a previous

application made in circumstances which entitle the applicant only to mark a tendered ballot paper shall, if he does not exercise that right, be disregarded.

[^{F23}(7A) A person is not guilty of an offence under paragraph (3)(b) or (4)(b) only by reason of his having marked a tendered ballot paper in pursuance of rule 44(4) or 44(6) of the European Parliamentary elections rules.]

(8) An offence under this regulation shall be an illegal practice, but the court before whom a person is convicted of any such offence may, if they think it just in the special circumstances of the case, mitigate or entirely remit any incapacity imposed by virtue of regulation 107.

Textual Amendments

F22 Words in reg. 24(5) substituted (5.12.2005) by [The Civil Partnership Act 2004 \(Amendments to Subordinate Legislation\) Order 2005 \(S.I. 2005/2114\)](#), reg. 1, **Sch. 8 para. 2(2)**

F23 Reg. 24(7A) inserted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **15**

Breach of official duty

25.—(1) If a person to whom this regulation applies is, without reasonable cause, guilty of any act or omission in breach of his official duty, he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

(2) No person to whom this regulation applies shall be liable for breach of his official duty to any penalty at common law and no action for damages shall lie in respect of the breach by such a person of his official duty.

(3) The persons to whom this regulation applies are—

- (a) any sheriff clerk, registration officer, returning officer, local returning officer or presiding officer,
- (b) any official designated by a universal postal service provider, ^{F24}...

^{F25}(ba)

[^{F26}(bb) any other person whose duty it is to be responsible after a European Parliamentary election for the used ballot papers and other documents (including returns and declarations as to expenses), and]

- (c) any deputy of a person mentioned in any of sub-paragraphs [^{F27}(a), (b) and (bb)] or any person appointed to assist or in the course of his employment assisting a person so mentioned in connection with his official duties;

and “official duty” shall for the purposes of this regulation be construed accordingly, but shall not include duties imposed otherwise than by the law relating to European Parliamentary elections or the registration of parliamentary or local government electors.

[^{F28}(4) Where—

- (a) a local returning officer to whom regulation 9 applies is guilty of an act or omission in breach of his official duty, but
- (b) remedies that act or omission in full by taking steps under paragraph (4A) of that regulation,

he shall not be guilty of an offence under paragraph (1) of this regulation.

(5) Paragraph (4) does not affect any conviction which takes place, or any penalty which is imposed, before the date on which the act or omission is remedied in full.]

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Textual Amendments

- F24** Word in reg. 25(3) omitted (30.1.2009) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **16(2)**
- F25** Reg. 25(3)(ba) omitted (1.1.2014) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **11**
- F26** Reg. 25(3)(ba)(bb) inserted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **16(2)**
- F27** Words in reg. 25(3)(c) substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **16(3)**
- F28** Reg. 25(4)(5) inserted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **16(4)**

Tampering with nomination papers, ballot papers, etc

- 26.**—(1) A person shall be guilty of an offence, if, at a European Parliamentary election, he—
- (a) fraudulently defaces or fraudulently destroys any nomination paper, or the list of candidates submitted by a registered party; or
 - (b) fraudulently defaces or fraudulently destroys any ballot paper, or the official mark on any ballot paper, or any [^{F29}postal voting statement] or official envelope used in connection with voting by post; or
 - (c) without due authority supplies any ballot paper to any person; or
 - (d) fraudulently puts into any ballot box any paper other than the ballot paper which he is authorised by law to put in; or
 - (e) fraudulently takes out of the polling station any ballot paper; or
 - (f) without due authority destroys, takes, opens or otherwise interferes with any ballot box or packet of ballot papers then in use for the purposes of the election; or
 - (g) fraudulently or without due authority, as the case may be, attempts to do any of the foregoing acts.
- (2) In Scotland, a person shall be guilty of an offence if—
- (a) at a European Parliamentary election, he forges any nomination paper, delivers to the returning officer any nomination paper knowing it to be forged, or forges or counterfeits any ballot paper or the official mark on any ballot paper; or
 - (b) he fraudulently or without due authority, as the case may be, attempts to do any of the foregoing acts.
- (3) If a returning officer, a local returning officer, a presiding officer or a clerk appointed to assist in taking the poll, counting the votes or assisting at the proceedings in connection with the issue or receipt of postal ballot papers is guilty of an offence under this section, he shall be liable—
- (a) on conviction on indictment to a fine, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, or to both;
 - (b) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, or to both.
- (4) If any other person is guilty of an offence under this regulation, he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, or to both.

Textual Amendments

- F29** Words in reg. 26(1)(b) substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), 17

False statement in nomination papers

27. A person is guilty of a corrupt practice if, in the case of a European Parliamentary election, he causes or permits to be included in a document delivered or otherwise furnished to a returning officer for use in connection with the election a statement of the name or home address of a candidate at the election which he knows to be false in any particular.

Offences in connection with candidature

28.—(1) A person who makes a statement which he knows to be false in the declaration required by [^{F30}rule 9(4)] of the European Parliamentary elections rules is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale ^{F31}....

(2) A person who, at a general election of MEPs—

- (a) consents to nomination as an individual candidate in more than one electoral region,
- (b) consents to nomination as an individual candidate in an electoral region and consents to being nominated in a list submitted by a registered party, whether in that region or some other,
- (c) consents to being nominated in the list submitted by more than one registered party in the same region, or
- (d) consents to being nominated in the lists submitted by a registered party or parties for more than one region,

is guilty of an illegal practice.

[^{F32}(3) An individual candidate or a candidate being nominated in a list submitted by a registered party at a European Parliamentary election is guilty of a corrupt practice if, in any document in which he gives his consent to his nomination in accordance with rule 8 of the European Parliamentary elections rules, he makes—

- (a) a statement of his date of birth, or
- (b) a statement as to his qualification for being elected at that election,

which he knows to be false in any particular.

(4) For the purposes of paragraph (3), a statement as to a candidate's qualification is a statement—

- (a) that he is qualified for being elected,
- (b) that he will be qualified for being elected, or
- (c) that to the best of his knowledge and belief he is not disqualified for being elected]

Textual Amendments

- F30** Words in reg. 28(1) substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **12(a)**

- F31** Words in reg. 28(1) omitted (1.1.2014) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **12(b)**

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F32 Reg. 28(3)(4) inserted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **18**

Requirement of secrecy

29.—(1) The following persons—

- (a) every local returning officer and every presiding officer or clerk attending at a polling station,
- (b) every candidate or election agent or polling agent so attending,
- ^{F33}(c) every person so attending by virtue of any of sections 6A to 6D of the 2000 Act,]

shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of voting and shall not, except for some purpose authorised by law, communicate to any person before the poll is closed any information as to—

- (i) the name of any elector or proxy for an elector who has or has not applied for a ballot paper or voted at a polling station;
- (ii) the number on the register of electors of any elector who, or whose proxy, has or has not applied for a ballot paper or voted at a polling station; or
- (iii) the official mark.

(2) Every person attending at the verification of the ballot paper accounts or the counting of the votes shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of voting and shall not—

- (a) ascertain or attempt to ascertain at the counting of the votes the number [^{F34}or other unique identifying mark] on the back of any ballot paper;
- (b) communicate any information obtained at the verification of the ballot paper accounts or the counting of the votes as to the way in which any vote is given on any particular ballot paper.

(3) No person attending at the verification of the ballot paper accounts shall express to any person an opinion based on information obtained at that verification as to the likely result of the election.

(4) No person shall—

- (a) interfere with or attempt to interfere with a voter when recording his vote;
- (b) otherwise obtain or attempt to obtain in a polling station information as to the way in which a voter in that station is about to vote or has voted;
- (c) communicate at any time to any person any information obtained in a polling station as to the way in which a voter in that station is about to vote or has voted, or as to the number [^{F35}or other unique identifying mark] on the back of the ballot paper given to a voter at that station;
- (d) directly or indirectly induce a voter to display his ballot paper after he has marked it so as to make known to any person the way in which he has voted.

(5) Every person attending the proceedings in connection with the issue or the receipt of ballot papers for persons voting by post shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting and shall not—

- (a) except for some purpose authorised by law, communicate, before the poll is closed, to any person any information obtained at those proceedings as to the official mark; or
- (b) except for some purpose authorised by law, communicate to any person at any time any information obtained at those proceedings as to the number [^{F36}or other unique identifying mark] on the back of the ballot paper sent to any person; or

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- (c) except for some purpose authorised by law, attempt to ascertain at the proceedings in connection with the receipt of ballot papers the number [^{F36}or other unique identifying mark] on the back of any ballot paper; or
- (d) attempt to ascertain at the proceedings in connection with the receipt of the ballot papers the way in which any vote is given in any particular ballot paper or communicate any information with respect thereto obtained at those proceedings.
- (6) No person having undertaken to assist a voter with disabilities to vote shall communicate at any time to any person any information as to the way in which that voter intends to vote or has voted, or as to the number [^{F37}or other unique identifying mark] on the back of the ballot paper given for the use of that voter.
- (7) If a person acts in contravention of this regulation he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.

Textual Amendments

- F33** Reg. 29(1)(c) substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **19(2)**
- F34** Words in reg. 29(2)(a) inserted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **19(3)**
- F35** Words in reg. 29(4)(c) inserted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **19(3)**
- F36** Words in reg. 29(5)(b)(c) inserted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **19(3)**
- F37** Words in reg. 29(6) inserted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **19(3)**

Prohibition on publication of exit polls

30.—(1) No person shall in the case of a European Parliamentary election publish before the close of the poll—

- (a) any statement relating to the way in which voters have voted at the election where that statement is (or might reasonably be taken to be) based on information given by voters after they have voted, or
- (b) any forecast as to the result of the election which is (or might reasonably be taken to be) based on information so given.

(2) If a person acts in contravention of paragraph (1), he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.

(3) In this regulation—

“close of the poll” means, in the case of a general election of MEPs, the close of the polling in the Member State whose electors are the last to vote in the election;

“forecast” includes estimate;

“publish” means make available to the public at large, or any section of the public, in whatever form and by whatever means;

and any reference to the result of an election is a reference to the result of the election either as a whole or so far as any particular registered party or individual candidate at the election is or are concerned.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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PART 2

THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Interpretation of Part 2

- 31.—(1)** In this Part of these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—
- “appropriate officer” means the returning officer;
 - “candidate” shall be construed in accordance with paragraph (2) below;
 - “committee room” does not include any house or room occupied by a candidate as a dwelling, by reason only of the candidate transacting business there with his agents in relation to the election, and no room or building shall be deemed to be a committee room by reason only of the candidate or any agent of the candidate addressing in it electors, committee members or others;
 - “declaration as to election expenses” means a declaration made under regulation 52;
 - “disputed claim” has the meaning given by regulation 49(1) as extended by regulation 50;
 - “election expenses”, in relation to a European Parliamentary election, shall be construed in accordance with ^{F38}regulations 60 and 62];
 - “individual candidate” means a person to whom paragraph (2)(b) applies;
 - “money” and “pecuniary reward” shall (except in regulations 42, 77 and 78 and Schedule 6 to these Regulations) be deemed to include—
 - (a) any office, place or employment, and
 - (b) any valuable security or other equivalent of money, and
 - (c) any valuable consideration,
 and expressions referring to money shall be construed accordingly;
 - “payment” includes any pecuniary or other reward;
 - “personal expenses” as used with respect to the expenditure of a candidate in relation to any European Parliamentary election includes the reasonable travelling expenses of the candidate, and the reasonable expenses of his living at hotels or elsewhere for the purposes of and in relation to the election; and
 - “return as to election expenses” means a return (including the bills and receipts to be delivered with it) to be made under regulation 51(1).
- (2) A person becomes a candidate at an election—
- (a) in the case of a person included in the list of candidates of a registered party to accompany its nomination for election, on the day on which the list is submitted by the party; or
 - (b) in the case of a person not included in the list of candidates of a registered party to accompany its nomination for election—
 - (i) on the last day for publication of the notice of the election if on or before that day he is declared by himself or by others to be a candidate at the election, and
 - (ii) otherwise, on the day on which he is so declared by himself or by others or on which he is nominated as a candidate at the election (whichever is the earlier).

Textual Amendments

F38 Words in [reg. 31\(1\)](#) substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\), 20](#)

Computation of time for purposes of Part 2

32.—(1) Where the day or last day on which anything is required or permitted to be done by or in pursuance of this Part of these Regulations is any of the days mentioned in paragraph (2)—

- (a) the requirement or permission shall be deemed to relate to the first day thereafter which is not one of those days; and
- (b) in computing any period of not more than 7 days for the purposes of this Part any of the days so mentioned shall be disregarded.

(2) The days referred to in paragraph (1) are Saturday, Sunday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, ^{F39}... Good Friday, a bank holiday or a day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning.

(3) In this regulation “bank holiday”, in relation to any European Parliamentary election, means—

- (a) in relation to the combined region, a day which is a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 ^{M13} in England and Wales or a Bank or Public Holiday in Gibraltar not otherwise falling within paragraph (2);
- (b) in relation to an electoral region other than the combined region, a day which is a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 in the part of the United Kingdom in which the electoral region is situated.

Textual Amendments

F39 Words in [reg. 32\(2\)](#) omitted (30.1.2009) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), 21

Marginal Citations

M13 1971 c. 80.

Election agents of registered parties

Appointment of national election agent of registered party

33.—(1) This regulation applies where, at a general election of MEPs, the nominating officer of a registered party (in accordance with the European Parliamentary elections rules) nominates, or authorises the nomination of, that party to stand for election in more than one electoral region.

(2) Not later than the latest date for the delivery of notices of withdrawal for an election, that officer shall name himself, or some other person, as the party’s national election agent.

(3) The name and address of the person so named shall be declared in writing by or on behalf of the party’s nominating officer to the Secretary of State not later than that time.

(4) One national election agent only shall be appointed for each registered party but the appointment (whether or not the national election agent appointed is the party’s nominating officer) may be revoked.

(5) If (whether before, during or after the general election of MEPs) the appointment or deemed appointment of a national election agent is revoked or a national election agent dies, another national election agent shall be appointed forthwith and his name and address declared to the Secretary of State.

(6) The declaration as a party’s national election agent of a person other than the nominating officer of that party shall be of no effect under this regulation unless it is made and signed by that person or is accompanied by a written declaration of acceptance signed by him.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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(7) Upon the name and address of a national election agent being declared to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State shall forthwith give public notice of that name and address.

(8) Where for any reason the nominating officer of a registered party is unable to act, functions conferred on him by this regulation shall be discharged by—

- (a) the person registered as leader of that party under the 2000 Act, or
- (b) where that person is also the nominating officer, the person who holds some other office in the party and is registered in pursuance of it under section 24 of that Act.

(9) In the following provisions of these Regulations, except regulations 38 to 41—

- (a) any reference to an election agent shall, in the case of a registered party to which this regulation applies, be construed as a reference to a national election agent, and
- (b) any reference to the election agent of a candidate shall, in the case of a registered party to which this regulation applies, be construed as a reference to that party's national election agent.

Appointment of election agent by a registered party standing in one electoral region only

34.—(1) This regulation applies where a registered party is nominated for election in one electoral region only.

(2) Not later than the latest date for the delivery of notices of withdrawal for an election, the nominating officer of a registered party shall name himself, or some other person, as the party's election agent.

(3) The name and address of the person so named shall be declared in writing by or on behalf of the party's nominating officer to the appropriate officer not later than that time.

(4) One election agent only shall be appointed for each registered party, but the appointment (whether or not the election agent appointed is the party's nominating officer) may be revoked.

(5) If (whether before, during or after the election) the appointment or deemed appointment of an election agent is revoked or an election agent dies, another election agent shall be appointed forthwith and his name and address declared to the appropriate officer.

(6) The declaration as a party's election agent of a person other than the nominating officer of that party shall be of no effect under this regulation unless it is made and signed by that person or is accompanied by a written declaration of acceptance signed by him.

(7) Upon the name and address of an election agent being declared to the appropriate officer, the appropriate officer shall forthwith give public notice of that name and address.

(8) Regulation 33(8) above applies for the purposes of this regulation as it applies for the purposes of that regulation.

(9) In the following provisions of these Regulations, except regulations 38 to 41, any reference to the election agent of a candidate shall, in the case of a registered party to which this regulation applies, be construed as a reference to that party's election agent.

Appointment of sub-agent for registered parties

35.—(1) A national election agent or a person authorised by him may appoint to act in any electoral region one, but not more than one, deputy election agent and in any part of an electoral region one, but not more than one, deputy election agent (referred to in these Regulations as a sub-agent).

(2) An election agent of a registered party may appoint to act in any part of the electoral region one, but not more than one, deputy election agent (referred to in these Regulations as a sub-agent).

(3) As regards matters in the area for which there is a sub-agent, the election agent (including the national election agent), may act by the sub-agent and—

- (a) anything done for the purposes of these Regulations, by or to the sub-agent in his area shall be deemed to be done by or to the election agent (including the national election agent); and
- (b) any act or default of a sub-agent which, if he were the election agent (including the national election agent), would be an illegal practice or other offence against these Regulations, shall be an illegal practice and offence against these Regulations committed by the sub-agent and the sub-agent shall be liable to punishment accordingly.

(4) Not later than the fifth day before the day of the poll (calculated in accordance with regulation 32) the national election agent or a person acting on his behalf or, as the case may be, the election agent shall declare in writing to the returning officer—

- (a) the name and address of every sub-agent, and
- (b) the area for which he is appointed to act.

(5) The appointment of a sub-agent shall not be vacated by the national election agent or, as the case may be, the election agent who appointed him ceasing to be such an agent.

(6) The appointment of a sub-agent may be revoked by whoever is for the time being the national election agent or, as the case may be, election agent.

(7) Where the appointment of a sub-agent is revoked or the sub-agent dies, another sub-agent may be appointed, and the national election agent or a person acting on his behalf or, as the case may be, the election agent shall forthwith declare in writing to the returning officer—

- (a) the name and address of the sub-agent, and
- (b) the area for which he is appointed to act.

(8) On receipt of a declaration under paragraph (4) or (7) above, the returning officer shall forthwith give public notice of the name, address and area so declared.

(9) References in this regulation to an election agent are to the election agent of a registered party.

Office of agents of registered parties

36.—(1) Every national election agent, every election agent and every sub-agent of a registered party shall have an office to which all claims, notices, [^{F40}legal process and other] documents may be sent.

(2) The office of a national election agent shall be in the United Kingdom and shall be—

- (a) declared to the Secretary of State at the same time as the appointment of the agent is declared to him; and
- (b) stated in the public notice of the name of the agent.

(3) The office of the election agent or sub-agent of a registered party shall be within the United Kingdom or, in the case of a party standing for election in the combined region, Gibraltar and shall be—

- (a) declared to the appropriate officer at the same time as the appointment of the agent is declared to him; and
- (b) stated in the public notice of the name of the agent.

(4) Any claim, notice, [^{F41}legal process or other] document delivered at the address of the national election agent, election agent or sub-agent and addressed to him, shall be deemed to have been served on him and every national election agent, election agent or sub-agent may in respect of any matter

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connected with the election in which he is acting be sued in any court having jurisdiction at the place where his office is situated.

Textual Amendments

- F40** Words in [reg. 36\(1\)](#) substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\)](#), [22\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- F41** Words in [reg. 36\(4\)](#) substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\)](#), [22\(1\)\(b\)](#)

Effect of default in appointment of agents of registered parties

37.—(1) If no person's name and address are given as required by—

- (a) regulation 33 as the national election agent of a registered party, or
- (b) regulation 34 (where regulation 33 does not apply) as the election agent of a registered party for an electoral region,

by the latest time for delivery of notices of withdrawals, the nominating officer shall be deemed to have named himself as the national election agent or, as the case may be, the election agent and to have revoked any appointment of another person as that agent.

(2) If—

- (a) the person whose name and address have been so given as those of the party's national election agent or, as the case may be, election agent (not being the party's nominating officer) dies, and
- (b) a new appointment is not made on the day of the death or the following day,

the party's nominating officer shall be deemed to have appointed himself as from the time of the death to the office in question.

(3) If the appointment of a party's national election agent or, as the case may be, election agent is revoked without a new appointment being made, the party's nominating officer shall be deemed to have been appointed (or re-appointed) to the office in question.

(4) The deemed appointment of a nominating officer as his party's national election agent or, as the case may be, election agent may be revoked as if it were an actual appointment.

(5) Regulation 33(8) applies for the purposes of this regulation as it applies for the purposes of that regulation.

(6) Where a party's nominating officer or officer determined under regulation 33(8), as applied by paragraph (5) above, is by virtue of this regulation to be treated as the party's national election agent or, as the case may be, election agent, he shall be deemed to have his office at the address registered under the 2000 Act as the party's headquarters (or, if it has no headquarters, the address to which communications to the party may be sent).

(7) On being satisfied that a party's nominating officer or officer determined under paragraph (5) above is by virtue of this regulation to be treated as—

- (a) the party's national election agent, or
- (b) the party's election agent,

the Secretary of State or the appropriate officer (as the case may be) shall forthwith proceed to publish the like notice as if that officer's name and address and the address of his office had been duly given to him under regulations 33 and 36 or, as the case may be, regulations 34 and 36.

Election agents of individual candidates

Appointment of election agent for individual candidate

38.—(1) Not later than the latest time for the delivery of notices of withdrawals for an election, a person shall be named by or on behalf of each individual candidate as the individual candidate's election agent, and the name and address of the individual candidate's election agent shall be declared in writing by the individual candidate or some other person on his behalf to the appropriate officer not later than that time.

(2) An individual candidate may name himself as election agent, and upon doing so shall, so far as circumstances admit, be subject to the provisions of these Regulations both as an individual candidate and as an election agent, and, except where the context otherwise requires, any reference in these Regulations to an election agent shall be construed to refer to the individual candidate acting in his capacity of election agent.

(3) One election agent only shall be appointed for each individual candidate, but the appointment, whether the election agent appointed be the individual candidate himself or not, may be revoked.

(4) If (whether before, during or after the election) the appointment (or deemed appointment) of an election agent is revoked or an election agent dies, another election agent shall be appointed forthwith and his name and address declared in writing to the appropriate officer.

(5) The declaration as an individual candidate's election agent of a person other than the individual candidate shall be of no effect under this regulation unless it is made and signed by that person or is accompanied by a written declaration of acceptance signed by him.

(6) Upon the name and address of an election agent being declared to the appropriate officer, the appropriate officer shall forthwith give public notice of that name and address.

Appointment of sub-agent for individual candidate

39.—(1) An election agent for an individual candidate may appoint to act in any part of the electoral region one, but not more than one, deputy election agent (in these Regulations referred to as a sub-agent).

(2) As regards matters in a part of the electoral region for which there is a sub-agent the election agent may act by the sub-agent and—

- (a) anything done for the purposes of these Regulations by or to the sub-agent in his part of the electoral region shall be deemed to be done by or to the election agent; and
- (b) any act or default of a sub-agent which, if he were the election agent, would be an illegal practice or other offence against these Regulations shall be an illegal practice and offence against these Regulations committed by the sub-agent, and the sub-agent shall be liable to punishment accordingly.

(3) Not later than the fifth day before the day of the poll the election agent shall declare in writing the name and address of every sub-agent to the appropriate officer, and the appropriate officer shall forthwith give public notice of the name and address of every sub-agent so declared.

(4) The appointment of a sub-agent—

- (a) shall not be vacated by the election agent who appointed him ceasing to be election agent, but
- (b) may be revoked by whoever is for the time being the individual candidate's election agent, and in the event of the revocation of the appointment or of the death of a sub-agent another sub-agent may be appointed, and his name and address shall be forthwith declared in writing to the appropriate officer, who shall forthwith give public notice of the name and address so declared.

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(5) The declaration to be made to the appropriate officer, and the notice to be given by him, under paragraph (3) or paragraph (4) shall specify the part of the electoral region within which any sub-agent is appointed to act.

(6) In paragraphs (2) to (4) references to an election agent are to an election agent of an individual candidate.

Office of election agent and sub-agent for individual candidate

40.—(1) Every election agent and every sub-agent shall have an office to which all claims, notices, writs, summonses and legal process and other documents may be sent, and the address of the office shall be—

- (a) declared to the appropriate officer at the same time as the appointment of the agent is declared to him; and
- (b) stated in the public notice of the name of the agent.

(2) The office of the elections agent or sub-agent shall be within the United Kingdom or, in the case of a candidate standing for election in the combined region, Gibraltar.

(3) Any claim, notice, writ, summons or legal process or other document delivered at the office of the election agent or sub-agent and addressed to him, shall be deemed to have been served on him and every election agent or sub-agent may in respect of any matter connected with the election in which he is acting be sued in any court having jurisdiction at the place where his office is situated.

(4) In this regulation, references to an election agent and sub-agent are to an election agent or sub-agent of an individual candidate.

Effect of default in election agent's appointment

41.—(1) If no person's name and address is given as required by regulation 38 as the election agent of an individual candidate who remains validly nominated at the latest time for delivery of notices of withdrawals, the individual candidate shall be deemed at that time to have named himself as election agent and to have revoked any appointment of another person as his election agent.

(2) If—

- (a) the person whose name and address have been so given as those of the individual candidate's election agent (not being the individual candidate himself) dies, and
- (b) a new appointment is not made on the day of the death or on the following day, the individual candidate shall be deemed to have appointed himself as from the time of death.

(3) If the appointment of an individual candidate's election agent is revoked without a new appointment being made, the individual candidate himself shall be deemed to have been appointed (or re-appointed) election agent.

(4) The deemed appointment of an individual candidate as his own election agent may be revoked as if it were an actual appointment.

(5) Where an individual candidate is by virtue of this regulation to be treated as his own election agent, he shall be deemed to have his office at his address as given in the statement as to persons nominated.

(6) The appropriate officer on being satisfied that an individual candidate is by virtue of this regulation to be treated as his own election agent, shall forthwith proceed to publish the like notice as if the name and address of the individual candidate and the address of his office had been duly given to him under regulations 38 and 40.

Election expenses

Control of donations to individual candidates

42.—(1) In the case of any individual candidate at a European Parliamentary election, any money or other property provided (whether as a gift or loan)—

(a) by any person other than the candidate or his election agent, and

(b) for the purpose of meeting election expenses incurred by or on behalf of the candidate, must be provided to the candidate or his election agent.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to any money or other property so provided for the purpose of meeting any such expenses which may be lawfully paid by a person other than the candidate, his election agent or any sub-agent.

(3) A person who provides any money or other property in contravention of paragraph (1) shall be guilty of an illegal practice.

(4) Schedule 6 to these Regulations shall have effect for the purpose of controlling donations to individual candidates.

(5) In this regulation and that Schedule “property” includes any description of property, and references to the provision of property accordingly include the supply of goods.

Payment of expenses of individual candidates through election agent

43.—(1) Subject to paragraph (5), no payment (of whatever nature) shall be made by—

(a) an individual candidate at an election, or

(b) any other person,

in respect of election expenses incurred by or on behalf of an individual candidate unless it is made by or through the candidate’s election agent.

(2) Every payment made by an election agent in respect of any election expenses shall, except where less than £20, be vouched for by a bill stating the particulars or by a receipt.

(3) The references in the foregoing provisions of this regulation to an election agent shall be taken as references to the election agent acting by himself or a sub-agent or a person authorised in writing by the election agent or sub-agent.

(4) All money provided by any person other than the individual candidate for any election expenses, whether as gift, loan, advance or deposit, shall be paid to the candidate or his election agent or sub-agent and not otherwise.

(5) This regulation does not apply to—

(a) any expenses which are, in accordance with regulations 44(1) or (2), 48(6) or 49(2), paid by the individual candidate;

(b) any expenses which are paid in accordance with regulation 44(4) by a person authorised as mentioned in that provision;

(c) any expenses included in a declaration made by the election agent under regulation 45; or

(d) any expenses which are to be regarded as incurred by or on behalf of the individual candidate by virtue of [^{F42}regulation 60(5)].

(6) A person who makes any payment (of whatever nature) in contravention of paragraph (1), or pays in contravention of paragraph (4) any money so provided as mentioned above, shall be guilty of an illegal practice.

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Textual Amendments

F42 Words in reg. 43(5)(d) substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **23**

Individual candidate's personal expenses, and petty expenses

44.—(1) An individual candidate at a European Parliamentary election may pay any personal expenses incurred by him on account of or in connection with or incidental to the election, but the amount which the candidate may pay shall not exceed £900, and where this applies any further personal expenses so incurred by him shall be paid by his election agent.

(2) An individual candidate at a European Parliamentary election may also pay any election expenses (other than expenses falling within paragraph (1)) which were incurred by him or on his behalf and in respect of which payment falls to be made before the date on which he appoints (or is deemed to have appointed) an election agent.

(3) The candidate shall send to his election agent within the time limited by these Regulations for sending in claims a written statement of the amount of expenses paid as mentioned in paragraph (1) or (2) by the candidate.

(4) Any person may, if so authorised in writing by an election agent or sub-agent, pay any election expenses to a total amount not exceeding that named in the authority, but any excess above that amount so named shall be paid by the agent who authorised that person.

(5) A statement of the particulars of payments made by any person so authorised shall be sent to the agent who authorised them within the time limited by these Regulations for sending in claims, and shall be vouched for by a bill containing that person's receipt and, where that agent is the sub-agent, he shall forward the statement, together with his authority, to the election agent.

(6) Regulations 48 and 49 do not apply to expenses which, in accordance with any provision of this regulation, are paid otherwise than by the candidate's election agent.

Expenses of individual candidate incurred otherwise than for elections purposes

45.—(1) Neither regulation 43 nor regulations 48 and 49 shall apply to election expenses—

- (a) which are incurred by or on behalf of an individual candidate otherwise than for the purposes of the candidate's election, but
- (b) which by virtue of regulation 60(1) fall to be regarded as election expenses by reason of the property, services or facilities in respect of which they were incurred being used for the purposes of the candidate's election.

(2) The individual candidate's election agent shall make a declaration of the amount ^{F43}... of any election expenses falling within paragraph (1).

(3) In this regulation "for the purposes of the candidate's election" has the same meaning as in ^{F44}regulations 60 and 62].

Textual Amendments

F43 Words in reg. 45(2) omitted (30.1.2009) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **24(a)**

F44 Words in reg. 45(3) substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **24(b)**

Prohibition of expenses of individual candidate not authorised by election agent

46.—^{F45}(1) No expenses shall, with a view to promoting or procuring the election of an individual candidate at an election, be incurred after he becomes a candidate by any person other than the candidate, his election agent and persons authorised in writing by the election agent on account—

- (a) of holding public meetings or organising any public display; or
- (b) of issuing advertisements, circulars or publications; or
- (c) of otherwise representing to the electors that candidate or his views or the extent or nature of his backing or disparaging a registered party or its candidates or an independent candidate.

(1A) Sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph (1) does not restrict the publication of any matter relating to the election in—

- (a) a newspaper or other periodical,
- (b) a broadcast made by the British Broadcasting Corporation, the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation, or by Sianel Pedwar Cymru, or
- (c) a programme included in any service licensed under Part 1 or 3 of the Broadcasting Act 1990 or Part 1 or 2 of the Broadcasting Act 1996.

(1B) Paragraph (1) does not apply to any expenses incurred by any person—

- (a) which do not exceed in the aggregate the permitted sum (and are not incurred by that person as part of a concerted plan of action), or
- (b) in travelling or living away from home or similar personal expenses.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1B), the “permitted sum” means £5,000; and expenses must be regarded as incurred by a person “as part of a concerted plan of action” if they are incurred by that person in pursuance of any plan or other arrangement whereby that person and one or more other persons are to incur, with a view to promoting or procuring the election of the same candidate, expenses which (disregarding paragraph (1B)(a)) fall within paragraph (1).

(2A) For the purposes of paragraph (1), expenditure incurred before or on the date when a person becomes an individual candidate or a candidate included in the list of candidates submitted by a registered party at the election, is to be treated as having been incurred after that date if it is incurred in connection with any thing which is used or takes place after that date.]

(3) Where a person incurs any expenses required by this regulation to be authorised by the election agent—

- (a) that person shall, within 21 days after the day on which the result of the election is declared, deliver to the agent who authorised the expenses a return of the amount of them, and
- (b) the return shall be accompanied by a declaration made by that person (or in the case of an association or body of persons, by a director, general manager, secretary or other similar officer of the association or body) verifying the return and giving particulars of the matters for which the expenses were incurred,

but this paragraph does not apply to any person engaged or employed for payment or promise of payment by the individual candidate or his election agent.

(4) The authority of the agent who authorised the incurring of the expenses shall be annexed to and deemed to form part of the return.

(5) If a person—

- (a) incurs, or aids, abets, counsels or procures any other person to incur, any expenses in contravention of this regulation, or
- (b) knowingly makes the declaration required by paragraph (3) falsely,

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

Changes to legislation: The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 June 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)

he shall be guilty of a corrupt practice; and if a person fails to deliver any declaration or return as required by this regulation he shall be guilty of an illegal practice, but the court before whom a person is convicted under this paragraph may, if they think it just in the special circumstances of the case, mitigate or entirely remit any incapacity imposed by virtue of regulation 107.

(6) Where any act or omission of an association or body of persons, corporate or unincorporate, is an offence declared to be a corrupt or illegal practice by this regulation, any person who at the time of the act or omission was a director, general manager, secretary or other similar officer of the association or body, or was purporting to act in any such capacity, shall be deemed to be guilty of that offence, unless he proves—

- (a) that the act or omission took place without his consent or connivance; and
- (b) that he exercised all such diligence to prevent the commission of the offence as he ought to have exercised having regard to the nature of his functions in that capacity and to all the circumstances.

(7) References in this regulation to an election agent include a sub-agent.

Textual Amendments

F45 Reg. 46(1)-(2A) substituted for reg. 46(1)(2) (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **25(2)**

Limitation of election expenses for individual candidates

47.—(1) Sums paid out and election expenses incurred by or on behalf of an individual candidate at an election must not in the aggregate exceed the maximum amount specified in paragraph (4).

(2) The references in paragraph (1) to sums paid out and expenses incurred on behalf of an individual candidate include sums being paid and expenses being incurred by the election agent or by a person acting on the written authority of an election agent or sub-agent.

(3) Where any election expenses are incurred in excess of a maximum amount specified in paragraph (4), any candidate or election agent who—

- (a) incurred, or authorised the incurring of, the election expenses, and
- (b) knew or ought reasonably to have known that the expenses would be incurred in excess of that maximum amount,

shall be guilty of an illegal practice.

(4) That maximum amount is £45,000 multiplied by the number of MEPs to be returned for the electoral region at that election.

(5) The maximum amount mentioned above for an individual candidate at a European Parliamentary election is not required to cover the individual candidate's personal expenses.

Time for sending in and paying claims: individual candidates

48.—(1) Every claim against an individual candidate or his election agent in respect of election expenses which is not sent in to the agent who incurred the expense not later than 21 days after the day on which the result of the election is declared shall be barred and not paid.

(2) All election expenses of an individual candidate shall be paid not later than 28 days after that day.

(3) Where the agent who incurred the expense is not the election agent, he shall send to that agent, forthwith on payment of the expense, the bill and a record of the fact that he has paid it and, on receiving a receipt for that payment, shall send that receipt to that agent.

(4) An election agent or the agent who incurred the expense who pays a claim in contravention of paragraph (1) or makes a payment in contravention of paragraph (2) shall be guilty of an illegal practice.

(5) The claimant or the agent or individual candidate who incurred the expense may apply to the High Court or to a county court for leave to pay a claim for any election expenses, although sent in after that period of 21 days or although sent in to the individual candidate and not to the agent who incurred the expense, and the court on cause shown to their satisfaction may by order grant the leave.

(6) Any sum specified in the order of leave may be paid by the agent or candidate who incurred the expense and when paid in pursuance of the leave shall not be deemed to be in contravention of paragraph (2); and paragraph (3) shall apply to any such payment.

(7) References in this regulation to the agent who incurred the expense are references to the election agent or sub-agent or an agent who did so on the written authority of such an agent.

(8) In the application of this regulation to Gibraltar, for the reference in paragraph (5) to the High Court or a county court, substitute a reference to the Gibraltar court.

Disputed claims: individual candidates

49.—(1) If the agent who incurred the expense disputes any claim sent in to him within the period of 21 days mentioned in regulation 48 or refuses or fails to pay the claim within the period of 28 days so mentioned, the claim shall be deemed to be a disputed claim.

(2) The claimant may, if he thinks fit, bring an action for a disputed claim in any competent court, including, in Gibraltar, the Gibraltar court, and any sum paid by the agent or individual candidate who incurred the expense in pursuance of the judgment or order of the court shall not be deemed to be in contravention of regulation 43(1) or of regulation 48(2).

(3) If the defendant in the action admits his liability but disputes the amount of the claim, that amount shall, unless the court on the claimant's application otherwise directs, be forthwith referred for taxation—

- (a) to a Circuit judge nominated under subsection (1)(a) of section 68 of the Supreme Court Act 1981 ^{M14}, or
- (b) to the master, registrar or other proper officer of the court, or
- (c) in an action in a Gibraltar court, the registrar,

and the amount found due on the taxation shall be the amount to be recovered in the action in respect of the claim.

(4) Paragraphs (5) to (7) of regulation 48 apply in relation to a disputed claim as they apply in relation to a claim for election expenses sent in after that period of 21 days.

Marginal Citations

M14 1981 c. 54.

Election agent's claim

50. So far as circumstances admit, these Regulations apply to an election agent's claim for his remuneration and to its payment in like manner as if he were any other creditor, and if any difference arises about the amount of the claim, the claim shall be a disputed claim within the meaning of these Regulations and be dealt with accordingly.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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Return as to election expenses: individual candidates

51.—(1) Within 50 days after the day on which the result of the election is declared, the election agent of every individual candidate at the election shall deliver or cause to be delivered to the appropriate officer a true return containing as respects that candidate—

- (a) a statement of all election expenses incurred by or on behalf of the candidate; and
 - (b) a statement of all payments made by the election agent together with all bills or receipts relating to the payments.
- (2) A return under this regulation must—
- (a) specify the poll by virtue of which the return is required;
 - (b) specify the name of the candidate to whom the return relates and of the candidate's election agent; and
 - (c) under a separate heading with any expenses in respect of which a return is required by virtue of regulation 46(2).
- (3) The return shall also contain as respects that candidate—
- (a) a statement of all payments made—
 - (i) by the candidate in accordance with regulation 44(1) or (2), or
 - (ii) by any other person in accordance with regulation 44(4),
 together with all bills or receipts relating to any such payments made in accordance with regulation 44(2) or 44(4);
 - (b) a statement of all disputed claims of which the election agent is aware;
 - (c) a statement of all the unpaid claims, if any, of which the election agent is aware, in respect of which application has been or is about to be made to the High Court, county court or Gibraltar court;
 - (d) any declarations of value falling to be made by the candidate's election agent by virtue of regulation 45(2) or 62(2);
 - (e) a declaration of the amount of expenses which are to be regarded as election expenses incurred by or on behalf of the candidate by virtue of [^{F46}regulation 60(5)];
 - (f) a statement of donations made to the candidate or his election agent which complies with the requirements of paragraphs 11 and 12 of Schedule 6 to these Regulations; and
 - (g) a statement of the amount, if any, of money provided by the candidate from his own resources for the purpose of meeting election expenses incurred by him or on his behalf.
- (4) Where after the date at which the return as to election expenses is delivered, leave is given by the court under regulation 48(5) for any claim to be paid, the agent of the candidate who incurred the expenses shall, within seven days after its payment, deliver or cause to be delivered to the appropriate officer a return of the sums paid in pursuance of the leave, accompanied by a copy of the order of the court giving the leave, and in default he shall be deemed to have failed to comply with the requirements of this regulation without such authorised excuse as is mentioned in regulation 55.
- (5) Regulation 48(7) applies for the interpretation of paragraph (4) as it applies for the interpretation of regulation 48.

Textual Amendments

F46 Words in reg. 51(3)(e) substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **26**

Declarations as to election expenses: individual candidates

52.—(1) A return delivered under regulation 51(1) shall be accompanied by a declaration made by the election agent in the appropriate form.

(2) At the same time that the election agent delivers or causes to be delivered that return, or within seven days afterwards, the candidate shall deliver or cause to be delivered to the appropriate officer a declaration made by him in the appropriate form.

(3) For the purposes of paragraphs (1) and (2), “the appropriate form” is the form in Schedule 7 to this Act.

(4) Where the candidate is out of the United Kingdom or, in the case of an individual candidate resident in Gibraltar standing for election in the combined region, Gibraltar when the return is so delivered—

(a) the declaration required by paragraph (2) may be made by him within 14 days after his return to the United Kingdom or Gibraltar (as the case may be), and

(b) in that case, the declaration shall be forthwith delivered to the appropriate officer,

but the delay authorised by this provision in making the declaration shall not exonerate the election agent from complying with the provisions of these Regulations relating to the return and declaration as to election expenses.

(5) Where the candidate is his own election agent, the declaration by an election agent as to election expenses need not be made and the declaration by the candidate as to election expenses shall be modified as specified in the form in Schedule 7.

(6) If a candidate or election agent knowingly makes the declaration required by this regulation falsely, he shall be guilty of a corrupt practice.

Return as to personal expenses: candidates on party lists

53.—(1) Within 50 days after the day on which the result of the election is declared, every candidate on the list of a registered party shall deliver or cause to be delivered to the appropriate officer a true return containing as respects that candidate a statement of all personal expenses incurred by him on account of or incidental to the election.

(2) If a candidate knowingly makes the return required by this regulation falsely, he shall be guilty of a corrupt practice.

Penalty for failure as respects return or declarations: individual candidates

54. Subject to the provisions of regulation 55 if an individual candidate or election agent fails to comply with the requirements of regulation 51 or regulation 52 he shall be guilty of an illegal practice.

Authorised excuses for failures as to return and declarations: individual candidates

55.—(1) An individual candidate or his election agent may apply for relief under this regulation to—

- (a) the High Court;
- (b) an election court; or
- (c) a county court.

(2) Where a person makes an application under this regulation he shall notify the Director of Public Prosecutions of the application and the Director or his assistant or any barrister, advocate or

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solicitor duly appointed as the Director's representative may attend the hearing of the application and make representations at the hearing in respect of it.

(3) Relief under this regulation may be granted—

- (a) to a candidate, in respect of any failure to deliver the return and declarations as to election expenses, or any part of them, or in respect of any error or false statement in them; or
- (b) to an election agent, in respect of the failure to deliver the return and declarations which he was required to deliver, or any part of them, or in respect of any error or false statement in them.

(4) The application for relief may be made on the ground that the failure, error or false statement arose—

- (a) by reason of the applicant's illness; or
- (b) where the applicant is the candidate, by reason of the absence, death, illness or misconduct of his election agent or sub-agent or of any clerk or officer of such agent; or
- (c) where the applicant is the election agent, by reason of the death or illness of any prior election agent of the candidate, or of the absence, death, illness or misconduct of any sub-agent, clerk or officer of any election agent of the candidate; or
- (d) by reason of inadvertence or any reasonable cause of a like nature,

and not by reason of any want of good faith on the applicant's part.

(5) The court may—

- (a) after such notice of the application in the electoral region as it considers fit, and
- (b) on production of such evidence of the grounds stated in the application and of the good faith of the application, and otherwise, as it considers fit,

make such order for allowing an authorised excuse for the failure, error or false statement as it considers just.

(6) An order under paragraph (5) may make the allowance conditional on the making of the return and declaration in a modified form or within an extended time, and upon the compliance with such other terms as to the court seem best calculated for carrying into effect the objects of this Part of these Regulations

(7) An order under paragraph (5) shall relieve the applicant for the order from any liability or consequences under these Regulations in respect of the matter excused by the order.

(8) In the application of this regulation to Gibraltar, for the reference in paragraph (1) to a county court, substitute a reference to the Gibraltar court.

(9) Where a person makes an application under this regulation to the Gibraltar court, references in paragraph (2) to the Director of Public Prosecutions shall be construed as references to the Attorney General for Gibraltar.

Court's power to require information from election agent or sub-agent of individual candidate

56.—(1) Where on an application under regulation 55 it appears to the court that any person who is or has been an election agent or sub-agent of an individual candidate has refused or failed to make such return, or to supply such particulars, as will enable the candidate and his election agent to comply with the provisions of these Regulations as to the return or declarations as to election expenses, the court, before making an order under that regulation, shall order that person to attend before the court.

(2) The court shall on the attendance of that person, unless he shows cause to the contrary, order him—

- (a) to make the return and declaration, or
- (b) to deliver a statement of the particulars required to be contained in the return,

as the court considers just, within such time, to such person and in such manner as it may direct, or may order him to be examined with respect to the particulars.

(3) If a person fails to comply with any order of the court under this section, the court may order him to pay a fine not exceeding the amount of the maximum fine to which he would be liable if at the time the order is made he were convicted of a summary offence on conviction of which he was liable to a fine of level 5 on the standard scale.

(4) References in this regulation to the election agent or sub-agent include a person authorised in writing by the election agent or any sub-agent to incur election expenses.

Duty of appropriate officer to forward returns and declarations to Electoral Commission

57. Where the appropriate officer receives any return or declaration under regulations 46, 51, 52 or 53 in respect of a European Parliamentary election he shall as soon as reasonably practicable after receiving the return or declaration deliver a copy of it to the Electoral Commission and, if so requested by the Commission, he shall also deliver to them a copy of any accompanying documents.

Publication of time and place for inspection of returns and declarations

58.—(1) At a European Parliamentary election—

- (a) the returning officer shall, within 10 days after the end of the time allowed for delivering to him returns as to election expenses, publish in at least one newspaper circulating in the electoral region for which the election was held a notice of the time and place at which the returns and declarations (including the accompanying documents) can be inspected; but
- (b) if any return or declaration has not been received by the returning officer before the notice is despatched for publication, the notice shall so state, and a like notice about that return or declaration, if afterwards received, shall within 10 days after the receipt be published in like manner.

(2) In the application of this regulation to the combined region, for the words “the electoral region” substitute “ that part of the region which is in England and in at least one newspaper circulating in that part which is in Gibraltar ”.

Inspection of returns and declaration

59.—(1) Where the appropriate officer receives any return or declaration under regulations 51(1) or 52 he shall—

- (a) as soon as reasonably practicable after receiving the return or declaration make a copy of it, and any accompanying documents, available for public inspection at his office, or some other convenient place chosen by him, for a period of 12 months beginning with the date when the return is received by him;
- (b) if requested to do so by any person, and on payment of the prescribed fee, supply that person with a copy of the return or declaration and any accompanying documents.

(2) If any such return contains a statement of donations in accordance with regulation 51(3)(f), the appropriate officer shall secure that the copy of the statement made available for public inspection under paragraph (a) or (as the case may be) supplied under paragraph (b) does not include, in the case of any donation by an individual, the donor’s address.

(3) After the expiry of those 12 months the appropriate officer may cause the returns or declarations (including the accompanying documents) to be destroyed.

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[^{F47}Meaning of “election expenses”

60.—(1) In this Part of these Regulations “election expenses” in relation to a candidate at an election means (subject to paragraph (2) and regulation 62) any expenses incurred at any time in respect of any matter specified in Part 1 of Schedule 7A which is used for the purposes of the candidate’s election after the date when he becomes a candidate at the election.

(2) No election expenses are to be regarded as incurred by virtue of paragraph (1) or regulation 62 in respect of any matter specified in Part 2 of Schedule 7A.

(3) In this regulation and regulation 62 “for the purposes of the candidate’s election” means with a view to, or otherwise in connection with, promoting or procuring the candidate’s election at the election.

(4) For the purposes of this Part of these Regulations and in Schedule 7A, election expenses are incurred by or on behalf of a candidate at an election if they are incurred—

- (a) by the candidate or his election agent, or
- (b) by any person authorised in writing by the candidate or his election agent to incur expenses.

(5) In this Part of these Regulations and in Schedule 7A, any reference to election expenses incurred by or on behalf of a candidate at an election includes expenses—

- (a) which are incurred as mentioned in paragraph (1) before the date when he becomes a candidate at the election, but
- (b) which by virtue of that paragraph fall to be regarded as election expenses.

(6) In this Part of these Regulations and in Part 4 and in Schedule 7A, any reference (in whatever terms) to promoting or procuring a candidate’s election at an election includes doing so by prejudicing the electoral prospects of another candidate at the election.

61. Schedule 7A, which makes provision for election expenses, has effect.]

Textual Amendments

F47 Regs. 60, 61 substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), 27

Property, goods, services etc provided free of charge or at a discount

62.—(1) This regulation applies where, in the case of a candidate at an election—

- (a) either—
 - (i) property or goods is or are transferred to the candidate or his election agent free of charge or at a discount of more than 10 per cent of the market value of the property or goods, or
 - (ii) property, goods, services or facilities is or are provided for the use or benefit of the candidate free of charge or at a discount of more than 10 per cent of the commercial rate for the use of the property or for the provision of the goods, services or facilities, and
- (b) the property, goods, services or facilities is or are made use of by or on behalf of the candidate in circumstances such that, if any expenses were to be (or are) actually incurred by or on behalf of the candidate in respect of that use, they would be (or are) election expenses incurred by or on behalf of the candidate.

(2) Where this regulation applies—

- (a) an amount of election expenses determined in accordance with this regulation (“the appropriate amount”) shall be treated, for the purposes of this Part of these Regulations, as incurred by the candidate, and
- (b) in the case of an individual candidate, the candidate’s election agent shall make a declaration of that amount, unless that amount is not more than £50.

This paragraph has effect subject to [^{F48}Part 2 of Schedule 7A to these Regulations].

- (3) Where paragraph (1)(a)(i) applies, the appropriate amount is such proportion of either—
 - (a) the market value of the property or goods (where the property or goods is or are transferred free of charge), or
 - (b) the difference between the market value of the property or goods and the amount of expenses actually incurred by or on behalf of the candidate in respect of the property or goods (where the property or goods is or are transferred at a discount),

as is reasonably attributable to the use made of the property or goods as mentioned in paragraph (1)(b).

- (4) Where paragraph (1)(a)(ii) applies, the appropriate amount is such proportion of either—
 - (a) the commercial rate for the use of the property or the provision of the goods, services or facilities (where the property, goods, services or facilities is or are provided free of charge), or
 - (b) the difference between that commercial rate and the amount of expenses actually incurred by or on behalf of the candidate in respect of the use of the property or the provision of the services or facilities (where the property, goods, services or facilities is or are provided at a discount),

as is reasonably attributable to the use made of the property, goods, services or facilities as mentioned in paragraph (1)(b).

(5) Where the services of an employee are made available by his employer for the use or benefit of a candidate, then for the purposes of this regulation the commercial rate for the provision of those services shall be the amount of the remuneration and allowances payable to the employee by his employer in respect of the period for which his services are so made available (but shall not include any amount in respect of any contributions or other payments for which the employer is liable in respect of the employee).

(6) In this regulation “market value”, in relation to any property or goods, means the price which might reasonably be expected to be paid for the property or goods on a sale in the open market; and paragraph 2(6)(a) of Schedule 6 to these Regulations shall apply with any necessary modifications for the purpose of determining, for the purposes of paragraph (1), whether property or goods is or are transferred to a candidate or his election agent.

Textual Amendments

F48 Words in reg. 62(2) substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **28**

General

Candidate’s right to send election address post free

63.—(1) An individual candidate and the nominating officer of a registered party which is included in the statement of parties and individual candidates nominated for the election or a

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person authorised in writing by that officer at a European Parliamentary election is, subject to such reasonable terms and conditions as the universal service provider concerned may specify, entitled to send free of any charge for postage which would otherwise be made by a universal service provider either—

- (a) one unaddressed postal communication, containing matter relating to the election only and not exceeding 60 grammes in weight, to each place in the electoral region which, in accordance with those terms and conditions, constitutes a delivery point for the purposes of this paragraph; or
- (b) one such postal communication addressed to each elector.

(2) An individual candidate and the nominating officer of a registered party which is included in the statement of parties and individual candidates nominated for the election or a person authorised in writing by that officer is also, subject as mentioned above, entitled to send free of any such charge for postage as mentioned above to each person entered in the list of proxies for the election one such communication as mentioned above for each appointment in respect of which that person is so entered.

[^{F49}(2A) The individual candidate and the nominating officer of a registered party which are included in the statement of parties and individual candidates nominated for the election or a person authorised in writing by that officer may also require the local returning officer to make arrangements with the universal postal service provider for communications under paragraph (1)(b) to be sent to persons who have anonymous entries in the register.

(2B) Arrangements under paragraph (2A) must be such as to ensure that it is not disclosed to any other person that the addressee of such a communication has an anonymous entry.]

(3) A person shall not be deemed to be an individual candidate for the purposes of this regulation unless he is shown as standing nominated in the statement of persons nominated, but until the publication of that statement any person who declares himself to be an individual candidate shall be entitled to exercise the right of free postage conferred by this regulation if he gives such security as may be required by the universal service provider concerned for the payment of postage should he not be shown as standing nominated as mentioned above.

(4) Until the publication of the statement of parties and individual candidates nominated for the election in an electoral region, the nominating officer of a registered party or a person authorised in writing by him shall be entitled to exercise in that region the right of free postage conferred by this regulation if he gives such security as may be required by the universal service provider concerned for the payment of postage should that party not be included in that statement as standing nominated.

(5) For the purposes of this regulation “elector” means a person—

- (a) who is registered in the register of electors to be used at the election in the electoral region on the last day for publication of notice of the election; and
- (b) includes a person who is registered in such a register [^{F50}(or, in the case of a person who has an anonymous entry in the register, in the record of anonymous entries) as below voting age if (but only if) it appears from the register (or from the record) that he will be of voting age on the day fixed for the poll.]

(6) In this regulation “universal service provider” has the same meaning as in [^{F51}Part 3 of the Postal Services Act 2011].

Textual Amendments

F49 Reg. 63(2A)(2B) inserted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **29(2)**

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F50 Words in reg. 63(5)(b) substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **29(3)**

F51 Words in reg. 63(6) substituted (1.10.2011) by [The Postal Services Act 2011 \(Consequential Modifications and Amendments\) Order 2011 \(S.I. 2011/2085\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 1 para. 60(3)**

Broadcasting from outside United Kingdom

64.—(1) No person shall, with intent to influence persons to give or refrain from giving their votes at a European Parliamentary election, include, or aid, abet, counsel or procure the inclusion of, any matter relating to the election in any programme service (within the meaning of the Broadcasting Act 1990 ^{M15}) or in any service which would, if Gibraltar were part of the United Kingdom, be a programme service provided from a place outside the United Kingdom and Gibraltar otherwise than in pursuance of arrangements made with—

- (a) in the United Kingdom,
 - (i) the British Broadcasting Corporation;
 - (ii) Sianel Pedwar Cymru;
 - (iii) the holder of any licence granted by the Office of Communications;
- (b) in Gibraltar, the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation,

for the reception and re-transmission of that matter by that body or the holder of that licence.

(2) An offence under this regulation shall be an illegal practice, but the court before whom a person is convicted of an offence under this regulation may, if they think it just in the special circumstances of the case, mitigate or entirely remit any incapacity imposed by virtue of regulation 107.

(3) Where any act or omission of an association or body of persons, corporate or unincorporate, is an illegal practice under this regulation, any person who at the time of the act or omission was a director, general manager, secretary or other similar officer of the association or body, or was purporting to act in any such capacity, shall be deemed to be guilty of the illegal practice, unless he proves—

- (a) that the act or omission took place without his consent or connivance; and
- (b) that he exercised all such diligence to prevent the commission of the illegal practice as he ought to have exercised having regard to the nature of his functions in that capacity and to all the circumstances.

Marginal Citations

M15 See section 201 of the [Broadcasting Act 1990 \(c. 42\)](#), which was amended by paragraph 11 to Schedule 10 of the [Broadcasting Act 1996 \(c. 55\)](#) and sections 306(1) (a) and (b) and (2) of, and Schedule 19 to, the [Communications Act 2003 \(c. 21\)](#).

Broadcasting of local items during election period

65.—(1) Each broadcasting authority shall adopt a code of practice with respect to the participation of candidates at a European Parliamentary election in items about the electoral region in question which are included in relevant services during the election period.

(2) The code for the time being adopted by a broadcasting authority under this section shall be either—

- (a) a code drawn up by that authority, whether on their own or jointly with one or more other broadcasting authorities, or

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(b) a code drawn up by one or more other such authorities;

and a broadcasting authority shall from time to time consider whether the code for the time being so adopted by them should be replaced by a further code falling within paragraph (a) or (b).

(3) Before drawing up a code under this section a broadcasting authority shall have regard to any views expressed by the Electoral Commission for the purposes of this regulation; and any such code may make different provision for different cases.

(4) The Office of Communications and the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority shall each do all that they can to secure that the code for the time being adopted by them under this regulation is observed in the provision of relevant services; and the British Broadcasting Corporation^{F52}, the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation] and Sianel Pedwar Cymru shall each observe in the provision of relevant services the code so adopted by them.

(5) For the purposes of paragraph (1) “the election period”, in relation to an election, means the period beginning with the last date for publication of notice of the election, and ending with the close of the poll.

(6) In this regulation—

“broadcasting authority” means the British Broadcasting Corporation, the Office of Communications, Sianel Pedwar Cymru or the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority;

“candidate”, in relation to an election, means a candidate standing nominated at the election or included in a list of candidates submitted in connection with it;

“relevant services”—

- (a) in relation to the British Broadcasting Corporation or Sianel Pedwar Cymru, means services broadcast by that body;
- (b) in relation to the Office of Communications, means services licensed under Part 1 or 3 of the Broadcasting Act 1990 or Part 1 or 2 of the Broadcasting Act 1996; and
- (c) in relation to the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority, means services broadcast by the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation.

Textual Amendments

F52 Words in reg. 65(4) inserted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), 30

Imitation poll cards

66. No person shall for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of a registered party or any individual candidate at a European Parliamentary election issue any poll card or document so closely resembling an official poll card as to be calculated to deceive, and paragraphs (2) and (3) of regulation 64 apply as if an offence under this regulation were an offence under that regulation.

Schools and rooms for European Parliamentary election meetings

67.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this regulation, a candidate at a European Parliamentary election is entitled for the purpose of holding public meetings in furtherance of his candidature or that of his party to the use free of charge at reasonable times between the last date on which notice of election may be published in accordance with the European Parliamentary elections rules and the day preceding the date of the poll of—

- (a) a suitable room in the premises of a school to which this regulation applies;
- (b) any meeting room to which this regulation applies.

- (2) This regulation applies—
- (a) in England and Wales, to community, foundation and voluntary schools of which the premises are situated in the electoral region,
 - (b) in Scotland, to any school of which the premises are so situated, not being an independent school within the meaning of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980; and
 - (c) in Gibraltar, to a school the expense of maintaining which is payable wholly or partly out of public funds or out of any rate, or by a body whose expenses are so payable.
- (3) This regulation applies to meeting rooms situated in the electoral region, the expense of maintaining which is payable wholly or mainly out of public funds or out of any rate, or by a body whose expenses are so payable.
- (4) Where a room is used for a meeting in pursuance of the rights conferred by this regulation, the person by whom or on whose behalf the meeting is convened—
- (a) shall defray any expenses incurred in preparing, warming, lighting and cleaning the room and providing attendance for the meeting and restoring the room to its usual condition after the meeting; and
 - (b) shall defray any damage done to the room or the premises in which it is situated, or to the furniture, fittings or apparatus in the room or premises.
- (5) A candidate is not entitled to exercise the rights conferred by this regulation except on reasonable notice; and this regulation does not authorise any interference with the hours during which a room in school premises is used for educational purposes, or any interference with the use of a meeting room either for the purposes of the person maintaining it or under a prior agreement for its letting for any purpose.
- (6) The provisions of Schedule 8 to these Regulations have effect with respect to the rights conferred by this regulation and the arrangements to be made for their exercise.
- (7) For the purposes of this regulation (except those of paragraph (b) of paragraph (4)), the premises of a school shall not be taken to include any private dwelling, and in this regulation—
- (a) the expression “meeting room” means any room which it is the practice to let for public meetings; and
 - (b) the expression “room” includes a hall, gallery or gymnasium.

Disturbances at election meetings

68.—(1) A person who at a lawful public meeting to which this regulation applies acts, or incites others to act, in a disorderly manner for the purpose of preventing the transaction of the business for which the meeting was called together shall be guilty of an illegal practice.

(2) This regulation applies to a political meeting held in an electoral region in connection with a European Parliamentary election between the last date on which notice of election may be published in accordance with the European Parliamentary elections rules and the date of the poll.

(3) If a constable reasonably suspects any person of committing an offence under paragraph (1), he may if requested so to do by the chairman of the meeting require that person to declare to him immediately his name and address and, if that person refuses or fails so to declare his name and address or gives a false name and address, he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 1 on the standard scale ^{F53}....

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Textual Amendments

F53 Words in [reg. 68\(3\)](#) omitted (1.1.2014) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **13**

Officials not to act for candidates

69.—(1) If—

- (a) any returning officer or local returning officer at a European Parliamentary election, or
- (b) any officer or clerk appointed under the European Parliamentary elections rules, or
- (c) any partner or clerk of any such person,

acts as an agent of a registered party which has submitted a list, a candidate on that list or an individual candidate in the conduct or management of the election, he shall be guilty of an offence, but nothing in this paragraph prevents an individual candidate from acting as his own election agent.

(2) A person guilty of an offence under this regulation shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale ^{F54}....

Textual Amendments

F54 Words in [reg. 69\(2\)](#) omitted (1.1.2014) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **14**

Illegal canvassing by police officers

70.—(1) No member of a police force shall by word, message, writing or in any other manner, endeavour to persuade any person to give, or dissuade any person from giving, his vote, whether as an elector or as proxy at any European Parliamentary election for an electoral region wholly or partly within the police area.

(2) A person acting in contravention of paragraph (1) shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale ^{F55}..., but nothing in that paragraph shall subject a member of a police force to any penalty for anything done in the discharge of his duty as a member of the force.

(3) In the application of this regulation to Gibraltar, the reference in paragraph (1) to the police area shall be construed as a reference to Gibraltar.

Textual Amendments

F55 Words in [reg. 70\(2\)](#) omitted (1.1.2014) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **15**

False statements as to candidates

71.—(1) A person who, or any director of any body or association corporate which—

- (a) before or during an election,
- (b) for the purpose of affecting the return of any registered party or individual candidate at the election,

makes or publishes any false statement of fact in relation to the personal character or conduct of a candidate on the list of that party or of that individual candidate shall be guilty of an illegal practice, unless he can show that he had reasonable grounds for believing, and did believe, the statement to be true.

(2) A person making or publishing any false statement of fact as mentioned above may be restrained by interim or perpetual injunction by the High Court or the county court from any repetition of that false statement or of a false statement of a similar character in relation to the candidate and, for the purpose of granting an interim injunction, prima facie proof of the falsity of the statement shall be sufficient.

(3) In the application of this regulation to Gibraltar, in paragraph (2) for the reference to the county court substitute a reference to the Gibraltar court.

Corrupt withdrawal from candidature

72. Any person who corruptly induces or procures any other person to withdraw from being an individual candidate at an election, in consideration of any payment or promise of payment, and any person withdrawing in pursuance of the inducement or procurement, shall be guilty of an illegal payment.

Payments for exhibition of election notices

73.—(1) No payment or contract for payment shall for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of a registered party or an individual candidate at an election be made to an elector or his proxy on account of the exhibition of, or the use of any house, land, building or premises for the exhibition of, any address, bill or notice, unless—

- (a) it is the ordinary business of the elector or proxy as an advertising agent to exhibit for payment bills and advertisements; and
- (b) the payment or contract is made in the ordinary course of that business.

(2) If any payment or contract for payment is knowingly made in contravention of this regulation either before, during or after an election—

- (a) the person making the payment or contract, and
- (b) if he knew it to be in contravention of these Regulations, any person receiving the payment or being a party to the contract,

shall be guilty of an illegal practice.

Details to appear on election publications

[^{F56}74.—(1) This regulation applies to any material which can reasonably be regarded as intended to promote or procure the election of a candidate at an election (whether or not it can be so regarded as intended to achieve any other purpose as well).

(2) No material to which this regulation applies is to be published unless in the case of material which is, or is contained in, such a printed document as is mentioned in paragraph (4), (5) or (6), the requirements of that paragraph are complied with.

(3) For the purposes of paragraphs (4) to (6), the following details are “the relevant details” in the case of any material falling within paragraph (2), namely—

- (a) the name and address of the printer of the document;
- (b) the name and address of the promoter of the material; and
- (c) the name and address of any person on behalf of whom the material is being published (and who is not the promoter).

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(4) Where the material is a document consisting (or consisting principally) of a single side of printed matter, the relevant details must appear on the face of the document.

(5) Where the material is a printed document other than one to which paragraph (4) applies, the relevant details must appear either on the first or the last page of the document.

(6) Where the material is an advertisement contained in a newspaper or periodical—

(a) the name and address of the printer of the newspaper or periodical must appear either on its first or last page; and

(b) the relevant details specified in paragraph (3)(b) and (c) must be included in the advertisement.

(7) Where any material falling within paragraph (1) is published in contravention of paragraph (2), then (subject to paragraphs (8) and (9))—

(a) the promoter of the material,

(b) any other person by whom the material is so published, and

(c) the printer of the document,

shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

(8) It shall be a defence for a person charged with an offence under this regulation to prove—

(a) that the contravention of paragraph (2) arose from circumstances beyond his control; and

(b) that he took all reasonable steps, and exercised all due diligence, to ensure that the contravention would not arise.

(9) Where a candidate or his election agent would (apart from this paragraph) be guilty of an offence under paragraph (7), he shall instead be guilty of an illegal practice.

(10) In this regulation—

“print” means print by whatever means, and “printer” is to be construed accordingly;

“the promoter”, in relation to any election material, means the person causing the material to be published; and

“publish” means make available to the public at large, or any section of the public, in whatever form and by whatever means.

(11) For the purpose of determining whether any material is material such as is mentioned in paragraph (1), it is immaterial that it does not expressly mention the name of any candidate.]

Textual Amendments

F56 Reg. 74 substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **31**

Prohibition of paid canvassers

75. If a person is, either before, during or after a European Parliamentary election, engaged or employed for payment or promise of payment as a canvasser for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of a registered party or an individual candidate—

(a) the person so engaging or employing him, and

(b) the person so engaged or employed,

shall be guilty of illegal employment.

Providing money for illegal purposes

76. Where a person knowingly provides money—

- (a) for any payment which is contrary to the provisions of these Regulations, or
- (b) for any expenses incurred in excess of the maximum amount allowed by these Regulations, or
- (c) for replacing any money expended in any such payment or expenses,

except where the payment or the incurring of the expenses may have been previously allowed in pursuance of regulation 108 to be an exception, that person shall be guilty of an illegal payment.

Bribery

77.—(1) A person shall be guilty of a corrupt practice if he is guilty of bribery.

(2) A person shall be guilty of bribery if he, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf—

- (a) gives any money or procures any office to or for any voter or to or for any other person on behalf of any voter or to or for any other person in order to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting, or
- (b) corruptly does any such act as mentioned above on account of any voter having voted or refrained from voting, or
- (c) makes any such gift or procurement as mentioned above to or for any person in order to induce that person to procure, or endeavour to procure, the return of any individual candidate or registered party at a European Parliamentary election or the vote of any voter,

or if upon or in consequence of any such gift or procurement as mentioned above he procures or engages, promises or endeavours to procure the return of any person or registered party at a European Parliamentary election or the vote of any voter.

For the purposes of this paragraph—

- (i) references to giving money include references to giving, lending, agreeing to give or lend, offering, promising, or promising to procure or endeavour to procure any money or valuable consideration; and
- (ii) references to procuring any office include references to giving, procuring, agreeing to give or procure, offering, promising, or promising to procure or to endeavour to procure any office, place or employment.

(3) A person shall be guilty of bribery if he advances or pays or causes to be paid any money to or for the use of any other person with the intent that that money or any part of it shall be expended in bribery at any European Parliamentary election or knowingly pays or causes to be paid any money to any person in discharge or repayment of any money wholly or in part expended in bribery at any election.

(4) The foregoing provisions of this regulation shall not extend or be construed to extend to any money paid or agreed to be paid for or on account of any legal expenses incurred in good faith at or concerning a European Parliamentary election.

(5) A voter shall be guilty of bribery if before or during a European Parliamentary election he directly or indirectly by himself or by any other person on his behalf receives, agrees, or contracts for any money, gift, loan or valuable consideration, office, place or employment for himself or for any other person for voting or agreeing to vote or for refraining or agreeing to refrain from voting.

(6) A person shall be guilty of bribery if after a European Parliamentary election he directly or indirectly by himself or by any other person on his behalf receives any money or valuable

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consideration on account of any person having voted or refrained from voting or having induced any other person to vote or refrain from voting.

(7) In this regulation the expression “voter” includes any person who has or claims to have a right to vote.

Treating

78.—(1) A person shall be guilty of a corrupt practice if he is guilty of treating.

(2) A person shall be guilty of treating if he corruptly, by himself or by any other person, either before, during or after a European Parliamentary election, directly or indirectly gives or provides, or pays wholly or in part the expense of giving or providing, any meat, drink, entertainment or provision to or for any person—

- (a) for the purpose of corruptly influencing that person or any other person to vote or refrain from voting; or
- (b) on account of that person or any other person having voted or refrained from voting, or being about to vote or refrain from voting.

(3) Every elector or his proxy who corruptly accepts or takes any such meat, drink, entertainment or provision shall also be guilty of treating.

Undue influence

79.—(1) A person shall be guilty of a corrupt practice if he is guilty of undue influence.

(2) A person shall be guilty of undue influence—

- (a) if he, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, makes use of or threatens to make use of any force, violence or restraint, or inflicts or threatens to inflict, by himself or by any other person, any temporal or spiritual injury, damage, harm or loss upon or against any person in order to induce or compel that person to vote or refrain from voting, or on account of that person having voted or refrained from voting; or
- [^{F57}(b) if, by abduction, duress or any fraudulent device or contrivance, he impedes or prevents or intends to impede or prevent the free exercise of the franchise of an elector or proxy for an elector, or so compels, induces or prevails upon or intends so to compel, induce or prevail upon an elector or proxy for an elector either to vote or to refrain from voting.]

Textual Amendments

F57 Reg. 79(2)(b) substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), 32

Rights of creditors

80. The provisions of this Part of these Regulations prohibiting—

- (a) payments and contracts for payments,
- (b) the payment or incurring of election expenses in excess of the maximum amount allowed by these Regulations; or
- (c) the incurring of expenses not authorised by the election agent,

do not affect the right of any creditor, who, when the contract was made or the expense was incurred, was ignorant of that contract or expense being in contravention of these Regulations.

Savings as to European Parliamentary elections

81.—(1) Nothing in this Part makes it illegal for an employer to permit European Parliamentary electors or their proxies to absent themselves from his employment for a reasonable time for the purpose of voting at the poll at a European Parliamentary election without having any deduction from their salaries or wages on account of their absence, if the permission—

- (a) is (so far as practicable without injury to the employer’s business) given equally to all persons alike who are at the time in his employment, and
- (b) is not given with a view to inducing any person to record his vote for any particular registered party or individual candidate at the election, and
- (c) is not refused to any person for the purpose of preventing him from recording his vote for any particular registered party or individual candidate at the election,

but this paragraph shall not be construed as making illegal any act which would not be illegal apart from this paragraph.

PART 3

VACANCIES

Initial response to vacancies

82.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (5), as soon as practicable after the Secretary of State has—

- (a) received information of a vacancy in the seat of an MEP from the President of the European Parliament under the Act annexed to Council Decision 76/787, or
- (b) informed the European Parliament under that Act that a vacancy exists,

he shall send a notice in accordance with paragraph (4) to the returning officer for the electoral region in which the vacancy exists.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply where it appears from the declaration of the result of the election that the person whose seat is now vacant was an individual candidate.

(3) Subject to regulation 85(2), a by-election shall be held in the circumstances described in paragraph (2) to fill the vacancy and the period within which the poll at that election must take place is six months from the occurrence of the event specified in paragraph (1)(a) or (b), as the case may be.

(4) The notice referred to in paragraph (1) shall—

- (a) state that a vacancy exists, and
- (b) set out the name of the person who had been returned in the seat which is vacant, together with the name of the registered party on whose list his name was included.

(5) Paragraph (1) shall not apply where the event referred to in sub-paragraph (a) or (b) of that paragraph occurred less than six months before the Thursday of the period of the next general election of MEPs.

(6) For the purpose of paragraph (5) and regulation 83(1), the period of the next general election of MEPs is that during which the next general election would take place in accordance with the Act annexed to Council Decision 76/787.

Filling of vacancies from a registered party’s list

83.—(1) On receipt of a notice under regulation 82(4), the returning officer shall ascertain from the list submitted by the registered party named in the notice (“the relevant list”) the name and

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address of the person whose name appears highest on that list (“the first choice”), disregarding the name of any person who has been returned as an MEP or who has died.

(2) The returning officer shall take such steps as appear to him to be reasonable to contact the first choice to ask whether he will—

- (a) state in writing that he is willing and able to be returned as an MEP, and
- (b) deliver a certificate signed by or on behalf of the nominating officer of the registered party which submitted the relevant list stating that he may be returned as that party’s MEP.

(3) Paragraph (4) applies where—

- (a) within such period as the returning officer considers reasonable—
 - (i) he decides that the steps he has taken to contact the first choice have been unsuccessful, or
 - (ii) he has not received from the first choice the statement and certificate referred to in paragraph (2), or
- (b) the first choice has—
 - (i) stated in writing that he is not willing or able to be returned as an MEP, or
 - (ii) failed to deliver the certificate referred to in paragraph (2)(b).

(4) In the circumstances set out in paragraph (3), the returning officer shall repeat the procedure required by paragraph (2) in respect of the person (if any) whose name and address appears next in the relevant list (“the second choice”) or, where paragraph (3)(a) or (b) applies in respect of that person, in respect of the person (if any) whose name and address appear next highest after the second choice in that list and the returning officer shall continue to repeat the procedure until the seat is filled or the names in the list exhausted.

(5) Where a person whose name appears on the relevant list provides the statement and certificate referred to in paragraph (2), the returning officer shall (subject to paragraph (6)) declare in writing that person to be returned as an MEP.

(6) Where—

- (a) the returning officer has, in accordance with paragraph (4), asked a second or other subsequent choice the questions in paragraph (2), and
- (b) the person who was previously asked those questions then provides the statement and certificate referred to in paragraph (2),

that statement and certificate shall have no effect unless and until the circumstances described in sub-paragraph (a) or (b) of paragraph (3) apply in respect of the second or other subsequent choice.

(7) The returning officer shall give public notice of a declaration given under paragraph (5) and send a copy of it to the Secretary of State.

(8) Where the returning officer is unable to fill the seat under this regulation, he shall notify the Secretary of State that he is unable to do so.

By-election to fill certain vacancies

84.—(1) Subject to regulation 85(2), where the Secretary of State has received a notice from a returning officer under regulation 83(8), a by-election shall be held to fill that vacancy.

(2) The period within which the poll at any by-election which is required to be held under paragraph (1) must take place is six months from the date on which the Secretary of State receives the notice referred to in that paragraph.

When a by-election is not needed

85.—(1) The circumstances in which this regulation applies are where the latest date for the poll for a by-election would fall on or after the Thursday of the period of the next general election of MEPs (within the meaning of regulation 82(6)).

(2) In the circumstances in which this regulation applies, regulations 82(3) and 84(1) shall not apply and the Secretary of State shall not appoint a day for the poll for a by-election.

PART 4

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Interpretation of Part 4

86. In this Part of these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

“appropriate officer” means the returning officer;

“candidate” has the same meaning as in Part 2 of these Regulations;

“costs” includes charges and expenses;

“declaration as to election expenses” means a declaration made under regulation 52;

“elective office” means any office to which a local government election is held in England or Wales;

“judicial office” includes the office of justice of the peace;

[^{F58}“Licensing Acts” means the Licensing Act 2003 or, in relation to Scotland, the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, or in relation to Gibraltar, the Licensing and Fees Act, the Clubs Act, the Entertainment Act and the Leisure Areas (Licensing) Act 2001;]

“money” and “pecuniary reward” shall be deemed to include—

- (a) any office, place or employment, and
- (b) any valuable security or other equivalent of money, and
- (c) any valuable consideration,

and expressions referring to money shall be construed accordingly;

“payment” includes any pecuniary or other reward;

“prescribed” means prescribed by rules of court; and

“public office” in relation to Scotland means any office held in Scotland—

- (a) under the Crown, or
- (b) under the charter of a city or [^{F59}burgh], or
- (c) under the Acts relating to local government or public health or public education, whether the office is that—
 - (i) of mayor, provost, chief magistrate, chairman, alderman, councillor, member of a board, commission or other local authority in any local government or other area; or
 - (ii) of proper officer or other officer under a council, board, commission or other authority; or
 - (iii) of any other office to which a person is elected or appointed under any such charter or enactment as is mentioned above, including any other municipal or parochial office; and

“return as to election expenses” means a return made under regulation 51.

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Textual Amendments

- F58** Words in reg. 86 substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **33(a)**
- F59** Word in reg. 86 substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **33(b)**

Computation of time for purposes of Part 4

87. Regulation 32 applies in computing any period of time for the purposes of this Part of these Regulations as for the purposes of Part 2 of these Regulations.

Method of questioning European Parliamentary elections

88.—(1) No European Parliamentary election and no declaration of the result by the returning officer under rule 56 of the European Parliamentary elections rules shall be questioned except by a petition complaining of an undue election or undue declaration (“a European Parliamentary election petition”) presented in accordance with this Part of these Regulations.

(2) A petition complaining that no declaration of the result has been given by the returning officer shall be deemed to be a European Parliamentary election petition and the High Court—

- (a) may make such order on the petition as they think expedient for compelling a declaration to be made; or
- (b) may allow the petition to be heard by an election court as provided with respect to ordinary European Parliamentary election petitions.

(3) No European Parliamentary election petition may be brought on the grounds of the commission of corrupt or illegal practices, except those in regulations 23 and 24.

(4) No European Parliamentary election petition may be brought where an application may be made under section 11 of the 2002 Act.

Presentation and service of European Parliamentary election petitions

89.—(1) A European Parliamentary election petition may be presented by one or more of the following persons—

- (a) a person who voted as an elector at the election or who had a right so to vote; or
- (b) a person claiming to have had a right to be elected or returned at the election; or
- (c) a person alleging himself to have been a candidate at the election.

[^{F60}(1A) The reference in paragraph (1)(a) to a person who voted as an elector at an election or who had the right so to vote does not include a person who had an anonymous entry in a register of electors.]

(2) If the petition complains of the conduct of—

- (a) the returning officer,
- (b) any local returning officer,

the officer (or officers) in question shall be deemed to be the respondent (or respondents), together with any MEP returned at the election.

(3) The petition shall be in the prescribed form, state the prescribed matters and be signed by the petitioner, or all the petitioners if more than one, and shall be presented to—

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- (a) the High Court, where it relates to the combined region or any electoral region wholly in England and Wales,
 - (b) the Court of Session, where it relates to Scotland.
- (4) The petition shall be presented by delivering it to the prescribed officer or otherwise dealing with it in the prescribed manner; and the prescribed officer shall send a copy of it to the returning officer of the electoral region to which the petition relates, who shall forthwith publish it in that electoral region.
- (5) The petition shall be served in such manner as may be prescribed.

Textual Amendments

F60 Reg. 89(1A) inserted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **34**

Time for presentation or amendment of European Parliamentary election petition

90. A European Parliamentary election petition shall be presented within 21 days after the day on which the result of the election was declared under rule 56 of the European Parliamentary elections rules.

Constitution of election court and place of trial

91.—(1) A European Parliamentary election petition shall be tried by two judges on the rota for the trial of parliamentary election petitions, and the judges for the time being on that rota shall, unless they otherwise agree, try the European Parliamentary election petitions standing for trial according to their seniority, and the judges presiding at the trial of a European Parliamentary election petition are hereinafter referred to as the election court.

(2) The election court has, subject to the provisions of these Regulations, the same powers, jurisdiction and authority as a judge of the High Court (or, in Scotland, a judge of the Court of Session presiding at the trial of a civil cause without a jury) and shall be a court of record.

(3) In the application of this regulation to a European Parliamentary election relating to the combined region, in paragraph (1), after the word “petitions”, in the first place where it occurs, insert “and a judge of the Gibraltar Supreme court”.

Judges' expenses and reception: England and Wales

92. In relation to the trial of a European Parliamentary election petition in England (including the combined region) and Wales, the travelling and other expenses of the judges and all expenses properly incurred in providing them with necessary accommodation and with a proper court shall be defrayed by the Treasury out of moneys provided by Parliament.

Judges' expenses and reception: Scotland

93. In relation to the trial of a European Parliamentary election petition in Scotland the travelling and other expenses of the judges, and of the officer or officers in attendance on them, and all expenses properly incurred in providing the judges with a proper court shall be defrayed by the Treasury out of moneys provided by Parliament.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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Security for costs

94.—(1) At the time of presenting a European Parliamentary election petition or within three days afterwards the petitioner shall give security for all costs which may become payable by him to any witness summoned on his behalf or to any respondent.

(2) The security shall be such amount not exceeding £5,000 as the High Court or a judge of the High Court directs on an application made by the petitioner; and shall be given in the prescribed manner by recognisance entered into by any number of sureties not exceeding four or by a deposit of money, or partly in one way and partly in the other; but in Scotland—

(a) the amount mentioned above shall be such amount not exceeding £5,000 as the Court of Session or a judge of the Court of Session directs and the amount mentioned in subparagraph (b) shall be such amount not exceeding £2,500 as the election court or the sheriff directs; and

(b) the persons finding caution for that amount may exceed four.

(3) Within the prescribed time after giving the security the petitioner shall serve on the respondent in the prescribed manner—

(a) a notice of the presentation of the petition and of the amount and nature of the security, and

(b) a copy of the petition.

(4) Within a further prescribed time, the respondent may object in writing to any recognisance on the ground that any surety is insufficient or is dead or cannot be found or ascertained for want of a sufficient description in the recognisance, or that a person named in the recognisance has not duly acknowledged the recognisance.

(5) An objection to a recognisance shall be decided in the prescribed manner.

(6) If the objection is allowed, the petitioner may within a further prescribed time, remove it by a deposit in the prescribed manner of such sum of money as will, in the opinion of the court or officer having cognisance of the matter, make the security sufficient.

(7) If no security is given as required by this regulation or any objection is allowed and not removed as mentioned above, no further proceedings shall be had on the petition.

Petition at issue

95.—(1) The petition shall be at issue as from the relevant time, as defined by paragraph (2).

(2) In this paragraph “the relevant time” means—

(a) where the petitioner gives the security for costs required by regulation 94 by a deposit of money equal to the amount of the security so required, the time when the security is so given; and

(b) in any other case, the time when—

(i) the time prescribed for the making of objections under regulation 94(4) expires, or

(ii) if such an objection is made, that objection is disallowed or removed,

whichever happens later.

Trial of election issue

96.—(1) A European Parliamentary election petition shall be tried in open court, without a jury, and notice of the time and place of trial shall be given in the prescribed manner, not less than 14 days before the day of trial.

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(2) The election court may in its discretion adjourn the trial from time to time, but the trial shall, so far as is practicable consistently with the interests of justice in respect of the trial, be continued from day to day on every lawful day until its conclusion.

(3) The trial of a European Parliamentary election petition shall be proceeded with notwithstanding that one (or more) of the respondents is no longer an MEP.

(4) On the trial of a petition complaining of an undue election and claiming the seat or office for some person, the respondent may give evidence to prove that that person was not duly elected, in the same manner as if he had presented a petition against the election of that person.

(5) If the petition relates to an election conducted under the European Parliamentary elections rules and it appears that there is an equality of votes between any registered parties or individual candidates at the election, and that the addition of a vote would entitle any of those registered parties or individual candidates to be declared elected then—

- (a) any decision under the provisions as to equality of votes in the European Parliamentary elections rules, as the case may be, shall in so far as it determines the question between those registered parties or individual candidates, be effective also for the purposes of the petition; and
- (b) in so far as that question is not determined by such a decision, the court shall decide between them by lot and proceed as if the one on whom the lot then falls had received an additional vote.

Witnesses

97.—(1) Witnesses shall be summoned and sworn in the same manner as nearly as circumstances admit as in an action tried in the High Court.

(2) On the trial a member of the election court may, by order signed by him, require any person who appears to him to have been concerned in the election to attend as a witness, and any person refusing to obey the order shall be guilty of contempt of court.

(3) The election court may examine any person so required to attend or who is in court although he is not called and examined by any party to the petition.

(4) A witness may, after his examination by the court, be cross-examined by or on behalf of the petitioner and respondent, or either of them.

(5) In Scotland one of the deputies of the Lord Advocate or the procurator-fiscal of the district may, if the Lord Advocate so decides, and shall, if the election court so requests attend the trial of the petition as part of his official duty.

Duty to answer relevant questions

98.—(1) A person called as a witness respecting an election before any election court shall not be excused from answering any question relating to any offence at or connected with the election—

- (a) on the ground that the answer to it may incriminate or tend to incriminate—
 - (i) that person or that person's [^{F61}spouse or civil partner], or
 - (ii) in Scotland, that person; or
- (b) on the ground of privilege.

(2) An answer by a person to a question put by or before any election court shall not, except in the case of any criminal proceeding for perjury in respect of the evidence, be in any proceeding, civil or criminal, admissible in evidence against—

- (a) that person or that person's [^{F62}spouse or civil partner]; or
- (b) in Scotland, that person.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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Textual Amendments

- F61** Words in reg. 98(1)(a)(i) substituted (5.12.2005) by [The Civil Partnership Act 2004 \(Amendments to Subordinate Legislation\) Order 2005 \(S.I. 2005/2114\)](#), reg. 1, **Sch. 8 para. 2(3)**
- F62** Words in reg. 98(2)(a) substituted (5.12.2005) by [The Civil Partnership Act 2004 \(Amendments to Subordinate Legislation\) Order 2005 \(S.I. 2005/2114\)](#), reg. 1, **Sch. 8 para. 2(3)**

Expenses of witnesses

99.—(1) The reasonable expenses incurred by any person in appearing to give evidence at the trial of a European Parliamentary election petition, according to the scale allowed to witnesses on the trial of civil actions, may be allowed to him by a certificate of the election court or of the prescribed officer.

(2) If the witness was called and examined by virtue of regulation 97(2), the expenses referred to in paragraph (1) shall be deemed part of the expenses of providing a court, but otherwise they shall be deemed costs of the petition.

Conclusion of trial of European Parliamentary election petition

100.—(1) At the conclusion of the trial of a European Parliamentary election petition, the election court shall determine whether—

- (a) the member or members whose election is complained of were duly elected,
- (b) some other person or persons should have been declared to be elected, or
- (c) the election of all members for that electoral region was void,

and the determination so certified shall be final to all intents as to the matters at issue on the petition.

(2) The election court shall forthwith certify in writing the determination to the Secretary of State.

(3) If the judges constituting the election court differ as to any matter which they are required to determine, they shall certify that difference and, to the extent that there is such a difference, the result of the election shall stand.

Special case for determination of the High Court

101.—(1) If, on the application of any party to a petition made in the prescribed manner to the High Court, it appears to the High Court that the case raised by the petition can be conveniently stated as a special case, the High Court may direct it to be stated accordingly and the special case shall be heard before the High Court.

(2) In the case of a European Parliamentary election petition, the High Court shall certify to the Secretary of State its decision on the special case.

(3) If it appears to the election court on the trial of a European Parliamentary election petition that any question of law as to the admissibility of evidence or otherwise requires further consideration by the High Court, the election court may postpone the granting of a certificate until the question has been determined by the High Court, and for this purpose may reserve the question by stating a case for the decision of the High Court.

(4) In Scotland the decision of the Court of Session on a special case under paragraph (1) shall be final.

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Withdrawal of petition

102.—(1) A petitioner shall not withdraw a European Parliamentary election petition without the leave of the election court or High Court on special application, made in the prescribed manner and at the prescribed time and place.

(2) The application shall not be made until the prescribed notice of the intention to make it has been given in the electoral region to which the petition relates.

(3) Where there are more petitioners than one, the application shall not be made except with the consent of all the petitioners.

(4) If a petition is withdrawn the petitioner shall be liable to pay the costs of the respondent.

Abatement of petition

^{F63}**103.**

Textual Amendments
F63 Reg. 103 omitted (30.1.2009) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), 35

Costs of petition

104.—(1) All costs of and incidental to the presentation of a European Parliamentary election petition and the proceedings consequent on it, except such as are by these Regulations otherwise provided for, shall be defrayed by the parties to the petition in such manner and in such proportions as the election court or High Court may determine.

(2) In particular—

(a) any costs which in the opinion of the election court or High Court have been caused by vexatious conduct, unfounded allegations or unfounded objections on the part either of the petitioner or of the respondent, and

(b) any needless expense incurred or caused on the part of the petitioner or respondent,

may be ordered to be defrayed by the parties by whom it has been incurred or caused whether or not they are on the whole successful.

Neglect or refusal to pay costs

105.—(1) Paragraph (2) applies if, in the case of a European Parliamentary election petition a petitioner neglects or refuses for six months after demand to pay to any person summoned as a witness on his behalf or to the respondent any sum certified to be due to that person or the respondent for his costs, and the neglect or refusal is, within one year after the demand, proved to the satisfaction of the High Court, or, in Scotland, the election court.

(2) Where paragraph (1) applies, every person who under these Regulations entered into a recognisance relating to that petition shall be held to be in default of the recognisance, and—

(a) the prescribed officer shall thereupon certify the recognisance to be forfeited, and

(b) it shall be dealt with as if forfeited by the Crown Court,

but in Scotland the prescribed officer shall, where otherwise competent under the provisions of this paragraph—

(i) certify that the conditions contained in the bond of caution have not been fulfilled; and

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- (ii) it shall then be competent for the party or parties interested to register that bond, and do diligence upon it as accords of law.

Appeals and jurisdiction

106.—(1) No appeal lies without the special leave of the High Court from the decision of the High Court on any question of law, whether on appeal or otherwise, under the foregoing provisions of this Part of these Regulations, and if leave to appeal is granted the decision of the Court of Appeal in the case shall be final and conclusive.

(2) The High Court has, subject to the provisions of these Regulations, the same powers, jurisdiction and authority with respect to a European Parliamentary election petition and the proceedings on it as if the petition were an ordinary action within its jurisdiction.

(3) The duties to be performed in relation to European Parliamentary elections by the prescribed officer under this Part shall be performed by such one or more of the masters of the Supreme Court (Queen’s Bench Division) as the Lord Chief Justice may determine.

(4) In the application of this regulation to Scotland, paragraphs (1) and (3) shall be omitted, but the duties to be performed in relation to European Parliamentary elections by the prescribed officer under this Part shall be performed by the Principal Clerk of Session.

Persons convicted of corrupt or illegal practices

107.—(1) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) and regulation 112, a candidate or other person convicted of a corrupt or illegal practice—

- (a) shall during the relevant period specified in paragraph (3) be incapable of—
- (i) being registered as an elector or voting at any parliamentary or European Parliamentary election in the United Kingdom or at any local government election in Great Britain,
 - (ii) being registered as a European Parliamentary elector or voting at any European Parliamentary election in Gibraltar,
 - (iii) being elected to the House of Commons or the European Parliament, or
 - (iv) holding any elective office; and
- (b) if already elected to a seat in the House of Commons or the European Parliament, or holding any such office, shall vacate the seat or office as from the date of the conviction.

(2) The incapacity imposed by paragraph (1)(a)(i) applies only to a candidate or other person convicted of a corrupt practice under regulation 23 or of an illegal practice under regulation 24.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (1) the relevant period is the period beginning with the date of the conviction and ending—

- (a) in the case of a person convicted of a corrupt practice, five years after that date, or
- (b) in the case of a person convicted of an illegal practice, three years after that date,

except that if (at any time within that period of five or three years) a court determines on an appeal by that person against the conviction that it should not be upheld, the relevant period shall end at that time instead.

(4) Where paragraph (1)(b) applies to any person, he shall (subject to paragraph (5)) vacate the seat or office in question at the appropriate time for the purposes of this regulation, namely—

- (a) the end of the period which is the period prescribed by law within which notice of appeal may be given, or an application for leave to appeal may be made, by him in respect of the conviction, or

- (b) if (at any time within that period) that period is extended—
 - (i) the end of the period as so extended, or
 - (ii) the end of the period of three months beginning with the date of the conviction, whichever is the earlier.

(5) If (before the appropriate time mentioned in paragraph (4)) notice of appeal is given, or an application for leave to appeal is made, by such a person in respect of the conviction, he shall vacate the seat or office in question at the end of the period of three months beginning with the date of the conviction unless—

- (a) such an appeal is dismissed or abandoned at any earlier time (in which case he shall vacate the seat or office at that time), or
- (b) at any time within that period of three months the court determines on such an appeal that the conviction should not be upheld (in which case the seat or office shall not be vacated by him).

(6) Where such a person vacates a seat or office in accordance with paragraph (4) or (5), no subsequent determination of a court that his conviction should not be upheld shall entitle him to resume the seat or office.

(7) If a person convicted of a corrupt or illegal practice has already been elected to a seat in the House of Commons or the European Parliament or to any elective office, he shall (in addition to being subject to the incapacities mentioned in paragraph (1)(a)) be suspended from performing any of his functions as a Member of Parliament or a Member of the European Parliament, or (as the case may be) any of the functions of that office, during the period of suspension specified in paragraph (8).

(8) For the purposes of paragraph (7) the period of suspension is the period beginning with the date of the conviction and ending with—

- (a) the date on which the seat or office is vacated in accordance with paragraph (4) or (5), or
- (b) where paragraph (5)(b) applies, the date on which the court determines that the conviction should not be upheld.

(9) Any incapacities or other requirement applying to a person by virtue of paragraph (1) or (7) applies in addition to any punishment imposed under regulation 109 or 110; but each of those regulations has effect subject to regulation 112.

(10) Subject to the provisions of regulation 112 but in addition to any incapacity arising by virtue of paragraph (1) or (7), a candidate or other person convicted of a corrupt practice—

- (a) shall for the period of five years beginning with the date of the conviction, be incapable of holding any public or judicial office in Scotland, and
- (b) if already holding such an office, shall vacate it as from that date.

Application for relief

108.—(1) An application for relief under this regulation may be made to the High Court or an election court or else, if in respect of a payment made in contravention of regulation 48(1) or (2), to a county court.

(2) Where a person makes an application under this regulation he shall notify the Director of Public Prosecutions of the application and the Director or his assistant or representative may attend the hearing of the application and make representations at the hearing in respect of it.

(3) If it is shown to the court by such evidence as to the court seems sufficient—

- (a) that any act or omission of any person would apart from this regulation by reason of being in contravention of these Regulations be an illegal practice, payment, employment or hiring,

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- (b) that the act or omission arose from inadvertence or from accidental miscalculation or from some other reasonable cause of a like nature, and in any case did not arise from any want of good faith, and
- (c) that such notice of the application has been given in the electoral region as to the court seems fit,

and under the circumstances it seems to the court to be just that either that or any other person should not be subject to any of the consequences under these Regulations of the act or omission, the court may make an order allowing the act or omission to be an exception from the provisions of these Regulations making it an illegal practice, payment, employment or hiring and upon the making of the order no person shall be subject to any of the consequences under these Regulations of that act or omission.

- (4) This regulation shall apply to Gibraltar subject to the following modifications—
 - (a) in paragraph (1), for “a county court”, substitute “ the Gibraltar court ”;
 - (b) in paragraph (2), in the case of an application to the Gibraltar court, references in paragraph (2) to the Director of Public Prosecutions shall be construed as references to the Attorney General for Gibraltar.

Prosecution for corrupt practices

109.—(1) A person who is guilty of a corrupt practice shall be liable—

- (a) on conviction on indictment—
 - (i) in the case of a corrupt practice under regulation 23 [^{F64}or paragraph 11 of Schedule 2], to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or to a fine, or to both,
 - (ii) in any other case, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or to a fine, or to both;
- (b) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or to both.

(2) If it appears to the court by which any person holding a licence or certificate under the Licensing Acts is convicted of the offence of bribery or treating that the offence was committed on his licensed premises—

- (a) the court shall direct the conviction to be entered in the proper register of licences, and
- (b) the entry shall be taken into consideration by the licensing authority in determining whether they will or will not grant a renewal of the licence or certificate, and may be a ground, if the authority think fit, for refusing its renewal.

Textual Amendments

F64 Words in reg. 109(1)(a)(i) inserted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **36**

Prosecutions for illegal practices

110. A person who is guilty of an illegal practice shall be liable to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale; and on a prosecution for an illegal practice it shall be sufficient to allege that the person charged was guilty of an illegal practice.

Conviction of illegal practice on charge of corrupt practice

111. A person charged with a corrupt practice may, if the circumstances warrant such finding, be found guilty of an illegal practice (which offence shall for that purpose be an indictable offence), and a person charged with an illegal practice may be found guilty of that offence notwithstanding that the act constituting the offence amounted to a corrupt practice.

Mitigation and remission etc

112.—(1) Where any person is subject to any incapacity by virtue of a conviction and any witness who gave evidence against that person upon the proceeding for the conviction 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 so far as respects that person was based upon perjury, may order that the incapacity shall thenceforth cease.

(2) In the application of this regulation to Gibraltar, for “High Court” substitute “Gibraltar court”.

Illegal payments

113.—(1) A person guilty of an offence of illegal payment or employment shall, on summary conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale; and on a prosecution for such an offence it shall be sufficient to allege that the person charged was guilty of an illegal payment or employment as the case may be.

(2) A candidate or election agent who is personally guilty of an offence of illegal payment or employment shall be guilty of an illegal practice.

(3) Any person charged with an offence of illegal payment or employment may be found guilty of that offence, notwithstanding that the act constituting the offence amounted to a corrupt or illegal practice.

Time limit for prosecution

[^{F65}**114.—**(1) A proceeding against a person in respect of any offence under any provision contained in these Regulations shall be commenced within one year after the offence was committed, and the time so limited by this regulation shall, in the case of any proceedings under the Magistrates’ Court Act 1980 or, in the case of Gibraltar, the [^{F66}Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act 2011], for any such offence be substituted for any limitation of time contained in those Acts.

(2) A magistrates’ court in England, Wales or Gibraltar may act under paragraph (3) if it is satisfied on an application by a constable or Crown Prosecutor, or in Gibraltar, the Attorney General—

- (a) that there are exceptional circumstances which justify the granting of the application, and
- (b) that there has been no undue delay in the investigation of the offence to which the application relates.

(3) A magistrates’ court may extend the time within which proceedings must be commenced in pursuance of paragraph (1) to not more than 24 months after the offence was committed.

(4) If a magistrates’ court acts under paragraph (3), it may also make an order under paragraph (5) if it is satisfied, on an application by a constable or Crown Prosecutor, or in Gibraltar, the Attorney General, that documents retained by the relevant registration officer in pursuance of rule 66 of the European Parliamentary elections rules may provide evidence relating to the offence.

(5) An order under this paragraph is an order—

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- (a) directing the relevant registration officer not to cause the documents to be destroyed at the expiry of the period of one year mentioned in rule 66 of the European Parliamentary elections rules, and
 - (b) extending the period for which he is required to retain them under that rule by such further period not exceeding 12 months as is specified in the order.
- (6) The making of an order under paragraph (5) does not affect any other power to require the retention of the documents.
- (7) An application under this regulation must be made not more than one year after the offence was committed.
- (8) Any party to—
- (a) an application under paragraph (2), or
 - (b) an application under paragraph (4),
- who is aggrieved by the refusal of the magistrates' court to act under paragraph (3) or to make an order under paragraph (5) (as the case may be) may appeal to the Crown Court or, in Gibraltar, the Supreme Court.
- (9) For the purposes of this regulation—
- (a) in England and Wales, the laying of information;
 - (b) in Gibraltar, the laying of information; and
 - (c) in Scotland, the granting of a warrant to apprehend or cite the accused (if, in relation to an offence alleged to have been committed within the United Kingdom, such warrant is executed without delay),

shall be deemed to be the commencement of the proceeding.]

Textual Amendments

- F65** Reg. 114 substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), 37
- F66** Words in reg. 114(1) substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), 16

Prosecution of offences committed outside the United Kingdom

115. Proceedings in respect of an offence under these Regulations alleged to have been committed outside the United Kingdom or Gibraltar by a Commonwealth citizen or citizen of the Union may be taken, and the offence may for all incidental purposes be treated as having been committed, in any place in the United Kingdom or Gibraltar.

Offences by associations

116. Where—

- (a) any corrupt or illegal practice or any illegal payment, employment or hiring, or
- (b) any offence under regulation 74,

is committed by any association or body of persons, corporate or unincorporate, the members of the association or body who have taken part in the commission of the offence shall be liable to any fine or punishment imposed for that offence by these Regulations.

Evidence by certificate of holding of elections

117. On any prosecution for a corrupt or illegal practice or for any illegal payment, employment or hiring, the certificate of the returning officer at a European Parliamentary election—

- (a) that the election mentioned in the certificate was duly held, and
- (b) that the person named in the certificate was a candidate at the election, and
- (c) that a registered party named in the certificate submitted a list at the election,

shall be sufficient evidence of the facts stated in it.

Evidence by certificate of electoral registration

118. The certificate of a registration officer that any person is or is not, or was or was not at any particular time, duly registered in one of the officer's registers in respect of any address shall be sufficient evidence of the facts stated in it; and a document purporting to be such a certificate shall be received in evidence and presumed to be such a certificate unless the contrary is proved.

Director of Public Prosecutions

119.—(1) Where information is given to the Director of Public Prosecutions that any offence under these Regulations has been committed, it is his duty to make such inquiries and institute such prosecutions as the circumstances of the case appear to him to require.

(2) The Director by himself or by his assistant or by his representative appointed under paragraph (3) may and, if the election court so requests him, shall attend the trial of every European Parliamentary election petition.

(3) The Director may nominate a barrister or solicitor to be his representative for the purposes of this Part of these Regulations.

(4) There shall be allowed to the Director and his assistant or representative for the purposes of this Part (other than his general duties under paragraph (1)) such allowances for expenses as the Treasury may approve.

(5) The costs incurred in defraying the expenses of the Director incurred for those purposes (including the remuneration of his representative) shall, in the first instance, be paid by the Treasury, and shall be deemed to be expenses of the election court; but if for any reasonable cause it seems just to the court so to do, the court shall order all or part of those costs to be repaid to the Treasury by the parties to the petition, or such of them as the court may direct.

(6) In the application of this regulation to Scotland, paragraphs (2) to (5) shall be omitted.

(7) In the application of this regulation to Gibraltar, in paragraph (1) the reference to the Director of Public Prosecutions shall be construed as a reference to the Attorney General for Gibraltar.

Rules of procedure

120.—(1) The authority having for the time being power to make rules of court for the Supreme Court may make rules for the purposes of Part 2 and this Part of these Regulations.

(2) In relation to the power conferred by paragraph (1) to make rules—

(a) that power shall be exercisable by statutory instrument, and be treated for the purposes of the Statutory Instruments Act 1946^{M16} as if conferred by an Act on a Minister of the Crown; and

(b) a statutory instrument containing rules under paragraph (1) shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament; and section 5 of the Statutory Instruments Act 1946 shall apply accordingly.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

Changes to legislation: The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 June 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)

(3) The above provisions of this regulation do not apply to Scotland, but the Court of Session has power to make acts of sederunt for the purposes of Part 2 and this Part.

(4) The above provisions of this regulation do not apply to Gibraltar courts, but in those courts Gibraltar rules of court apply.

Marginal Citations

M16 1946 c. 36.

Costs

121.—(1) The rules of the Supreme Court with respect to costs to be allowed in actions, causes and matters in the High Court shall in principle and so far as practicable apply to the costs of petition and other proceedings under Part 2 or this Part of these Regulations, and the taxing officer shall not allow any costs higher than would be allowed in any action, cause or matter in the High Court on a common fund basis.

(2) Where any costs or other sums are, under the order of an election court or otherwise under this Part, to be paid by any person, those costs or sums shall be due from that person to the person or persons to whom they are to be paid and, if payable to the Treasury, shall be a debt due to Her Majesty and in either case may be recovered accordingly.

(3) The above provisions of this regulation do not apply to Scotland, but those costs shall, subject to any provision which the Court of Session may make by act of sederunt, be taxed as nearly as possible according to the same principles as expenses between solicitor and client are taxed in a cause in the Court of Session.

(4) The above provisions of this regulation do not apply to Gibraltar courts, but those costs shall be taxed as nearly as possible according to the same principles as expenses between solicitor and client are taxed in a cause in the Gibraltar court.

Services of notices

122.—(1) Any notice, legal process or other document required to be served on any person with reference to any proceeding respecting an election for the purpose of causing him to appear before the High Court, the county court, or any election court, or otherwise or of giving him an opportunity of making a statement, or showing cause, or being heard by himself before any court for any purpose of this Part of these Regulations may be served—

- (a) by delivering it to that person, or by leaving it at, or sending it by post by a registered letter or by the recorded delivery service, to his last known place of abode in the electoral region or, as the case may be, the area of the authority for which the election was held; or
- (b) if the proceeding is before any court in such other manner as the court may direct.

(2) In proving service by post under this regulation it shall be sufficient to prove that the letter was prepaid, properly addressed, and registered or recorded with the postal operator (within the meaning of [F67Part 3 of the Postal Services Act 2011]) concerned.

(3) In the application of the above provisions to post sent in Gibraltar, references to the postal operator shall be construed as references to the Gibraltar Post Office.

(4) This regulation does not apply in respect of any proceedings before the Gibraltar court.

Textual Amendments

- F67** Words in reg. 122(2) substituted (1.10.2011) by [The Postal Services Act 2011 \(Consequential Modifications and Amendments\) Order 2011 \(S.I. 2011/2085\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 1 para. 60(4)**

PART 5

MISCELLANEOUS

[^{F68}Translations etc. of certain documents

122A.—(1) Paragraphs (2) and (3) apply to any document which by virtue of these Regulations is required or authorised to be given to voters or displayed in any place for the purposes of a European Parliamentary election.

(2) The person who is required or authorised to give or display the document must, as he thinks appropriate, give or display or otherwise make available in such form as he thinks appropriate—

- (a) the document in Braille;
- (b) the document in languages other than English;
- (c) graphical representations of the information contained in the document;
- (d) other means of making the information contained in the document accessible to persons who might not otherwise have reasonable access to the information.

(3) The person required or authorised to give or display the document must also, as he thinks appropriate, make available the information contained in the document in such audible form as he thinks appropriate.

(4) Paragraphs (2) and (3) do not apply to—

- (a) the nomination paper; and
- (b) the ballot paper.

(5) The local returning officer at a European Parliamentary election must cause to be displayed at every polling station in the election an enlarged sample copy of the ballot paper in accordance with rule 32(5)(a) of the European Parliamentary elections rules.

(6) The sample copy mentioned in paragraph (5) —

- (a) must have printed the words “Vote once (X) in one blank box” at the top; and
- (b) may include a translation of those words into such other languages as the local returning officer thinks appropriate.

(7) The local returning officer at a European Parliamentary election must provide at every polling station in the election an enlarged hand-held sample copy of the ballot paper for the assistance of voters who are partially sighted.

(8) The sample copy mentioned in paragraph (7) must be clearly marked as a specimen provided only for the guidance of voters.]

Textual Amendments

- F68** Reg. 122A inserted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **38**

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

Changes to legislation: The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 June 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)

Public notices and declarations

123.—(1) A public notice required by or under these Regulations to be given by a returning officer for a European Parliamentary election shall be given by posting the notice in some conspicuous place or places in the electoral region and may also be given in such other manner as he thinks desirable for publicising it.

(2) A public notice required by or under these Regulations to be given by a local returning officer shall be given by posting the notice in some conspicuous place or places in the local counting area and may also be given in such other manner as he thinks fit.

(3) Any person before whom a declaration is authorised to be made under these Regulations may take the declaration.

(4) In the application of paragraph (1) to the combined region, the notice shall be given by posting it in some conspicuous place or places in that part of the combined region which is in the United Kingdom and in some conspicuous place or places in that part which is in Gibraltar.

Remuneration for free postal services provided under the Regulations

124.—(1) This regulation applies where any postal services are provided without charge by a universal service provider in pursuance of these Regulations.

(2) The universal service provider shall be entitled to be remunerated for having provided the services—

- (a) at the rate fixed in relation to them by virtue of a scheme under section 89 of the Postal Services Act 2000; or
- (b) in the case of any postal communication sent to a place or an elector in the combined region in pursuance of regulation 63 for which there is no such scheme for those services, at a rate fixed in relation to those services in accordance with paragraph (3).

(3) The rate referred to in paragraph (2)(b) must correspond substantially to the rate fixed in relation to the provision of services in pursuance of regulation 63 which would apply by virtue of a scheme under section 89 of the Postal Services Act 2000 if the whole of the combined region were in England, except that it may include an element for additional expenses associated with providing such services in the combined region.

(4) A sum which a universal service provider is entitled to receive by virtue of this regulation shall be charged on, and issued out of, the Consolidated Fund.

(5) In this regulation “postal services” and “universal service provider” have the same meanings as in [^{F69}Part 3 of the Postal Services Act 2011].

Textual Amendments

F69 Words in reg. 124(5) substituted (1.10.2011) by [The Postal Services Act 2011 \(Consequential Modifications and Amendments\) Order 2011 \(S.I. 2011/2085\)](#), art. 1(2), [Sch. 1 para. 60\(5\)](#)

Application of Local Government Finance Act 1988 for European Parliamentary Elections

125. Section 65(6) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 ^{M17} (hereditaments to be treated as unoccupied notwithstanding use for election purposes) shall apply in relation to a European Parliamentary election as it applies in relation to a parliamentary election and as though the reference in section 65(6) to a person’s candidature included a reference to a registered party’s; and as though the reference to a returning officer was a reference to a local returning officer.

Marginal Citations

M17 1988 c. 41.

[^{F70} Requirement to provide information about candidate standing in other Member State

125A.—(1) This regulation applies when the Secretary of State receives a notice from another Member State in accordance with Article 6 of Council [Directive 93/109/EC](#) that a person who falls to be treated as a national of the United Kingdom for the purposes of the EU treaties has made a declaration in that Member State under Article 10 of that Directive.

(2) The Secretary of State must, within the period specified in paragraph (3), provide the Member State with any information that is available to the Secretary of State as to whether the person has been deprived of the right to stand as a candidate at European Parliamentary elections through a relevant disqualifying decision in the United Kingdom.

(3) The period referred to in paragraph (2) is five days calculated in accordance with rule 2 of Schedule 1 and beginning with the day the notice is received by the Secretary of State, or such shorter period as is requested by the Member State if it is possible for the Secretary of State to provide the information within that period.]

Textual Amendments

F70 Reg. 125A inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), 17

Revocation

126. The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 1999 ^{M18} are hereby revoked.

Marginal Citations

M18 S.I. 1999/1214.

Signed on behalf of the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs

Christopher Leslie
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Constitutional Affairs

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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^{F71}SCHEDULE A1

Regulation 6(2A)

Textual Amendments

F71 Sch. A1 omitted (1.1.2014) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **18**

^{F72}SCHEDULE 1

Regulation 9

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS RULES

Textual Amendments

F72 Sch. 1 substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), 39, **Sch. 2**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C8 Sch. 1 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)

PART 1

PROVISIONS AS TO TIME

Timetable

1. The proceedings at the election must be conducted in accordance with the following Timetable.

Timetable

| <i>Proceeding</i> | <i>Time</i> |
|---|---|
| Publication of notice of election | Not later than the twenty-fifth day before the date of poll. |
| Delivery of nomination papers and list of candidates of registered parties | Between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on any day after the date of the publication of the notice of election but not later than the nineteenth day before the date of the poll |
| Delivery of notices of withdrawals of candidature | Within the time for the delivery of nomination papers and lists of candidates at the election |
| The making of objections to nomination papers or list of candidates of registered parties | During the hours allowed for delivery of nomination papers and lists of candidates on the last day for their delivery and the hour following; but (a) no objection may be made in the afternoon of that last day except to a |

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| <i>Proceeding</i> | <i>Time</i> |
|---|---|
| | <p>nomination paper delivered within 24 hours of the last time for its delivery and, in the case of a nomination paper so delivered, no objection may be so made to the sufficiency or nature of the particulars of a registered party or candidate on the party's list or individual candidate unless made at or immediately after the time of the delivery of the nomination paper; and</p> <p>(b) the foregoing provisions do not apply to objections made in pursuance of rule 18(2).</p> |
| Publication of statement of parties and individual candidates nominated | <p>If no objections to nomination papers or lists of candidates of registered parties are made, at the close of the time for doing so, or</p> <p>if any such objections are made to nomination papers or lists of candidates of registered parties, not before they are disposed of, but not later than 24 hours after the last time for delivery of nomination papers or lists (as the case may be).</p> |
| Polling | Between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. on the day of the poll. |

Computation of time

2.—(1) In computing any period of time for the purposes of the Timetable in rule 1—

- (a) a Saturday or Sunday,
- (b) Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Good Friday or a bank holiday, or
- (c) a day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning,

must be disregarded, and any such day must not be treated as a day for the purpose of any proceedings up to the completion of the poll nor must the returning officer or local returning officer be obliged to proceed with the counting of the votes on such a day.

(2) In this rule “bank holiday” means—

- (a) in relation to a general election in the combined region, a day which is a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 in any part of the United Kingdom or a bank or public holiday in Gibraltar not otherwise falling within sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph (1);
- (b) in relation to a by-election in the combined region, a day which is a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 in England and Wales or a bank or public holiday in Gibraltar not otherwise falling within sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph (1);
- (c) in relation to a general election in a region other than the combined region, a day which is a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 in any part of the United Kingdom; and

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- (d) in relation to a by-election in a region other than the combined region, a day which is a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 in that part of the United Kingdom in which the region is situated,

but at a general election sub-paragraph (b) or (d) and not sub-paragraph (a) or (c) (as the case may be) of this paragraph applies in relation to any proceedings extending, by reason of riot or open violence, beyond the time laid down by the Timetable in rule 1.

PART 2

STAGES COMMON TO CONTESTED AND UNCONTESTED ELECTIONS

Notice of election

3.—(1) The returning officer must publish notice of the election stating—

- (a) the place and times at which nomination papers are to be delivered; and
- (b) the date of the poll in the event of a contest,

and the notice must state that forms of nomination papers may be obtained at that place and those times.

(2) The notice of election must also state the arrangements which apply for the payment of the deposit required by rule 10 to be made by means of the electronic transfer of funds.

(3) The notice of election must state the date by which—

- (a) applications to vote by post or by proxy; and
- (b) other applications and notices about postal or proxy voting,

must reach the registration officer in order that they may be effective for the election.

(4) The returning officer must send a copy of the notice to the local returning officer for each local counting area in the electoral region; and each local returning officer must publish the copy of the notice at a place within the area in which he acts.

Nomination of individual candidates

4.—(1) Each individual candidate must be nominated by a separate nomination paper, which is signed and delivered by the individual candidate himself or a person authorised in writing by him.

(2) The nomination paper must state the individual candidate's—

- (a) full names;
- (b) home address in full; and
- (c) if desired, description,

and the surname must be placed first in the list of his names.

(3) If an individual candidate commonly uses—

- (a) a surname which is different from any other surname he has; or
- (b) a forename which is different from any other forename he has,

the nomination paper may state the commonly used surname or forename in addition to the other name.

(4) The description (if any) can only be—

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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- (a) in the case of an individual candidate standing on behalf of a registered party at a by-election, the name of the party registered under section 28 of the 2000 Act and, if desired, a description which is authorised as mentioned in rule 5(2) or (4); or
- (b) the word “Independent”.

(5) Where a nomination paper is delivered in respect of the same person after an earlier paper in respect of that person has been delivered, that later paper must be deemed to supersede the earlier one.

Nomination papers: name of registered party at a by-election

5.—(1) The nomination paper of an individual candidate standing on behalf of a registered party at a by-election must state the name of the party registered under section 28 of the 2000 Act.

(2) A nomination paper may not include a description of an individual candidate which is likely to lead electors to associate the candidate with a registered party unless —

- (a) the individual candidate is standing on behalf of a registered party at a by-election;
- (b) the party is a qualifying party in relation to the electoral region; and
- (c) the description is authorised by a certificate—
 - (i) issued by or on behalf of the registered nominating officer of the party; and
 - (ii) received by the returning officer before the last time for the delivery of nomination papers set out in the Timetable in rule 1.

(3) In paragraph (2) an authorised description must be a description of the party registered under section 28A of the 2000 Act.

(4) A nomination paper may not include a description of an individual candidate which is likely to lead electors to associate the candidate with two or more registered political parties unless—

- (a) the individual candidate is standing on behalf of two or more registered parties at a by-election;
- (b) each of the parties are qualifying parties in relation to the electoral region; and
- (c) the description is a registered description authorised by a certificate—
 - (i) issued by or on behalf of the registered nominating officer of each of the parties; and
 - (ii) received by the returning officer before the last time for the delivery of nomination papers set out in the Timetable in rule 1.

(5) For the purposes of paragraph (4), an authorised description is a registered description if it is a description registered for use by the parties under section 28B of the 2000 Act.

(6) A person shall be guilty of a corrupt practice if he fraudulently purports to be authorised to issue a certificate under paragraph (2) or (4) on behalf of a registered party’s nominating officer.

(7) For the purposes of the application of this rule in relation to an election—

- (a) “registered party” means a party which was registered under Part 2 of the 2000 Act on the day (“the relevant day”) which is two days before the last day for the delivery of nomination papers at that election; and
- (b) a registered party is a qualifying party in relation to an electoral region if the region is in England, Wales, Scotland or the combined region and the party was on the relevant day registered in respect of that part of Great Britain or the combined region in the Great Britain register mentioned under that Part of that Act.

(8) For the purposes of paragraph (7)(a) any day falling within rule 2(1) must be disregarded.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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Nomination papers: name of registered party at a general election

6.—(1) A registered party which is to stand for election in the electoral region must be nominated by a nomination paper delivered to the returning officer at the place which he has fixed for the purpose, by the party's nominating officer or a person authorised in writing by him.

(2) The nomination paper must state the name of the party registered under section 28 of the 2000 Act.

(3) The nomination paper may state the description by which the registered party is to stand for election.

(4) In paragraph (3) a description must be a description of the party registered under section 28A of the 2000 Act.

(5) The nomination paper must be accompanied by a list of candidates which complies with rule 7.

(6) The nomination paper must include a statement that the party is nominated by or on behalf of the nominating officer of the registered party in question and must be signed by the person making it.

(7) Where a nomination paper and list of candidates are delivered in respect of the same registered party after an earlier paper and list have been delivered in respect of that party, that later paper and list must be deemed to supersede the earlier ones.

(8) A person shall be guilty of a corrupt practice if he fraudulently purports to be authorised to make the statement required by paragraph (6) on behalf of a registered party's nominating officer.

List of candidates

7.—(1) The number of candidates in the list of a registered party's candidates which must accompany its nomination paper must not exceed the number of MEPs to be elected in the electoral region at the election.

(2) The list must set out the full names and home addresses in full of each candidate.

(3) If a person on the list of a registered party's candidates commonly uses—

(a) a surname which is different from any other surname he has; or

(b) a forename which is different from any other forename he has,

the list may state the person's commonly used surname or forename in addition to the other name.

Consent to nomination

8.—(1) A person shall not be validly nominated as an individual candidate or a candidate on a registered party's list unless his consent to nomination—

(a) is given in writing on or within one month before the day fixed as the last day for the delivery of nomination papers;

(b) is attested by one witness;

(c) in the case of a candidate on a registered party's list, identifies the party in question; and

(d) is delivered at the place and within the time for the delivery of nomination papers, subject to paragraph (2).

(2) If the returning officer is satisfied that, owing to the absence of a person from the United Kingdom or Gibraltar (as the case may be) it has not been reasonably practicable for his consent in writing to be given, a telegram (or any similar means of communication) consenting to his nomination and purporting to have been sent by him shall be deemed for the purposes of this rule to be consent in writing given by him on the day on which it purports to have been sent, and attestation of his consent is not required.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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(3) A candidate's consent given under this rule must state the day, month and year of his birth; and—

- (a) that he is aware of the provisions of section 10 of the European Parliamentary Elections Act 2002; and
- (b) that to the best of his knowledge and belief he is not disqualified for the office of MEP.

(4) For the purpose of paragraph (3)(b), a candidate is not disqualified for the office of MEP by virtue of his being a life peer at the time of his nomination.

Candidature by relevant citizen of the Union

9.—^{F73}(1) A candidate who is a relevant citizen of the Union is not validly nominated as an individual candidate or as a candidate on a registered party's list unless one of Conditions A and B is met.

(2) Condition A is that a declaration under paragraph (4) is delivered to the returning officer, whether before or after the notice of election is published, but not later than 4 p.m. on the twenty-fourth day before the date of the poll.

(3) Condition B is that a declaration under paragraph (4) and information under paragraph (5) are delivered at the place and within the time for the delivery of nomination papers.

(4) The declaration referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3) must be made by the candidate and must state, in addition to the candidate's name—

- (a) the candidate's nationality, date and place of birth, last address in the Member State of which the candidate is a national and home address in the United Kingdom or Gibraltar;
 - (b) that the candidate is not standing for election to the European Parliament in any other Member State;
 - (c) where the candidate's name has been entered on an electoral roll in a locality or constituency in the Member State of which the candidate is a national, the name of the locality or constituency where, so far as the candidate knows, the candidate's name was last entered; and
 - (d) that the candidate has not been deprived of the right to stand as a candidate through a relevant disqualifying decision in the Member State of which the candidate is a national.
- (5) The information referred to in paragraph (3) is information which—
- (a) has been provided to the candidate by the designated contact point in the Member State of which the candidate is a national; and
 - (b) states either that the candidate has not been deprived of the right to stand as a candidate in that State through a relevant disqualifying decision or that no such disqualification is known to the designated contact point.

(6) Where the returning officer receives a declaration under paragraph (4) delivered in accordance with Condition A or B, the returning officer must send a copy to the Secretary of State as soon as practicable after the declaration is received.

(7) In this rule and in rule 9A, "electoral roll" and "locality or constituency" have the same meaning as they have in Council [Directive 93/109/EC](#), and "designated contact point" means a contact point designated by a Member State in accordance with Article 6(3) of that Directive.]

Textual Amendments

F73 Sch. 1 rule 9 substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **19**

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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[^{F74}Request for information where candidate is relevant citizen of the Union

9A.—(1) This rule applies where the candidate is a relevant citizen of the Union and the Secretary of State has received a copy of a declaration in accordance with rule 9(6).

(2) The Secretary of State must send a notice to the designated contact point in the Member State of which the candidate is a national.

(3) The notice referred to in paragraph (2)—

- (a) must notify the Member State of the declaration made by the candidate under rule 9(4);
- (b) must ask whether the candidate has been deprived of the right to stand as a candidate through a relevant disqualifying decision in that Member State; and
- (c) may request a response by a specified date.

(4) The Secretary of State must send to the returning officer a copy of any response to the notice as soon as practicable after the response is received.]

Textual Amendments

F74 Sch. 1 rule 9A inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **20**

Deposit

10.—(1) A person shall not be validly nominated as an individual candidate unless the sum of £5,000 is deposited by him or on his behalf with the returning officer at the place and during the time for delivery of nomination papers.

(2) A registered party shall not be validly nominated unless the sum of £5,000 is deposited on its behalf with the returning officer at the place and during the time for the delivery of nomination papers.

(3) The deposit may be made either—

- (a) by the deposit of any legal tender, or
- (b) by means of a banker's draft, or
- (c) with the returning officer's consent, in any other manner (including by means of a debit or credit card or the electronic transfer of funds),

but the returning officer may refuse to accept a deposit sought to be made by means of a banker's draft if he does not know that the drawer carries on a business as a banker in the United Kingdom or Gibraltar.

(4) Where the deposit is made on behalf of the registered party or individual candidate, the person making the deposit must at the time he makes it give his name and address to the returning officer (unless they have previously been given to him under regulation 33, 34 or 38 of these Regulations).

Place for delivery of nomination papers

11. The returning officer must fix the place in the electoral region at which nomination papers are to be delivered to him, and must attend there during the time for their delivery and for the making of objections to them.

Right to attend nomination

12.—(1) Except for the purpose of delivering a nomination paper or of assisting the returning officer, no person is entitled to attend the proceedings during the time for delivery of nomination papers or for making objections to them unless he is—

- (a) a person standing nominated as an individual candidate or included in a list under rule 7; or
- (b) the election agent of a registered party which has submitted a nomination paper or of an individual candidate; or
- (c) a person authorised in writing to deliver a nomination paper; or
- (d) a person who is entitled to attend by virtue of section 6A or 6B of the 2000 Act.

(2) The right to attend conferred by this rule includes the right—

- (a) to inspect; and
- (b) to object to the validity of,

any nomination paper or list of candidates.

(3) Paragraph (2) does not apply to a person mentioned in paragraph (1)(d).

(4) One other person chosen by each candidate is entitled to be present at the delivery of the candidate's nomination, and may afterwards, so long as the candidate stands nominated, attend the proceedings referred to in paragraph (1) but without any such right as is conferred by paragraph (2).

Decisions as to validity of nomination papers

13.—(1) Where, in the case of an individual candidate, a nomination paper and the candidate's consent to it (and, where required, [^{F75}a declaration under rule 9(4) or, as the case may be, a declaration under rule 9(4) and information under rule 9(5)]) are delivered and a deposit is made in accordance with these rules, the candidate must be deemed to stand nominated unless and until—

- (a) the returning officer decides that the nomination paper is invalid; or
- (b) proof is given to the returning officer's satisfaction of the candidate's death; or
- (c) the candidate withdraws.

(2) Where, in the case of a registered party, a nomination paper and list under rule 7 are delivered and a deposit is made in accordance with these rules, the party and (subject to paragraph (5)) the candidates on its list must be deemed to stand nominated unless and until the returning officer determines that the nomination paper or list is invalid.

(3) The returning officer is entitled to hold a nomination paper of an individual candidate invalid only on one of the following grounds—

- (a) that the particulars of the candidate are not as required by law;
- (b) that the candidate is disqualified by the Representation of the People Act 1981 (which applies in respect of the office of MEP by virtue of section 10(1)(a) of the 2002 Act) or any corresponding provision in respect of detained offenders in Gibraltar made under section 10(4A) of the 2002 Act;

[^{F76}(c) the candidate is a relevant citizen of the Union and the returning officer has received, under rule 9A(4), information that the candidate has been deprived of the right to stand as a candidate through a relevant disqualifying decision in the Member State of which the candidate is a national.]

(4) The returning officer is entitled to hold a nomination paper of a registered party, together with the list of candidates accompanying it, invalid only on one of the following grounds—

- (a) that the contents of the nomination paper are not as required by law; and

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(b) that the number of candidates in the list breaches rule 7(1).

(5) Where—

- (a) the particulars of any candidate in the list of candidates accompanying the nomination paper of a registered party are not as required by law;
- (b) the consent to nomination of any such candidate is not delivered in accordance with these rules; ^{F77} ...
- (c) any such candidate is a relevant citizen of the Union and [^{F78}neither Condition A nor Condition B in rule 9 has been met in relation to that candidate][^{F79}; or
- (d) any such candidate is a relevant citizen of the Union and the returning officer has received, under rule 9A(4), information that the candidate has been deprived of the right to stand as a candidate through a relevant disqualifying decision in the Member State of which the candidate is a national,]

the returning officer must delete the name and address of that candidate from the list.

(6) The returning officer must give his decision on any objection to a nomination paper—

- (a) as soon as practicable after it is made; and
- (b) in any event, before the end of the period of 24 hours starting with the close of the

period for delivery of nomination papers set out in the Timetable in rule 1.

(7) If, in the returning officer's opinion a nomination paper breaches rule 5(2) or (4), he must give a decision to that effect—

- (a) as soon as practicable after the delivery of the nomination paper; and
- (b) in any event, before the end of the period of 24 hours starting with the close of the period for delivery of nomination papers set out in the Timetable in rule 1.

(8) Where the returning officer decides that a nomination paper is invalid, he must endorse on the paper the fact and the reasons for his decision and sign the paper.

(9) Where the returning officer deletes any name from the list of candidates of a registered party, he must endorse on the nomination paper the fact and the reasons for his decision to do so and sign the paper.

(10) The returning officer's decision that a nomination paper and, where applicable, its accompanying list, is valid is final and may not be questioned in any proceedings whatsoever.

(11) Subject to paragraph (10), nothing in this rule prevents the validity of a nomination being questioned on an election petition.

Textual Amendments

- F75** Words in Sch. 1 rule 13(1) substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **21(1)**
- F76** Sch. 1 rule 13(3)(c) inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **21(2)**
- F77** Word in Sch. 1 rule 13(5)(b) omitted (1.1.2014) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **21(3)(a)**
- F78** Words in Sch. 1 rule 13(5)(c) substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **21(3)(b)**
- F79** Sch. 1 rule 13(5)(d) and preceding word inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **21(3)(c)**

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Withdrawal of candidates

14.—(1) An individual candidate may withdraw his candidature by notice of withdrawal—

- (a) signed by him and attested by one witness, and
- (b) delivered to the returning officer at the place for delivery of nomination papers.

(2) The nominating officer of a registered party or a person authorised in writing by him may withdraw that party's nomination by notice of withdrawal signed by him and delivered to the returning officer at the place for delivery of nomination papers.

Publication of statement of persons nominated

15.—(1) The returning officer must prepare and publish a statement (“the statement of parties and individual candidates nominated”) showing—

- (a) the registered parties which have been and stand nominated, together with the list of persons who stand as candidates of those parties;
- (b) persons who have been and stand nominated as individual candidates; and
- (c) any other persons or parties who have been nominated (whether on a list of a registered party or as individual candidates) together with the reason why they no longer stand nominated.

(2) The statement must show the names followed by the descriptions, if any, of registered parties which have been and stand nominated in alphabetical order, with the names, home addresses of the candidates who appear on the list of each party as given in that list and arranged in the order in which their names appear on that list.

(3) The statement must show the names followed by descriptions, if any, and addresses of the persons nominated as individual candidates as given in their nomination papers.

(4) If a nomination paper or list gives a commonly used surname or forename of a candidate in addition to another name, the statement must show the person's commonly used surname or forename (as the case may be) instead of any other name.

(5) Paragraph (4) does not apply if the returning officer thinks—

- (a) that the use of the person's commonly used name may be likely to mislead or confuse electors, or
- (b) that the commonly used name is obscene or offensive.

(6) If paragraph (5) applies, the returning officer must give notice in writing to the candidate and party whose list contains the candidate's name of his reasons for refusing to allow the use of a commonly used name.

(7) The statement must show the persons standing nominated as individual candidates after the names of the registered parties standing nominated and the names of those candidates must be arranged alphabetically in order of their surnames, and, if there are two or more of them with the same surname, of their other names.

(8) The returning officer must send to the Electoral Commission a copy of the statement.

Correction of minor errors

16.—(1) A returning officer may, if he thinks fit, at any time before the publication under rule 15 of the statement of parties and individual candidates nominated, correct minor errors in a nomination paper or list.

(2) Errors which may be corrected include obvious errors of spelling in relation to the details of a candidate or the authorised description of a registered party.

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(3) Anything done by a returning officer in pursuance of this rule may not be questioned in any proceedings other than proceedings on an election petition.

(4) A returning officer must have regard to any guidance issued by the Electoral Commission for the purposes of this rule.

Local publication of statement under rule 15

17.—(1) Immediately following publication of the statement of parties and individual candidates nominated, the returning officer must forward a copy of it to the local returning officer for each local counting area in the electoral region.

(2) As soon as practicable after receipt of the copy of the statement, each local returning officer must publish it at a place within the area for which he acts.

Disqualification by Representation of the People Act 1981

18.—(1) If it appears to the returning officer that any of the persons nominated as an individual candidate might be disqualified by the Representation of the People Act 1981 (which applies in respect of the office of MEP by virtue of section 10(1)(a) of the 2002 Act) or any corresponding provision in respect of detained offenders in Gibraltar made under section 10(4A) of the 2002 Act he must, as soon as practicable after the expiry of the time allowed for the delivery of nomination papers, prepare and publish a draft of that part of the statement of parties and individual candidates nominated as is required by rule 15(1)(b).

(2) The draft must be headed “draft statement of individual candidates nominated” and must contain a notice stating that any person who wishes to object to the nomination of any individual candidate on the ground that he is disqualified for nomination under the Representation of the People Act 1981 or any corresponding provision in respect of detained offenders in Gibraltar made under section 10(4A) of the 2002 Act may do so between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. and at the place specified in the notice; and the day so specified must be the day after the last day for the delivery of nomination papers.

Adjournment of nomination proceedings in case of riot

19.—(1) Where the proceedings for or in connection with nomination are on any day interrupted or obstructed by riot or open violence—

- (a) the proceedings must be abandoned for that day; and
- (b) if that day is the last day for the delivery of nomination papers, the proceedings must be continued on the next day as if that were the last day of such delivery,

and that day must be treated for the purposes of these rules as being the last day for such delivery (subject to any further application of this rule in the event of interruption or obstruction on that day).

(2) Where proceedings are abandoned by virtue of this rule, nothing—

- (a) may be done after they are continued if the time for doing it had passed at the time of the abandonment;
- (b) done before the abandonment is invalidated by reason of the abandonment.

Method of election

20.—(1) If the statement of parties and individual candidates nominated shows more candidates than there are seats to be filled, a poll must be taken in accordance with Part 3 of these rules.

(2) If the statement of parties and individual candidates nominated shows a number of candidates (whether on a registered party’s list or individual candidates) which is the same as or less than the

number of seats to be filled, those candidates must be declared to be elected in accordance with Part 4 of these rules.

PART 3

CONTESTED ELECTIONS

CHAPTER 1

General Provisions

Poll to be taken by ballot

21. The votes at the poll must be given by ballot in accordance with subsection (4) of section 2 of the 2002 Act and the seats must be allocated in accordance with subsections (5) to (9) of that section.

The ballot papers

22.—(1) The ballot of every voter must consist of a ballot paper, and the registered parties, together with their candidates shown in the statement of parties and individual candidates nominated and the individual candidates shown as standing nominated, and no others, are entitled to have their names inserted in the ballot paper.

(2) Every ballot paper must be in Form A in the Appendix, and must be printed in accordance with the directions in that Appendix, and—

- (a) must contain the names followed by the descriptions, if any, of the registered parties shown in the statement of parties and individual candidates nominated, together with the names of the candidates of those parties and the names, followed by the descriptions if any, of any individual candidate so shown;
- (b) must be capable of being folded up; and
- (c) must have a number and other unique identifying mark printed on the back.

(3) If a request is made by or on behalf of a nominating officer of a registered party, the ballot paper must contain adjacent to the party's name the party's registered emblem (or, as the case may be, one of the party's registered emblems).

(4) The request must—

- (a) be made in writing to the returning officer; and
- (b) be received by him before the last time for the delivery of nomination papers set out in the Timetable in rule 1.

(5) The order of the names of the registered parties, together with their candidates, and of the individual candidates in the ballot paper must be the same as in the statement of parties and individual candidates nominated.

The corresponding number list

23.—(1) The local returning officer must prepare a list ("the corresponding number list") containing the numbers and other unique identifying marks of all the ballot papers to be issued by him in pursuance of rule 28(1) or provided by him in pursuance of rule 32(1).

(2) The form of corresponding number list to be prepared by a local returning officer for the purpose of rule 28(1) and paragraph 48(1) of Schedule 2 must be in Form B in the Appendix.

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(3) The form of corresponding number list to be prepared by the local returning officer for the purposes of rule 32(3)(d) and 41(1)(b) must be in Form C in the Appendix.

(4) The form of corresponding number list to be prepared by the local returning officer for the purpose of rule 28(1) and paragraph 48(1) of Schedule 2 when the poll at a European Parliamentary election is to be taken with—

- (a) the poll at an election under subsection (1) or (2) of section 15 of the 1985 Act (combination of polls at parliamentary, European Parliamentary and local government elections), or
- (b) the poll at a mayoral election or a referendum in accordance with regulations made under sections 44 and 105 or 45 and 105 of the Local Government Act 2000,

must be in Form D in the Appendix.

(5) The form of corresponding number list to be prepared by the local returning officer for the purposes of rules 32(3)(d) and 41(1)(b) when the poll at a European Parliamentary election is to be taken with—

- (a) the poll at an election under subsection (1) or (2) of section 15 of the 1985 Act (combination of polls at parliamentary, European Parliamentary and local government elections), or
- (b) the poll at a mayoral election or referendum in accordance with regulations made under sections 44 and 105 or 45 and 105 of the Local Government Act 2000,

must be in Form E in the Appendix.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C9 Sch. 1 para. 23(4)(5) modified (3.8.2012) by [The Neighbourhood Planning \(Referendums\) Regulations 2012 \(S.I. 2012/2031\)](#), regs. 1, 8, 12, 13, [Sch. 4 para. 12](#)

The official mark

24.—(1) Every ballot paper must contain an appropriate security marking (the official mark).

(2) The official mark must be kept secret, and an interval of not less than five years must intervene between the use of the same official mark at elections for the same local counting area.

(3) The local returning officer may use a different official mark for different purposes at the same election.

Prohibition of disclosure of vote

25. No person who has voted at the election must, in any legal proceeding to question the election, be required to state for whom he has voted.

Use of schools and public rooms

26.—(1) The local returning officer may use, free of charge, for the purpose of taking the poll—

- (a) a room in a school to which this rule applies;
- (b) a room the expense of maintaining which is payable out of any rate.

(2) This rule applies—

- (a) in England and Wales, to a school maintained or assisted by a ^{F80}local authority (as defined in the Education Act 1996) or a school in respect of which grants are made out of moneys

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provided by Parliament to the person or body of persons responsible for the management of the school;

- (b) in Scotland, to a school other than an independent school within the meaning of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980;
- (c) in Gibraltar, to a school, club or sports house or other premises, the expense of maintaining which is payable wholly or partly out of public funds or out of any rate, or by a body whose expenses are so payable.

(3) The local returning officer must make good any damage done to, and defray any expense incurred by the persons having control over, any room which has been used in accordance with this rule by reason of its being used for the purpose of taking the poll.

Textual Amendments

F80 Words in Sch. 1 para. 26(2)(a) substituted (5.5.2010) by [The Local Education Authorities and Children's Services Authorities \(Integration of Functions\) \(Local and Subordinate Legislation\) Order 2010 \(S.I. 2010/1172\)](#), art. 1(1), [Sch. 3 para. 50\(2\)](#)

CHAPTER 2

Action to be Taken Before the Poll

Notice of poll

27.—(1) The returning officer must in the statement of parties and individual candidates nominated include a notice of the poll stating the day on which and hours during which the poll will be taken.

(2) In respect of each local counting area or part of an area contained in the electoral region, the local returning officer must also give public notice of—

- (a) the situation of each polling station;
- (b) the description of voters entitled to vote there;

and he must as soon as practicable after giving such notice give a copy of it to each of the election agents.

Postal ballot papers and postal voting statements

28.—(1) The local returning officer must, in accordance with Schedule 2, issue to those entitled to vote by post a ballot paper and postal voting statement in the appropriate form prescribed by paragraph 42 of that Schedule, together with such envelopes for their return as are required for the purposes of paragraph 50 of that Schedule.

(2) The local returning officer must also issue to those entitled to vote by post such information as he thinks appropriate about how to obtain—

- (a) translations into languages other than English of any directions to or guidance for voters sent with the ballot paper;
- (b) a translation into Braille of such directions or guidance;
- (c) graphical representations of such directions or guidance;
- (d) the directions or guidance in any other form (including any audible form).

(3) In the case of a ballot paper issued to a person at an address in the United Kingdom or Gibraltar, the local returning officer must ensure that the return of the ballot paper and postal voting statement is free of charge to the voter.

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Provision of polling stations

29.—(1) The local returning officer must provide a sufficient number of polling stations and, subject to the following provisions of this rule, must allot the electors to the polling stations in such manner as he thinks most convenient.

(2) One or more polling stations may be provided in the same room.

(3) The polling station allotted to electors from any polling district must be in the polling place for that district.

(4) The local returning officer must provide each polling station with such number of compartments as may be necessary in which the voters can mark their votes screened from observation.

Appointment of presiding officers and clerks

30.—(1) The local returning officer must appoint and pay a presiding officer to attend at each polling station and such clerks as may be necessary for the purposes of the election, but he must not appoint any person who has been employed by or on behalf of a registered party or individual candidate in or about the election.

(2) The local returning officer may, if he thinks fit, preside at a polling station and the provisions of these rules relating to a presiding officer apply to a local returning officer so presiding with the necessary modifications as to things to be done by the local returning officer to the presiding officer or by the presiding officer to the local returning officer.

(3) A presiding officer may do, by the clerks appointed to assist him, any act (including the asking of questions) which he is required or authorised by these rules to do at a polling station except order the arrest, exclusion or removal of any person from the polling station.

Issue of official poll cards

31.—(1) The local returning officer must as soon as practicable after the publication of the notice of election send to electors and their proxies the appropriate official poll card, but a card must not be sent to any person registered, or to be registered, in pursuance of an overseas elector's declaration.

(2) An elector's official poll card must be sent or delivered to his qualifying address, and a proxy's to his address as shown in the list of proxies.

(3) The official poll card issued to an elector must be in Form F in the Appendix.

(4) The official postal poll card issued to an elector must be in Form G in the Appendix.

(5) The official poll card issued to the proxy of an elector must be in Form H in the Appendix.

(6) The official postal poll card issued to the proxy of an elector must be in Form J in the Appendix.

(7) The official poll card must set out—

- (a) the name of the electoral region and electoral area;
- (b) the elector's name, qualifying address and number on the register;
- (c) the date and hours of the poll and the situation of the elector's polling station;
- (d) such other information as the local returning officer thinks appropriate,

and different information may be provided in pursuance of sub-paragraph (d) to different electors or descriptions of elector.

(8) In the case of an elector with an anonymous entry, instead of containing the matter mentioned in paragraph (7)(b), the polling card must contain such matter as is specified in Forms F to J in the Appendix.

Equipment of polling stations

32.—(1) The local returning officer must provide each presiding officer with such number of ballot boxes and ballot papers as in the local returning officer’s opinion may be necessary.

(2) Every ballot box must be so constructed that the ballot papers can be put in it, but cannot be withdrawn from it, without the box being unlocked or, where the box has no lock, the seal being broken.

(3) The local returning officer must provide each polling station with—

- (a) materials to enable voters to mark the ballot papers;
- (b) copies of the register of electors or such part of it as contains the entries relating to the electors allotted to the polling station;
- (c) the parts of any special lists prepared for the election corresponding to the register of electors or such part of it as provided under sub-paragraph (b);
- (d) Form C prepared under rule 23(3) (or where applicable, Form E prepared under rule 23(5)) which contains the numbers (but not the other unique identifying marks) corresponding to those on the ballot papers provided to the presiding officer of the polling station.

(4) The reference in paragraph (3)(b) to the copies of the registers of electors includes a reference to copies of any notices issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act in respect of alterations to the register.

(5) The local returning officer must also provide each polling station with —

- (a) at least one large version of the ballot paper which must be displayed inside the polling station for the assistance of voters who are partially sighted; and
- (b) a device of such description as is set out in paragraph (8) for enabling voters who are blind or partially sighted to vote without any need for assistance from the presiding officer or any companion (within the meaning of rule 43).

(6) A notice in Form K in the Appendix, giving directions for the guidance of voters in voting, must be printed in conspicuous characters and exhibited inside and outside every polling station.

[^{F81}(7) In every compartment of every polling station there must be exhibited the notice “Vote only once by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your choice. Put no other mark on the ballot paper, or your vote may not count.”]

(8) The device referred to in paragraph (5)(b) must—

- (a) allow a ballot paper to be inserted into and removed from or attached to and detached from the device, easily and without damage to the paper;
- (b) keep the ballot paper firmly in place during use;
- (c) provide suitable means for the voter to—
 - (i) identify the spaces on the ballot paper on which he may mark his vote;
 - (ii) identify the registered party or individual candidate to which each such space refers; and
 - (iii) mark his vote on the space he has chosen.

(9) Where proof has been given to the returning officer’s satisfaction of the death of a candidate on a registered party’s list or an individual candidate, he must request each local returning officer to provide each presiding officer with a sufficient number of notices to this effect for display in every compartment of every polling station.

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Textual Amendments

F81 Sch. 1 rule 32(7) substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), 22

Appointment of polling and counting agents

33.—(1) The election agent or sub-agent of a registered party standing nominated or the election agent or sub-agent of an individual candidate or any person authorised in writing by such an agent or candidate may, before commencement of the poll, appoint—

- (a) polling agents to attend at polling stations for the purpose of detecting personation; and
- (b) counting agents to attend at the verification of the ballot paper accounts and the counting of the votes.

(2) For each count one (but no more than one) counting agent of each registered party or individual candidate may be authorised by the terms of his appointment to require a re-count at that count.

(3) The local returning officer may limit the number of counting agents, so that—

- (a) the number must be the same in the case of each registered party standing nominated or individual candidate; and
- (b) the number allowed to a registered party standing nominated or individual candidate must not (except in special circumstances) be less than the number obtained by dividing the number of clerks employed on the verification of the ballot paper accounts or the counting of the votes by the number obtained by adding together the number of registered parties standing nominated and the number of individual candidates.

(4) Notice in writing of the appointment, stating the names and addresses of the persons appointed, must be given by the person by whom the appointment was made to the local returning officer and must be so given not later than the fifth day (computed like any period of time in the Timetable in rule 1) before the day of the poll.

(5) If an agent dies, or becomes incapable of acting, the person by whom the appointment was made may appoint another agent in his place, and must forthwith give to the local returning officer notice in writing of the name and address of the agent appointed.

(6) In the following provisions of these rules references to polling agents and counting agents must be taken as references to agents—

- (a) whose appointments have been duly made and notified; and
- (b) where the number of agents is restricted, who are within the permitted numbers.

(7) Any notice required to be given to a counting agent by the local returning officer may be delivered at, or sent by post to, the address stated in the notice of appointment.

(8) A candidate may himself do any act or thing which any polling or counting agent of his, if appointed, would have been authorised to do, or may assist his agent in doing any such act or thing.

(9) A candidate's election agent may do or assist in doing anything which a polling or counting agent of his or of his registered party, if appointed, would have been authorised to do; and anything required or authorised by these rules to be done in the presence of the polling or counting agents may be done in the presence of the candidate's election agent instead of the polling agent or counting agent.

(10) An election agent or sub-agent of a registered party standing nominated or the election agent or sub-agent of an individual candidate may do or assist in doing anything which a polling or counting agent of that party or candidate is authorised to do; and anything required or authorised by these rules to be done in the presence of the polling or counting agents may be done in the presence

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of an election agent or sub-agent of a registered party standing nominated or the election agent or sub-agent of an individual candidate instead of that party's or candidate's polling agent or counting agents.

(11) Where by these rules any act or thing is required or authorised to be done in the presence of the polling or counting agents, the non-attendance of any agent or agents at the time and place appointed for the purpose shall not, if the act or thing is otherwise duly done, invalidate the act or thing done.

Notification of requirement of secrecy

34.—^[F82(1)] The local returning officer must make such arrangements as he thinks fit to ensure that—

- (a) every person attending at a polling station (otherwise than for the purpose of voting or assisting a voter with disabilities to vote or as a constable on duty there or as a person under the age of 18 accompanying a voter) has been given a copy in writing of the provisions of paragraphs (1), (4) and (7) of regulation 29 of these Regulations; and
- (b) every person attending at the verification of the ballot paper accounts or the counting of the votes (other than any constable on duty at the counting) has been given a copy in writing of the provisions of paragraphs (2), (3) and (7) of regulation 29 of these Regulations.

^[F83(2)] In the application of this rule to an election in England or Wales, a reference to a constable includes a person designated as a community support officer under section 38 of the Police Reform Act 2002 (police powers for civilian staff).]

Textual Amendments

F82 Sch. 1 rule 34(1) renumbered (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), 23

F83 Sch. 1 rule 34(2) inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), 23

Return of postal ballot papers

35.—(1) Where—

- (a) a postal vote has been returned in respect of a person who is entered on the postal voters list, or
- (b) a proxy postal vote has been returned in respect of a proxy who is entered on the proxy postal voters list,

the local returning officer must mark the list as provided for in paragraph 60 of Schedule 2.

(2) Rule 51(2) does not apply for the purpose of determining whether, for the purpose of this rule, a postal vote or a proxy postal vote is returned.

CHAPTER 3

The Poll

Admission to polling station

36.—(1) The presiding officer must exclude all persons from the polling station except—

- (a) voters;
- (b) persons under the age of 18 who accompany voters to the polling station;

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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- (c) the candidates and the election agents of any registered party standing nominated and any individual candidate and their election agents;
 - (d) the polling agents appointed to attend at the polling station;
 - (e) the clerks appointed to attend at the polling station;
 - (f) persons who are entitled to attend by virtue of any of sections 6A to 6D of the 2000 Act;
 - (g) the constables on duty; and
 - (h) the companions of voters with disabilities.
- (2) The presiding officer must regulate the total number of voters and persons under the age of 18 who accompany them to be admitted to the polling station at the same time.
- (3) Not more than one polling agent may be admitted at the same time to a polling station on behalf of the same registered party standing nominated and any individual candidate.
- (4) A constable or person employed by a local returning officer must not be admitted to vote in person elsewhere than at his own polling station under rule 29(1), except on production and surrender of a certificate as to his employment which must be in Form L in the Appendix and signed by an officer of police of or above the rank of inspector or by the local returning officer, as the case may be.
- (5) Any certificate surrendered under this rule must forthwith be cancelled.
- [^{F84}(6) In the application of this rule to an election in England or Wales, a reference to a constable includes a person designated as a community support officer under section 38 of the Police Reform Act 2002 (police powers for civilian staff).]

Textual Amendments

F84 Sch. 1 rule 36(6) inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), 24

Keeping of order in station

- 37.—**(1) It is the presiding officer's duty to keep order at his polling station.
- (2) If a person misconducts himself in a polling station, or fails to obey the presiding officer's lawful orders, he may immediately, by the presiding officer's order, be removed from the polling station—
- (a) by a constable in or near that station; or
 - (b) by any other person authorised in writing by the local returning officer to remove him,
- and the person so removed must not, without the presiding officer's permission, again enter the polling station during the day.
- (3) Any person so removed may, if charged with the commission in the polling station of an offence, be dealt with as a person taken into custody by a constable for an offence without a warrant.
- (4) The powers conferred by this rule must not be exercised so as to prevent a voter who is otherwise entitled to vote at a polling station from having an opportunity of voting at that station.

Sealing of ballot boxes

- 38.** Immediately before the commencement of the poll, the presiding officer must—
- (a) show the ballot box empty to such persons, if any, as are present in the polling station, so that they may see that it is empty;
 - (b) then lock it up, if it has a lock;

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- (c) place his seal on it in such a manner so as to prevent it being opened without breaking the seal;
- (d) place it in his view for the receipt of ballot papers; and
- (e) keep it so sealed or, if it has a lock, both sealed and locked.

Questions to be put to voters

39.—(1) At the time of the application (but not afterwards), the questions specified in the second column of the following table—

- (a) may be put by the presiding officer to a person applying for a ballot paper who is mentioned in the first column; and
- (b) must be put if the letter “R” appears after the question and if the candidate or the election or polling agent of a registered party standing nominated, an individual candidate or the election agent or polling agent of an individual candidate requires the question to be put:

| <i>Q. No.</i> | <i>Person applying for ballot paper</i> | <i>Question</i> |
|---------------|---|--|
| 1 | A person applying as an elector | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) —Are you the person registered in the register of electors for this election as follows <i>read the whole entry from the register</i> [R]? (b) —Have you already voted, (here in the UK or in another Member State at this general election of MEPs) (here or elsewhere at this by-election) otherwise than as proxy for some other person? [R] |
| 2 | A person applying as proxy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) —Are you the person whose name appears as A.B. in the list of proxies for this election as entitled to vote as proxy on behalf of C.D.? [R] (b) —Have you already voted here or elsewhere at this (general election of MEPs) (by-election), as proxy on behalf of C.D.? [R] (c) —Are you the spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild of C.D.? [R] |
| 3 | A person applying as proxy for an elector with an anonymous entry (instead of the questions at entry 2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) —Are you the person entitled to vote as proxy on behalf of the elector whose number on the register of electors is (<i>read out the number</i>)? [R] (b) —Have you already voted here or elsewhere at this (general election of MEPs) (by-election), as proxy on behalf of the elector whose number on the register of electors is (<i>read out the number</i>)? [R] (c) —Are you the spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild of the person whose number on the register of electors is (<i>read out the number</i>)? [R] |

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| <i>Q. No.</i> | <i>Person applying for ballot paper</i> | <i>Question</i> |
|---------------|---|---|
| 4 | Person applying as proxy if the question at entry 2(c) or 3(c) is not answered in the affirmative | Have you at this (general election of MEPs) (by-election) already voted in this electoral region on behalf of two persons of whom you are not the spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild? [R] |
| 5 | Person applying as an elector in relation to whom there is an entry in the postal voters list | (a) —Did you apply to vote by post? (b) —Why have you not voted by post? |
| 6 | A person applying as proxy who is named in the proxy postal voters list | (a) —Did you apply to vote by post as proxy? (b) —Why have you not voted by post as proxy? |

(2) In the case of an elector in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, the references in the questions at entries 1(a) and 3(a), (b) and (c) to reading from the register must be taken as references to reading from the notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act.

(3) A ballot paper must not be delivered to any person required to answer any of the above questions unless he has answered each question satisfactorily.

(4) Except as authorised by this rule, no inquiry may be permitted as to the right of any person to vote.

Challenge of voter

40. A person must not be prevented from voting by reason only that—

- (a) a candidate or the election or polling agent of a registered party standing nominated or of an individual candidate or his election or polling agent declares that he has reasonable cause to believe that the person has committed an offence of personation, or
- (b) the person is arrested on the grounds that he is suspected of committing or of being about to commit such an offence.

Voting procedure

41.—(1) A ballot paper must be delivered to a voter who applies for one, and immediately before delivery—

- (a) the number and (unless paragraph (2) applies) name of the elector as stated in the copy of the register of electors must be called out;
- (b) the number of the elector must be marked on the list mentioned in rule 32(3)(d) beside the number of the ballot paper to be issued to him;
- (c) a mark must be placed in the copy of the register of electors against the number of the elector to note that a ballot paper has been received but without showing the particular ballot paper which has been received; and
- (d) in the case of a person applying for a ballot paper as proxy, a mark must also be placed against his name in the list of proxies.

(2) In the case of an elector who has an anonymous entry, he must show the presiding officer his official poll card and only his number must be called out in pursuance of paragraph (1)(a).

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(3) In the case of an elector who is added to the register in pursuance of a notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, paragraph (1) is modified as follows—

- (a) in sub-paragraph (a), for “copy of the register of electors” substitute “copy of the notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act”;
- (b) in sub-paragraph (c), for “in the copy of the register of electors” substitute “on the copy of the notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act”.

(4) The voter, on receiving the ballot paper, must forthwith proceed into one of the compartments in the polling station and there secretly mark his paper and fold it up so as to conceal his vote, and must then show to the presiding officer the back of the paper, so as to disclose the number and other unique identifying mark, and put the ballot paper so folded up into the ballot box in the presiding officer’s presence.

(5) The voter must vote without undue delay, and must leave the polling station as soon as he has put his ballot paper into the ballot box.

[^{F85}(6) A voter who at the close of the poll is in the polling station, or in a queue outside the polling station, for the purpose of voting is (despite the close of the poll) entitled to apply for a ballot paper under paragraph (1); and these rules apply in relation to such a voter accordingly.]

Textual Amendments

F85 Sch. 1 rule 41(6) inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), 25

Votes marked by presiding officer

42.—(1) The presiding officer, on the application of a voter—

- (a) who is incapacitated by blindness or other disability from voting in the manner directed by these rules; or
- (b) who declares orally that he is unable to read,

must, in the presence of the polling agents, cause the voter’s vote to be marked on a ballot paper in the manner directed by the voter, and the ballot paper to be placed in the ballot box.

(2) The name and number on the copy of the register of electors of every voter whose vote is marked in pursuance of this rule, and the reason why it is so marked, must be entered on a list (in these rules called “the list of votes marked by the presiding officer”).

(3) In the case of a person voting as proxy for an elector, the number to be entered together with the voter’s name must be the elector’s number.

(4) In the case of a person in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, paragraph (2) applies as if for “on the copy of the register of electors of every voter” there were substituted “relating to every voter in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act”.

Voting by persons with disabilities

43.—(1) If a voter makes an application to the presiding officer to be allowed, on the ground of—

- (a) blindness or other disability; or
- (b) inability to read,

to vote with the assistance of another person by whom he is accompanied (in these rules referred to as “the companion”), the presiding officer must require the voter to declare, orally or in writing,

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whether he is so incapacitated by his blindness or other disability, or by his inability to read, as to be unable to vote without assistance.

- (2) If the presiding officer—
- (a) is satisfied that the voter is so incapacitated, and
 - (b) is also satisfied by a written declaration made by the companion (in these rules referred to as “the declaration made by the companion of a voter with disabilities”) that the companion—
 - (i) is a qualified person within the meaning of these rules; and
 - (ii) has not previously assisted more than one voter with disabilities to vote at the election,

the presiding officer must grant the application, and then anything which is by these rules required to be done to or by that voter in connection with the giving of his vote may be done to, or with the assistance of, the companion.

(3) For the purposes of these rules, a person is a voter with disabilities if he has made such a declaration as is mentioned in paragraph (1), and a person is qualified to assist a voter with disabilities to vote if that person—

- (a) is a person who is entitled to vote as an elector at the election; or
- (b) is the father, mother, brother, sister, spouse, civil partner, son or daughter of the voter and has attained the age of 18 years.

(4) The name and number in the copy of the register of electors of every voter whose vote is given in accordance with this rule and the name and address of the companion must be entered on a list (in these rules referred to as “the list of voters with disabilities assisted by companions”).

(5) In the case of a person voting as proxy for an elector, the number to be entered together with the voter’s name must be the elector’s number.

(6) In the case of a person in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, paragraph (4) applies as if for “in copy of the register of electors of every voter” there were substituted “relating to every voter in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act”.

- (7) The declaration made by the companion—
- (a) must be in Form M in the Appendix; and
 - (b) must be made before the presiding officer at the time when the voter applies to vote with the assistance of a companion,

and must forthwith be given to the presiding officer who must attest and retain it.

- (8) No fee or other payment may be charged in respect of the declaration.

Tendered ballot papers: circumstances where available

- 44.—**(1) If a person, representing himself to be—
- (a) a particular elector named on the register and not named in the postal voters list; or
 - (b) a particular person named in the list of proxies as proxy for an elector and not entitled to vote by post as proxy,

applies for a ballot paper after another person has voted in person either as the elector or his proxy, the applicant must, on satisfactorily answering the questions permitted by rule 39(1) to be asked at the poll, be entitled, subject to the following provisions of this rule and rule 45, to mark a ballot paper (in these rules referred to as “a tendered ballot paper”) in the same manner as any other voter.

- (2) Paragraph (4) applies if—

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- (a) a person applies for a ballot paper representing himself to be a particular elector named on the register;
 - (b) he is also named in the postal voters list; and
 - (c) he claims that he did not make an application to vote by post at the election.
- (3) Paragraph (4) also applies if—
- (a) a person applies for a ballot paper representing himself to be a particular person named as a proxy in the list of proxies;
 - (b) he is also named in proxy postal voters list; and
 - (c) he claims that he did not make an application to vote by post as proxy.
- (4) The person must, on satisfactorily answering the questions permitted by rule 39(1) to be asked at the poll, be entitled, subject to the following provisions of this rule and rule 45, to mark a ballot paper (in these rules referred to as a “tendered ballot paper”) in the same manner as any other voter.
- (5) Paragraph (6) applies if before the close of the poll but after the last time at which a person may apply for a replacement postal ballot paper, a person represents himself to be—
- (a) a particular elector named on the register who is also named in the postal voters list; or
 - (b) a particular person named as a proxy in the list of proxies and who is also named in the proxy postal voters list,
- and claims that he has lost or has not received his postal ballot paper.
- (6) The person must, on satisfactorily answering the questions permitted by rule 39(1) to be asked at the poll, be entitled, subject to the provisions of rule 45, to mark a ballot paper (in these rules referred to as a “tendered ballot paper”) in the same manner as any other voter.

Tendered ballot papers: general provisions

- 45.**—(1) A tendered ballot paper must—
- (a) be of a colour differing from the other ballot papers;
 - (b) instead of being put into the ballot box, be given to the presiding officer and endorsed by him with the name of the voter and his number in the copy of the register of electors, and set aside in a separate packet.
- (2) The name of the voter and his number on the register of electors must be entered on a list (in these rules referred to as the “tendered votes list”).
- (3) In the case of a person voting as proxy for an elector, the number to be endorsed or entered together with the voter’s name must be the number of that elector.
- (4) In the case of an elector who has an anonymous entry, this rule and rule 44 apply subject to the following modifications—
- (a) in paragraphs (1)(b), (2) and (3) of this rule, the references to the name of the voter must be ignored;
 - (b) otherwise, a reference to a person named on a register or list must be construed as a reference to a person whose number appears on the register or list (as the case may be).
- (5) In the case of a person in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, this rule and rule 44 apply as if—
- (a) in rule 44(1)(a), (2)(a) and (5)(a), for “named on the register” there were substituted “in respect of whom a notice under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act has been issued”;
 - (b) in paragraph (1)(b) of this rule for “his number in the copy of the register of electors” there were substituted “the number relating to him on a notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act”; and

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- (c) in paragraph (2) of this rule, for “his number on the register of electors” there were substituted “the number relating to him on a notice issued under section 13(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act”.

Spoilt ballot papers

46. A voter who has inadvertently dealt with his ballot paper in such manner that it cannot conveniently be used as a ballot paper may, on delivering it to the presiding officer and proving to his satisfaction the fact of the inadvertence, obtain another ballot paper in the place of the ballot paper so delivered (in these rules referred to as “a spoilt ballot paper”), and the spoilt ballot paper must be immediately cancelled.

Alteration of registers

47.—(1) — The presiding officer must keep a list of persons to whom ballot papers are delivered in consequence of an alteration to the register made by virtue of section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act which takes effect on the day of the poll.

(2) For the purposes of section 13B(3C) of the 1983 Act, a representation may be made orally or in writing.

(3) Where a representation under section 13B(3C) is made in a polling station to a presiding officer, the presiding officer must as soon as practicable communicate that representation to the appropriate registration officer.

(4) Where a notice is issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act on the day of the poll, the registration officer must take reasonable steps to ensure that the notice comes to the attention of the appropriate presiding officer.

(5) Such steps may include communication to the presiding officer by telephone.

(6) Where a notice issued under section 13(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act is communicated to a presiding officer by telephone, the presiding officer must make a written record of that notice.

(7) For the purposes of section 13B(3A) and (3C) of the 1983 Act the prescribed time on the day of the poll is 9pm.

Adjournment of poll in case of riot

48.—(1) Where the proceedings at any polling station are interrupted or obstructed by riot or open violence, the presiding officer must adjourn the proceedings till the following day and must forthwith give notice to the local returning officer.

(2) Where the poll is adjourned at any polling station—

- (a) the hours of polling on the day to which it is adjourned must be the same as for the original day; and
- (b) references in these rules to the close of the poll must be construed accordingly.

Procedure on close of poll

49.—(1) As soon as practicable after the close of the poll, the presiding officer must, in the presence of the polling agents, make up into separate packets, sealed with his own seal and the seals of such polling agents as desire to affix their seals—

- (a) each ballot box in use at the station, sealed so as to prevent the introduction of additional ballot papers and unopened, but with the key, if any, attached;
- (b) the unused and spoilt ballot papers placed together;

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- (c) the tendered ballot papers;
- (d) the marked copies of the register of electors (including any marked copy notices issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act) and of the list of proxies;
- (e) the lists prepared under rule 23 including the parts which were marked with the numbers of electors in accordance with rule 41(1)(b) (together referred to in these rules as “the completed corresponding number lists”);
- (f) the certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll;
- (g) the tendered votes list, the list of voters with disabilities assisted by companions, the list of votes marked by the presiding officer, a statement of the number of voters whose votes are so marked by the presiding officer under the heads “disability” and “unable to read”, the list maintained under rule 47, and the declarations made by the companions of voters with disabilities;

and must deliver the packets or cause them to be delivered to the local returning officer to be taken charge of by him; but if the packets are not delivered by the presiding officer personally to the local returning officer, the arrangements for their delivery must be approved by the local returning officer.

(2) The marked copies of the register of electors and of the list of proxies mentioned in paragraph (1)(d) must be in one packet but must not be in the same packet as the completed corresponding number lists mentioned in paragraph (1)(e) or the certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll mentioned in paragraph (1)(f).

(3) The packets must be accompanied by a statement (in these rules referred to as “the ballot paper account”) made by the presiding officer showing the number of ballot papers entrusted to him, and accounting for them under the heads of ballot papers issued and not otherwise accounted for, unused, spoilt and tendered ballot papers.

CHAPTER 4

Counting of Votes

Attendance at verification of ballot paper accounts

50.—(1) The local returning officer must make arrangements for the verification of the ballot paper accounts in the presence of the counting agents as soon as practicable after the close of the poll, and must give to the returning officer and the counting agents notice in writing of the time and place at which he will begin such verification.

(2) No person other than—

- (a) the returning officer, the local returning officer and his clerks;
- (b) the candidates and one other person chosen by each of them;
- (c) the election agents;
- (d) the counting agents; and
- (e) persons who are entitled to attend by virtue of any of sections 6A to 6D of the 2000 Act;

may attend the verification of the ballot paper accounts, unless permitted by the local returning officer to attend.

(3) A person not entitled to attend the verification of ballot paper accounts must not be permitted to do so by the local returning officer unless he is satisfied that the efficient verification of the ballot paper accounts will not be impeded.

(4) The local returning officer must give the counting agents all such reasonable facilities for observing the proceedings, and all such information with respect to them, as he can give them consistently with the orderly conduct of the proceedings and the discharge of his duties in connection with them.

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Procedure at verification of ballot paper accounts

- 51.—(1) The local returning officer must in the presence of the counting agents—
- (a) open each ballot box and count and record the number of ballot papers in it and verify each ballot paper account; and
 - (b) count such of the postal ballot papers as have been duly returned and record the number counted.
- (2) A postal ballot paper must not be deemed to be duly returned unless—
- (a) [^{F86}subject to paragraph (2A),] it is returned in the manner prescribed in paragraph 55 of Schedule 2 so as to reach the local returning officer or any polling station in the local counting area in question before the close of the poll;
 - (b) the postal voting statement duly signed is also returned in that manner before that time;
 - (c) the postal voting statement also states the date of birth of the elector or proxy (as the case may be); and
 - (d) [^{F87}the local returning officer verifies the date of birth and the signature of the elector or proxy (as the case may be) under paragraph 63 of Schedule 2.]

[^{F88}(2A) A postal ballot paper or postal voting statement that reaches the local returning officer or a polling station on or after the close of poll is treated for the purposes of this rule as reaching that officer or polling station before the close of the poll if it is delivered by a person who, at the close of the poll, is in the polling station, or in a queue outside the polling station, for the purpose of returning it.]

- (3) The local returning officer must not count any tendered ballot paper.
- (4) The local returning officer, while counting and recording the number of ballot papers, must keep the ballot papers with their faces downwards.
- (5) The local returning officer must verify each ballot paper account by comparing it with the number of ballot papers recorded by him, the unused and spoilt ballot papers in his possession and the tendered votes list (opening and resealing the packets containing the unused and spoilt ballot papers and the tendered votes list) and must draw up a statement as to the result of the verification, which any counting agent may copy.
- (6) The local returning officer must determine the hours during which the procedure under this rule is proceeded with.
- (7) The local returning officer must take proper precautions for the security of the ballot papers and documents.
- (8) On completion of the procedure under this rule, the local returning officer must—
 - (a) place the ballot papers and other documents relating to the election in packets under his own seal and the seals of such counting agents as desire to affix their seals, unless he proceeds immediately to the counting of the votes under rule 53;
 - (b) otherwise take proper precautions for the security of the papers and documents; and
 - (c) inform the returning officer of the total number of ballot papers counted.

Textual Amendments

F86 Words in Sch. 1 rule 51(2)(a) inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **26(1)(a)**

F87 Sch. 1 rule 51(2)(d) substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **26(1)(b)**

F88 Sch. 1 rule 51(2A) inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **26(2)**

Attendance at counting of votes

52.—(1) The local returning officer must make arrangements for counting the votes in the presence of the counting agents—

- (a) in the case of a general election of MEPs, before or after the material time and in either case so that the requirements of rule 57(1) are satisfied as soon as practicable after the material time; and
- (b) in the case of a by-election, as soon as practicable after the close of the poll,

and must give to the counting agents and the returning officer notice in writing of the time and place at which he will begin to count the votes.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1), the “material time” means, in relation to a general election of MEPs, the close of the polling in the Member State whose electors are the last to vote in the election.

(3) No person other than—

- (a) the returning officer, the local returning officer and his clerks;
- (b) the candidates and one other person chosen by each of them;
- (c) the election agents;
- (d) the counting agents; and
- (e) persons who are entitled to attend by virtue of any of sections 6A to 6D of the 2000 Act,

may be present at the counting of the votes, unless permitted by the local returning officer to attend.

(4) A person not entitled to attend at the counting of the votes must not be permitted to do so by the local returning officer unless he—

- (a) is satisfied that the efficient counting of the votes will not be impeded; and
- (b) has either consulted the election agents or thought it impracticable to do so.

(5) The local returning officer must give the counting agents all such reasonable facilities for overseeing the proceedings, and all such information with respect to them, as he can give them consistently with the orderly conduct of the proceedings and the discharge of his duties in connection with them.

(6) In particular, where the votes are counted by sorting the ballot papers according to the registered party or individual candidate for whom the vote is given and then counting the number of ballot papers for each registered party or individual candidate, the counting agents must be allowed to satisfy themselves that the ballot papers are correctly sorted.

The count

53.—(1) The local returning officer must—

- (a) where the ballot papers and other documents have been placed in packets under rule 51(8), open the packets of ballot papers other than unused, spoilt and tendered ballot papers;
- (b) mix together the ballot papers with the exception of the unused, spoilt and tendered ballot papers.

(2) The local returning officer must not count any tendered ballot paper.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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(3) The local returning officer, while counting the votes, must keep the ballot papers with their faces upwards and take all proper precautions for preventing any person from seeing [^{F89}the numbers or other unique identifying marks printed on the back of the papers].

(4) The local returning officer must so far as practicable proceed continuously with counting the votes, allowing only time for refreshment, except that he may, in so far as he and the agents agree, exclude the hours between 7 p.m. and 9 a.m.

(5) For the purposes of paragraph (4), the agreement of an individual candidate or the election agent of a registered party shall be as effective as the agreement of the counting agents of that individual candidate or party.

(6) During the time so excluded the local returning officer must—

- (a) place the ballot papers and other documents relating to the election under his own seal and the seals of such of the counting agents as desire to affix their seals; and
- (b) otherwise take proper precautions for the security of the papers and documents.

(7) In the case of a general election of MEPs, if the counting of the votes has commenced before the material time (within the meaning of rule 52(1)), the local returning officer or his clerks must not disclose the number of votes given for each registered party and individual candidate to anyone other than the returning officer or his clerks until after that time and the counting of the votes must be deemed not to have been completed until after that time.

Textual Amendments

F89 Words in Sch. 1 rule 53(3) substituted (1.4.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) \(No.2\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/848\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(2)**

Re-count

54.—(1) If any of the persons in paragraph (2) are present when the counting of the votes is completed (or, if later, deemed to be completed under rule 53(7)) or any re-count of the votes is completed, they may require the local returning officer to have the votes re-counted or again re-counted but the local returning officer may refuse to do so if in his opinion the request is unreasonable.

(2) The persons mentioned in paragraph (1) are—

- (a) a candidate;
- (b) the election agent of a registered party;
- (c) the election agent of an individual candidate; and
- (d) a counting agent authorised under rule 33(2).

(3) No step may be taken on the completion of the counting (or, if later, its deemed completion) or any re-count of the votes until any persons referred to in paragraph (2) who are present at its completion (or, if later, its deemed completion) have been given a reasonable opportunity to exercise the right conferred by this rule.

Rejected ballot papers

55.—(1) Any ballot paper—

- (a) which does not bear the official mark; or
- (b) on which votes are given for more than one registered party or individual candidate or for both a registered party and an individual candidate; or

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(c) on which anything is written or marked by which the voter can be identified except the printed number and other unique identifying mark on the back; or
(d) which is unmarked or void for uncertainty,
shall, subject to the provisions of paragraphs (2) and (3), be void and not counted.

(2) A ballot paper on which the vote is marked—

- (a) elsewhere than in the proper place; or
- (b) otherwise than by means of a cross; or
- (c) by more than one mark,

must not for such reason be deemed to be void if an intention that the vote shall be for one or other of the registered parties or individual candidates clearly appears, and the way the paper is marked does not itself identify the voter and it is not shown that he can be identified by it.

(3) A ballot paper on which a vote is marked for a particular candidate on a party's list of candidates must, if otherwise valid, be treated as a vote for that party, whether or not there is also a vote for that party.

(4) The local returning officer must endorse the word "rejected" on any ballot paper which under this rule is not to be counted, and must add to the endorsement the words "rejection objected to" if any objection is made by a counting agent to his decision.

(5) The local returning officer must draw up a statement showing the number of ballot papers rejected under the several heads of—

- (a) want of official mark;
- (b) voting for more than one registered party or individual candidate;
- (c) writing or mark by which voter could be identified; and
- (d) unmarked or void for uncertainty.

Decisions on ballot papers

56. The decision of the local returning officer on any question arising in respect of a ballot paper is final, but may be subject to review on an election petition.

Notification of local result

57.—(1) As soon as practicable after the completion of the count (or, if later, its deemed completion under rule 53(7)) the local returning officer must draw up a statement showing the number of votes given for each registered party and individual candidate, excluding any votes given on ballot papers rejected under rule 55.

(2) The local returning officer must forthwith inform the returning officer of the contents of that statement.

(3) The local returning officer must give public notice of the statements prepared under this rule and under rule 55 as soon as practicable after the returning officer has agreed that he should do so.

Attendance at allocation of seats

58.—(1) The returning officer must make arrangements for making the calculation and allocation required by rule 59.

(2) No person other than—

- (a) the returning officer and his clerks;

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- (b) the election agent of each registered party standing at the election or a person acting on his behalf;
 - (c) each candidate on the list of such a party and one other person chosen by each of them;
 - (d) each individual candidate and one person chosen by each of them;
 - (e) the election agent of each individual candidate or a person acting on his behalf;
 - (f) the nominating officer of each registered party which is contesting the election to the European Parliament in the electoral region;
 - (g) persons who are entitled to attend by virtue of any of sections 6A to 6D of the 2000 Act, may be present at that calculation and allocation unless permitted by the returning officer to attend.
- (3) The returning officer must give to—
- (a) the election agent of each registered party standing at the election; and
 - (b) each individual candidate,

notice in writing of the place at which he will conduct the proceedings under rule 59 and of the time at which he will begin those proceedings.

Allocation of seats

59.—(1) The returning officer, as soon as practicable after he has been informed of the contents of the statements prepared under rule 57(1) by local returning officers in his region must calculate the total number of votes given to each registered party and individual candidate in all of the local counting areas within the electoral region, as shown in those statements.

(2) Subject to paragraph (4)^{F90}, rule 60 and rule 60A], the returning officer must then allocate the seats in accordance with subsections (5) to (9) of section 2 of the 2002 Act.

(3) The returning officer must give the persons entitled to be present reasonable facilities for satisfying themselves that the results of the calculation and allocation which he is required to make are accurate; and in particular, a person entitled to be present may require the returning officer to make a calculation or allocation again but the returning officer may refuse to do so if in his opinion the request is unreasonable.

(4) At a by-election at which there is only one vacancy, subsections (5) to (9) of section 2 of the 2002 Act are to have effect as though they provided that the party or individual candidate to whom the majority of the votes have been given must be declared to be elected.

Textual Amendments

F90 Words in Sch. 1 rule 59(2) substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), 27

Equality of seats

60.—(1) Where in the case of the last seat to be allocated, two or more registered parties or individual candidates have an equal number of votes and that number is greater than the number of votes of any other party or candidate, one vote must be added to the votes of each party or individual candidate having such an equal number and the rules in subsections (5) to (9) of section 2 of the 2002 Act must be applied again.

(2) Where, after the application of the procedure set out in paragraph (1), two or more parties or individual candidates still have an equal number of votes and that number is greater than the number of votes of any other party or candidate, the returning officer must forthwith decide between the

parties and individual candidates having such an equal number by lot, and allocate the seat to the party or candidate on whom the lot falls.

(3) Where the lot falls on a party, the returning officer must comply with section 2(8) of the 2002 Act.

[^{F91}Disqualification in home Member State

60A.—(1) This rule applies where a candidate is a relevant citizen of the Union and, after the publication of the statement of parties and individual candidates standing nominated, the returning officer receives, under rule 9A(4), information that the candidate has been deprived of the right to stand as a candidate through a relevant disqualifying decision in the Member State of which the candidate is a national.

(2) Any votes given to the candidate are to be disregarded for the purpose of applying—

- (a) rules 59 and 60, and
- (b) subsections (5) to (9) of section 2 to the 2002 Act (voting system in Great Britain and Gibraltar).

(3) For the purpose of subsections (7) and (8) of section 2 of the 2002 Act, the candidate is to be treated as being omitted from a party's list of candidates.]

Textual Amendments

F91 Sch. 1 rule 60A inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **28**

PART 4

FINAL PROCEEDINGS IN CONTESTED AND UNCONTESTED ELECTIONS

Declaration of result

61.—(1) In a contested election, when the result of the allocation and filling of seats has been ascertained, the returning officer must—

- (a) forthwith declare to be elected those candidates on a registered party's list by whom seats are filled and those individual candidates to whom seats are allocated under [^{F92}rules 59, 60 and 60A];
- (b) prepare a statement setting out—
 - (i) the total number of valid votes (as notified to him) given to each registered party and individual candidate;
 - (ii) the number of votes which such a party or candidate had, after the application of subsections (5) to (9) of section 2 of the 2002 Act, at any stage when a seat was allocated to that party or candidate;
 - (iii) the names in full and home address in full of each candidate who fills a seat or to whom a seat has been allocated; and
 - (iv) whether, in the case of a party, there are remaining candidates on that party's list who have not been declared to be elected; and
 - (v) give public notice of that statement and send a copy to the Secretary of State.

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(2) In the case of an uncontested election, the statement of parties and individual candidates nominated, in addition to showing the registered parties, the candidates on the list of those parties and individual candidates standing nominated, must also declare to be elected any candidate so shown; and the returning officer must send a copy of that statement and declaration to the Secretary of State.

(3) The returning officer for the combined region must also send a copy of the statement in paragraphs (1)(b) and (2) to the Chief Secretary of the Government of Gibraltar.

Textual Amendments

F92 Words in Sch. 1 rule 61(1)(a) substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **29**

Return or forfeiture of candidate's deposit

62.—(1) The deposit made under rule 10 of these rules must either be returned to the person making it or his personal representatives or be forfeited to Her Majesty.

(2) Except in the cases mentioned in paragraphs (4) and (5), the deposit must be returned not later than the next day after that on which the result of the election is declared.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (2)—

- (a) a day must be disregarded if it would be disregarded under rule 2(1) in computing any period of time for the purposes of the Timetable in rule 1 for an election of the kind in question; and
- (b) the deposit must be treated as being returned on a day if a cheque for the amount of the deposit is posted on that day.

(4) Where—

- (a) a registered party or an individual candidate is not shown as standing nominated in the statement of parties and individual candidates nominated, or
- (b) in the case of an individual candidate, the candidate has died,

the deposit must be returned as soon as practicable after the publication of that statement or the time when the returning officer is satisfied of the candidate's death, as the case may be.

(5) Subject to paragraph (4), the deposit must be forfeited if a poll is taken and, after the total number of valid votes for each registered party and individual candidate has been ascertained under rule 59(1), the party or candidate is found not to have polled more than one-fortieth of the total number of votes polled by all the parties and candidates.

PART 5

DISPOSAL OF DOCUMENTS

Sealing up of ballot papers

63.—(1) On the completion of the counting at a contested election (or, if later, its deemed completion under rule 53(7)) the local returning officer must seal up in separate packets the counted and rejected ballot papers.

(2) The local returning officer must not open the sealed packets of—

- (a) tendered ballot papers;
- (b) the completed corresponding number lists;

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- (c) certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll; or
- (d) marked copies of the register of electors (including any marked copy notices issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act) and lists of proxies.

Delivery and retention of documents

64.—(1) The local returning officer must then forward to the relevant registration officer the following documents—

- (a) the packets of ballot papers in his possession;
- (b) the ballot paper accounts and the statements of rejected ballot papers and of the result of the verification of the ballot paper accounts;
- (c) the tendered votes lists, the lists of voters with disabilities assisted by companions, the lists of votes marked by the presiding officer and the related statements, the lists maintained under rule 47, and the declarations made by the companions of voters with disabilities;
- (d) the packets of the completed corresponding number lists;
- (e) the packets of certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll;
- (f) the packets containing marked copies of registers (including any marked copy notices issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act) and of the postal voters list, of the lists of proxies and of the proxy postal voters list,

endorsing on each packet a description of its contents.

(2) In the case of the electoral region of Scotland, paragraph (1) is to apply as if for the words “forward to the relevant registration officer” there were substituted “retain on behalf of the returning officer”, and references to documents in the custody or possession of the relevant registration officer shall include documents held by the local returning officer on his behalf.

(3) In the case of an election held in Gibraltar, paragraph (1) is to apply as if for the words “forward to the relevant registration officer” there were substituted “retain on behalf of the local returning officer in his capacity as registration officer for the purposes of European Parliamentary elections”, and references to documents in the custody or possession of the relevant registration officer shall include documents held by the local returning officer on his behalf.

Orders for production of documents

65.—(1) An order—

- (a) for the inspection or production of any rejected ballot papers in the custody of the relevant registration officer; or
- (b) for the opening of a sealed packet of completed corresponding number lists and certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll or for the inspection of any counted ballot papers in his custody,

may be made, if the court is satisfied by evidence on oath that the order is required for the purpose of instituting or maintaining a prosecution for an offence in relation to ballot papers, or for the purpose of a European Parliamentary election petition, by the High Court or a county court, or, in Gibraltar, the Supreme Court.

(2) An order for the opening of a sealed packet of completed corresponding number lists and certificates or for the inspection of any counted ballot papers in the custody of the relevant registration officer may be made by an election court.

(3) Subject to paragraph (4), an order under this rule may be made subject to such conditions as to—

- (a) persons;

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- (b) time;
- (c) place and mode of inspection;
- (d) production or opening,

as the court making the order thinks expedient.

(4) In making and carrying into effect an order under paragraph (3) for the opening of a packet of completed corresponding number lists or of certificates or for the inspection of counted ballot papers, care must be taken that the way in which the vote of any particular elector has been given must not be disclosed until it has been proved—

- (a) that his vote was given; and
- (b) that the vote has been declared by a competent court to be invalid.

(5) An appeal lies to the High Court from any order of a county court under this rule, or in Gibraltar, an appeal lies to the Court of Appeal from any order of the Supreme Court under this rule.

(6) Any power given under this rule to the High Court or a county court or, in Gibraltar, the Supreme Court, may be exercised by any judge of the court otherwise than in open court.

(7) Where an order is made for the production by the relevant registration officer of any document in his possession relating to any specified election—

- (a) the production by him or his agent of the document ordered in such manner as may be directed by that order shall be conclusive evidence that the document relates to the specified election; and
- (b) any endorsement on any packet of ballot papers so produced shall be prima facie evidence that the ballot papers are what they are stated to be by the endorsement.

(8) The production from proper custody of—

- (a) a ballot paper purporting to have been used at any election; and
- (b) a completed corresponding number list with a number marked in writing,

shall be prima facie evidence that the elector whose vote was given by that ballot paper was the person whose entry in the register of electors or on a notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act at the time of the election contained the same number as the number written as mentioned in sub-paragraph (b) of this paragraph.

(9) Save as provided by this rule, no person shall be allowed to inspect any rejected or counted ballot papers in the possession of the relevant registration officer or open any sealed packets of completed corresponding number lists and certificates.

Retention of documents by relevant registration officer

66.—(1) The relevant registration officer must retain or cause to be retained for one year all documents relating to an election forwarded to him in pursuance of these rules by a local returning officer, and then, unless otherwise directed by an order of the High Court, the Crown Court, a magistrates' court, an election court or, in Gibraltar, the Supreme Court or Court of Appeal, must cause them to be destroyed.

(2) The documents mentioned in paragraph (1) except—

- (a) ballot papers;
- (b) the completed corresponding number lists;
- (c) certificates as to the employment on duty on the day of the poll,

shall be open to public inspection.

(3) In the application of this rule to Scotland, paragraph (1) shall have effect as if for “the High Court, the Crown Court, a magistrates’ court, an election court” there were substituted “the Court of Session, an election court”.

PART 6

ACCESS TO MARKED REGISTERS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS OPEN TO PUBLIC INSPECTION AFTER AN ELECTION

Interpretation and general

67.—(1) In this Part —

“enactment” includes—

- (a) any provision of an Act, including any provision of an Act of the Gibraltar Parliament;
- (b) any provision of, or of any instrument made under, an Act of the Scottish Parliament,
- (c) any provision of, or of any instrument made under, Northern Ireland legislation, and
- (d) any provision of subordinate legislation (within the meaning of the Interpretation Act 1978);

“the full register” means the version of the register published under section 13(1) or (3) of the 1983 Act or, as the case may be, paragraph 11(1) or (3) of Schedule 1 to the 2004 Act;

“marked register or lists” means any part of the marked copies of the full register, list of proxies, postal voters list and proxy postal voters list forwarded to the relevant registration officer under rule 64;

“processor” means any person who provides a service which consists of putting information into data form or processing information in data form and any reference to a processor includes a reference to his employees; and

“research purposes” includes statistical or historical purposes.

(2) The processor of the register may not disclose the full register or the information contained in it except to the person who supplied the information to the processor or an employee of that person or a person who is entitled to obtain a copy of the full register under the 2001 Regulations, under the 2001 (Scotland) Regulations, or, in Gibraltar, under the 2004 Act, or any employee of such a person.

(3) In paragraph (2), any reference to an employee of any person who has access to a copy of the full register shall be deemed to include a person working or providing services for the purposes of that person or employed by or on behalf of, or working for, any person who is so working or who is supplying such a service.

(4) For the purposes of this Part any period of days shall be calculated in accordance with rule 2(1).

(5) Subject to any direction by the Secretary of State under section 52(1) of the 1983 Act or paragraph 21 of Schedule 4, any duty on a relevant registration officer to supply records or lists or make them available for inspection under this Part imposes only a duty to provide that information in the form in which he holds it.

Supply of marked registers and lists after a European Parliamentary election

68.—(1) Any person entitled to be supplied in accordance with—

- (a) regulation 100, 103, 105, 106, 108, 109 or 113 of the 2001 Regulations; or
- (b) regulation 99, 102, 104, 105, 107, 108 or 112 of the 2001 (Scotland) Regulations; or

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(c) paragraph 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 or 57 of Schedule 1 to the 2004 Act, with copies of the full register at a particular European Parliamentary election is also a person entitled, subject to this rule and rule 70, to request that a relevant registration officer supply copies of the relevant part (within the meaning of those regulations) of the marked register or lists he is required to keep.

(2) A person whose entitlement to request copies of the marked register or lists under paragraph (1) arises from being in a category of persons to whom—

- (a) regulation 103, 105, 106, or 108 of the 2001 Regulations; or
- (b) regulation 102, 104, 105 or 107 of the 2001 (Scotland) Regulations; or
- (c) paragraph 52, 53, 54 or 56 of Schedule 1 to the 2004 Act,

applies before a particular European Parliamentary election, shall be entitled to request those documents regardless of whether, after that election, he remains in a category of persons which is entitled under those provisions.

(3) A request under paragraph (1) must be made in writing and must—

- (a) specify which of the marked register or lists (or the relevant part of the register or lists) are requested;
- (b) state whether a printed copy of the records or lists or a copy in data form is requested; and
- (c) state the purposes for which the marked register or lists shall be used and why the supply or purchase of a copy of the full register or unmarked lists would not be sufficient to achieve those purposes.

(4) The relevant registration officer must supply a copy of the relevant part of the marked register or lists where a request is duly made, and—

- (a) he is satisfied that the requestor needs to see the marks on the marked register or lists in order to achieve the purpose for which it is requested; and
- (b) he has received payment of a fee calculated in accordance with rule 71.

(5) If the relevant registration officer is not satisfied in accordance with paragraph (4)(a) he may treat the request for a marked register or list as a request for —

- (a) information in unmarked lists under paragraph 32 of Schedule 2; or
- (b) the published copy of the full register in accordance with regulation 102 of the 2001 Regulations, or
- (c) the published copy of the full register in accordance with regulation 101 of the 2001 (Scotland) Regulations,

or both (a) and (b) or, as the case may be, (a) and (c), and must provide the requestor with information concerning the availability of the unmarked lists, full register or both as the case may be.

(6) A person who obtains a copy of any part of a marked register or list under this rule and whose entitlement arose under paragraph (1)(a) may use it only for the permitted purposes specified in rule 70(2), and any conditions—

- (a) specified in that rule, or
- (b) which would apply to the use of the full register under whichever of regulations 100, 103, 105, 106, 108, 109 and 113 of the 2001 Regulations entitled that person to obtain that document,

shall apply to such use.

(7) A person who obtains a copy of any part of a marked register or list under this rule and whose entitlement arose under paragraph (1)(b) may only use it for the permitted purposes specified in rule 70(2), and any conditions—

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- (a) specified in that rule; or
- (b) which would apply to the use of the full register under whichever of regulations 99, 102, 104, 105, 107, 108 and 112 of the 2001 (Scotland) Regulations entitled that person to obtain that document,

shall apply to such use.

(8) A person who obtains a copy of any part of a marked register or list under this rule and whose entitlement arose under paragraph (1)(c) may use it only for the permitted purposes specified in rule 70(2), and any conditions—

- (a) specified in that rule; or
- (b) which would apply to the use of the full register under whichever of paragraphs 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 or 57 of Schedule 1 to the 2004 Act entitled that person to obtain that document,

shall apply to such use.

(9) The conditions referred to in paragraph (6), or as the case may be paragraphs (7) or (8), apply to a person to whom a copy of marked register or list, or any information contained in them (that is not contained in the edited register) has been supplied or disclosed under these rules as they apply to a person to whom those regulations apply.

(10) Any person who has obtained or is entitled to obtain a copy of the marked register or lists under this rule may—

- (a) supply a copy of the marked register or lists to a processor for the purpose of processing the information contained therein,
- (b) procure that a processor processes and supplies to them any copy of the information in the marked register or lists which the processor has obtained under this rule,

for use in respect of the purposes for which that person is entitled to obtain such copy or information (as the case may be).

Inspection of documents open to public inspection

69.—(1) Any person is entitled to request that the relevant registration officer make available for inspection a copy of any of the following documents (referred to in this rule and rule 70 as the “documents open to public inspection”)—

- (a) the marked register or lists;
- (b) such other documents relating to an election as the relevant registration officer is required by or under any enactment to retain for any period except—
 - (i) ballot papers;
 - (ii) completed corresponding number lists; ^{F93}...
 - (iii) certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the election^{F94}; and
 - (v) any list produced under paragraph 67(4) of Schedule 2 (reasons for rejection of postal voting statements).]

(2) A request under paragraph (1) must be made in writing and must specify—

- (a) which documents are requested;
- (b) the purposes for which the information in any document will be used;
- (c) where the request is to inspect the marked register or lists, any reason why inspecting the full register or unmarked lists would not be sufficient to achieve that purpose;
- (d) who will inspect the documents;
- (e) the date on which they wish to inspect the documents; and

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(f) whether they would prefer to inspect the documents in printed or data form.

(3) Subject to paragraph (4), the relevant registration officer must make the documents open to public inspection available for inspection under supervision not later than 10 days after the date of receipt of a request that has been duly made.

(4) Where a request has been made to inspect copies of the marked register or lists under paragraph (1) and the relevant registration officer is not satisfied that the purposes of the requestor cannot be met by inspection of the full register, he must inform the requestor –

- (a) of his decision under this paragraph; and
- (b) provide the requestor with information concerning the availability of the published full register for inspection in accordance with regulation 43 of the 2001 Regulations, or in Scotland, regulation 43 of the 2001 (Scotland) Regulations or, in Gibraltar, paragraph 41 of Schedule 1 to the 2004 Act.

(5) A person who obtains a copy of or information in any document open to public inspection under this rule may use it only for the permitted purposes specified in rule 70, and any conditions—

- (a) specified in that rule;
- (b) specified in paragraph (7); or
- (c) which would apply to the use of the full register under regulation 109 of the 2001 Regulations, or as the case may be, regulation 108 of the 2001 (Scotland) Regulations, or paragraph 57 of Schedule 1 to the 2004 Act, where such a person has obtained a copy of that document under paragraph (8),

shall apply to such use.

(6) Where inspection takes place by providing the records or lists on a computer screen or otherwise in data form, the relevant registration officer must ensure the manner in, and the equipment on which, that copy is provided do not permit any person consulting that copy to—

- (a) search it by electronic means by reference to the name of any person; or
- (b) copy or transmit any part of that copy by electronic or any other means.

(7) Subject to paragraph (8), a person who inspects a copy of a document open to public inspection, whether in printed copy or in data form, may not—

- (a) make copies of any part of it; or
- (b) record any particulars in it,

except that a person who inspects a copy of the marked register or lists may make hand written notes.

(8) The relevant registration officer must, on request, supply free of charge copies of any documents open to public inspection to a person who has inspected those documents and who is entitled to be supplied with a copy of the marked register or lists by virtue of being a person to whom regulation 109 of the 2001 Regulations, or, in Scotland, regulation 108 of the 2001 (Scotland) Regulations, or, in Gibraltar, paragraph 57 of Schedule 1 to the 2004 Act, applies.

Textual Amendments

F93 Word in Sch. 1 rule 69(1)(b)(ii) omitted (1.1.2014) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **30(a)**

F94 Sch. 1 rule 69(1)(b)(v) and preceding word inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **30(b)**

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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Conditions on the use, supply and disclosure of documents open to public inspection

70.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) the restrictions on the supply, disclosure and use of information in regulations 94 and 96 of the 2001 Regulations, or, in Scotland, regulations 94 and 95 of the 2001 (Scotland) Regulations, or, in Gibraltar, paragraphs 46 and 47 of Schedule 1 to the 2004 Act, shall apply to the documents open to public inspection as they apply to the full register.

(2) Where a person—

(a) obtains copies of information in the marked register or lists in accordance with rule 68(1);
or

(b) a person inspects information in accordance with rule 69(1),

the permitted purposes means either research purposes or electoral purposes.

(3) Where a copy of any information was supplied in the circumstances to which rule 69(8) applies, the permitted purposes means the purposes set out in regulation 109(4) of the 2001 Regulations, or, in Scotland, regulation 108(4) of the 2001 (Scotland) Regulations, or, in Gibraltar, paragraph 57(2) of Schedule 1 to the 2004 Act.

Fees relating to the marked registers and lists

71.—(1) The fee to be paid in accordance with rule 68(4)(b) by a person making a request for a copy of the whole or of any part of the marked register or lists is set out in paragraph (2).

(2) The fee shall be the sum of £10, plus for a copy—

(a) in printed form, £2 for each 1,000 entries (or remaining part of 1,000 entries) covered by the request; and

(b) in data form, £1 for each 1,000 entries (or remaining part of 1,000 entries) covered by the request.

(3) For the purposes of this rule, a request for a copy of the whole or the same part of the marked register or lists in both a printed and data form may be treated as two separate requests.

Access to marked registers and other election documents: contravention of conditions

72.—(1) A person is guilty of an offence—

(a) if he fails to comply with any of the conditions imposed under rule 70; or

(b) he is an appropriate supervisor of a person (P) who fails to comply with any such condition and he failed to take appropriate steps.

(2) P is not guilty of an offence under paragraph (1) if—

(a) he has an appropriate supervisor, and

(b) he has complied with the requirements imposed on him by his appropriate supervisor.

(3) A person who is not P or an appropriate supervisor is not guilty of an offence under paragraph (1) if he takes all reasonable steps to ensure that he complies with the conditions.

(4) In paragraphs (1)(b) and (2)—

(a) an appropriate supervisor is a person who is a director of a company concerned in the management of an organisation in which P is employed or under whose direction or control P is;

(b) appropriate steps are such steps as it was reasonable for the appropriate supervisor to take to secure the operation of procedures designed to prevent, so far as reasonably practicable, the occurrence of failure to comply with the conditions.

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(5) A person guilty of an offence as mentioned in paragraph (1) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

PART 7

APPENDIX OF FORMS

Note:—The forms contained in this Appendix may be adapted so far as circumstances require.

[^{F95}Form A: Form of Ballot Paper

Directions as to printing the ballot paper]

Form B: Corresponding Number List for issue of postal ballot papers at a European Parliamentary election

Form C: Corresponding Number List for use in polling station at a European Parliamentary election

Form D: Corresponding Number List for issue of postal ballot papers to be used when a European Parliamentary election is combined with another election or referendum

Form E: Corresponding Number List for use in polling station when a European Parliamentary election is combined with another election or referendum

Form F: Official Poll Card issued to an elector voting at a polling station

Form G: Official Poll Card issued to a postal elector

Form H: Official Poll Card issued to a proxy voting at a polling station

Form J: Official Poll Card issued to a postal proxy

Form K: Form of directions for the guidance of voters in voting

Form L: Certificate of Employment

Form M: Form of declaration to be made by the companion of a voter with disabilities

Textual Amendments

F95 Words in Sch. 1 substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **31(1)**

[^{F96}Form A: Form of Ballot Paper

Textual Amendments


F96 Sch. 1 Appendix of Forms: Forms A, F, G, H, J, K, L, M substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), 31(2), **Sch. 1**

Front of ballot paper

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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**Election of Members of the European Parliament for the
[insert name of Region, e.g. 'North-West Region']**

Vote **only once** by putting a cross  in the box next to your choice

Conservative Party

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Arthur John Briggs | 6. Christopher Malcolm Browne |
| 2. Derek Trentham | 7. Flora Mabel Strand |
| 3. Brahm Malik | 8. George Gerald Markham |
| 4. Nigel Hackett | 9. Anita Patel |
| 5. Edith Curling | 10. Brian Jerome Edwards |



Green Party

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. James Earl Barton | 6. Benjamin West |
| 2. Olivia Latham | 7. Denis Verity |
| 3. Francis Pine | 8. Devone La Fayette |
| 4. Roger Donald Stock | 9. Gillian Bridgenorth |
| 5. Jane Deborah Powell | 10. Paul Leslie Hyde |



Labour Party

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Hugh John Turnbull | 6. Keith Upshott |
| 2. Diane Valerie Tate | 7. Gareth Tudor-Monmouth |
| 3. Edward Hampstead | 8. Gemma Sparrowleap |
| 4. Geoff Maine | 9. Reginald Shoeness |
| 5. Hedley Stamp | 10. Roy Cammell |



Liberal Democrat Party

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Andrew Palmer | 6. Kathleen O'Connell |
| 2. Russell Chand Valley | 7. Brinsley Stewart Croft |
| 3. Lucy Jennifer Brindle | 8. Francesca Seaton |
| 4. Geraldine Letts | 9. Jim Proudfoot |
| 5. Sunita Kendall-Singh | 10. Ian David Wanstead |



United Kingdom Independence Party

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. William Gibbs | 6. Samuel Brickwell |
| 2. Janet Wheelwright | 7. Kenneth Sturgeon |
| 3. Donald Geoffrey Beach | 8. Joyce Brenda Fennell |
| 4. Gordon Arthur Bumett | 9. Carlos Cavelleros |
| 5. Victor Hedges | 10. Philippa Stewart |



Barker, Greenwood Hulme

Independent

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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Nightingale, Elizabeth Penelope

Independent



Singh, Manmeet

Independent



Back of ballot paper

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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Number

[Other unique identifying mark]

Election for the (..... local counting area) of the European Electoral Region of

.....

on.....20 ()

^{F97}Directions as to printing the ballot paper

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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Textual Amendments

- F97** Sch. 1 Appendix of Forms: Directions as to printing the ballot paper inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), 31(3), **Sch. 2**

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

Changes to legislation: The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 June 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)

Directions as to printing the ballot paper

1. Nothing is to be printed on the ballot paper except in accordance with these directions.
2. So far as is practicable, the arrangements set out in paragraphs 3 to 12 must be observed in the printing of the ballot paper.
3. No word may be printed on the face except:
 - (a) the heading “Election of Members of the European Parliament for the Region”;
 - (b) within that heading, the name of the electoral region;
 - (c) the direction “Vote only once by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your choice”;
 - (d) the names followed by the descriptions, if any, of registered political parties, and the names of candidates on a party list as shown in the nomination papers;
 - (e) the names, followed by the descriptions, if any, of individual candidates;
 - (f) a number for each candidate on a party list; and
 - (g) the words forming part of the emblems mentioned at paragraph 10 below.
4. A box must be printed around:
 - (a) the heading and name referred to in paragraph 3(a) and (b); and
 - (b) the direction referred to in paragraph 3(c);and the direction referred to in paragraph 3(c) must be separated from the heading and name referred to in paragraphs 3(a) and (b) by a horizontal rule extending across the box.
5. No rule may be printed on the face except:
 - (a) as part of the box referred to in paragraph 4;
 - (b) the horizontal rule referred to in that paragraph;
 - (c) a horizontal rule above the entry for the first registered political party or individual candidate;
 - (d) horizontal rules separating the entries for registered political parties and individual candidates from one another;
 - (e) a horizontal rule below the entry for the last registered political party or individual candidate; and
 - (f) as part of the boxes on the right-hand side of the ballot paper where the vote is to be marked.
6. The horizontal rules referred to in paragraph 5(c), (d) and (e) must be equally spaced and the space between each of them must be a minimum of 3.5 centimetres.
7. The boxes referred to in paragraph 5(f) must not touch any horizontal rule and each one must be equidistant between the horizontal rule above it and the horizontal rule below it.
8. Each of the horizontal rules referred to in paragraph 5(c) and (d) must extend from a point level with the text on the left-hand side of the page to a point directly above the centre of the box below that rule.
9. The horizontal rule referred to in paragraph 5(e) must:
 - (a) extend from a point level with the text on the left-hand side of the page to a point directly below the right-hand edge of the box above that rule; and
 - (b) be thicker than the other horizontal rules.

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10. Where a registered emblem is to be printed against a party's name—
 - (a) it must be printed adjacent and to the right of the registered party's particulars; and
 - (b) its size as printed must not exceed 2 centimetres square.

11. All the words on the front of the ballot paper must appear in the same large type except that—
 - (a) the heading and name referred to in paragraph 3(a) and (b) must appear in very large and bold type;
 - (b) in the direction referred to in paragraph 3(c), the words "only once" must appear in very large and bold type;
 - (c) the remainder of that direction must appear in very large type;
 - (d) the names of registered political parties must appear in bold type; and
 - (e) the names of individual candidates must appear in bold type.

12. The number and other unique identifying mark must be printed close to each other on the back of the ballot paper.

Form B

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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Form C

Rule 23(3)

| Form C | |
|--|----------------|
| <p>Corresponding Number List (to be used in polling stations at a European parliamentary election taken alone)</p> | |
| Local Counting Area: _____ Date of Poll: Polling Station: _____ Sheet No.: _____ | |
| Ballot Paper Number | Elector Number |
| | |
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Form D

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

Changes to legislation: The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 June 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)

Form E

Rule 23(5)

| Form E | |
|---|-----------------------|
| <p>Corresponding Number List (to be used in polling stations when a European parliamentary election is combined with another election/referendum)</p> <p>Local Counting Area:</p> <p>Date of Poll:</p> <p>Polling Station:</p> <p>Sheet No.:</p> | |
| Ballot Paper Number <i>Identify the number issued for each election/referendum</i> | Elector Number |
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^{F96}Form F: Official poll card issued to an elector voting at a polling station
Front of card

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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| |
|---|
| Poll card |
| Election of Members of the European Parliament for the [insert name of Region, e.g. 'North-West Region'] |
| Date of election [Day] [Date] [Name of the Month] [Year] |

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Voting information | |
| Polling day | |
| Voting hours | |
| Your polling station will be | |

| |
|---|
| <p>Your details:</p> <p>* [Elector's name and qualifying address details here]</p> <p>* Local Returning Officer to omit where poll card sent to an anonymous elector. Poll card to an anonymous elector must be delivered in a sealed envelope</p> <p>Number on register:</p> |
|---|

** [You do not need to take this card with you in order to vote.]

** [You must have this card with you. You cannot vote without it.]

** If anonymous elector omit the words in the first set of brackets, if not omit the words in the second set of brackets.

[Insert helpline and other details including website].

Please turn over

Back of card

| |
|---|
| <p>This space for map or other information such as helpline and website details</p> |
|---|

It is an offence to:

- vote more than once at this election, unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person
- vote as a proxy at this election for more than two people, unless you are their spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild
- vote as a proxy for someone if you know that by law they are not allowed to vote

| |
|---|
| <p>📞 If you need any help or to find out if your polling station is accessible, please contact us. [Local Returning Officer to add contact details including website if appropriate]</p> |
|---|

If undelivered return to:
[Insert return address]

| |
|---|
| <p>If you are away or cannot go to the polling station on [day] [date of poll] You can do one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply to vote by post. Completed applications must reach us before 5pm on [day] [date of deadline]. If you are given a postal vote, you will not be able to vote in person at this election. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply to vote by proxy (this means someone else can vote on your behalf). Completed applications must reach us before 5pm on [day] [date of deadline]. If you appoint a proxy, you can vote if you wish, but only if your proxy has not already voted on your behalf and has not got a postal vote for you. |
|---|

| |
|---|
| <p>If after 5pm on [the sixth day before the date of the poll] you are unable to vote in person because you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a medical emergency, or • Learn you cannot go to the polling station because of work reasons <p>You can apply to vote by proxy. Completed applications must reach us before 5pm on [day] [date of deadline]. To find out how to apply, call the helpline immediately.</p> |
|---|

The Local Returning Officer issued this card.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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Front of card

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Postal poll card</p> <p>Election of Members of the European Parliament for the [insert name of Region, e.g. 'North-West Region']</p> <p>Date of election [Day] [Date] [Name of the Month] [Year]</p> | <p>Your details:</p> <p>* [Elector's name and qualifying address details here]</p> <p>* Local Returning Officer to omit in both places where poll card sent to an anonymous elector. Poll card to an anonymous elector must be delivered in a sealed envelope</p> <p>Number on register:</p> |
| <p>Voting information</p> <p>We will send your postal vote around [name of day] [date] [name of month] [year] *[addressed to:]</p> <p>*[Elector's name and address]</p> | <p>Your postal vote</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will receive a postal vote for this election because you asked to vote by post. • You will not be able to vote in a polling station. • If you have not received your postal vote by [day] [date] [name of month] call [insert helpline number] |

Please turn over

Back of card

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>How to vote</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When you receive your postal vote, read the instructions carefully. 2. Your postal vote includes your ballot paper and a postal voting statement. 3. Complete both of these and return them immediately. 4. We need to receive your postal vote by 10pm on [day/date of poll]. <p>i If you need information in another format, please call our helpline below.</p> <p>i If you need help to vote, you can ask someone you know or get independent help by calling our helpline:</p> <p>[Insert helpline and other details including website]</p> | <p>If you lose your postal vote or make a mistake</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please phone the helpline immediately. • We can only issue a replacement postal vote before 5pm on [day/date of deadline]. <p>If you would rather vote in person, or ask someone else to vote on your behalf, you must cancel your postal vote before 5pm on [day/date of deadline]. For more information, please call the helpline.</p> |
| <p>It is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vote using a ballot paper that was not sent for your use or interfere with another voter's ballot paper • vote more than once at this election, unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person • vote as a proxy at this election for more than two people, unless you are their spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild • vote as a proxy for someone if you know that by law they are not allowed to vote | <p>The Local Returning Officer issued this card.</p> <p>If undelivered return to [insert return address]</p> |

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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Front of card

| | |
|---|--|
| Proxy poll card | |
| Election of Members of the European Parliament for the [insert name of Region, e.g. 'North-West Region'] | |
| Date of election [Day] [Date] [Name of the Month] [Year] | |
| Voting information | |
| Polling day | |
| Voting hours | |
| Your polling station will be | |

Please turn over

| |
|--|
| <p>Your details:</p> <p>* [Proxy's name and qualifying address details here]</p> <p>* Local Returning Officer to omit where poll card sent to the proxy of an anonymous elector. Poll card to proxy of an anonymous elector must be delivered in a sealed envelope.</p> |
|--|

You will receive a proxy vote

** [The person named on the back of this card] [Another person] has appointed you as a proxy to vote on their behalf at this election.

** [You do not need to take this card with you to vote.] [You must have this card with you when you vote. You cannot vote as a proxy without it.]

** If sent to the proxy of an anonymous elector omit the words in the first set of brackets, if not omit the words in the second set of brackets.

[Insert helpline and other details including website].

Back of card

For this election you are proxy for:

* [(Elector's name)
(Elector's address)
(Elector's number on register)]

[the person with this elector number: (Insert elector's number on register)]

* If anonymous elector omit the words in the first set of square brackets, if not omit the words in the second set of square brackets

The person you are proxy for can vote themselves if they wish – but only if you have not already voted on their behalf.

This space for map or other information such as helpline and website details

i If you need any help or to find out if your polling station is accessible, please contact us.
[Local Returning Officer to add contact details including website if appropriate]

How to vote as a proxy

- * [At the polling station, tell the staff that you are a proxy for the person named above. They will give you that person's ballot paper.] * [At the polling station, ask to speak to the presiding officer and show them this card. They will give you the ballot paper of the person you are proxy for.]
* If anonymous elector omit the words in the first set of square brackets, if not omit the words in the second set of square brackets.
- Go to one of the voting booths.
- Follow the instructions on how to mark the ballot paper.
- Fold the ballot paper and put in the ballot box

If you need any help, just ask the staff.

| |
|--|
| <p>If you are away or cannot go to the polling station on [day] [date of poll]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can apply to vote by post. The deadline for completed applications is 5pm on [day] [date of deadline]. If you are given a postal vote, you or the person you are proxy for will not be able to vote in person at this election. To find out how to apply, please call us on [insert helpline number or other contact details]. |
|--|

It is an offence to:

- vote more than once at this election, unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person
- vote as a proxy at this election for more than two people, unless you are their spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild
- vote as a proxy for someone if you know that by law they are not allowed to vote

The Local Returning Officer issued this card.

If undelivered return to
[insert return address]

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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Front of card

| |
|--|
| Proxy postal poll card |
| Election of Members of the European Parliament for the [insert name of Region, e.g. 'North-West Region'] |
| Date of election [Day] [Date] [Name of the Month] [Year] |
| Voting information |
| We will send your postal vote around [name of day] [date] [name of month] [year] * [addressed to:] |
| <p><i>* [Proxy's name and qualifying address details here]</i></p> <p><i>* Local Returning Officer to omit where poll card sent to the proxy of an anonymous elector. Poll card to proxy of an anonymous elector must be delivered in a sealed envelope.</i></p> |

Voting as a proxy

** [The person named on the back of this card] [Another person] has appointed you as a proxy to vote on their behalf at this election.

** If sent to the proxy of an anonymous elector omit the words in the first set of brackets, if not omit the words in the second set of brackets.

Your postal vote

- You will receive a postal vote for this election because you asked to vote by post.
- You will not be able to vote as a proxy in a polling station.
- If you have not received your postal vote by [day] [date] [name of month] call [insert helpline number].

Please turn over

Back of card

For this election you are proxy for:

* [[Elector's name]
 (Elector's address)
 (Elector's number on register)]

[the person with this elector number: (Insert elector's number on register)]

* If anonymous elector omit the words in the first set of square brackets, if not omit the words in the second set of square brackets

| |
|---|
| <p>How to vote</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When you receive your postal vote, read the instructions carefully. 2. Your postal vote includes your ballot paper and a postal voting statement. 3. Complete both of these and return them immediately. 4. We need to receive your postal vote by 10pm on [day/date of poll]. |
|---|

📞 If you need information in another format, please call our helpline below.

📞 If you need help to vote, you can ask someone you know or get independent help by calling our helpline:

[insert helpline or other details including website]

If you lose your postal vote or make a mistake

- Please phone the helpline immediately.
- We can only issue a replacement postal vote before 5pm on [day/date of deadline].

If you would rather vote in person, you must cancel your postal vote before 5pm on [day/date of deadline]. For more information, please call the helpline.

It is an offence to:

- vote using a ballot paper that was not sent for your use or interfere with another voter's ballot paper
- vote more than once at this election, unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person
- vote as a proxy at this election for more than two people, unless you are their spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild
- vote as a proxy for someone if you know that by law they are not allowed to vote

The Local Returning Officer issued this card.

If undelivered return to
 [Insert return address]

How to vote at this election

1

Go to the desk and tell the staff your name and address.
They will give you your ballot paper.



2

Take your ballot paper to a voting booth.



3

Read the instructions in the booth and mark your ballot paper.



4

When you have marked your ballot paper, fold it so that nobody can see how you have voted.



5

Put your folded ballot paper into the ballot box.



(!) Voting is secret. Do not let anyone see how you have voted.
🗣️ If you make a mistake or need some help, just ask the staff.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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| |
|--|
| Certificate of Employment |
| Election of Members of the European Parliament for the [insert name of Region, e.g. 'North-West Region'] |
| Date of election (insert name of day) (insert date) (name of month) (year) |
| The person named below is entitled to vote at any polling station in their local counting area on production and surrender of this certificate to the Presiding Officer. |
| <p>I certify that _____ (name of elector)</p> <p>who is numbered* _____ in the register of electors for the _____ local counting area, cannot reasonably be expected to go in person to the polling station allotted to them at this election by reason of his/her employment on the above date for a purpose connected with this election:</p> <p>– as a constable**</p> <p>[– as a Police Community Support Officer**]#</p> <p>– by me (Only applies to Local Returning Officer's staff)**</p> <p>Signature _____ Local Returning Officer/Police Officer (Inspector or above)**</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>* The elector's number can be found on the poll card which was sent to them shortly after the election was announced, or can be checked by contacting the Electoral Registration Officer.</p> <p>** Person completing the form to delete whichever does not apply.</p> <p># Returning Officer in Scotland or Gibraltar to delete reference to Police Community Support Officer.</p> |

^{F96}Form M: Form of declaration to be made by the companion of a voter with disabilities]

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| | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|--|
| Declaration for the companion of a voter with disabilities | | | |
| Election of Members of the European Parliament for the [insert name of Region, e.g. 'North-West Region'] | | | |
| Date of election [insert name of day] [insert date] [name of month] [year] | | | |
| A voter with disabilities is a voter who has made a declaration that he or she is so incapacitated by his or her blindness or other disability, or by his or her inability to read, as to be unable to vote in this election without assistance. | | | |
| Part 1 To be completed by the voter's companion | | | |
| Companion name | | | |
| Companion address | | | |
| Elector name | | | |
| Elector number | | | |
| [Only for use if the disabled elector is acting as a proxy] Elector is acting as proxy for: | | | |
| <p>I have been requested to assist the elector named above to record their vote at this election. I declare that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am entitled to vote as an elector at this election <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am the *spouse/*civil partner/*parent/*brother/*sister/*child of the voter with disabilities and am 18 years of age or over *Please delete whichever does not apply <p>And</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have not previously assisted more than one voter with disabilities at the election. If I have assisted one other voter their name and address is: | | | |
| [Complete if appropriate] Name and address of other person assisted | | | |
| NOTE – It is a criminal offence to knowingly make a false statement in this form. | | | |
| Companion signature | | Date | |
| Part 2 To be completed by the Presiding Officer | | | |
| I, the undersigned, being the Presiding Officer for: | | | |
| Polling station | | Counting area of | |
| Hereby certify that the above declaration was signed in my presence. | | Presiding Officer signature | |
| Date | | Time (exact) | |

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[^{F98}SCHEDULE 2

Regulation 10

ABSENT VOTING

Textual Amendments

F98 Sch. 2 substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), 40, **Sch. 3**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C10 Sch. 2 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)

PART 1

ENTITLEMENT

Interpretation

1.—(1) In this Schedule—

“absent voter” means an elector who is entitled to vote by proxy or an elector or proxy who is entitled to vote by post^{F99} ...;

“allotted polling station” has the meaning set out in paragraph 23(8);

“valid postal voting statement” means a postal voting statement which, in accordance with paragraph 62 or 63, the local returning officer is satisfied has been duly completed.

(2) A reference in this Schedule to a form identified by means of a letter is to be construed as a reference to the form so identified in the Appendix to this Schedule.

(3) Unless otherwise stated, a reference in this Schedule to a numbered paragraph or Part is to a paragraph or Part bearing that number in this Schedule.

Textual Amendments

F99 Words in Sch. 2 para. 1(1) omitted (1.1.2014) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **32**

Manner of voting at European Parliamentary elections

2.—(1) This paragraph applies to determine the manner of voting of a person entitled to vote as an elector at a European Parliamentary election.

(2) He may vote in person at his allotted polling station, unless he is entitled as an elector to an absent vote at the election.

(3) He may vote by post if he is entitled as an elector to vote by post at the election.

(4) If he is entitled to vote by proxy at the election, he may so vote unless, before a ballot paper has been issued for him to vote by proxy, he applies at the polling station allotted to him under European Parliamentary elections rules for a ballot paper for the purpose of voting in person, in which case he may vote in person there.

(5) If—

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- (a) he is not entitled as an elector to an absent vote at the election, but
- (b) he cannot reasonably be expected to go in person to the allotted polling station by reason of the particular circumstances of his employment, either as a constable or by the local returning officer, on the date of the poll for a purpose connected with the election,

he may vote in person at any polling station in the local counting area.

[^{F100}(5A) In the application of sub-paragraph (5) to an election in England or Wales, a reference to a constable includes a person designated as a community support officer under section 38 of the Police Reform Act 2002 (police powers for civilian staff).]

(6) Nothing in the preceding provisions of this paragraph applies to a person to whom section 7 of the 1983 Act (residence: patients in mental hospitals who are not detained offenders or on remand) or, in Gibraltar, paragraph 10 of Schedule 4 to these Regulations applies and who is liable, by virtue of any enactment, to be detained in the mental hospital in question, whether he is registered by virtue of that provision or not; and such a person may vote—

- (a) in person (where he is granted permission to be absent from the hospital and voting in person does not breach any condition attached to that permission), or
- (b) by post or by proxy (where he is entitled as an elector to vote by post or, as the case may be, by proxy at the election).

(7) Nothing in the preceding provisions of this paragraph applies to a person to whom section 7A of the 1983 Act (residence: persons remanded in custody etc.) or in Gibraltar, paragraph 11 of Schedule 4 to these Regulations applies, whether he is registered by virtue of that provision or not; and such a person may only vote by post or by proxy (where he is entitled as an elector to vote by post or, as the case may be, by proxy at the election).

(8) Sub-paragraph (2) does not prevent a person, at his allotted polling station, marking a tendered ballot paper in pursuance of rule 44(4) or (6) of the European Parliamentary elections rules.

(9) For the purposes of the provisions of—

- (a) these Regulations, and
- (b) the 1983 Act, the 2002 Act and the 2003 Act,

a person entitled to vote as an elector at a European Parliamentary election is entitled as an elector to vote by post or entitled to vote by proxy at the election if sub-paragraph (10) or (11) (as the case may be) applies to him in relation to that election; and references in those provisions to entitlement as an elector to an absent vote at a European Parliamentary election are references to entitlement as an elector to vote by post or entitlement to vote by proxy at the election.

(10) This sub-paragraph applies to a person who is shown in the postal voters list mentioned in paragraph 5(2) as entitled to vote by post at an election.

(11) This sub-paragraph applies to a person who is shown in the list of proxies mentioned in paragraph 5(3) as entitled to vote by proxy at an election.

Textual Amendments

F100 Sch. 2 para. 2(5A) inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), 33

Absent vote at elections for definite or indefinite period

3.—(1) Where a person applies to the registration officer to vote by post at European Parliamentary elections (whether for an indefinite period or for a particular period specified in his application), the registration officer must grant the application if—

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- (a) he is satisfied that the applicant is or will be registered in the register of electors; and
 - (b) the application contains the applicant's signature and date of birth and meets the requirements of Part 2.
- (2) Where a person applies to the registration officer to vote by proxy at European Parliamentary elections (whether for an indefinite period or for a particular period specified in his application), the registration officer must grant the application if—
- (a) he is satisfied that the applicant is eligible to vote by proxy at elections to which the application relates;
 - (b) he is satisfied that the applicant is or will be registered in the register of electors; and
 - (c) the application contains the applicant's signature and date of birth and meets the requirements of Part 2.
- (3) For the purposes of this paragraph a person is eligible to vote by proxy at European Parliamentary elections if—
- (a) he is or will be registered as a service voter;
 - (b) he has an anonymous entry in the register of electors for the election;
 - (c) he cannot reasonably be expected—
 - (i) to go in person to the polling station allotted or likely to be allotted to him under the European Parliamentary elections rules, or
 - (ii) to vote unaided there,
 by reason of blindness or other disability;
 - (d) he cannot reasonably be expected to go in person to that polling station by reason of the general nature of his occupation, service or employment or that of his spouse or civil partner, or by reason of his attendance on a course provided by an educational institution or that of his spouse or civil partner; or
 - (e) he cannot go in person from his qualifying address to that polling station without making a journey by air or sea,
- and a person is also eligible to vote by proxy at European Parliamentary elections if he is or will be registered in pursuance of an overseas elector's declaration or a European Parliamentary overseas elector's declaration.
- (4) The registration officer must keep a record of those whose applications under this paragraph have been granted showing—
- (a) whether their applications were to vote by post or proxy for an indefinite or a particular period (specifying that period);
 - (b) in the case of those who may vote by post, the addresses provided by them in their applications as the addresses to which their ballot papers are to be sent; and
 - (c) in the case of those who may vote by proxy, the names and addresses of those appointed as their proxies.
- (5) The registration officer must remove a person from the record—
- (a) if he applies to the registration officer to be removed;
 - (b) in the case of a person who is eligible to vote by proxy by virtue of having an anonymous entry, if he ceases to have an anonymous entry;
 - (c) in the case of any registered person, if he ceases to be registered or registered at the same qualifying address or ceases to be, or becomes, registered in pursuance of—
 - (i) a service declaration,

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- (ii) a declaration of local connection, or
 - (iii) an overseas elector's declaration,
 - (d) in the case of any person shown in the record as voting by proxy, if the registration officer gives notice that he has reason to believe there has been a material change of circumstances; or
 - (e) in the case of a person who applied to vote by post or proxy for a particular period, once that period has expired.
- (6) A person shown in the record as voting by post may subsequently alter his choice by applying to the registration officer to vote by proxy instead (whether for an indefinite period or for a particular period specified in his application); and, if the registration officer would be required to grant that application if it were one made under sub-paragraph (2), the registration officer must amend the record accordingly.
- (7) A person shown in the record as voting by proxy may subsequently alter his choice by applying to the registration officer to vote by post instead (whether for an indefinite period or for a particular period specified in his application); and, if the application meets the requirements of Part 2, the registration officer must amend the record accordingly.
- (8) The registration officer may dispense with the requirement under sub-paragraph (1)(b) or sub-paragraph (2)(c) for the applicant to provide a signature if he is satisfied that the applicant is unable—
- (a) to provide a signature because of any disability the applicant has;
 - (b) to provide a signature because the applicant is unable to read or write; or
 - (c) to sign in a consistent and distinctive way because of any such disability or inability.
- (9) The registration officer must also keep a record in relation to those whose applications under this paragraph have been granted showing—
- (a) their dates of birth;
 - (b) except in cases where the registration officer in pursuance of sub-paragraph (8) has dispensed with the requirement to provide a signature, their signatures.
- (10) The record kept under sub-paragraph (9) must be retained by the registration officer for the period calculated by reference to paragraph 18(1).

Absent vote at a particular election

- 4.—(1) Where a person applies to the registration officer to vote by post at a particular European Parliamentary election, the registration officer must grant the application if—
- (a) he is satisfied that the applicant is or will be registered in the register of electors; and
 - (b) the application contains the applicant's signature and date of birth and meets the requirements of Part 2.
- (2) Where a person applies to the registration officer to vote by proxy at a particular European Parliamentary election, the registration officer must grant the application if—
- (a) he is satisfied that the applicant's circumstances on the date of the poll will be or are likely to be such that he cannot reasonably be expected to vote in person at the polling station allotted or likely to be allotted to him under the European Parliamentary elections rules;
 - (b) he is satisfied that the applicant is or will be registered in the register of electors; and
 - (c) the application contains the applicant's signature and date of birth and meets the requirements of Part 2.

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(3) Where a person who has an anonymous entry in the register of electors applies to the registration officer to vote by proxy at a particular election the registration officer must grant the application if it meets the requirements of Part 2.

(4) Nothing in sub-paragraph (1) or (2) applies to a person who is included in the record by virtue of paragraph 3, but such a person may, in respect of a particular European Parliamentary election, apply to the registration officer—

- (a) for his ballot paper to be sent to a different address from that shown in the record; or
- (b) to vote by proxy;

if he is shown in the record as voting by post at elections of the kind in question.

(5) The registration officer must grant an application under sub-paragraph (4) if—

- (a) (in the case of any application) it meets the requirements of Part 2; and
- (b) (in the case of an application to vote by proxy) the registration officer is satisfied that the applicant's circumstances on the date of the poll will be or are likely to be such that he cannot reasonably be expected to vote in person at the polling station allotted or likely to be allotted to him under the European Parliamentary elections rules.

(6) The registration officer may dispense with the requirement under sub-paragraph (1)(b) or (2) (c) for the applicant to provide a signature if he is satisfied that the applicant is unable—

- (a) to provide a signature because of any disability the applicant has;
- (b) to provide a signature because the applicant is unable to read or write; or
- (c) to sign in a consistent and distinctive way because of any such disability or inability.

(7) The registration officer must also keep a record in relation to those whose applications under this paragraph have been granted showing—

- (a) their dates of birth;
- (b) except in cases where the registration officer in pursuance of sub-paragraph (6) has dispensed with the requirement to provide a signature, their signatures.

(8) The record kept under sub-paragraph (7) must be retained by the registration officer for the period required by paragraph 18(1).

Absent voters list

5.—(1) The registration officer must, in respect of each European Parliamentary election, keep two special lists mentioned in sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) respectively.

(2) The first of those lists is a list (“the postal voters list”) of—

- (a) those whose applications under paragraph 4(1) to vote by post at the election have been granted, together with the addresses provided by them in their applications as the addresses to which their ballot papers are to be sent; and
- (b) those who are for the time being shown in the record kept under paragraph 3 as voting by post at European Parliamentary elections (excluding those so shown whose applications under paragraph 4(4)(b) to vote by proxy at the election have been granted), together with the addresses provided by them in their applications under paragraph 3 or, as the case may be, paragraph 4(4)(a) as the addresses to which their ballot papers are to be sent.

(3) The second of the lists mentioned in sub-paragraph (1) is a list (“the list of proxies”) of—

- (a) those whose applications under paragraph 4(2) or 4(4) to vote by proxy at the election have been granted; and
- (b) those who are for the time being shown in the record kept under paragraph 3 as voting by proxy at elections of the kind in question,

together with (in each case) the names and addresses of those appointed as their proxies.

(4) In the case of a person who has an anonymous entry in a register the postal voters list or list of proxies (as the case may be) must show in relation to the person only—

- (a) his electoral number, and
- (b) the period for which the anonymous entry has effect.

(5) The registration officer must, forthwith on completion of the compilation of those special lists, [^{F101}or at any time at the request of the local returning officer.] supply to the local returning officer for any local counting area ^{F102}... within the area for which he acts so much of those lists as relate to that counting area.

Textual Amendments

F101 Words in Sch. 2 para. 5(5) inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **34(a)**

F102 Words in Sch. 2 para. 5(5) omitted (1.1.2014) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **34(b)**

Proxies at elections

6.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this paragraph, any person is capable of being appointed proxy to vote for an elector at any European Parliamentary election and may vote in pursuance of the appointment.

(2) The elector cannot have more than one person at a time appointed as proxy to vote for him at European Parliamentary elections (whether in the same electoral region or elsewhere).

(3) A person is not capable of being appointed to vote, or voting, as proxy at a European Parliamentary election—

- (a) if he is subject to any legal incapacity (age apart) to vote at that election as an elector; or
- (b) he is neither a Commonwealth citizen nor a citizen of the Union.

(4) A person is not capable of voting as proxy at a European Parliamentary election unless on the date of the poll he has attained the age of 18.

(5) A person is not entitled to vote as proxy at the same European Parliamentary election in any electoral region, on behalf of more than two electors of whom that person is not the spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild.

(6) Where the elector applies to the registration officer for the appointment of a proxy to vote for him at European Parliamentary elections, the registration officer must make the appointment if the application meets the requirements of Part 2 and he is satisfied that the elector is or will be—

- (a) registered in the register of electors; and
- (b) shown in the record kept under paragraph 3 as voting by proxy at such elections,

and that the proxy is capable of being, and willing to be, appointed at such elections.

(7) Where the elector applies to the registration officer for the appointment of a proxy to vote for him at a particular European Parliamentary election, the registration officer must make the appointment if the application meets the requirements of Part 2 and he is satisfied that the elector is or will be registered in the register of electors and entitled to vote by proxy at that election by virtue of an application under paragraph 4(2) or 4(4) and that the proxy is capable of being, and willing to be, appointed.

(8) The appointment of a proxy under this paragraph is to be made by means of a proxy paper in Form N in the Appendix issued by the registration officer.

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(9) The appointment may be cancelled by the elector by giving notice to the registration officer and shall also cease to be in force—

- (a) where the appointment related to a particular European Parliamentary election or elections, on the issue of a proxy paper appointing a different person to vote for him at a European Parliamentary election or elections (whether in the same electoral region or elsewhere); or
- (b) where the appointment was for a particular period, once that period expires.

(10) Subject to sub-paragraph (9), the appointment remains in force—

- (a) in the case of an appointment for a particular election, for that election; and
- (b) in any other case, while the elector is shown as voting by proxy in the record kept under paragraph 3 in pursuance of the same application under that paragraph.

Voting as proxy

7.—(1) A person entitled to vote as proxy at a European Parliamentary election may do so in person at his allotted polling station unless he is entitled to vote by post as proxy for the elector at the election, in which case he may vote by post.

(2) Where a person is entitled to vote by post as proxy for the elector at any election, the elector may not apply for a ballot paper for the purpose of voting in person at the election.

(3) For the purposes of these Regulations, the 1983 Act, the 2002 Act and the 2003 Act, a person entitled to vote as proxy for another at a European Parliamentary election is entitled so to vote by post if he is included in the list kept under sub-paragraph (8) in respect of the election.

(4) Where a person applies to the registration officer to vote by post—

- (a) as proxy at European Parliamentary elections (whether for an indefinite period or for a particular period specified in his application); or
- (b) as proxy at a particular European Parliamentary election,

the registration officer must grant the application if the conditions set out in sub-paragraph (5) are satisfied.

(5) Those conditions are—

- (a) that the registration officer is satisfied that the elector is or will be registered in the register of electors;
- (b) that there is in force an appointment of the applicant as the elector’s proxy to vote for him at European Parliamentary elections, or, as the case may be, the election concerned; and
- (c) that the application contains the applicant’s signature and date of birth and meets the requirements of Part 2.

(6) The registration officer must keep a record of those whose applications under sub-paragraph (4)(a) have been granted showing —

- (a) whether their applications were to vote by post or by proxy for an indefinite or particular period (specifying that period); and
- (b) the addresses provided by them in their applications as the addresses to which their ballot papers are to be sent.

(7) Where, in the case of a particular European Parliamentary election, a person included in the record kept under sub-paragraph (6) applies to the registration officer for his ballot paper to be sent to a different address from that shown in the record, the registration officer must grant the application if it meets the requirements of Part 2.

(8) The registration officer must, in respect of each European Parliamentary election, keep a special list (“the proxy postal voters list”) of—

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- (a) those who are for the time being included in the record kept under sub-paragraph (6), together with the addresses provided by them in their applications under sub-paragraph (4) (a) or, as the case may be, sub-paragraph (7) as the addresses to which their ballot papers are to be sent; and
- (b) those whose applications under sub-paragraph (4)(b) have been granted in respect of the election concerned, together with the addresses provided by them in their applications as the addresses to which their ballot papers are to be sent,

and, forthwith on completion of the compilation of that list, supply to the local returning officer for any local counting area wholly or partly within the area for which he acts so much of that list as relates to any such area.

(9) In the case of a person who has an anonymous entry in a register, the list mentioned in sub-paragraph (8) must contain only—

- (a) the person's electoral number, and
- (b) the period for which the anonymous entry has effect.

(10) The registration officer must remove a person from the record kept under sub-paragraph (6)

—

- (a) if he applies to the registration officer to be removed;
- (b) if the elector ceases to be registered in the register of electors;
- (c) if the appointment of the person concerned as the elector's proxy ceases to be in force (whether or not he is re-appointed); or
- (d) in the case of a person who applied to vote by post as proxy for a particular period, once that period expires.

(11) Sub-paragraph (2) does not prevent a person, at the polling station allotted to him, marking a tendered ballot paper in pursuance of rule 44(4) or (6) of the European Parliamentary elections rules.

(12) The registration officer may dispense with the requirement under sub-paragraph (5)(c) for the applicant to provide a signature if he is satisfied that the applicant is unable—

- (a) to provide a signature because of any disability the applicant has;
- (b) to provide a signature because the applicant is unable to read or write; or
- (c) to sign in a consistent and distinctive way because of any such disability or inability.

(13) The registration officer must also keep a record in relation to those whose applications under sub-paragraph (4)(a) or (b) have been granted showing—

- (a) their dates of birth;
- (b) except in cases where the registration officer in pursuance of sub-paragraph (12) has dispensed with the requirement to provide a signature, their signatures.

(14) The record kept under sub-paragraph (13) must be retained by the registration officer for the period calculated by reference to paragraph 18(1).

Provision of fresh signatures

8.—(1) A person who remains on the record kept under paragraph 3(4) or 7(6) may, at any time, provide the registration officer with a fresh signature.

(2) Anything required or authorised to be done for the purposes of any enactment in relation to a signature required to be provided in pursuance of this Schedule must be done in relation to a signature provided as mentioned in sub-paragraph (1) instead of in relation to a signature provided on any earlier occasion.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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Use of personal identifier information

9.—(1) The registration officer must either—

- (a) provide the local returning officer for an election with a copy of the information contained in records kept by the registration officer in pursuance of paragraph 3(9), 4(7) and 7(13) in relation to electors at the election; or
- (b) give the local returning officer access to such information.

(2) Information contained in records kept by a registration officer in pursuance of paragraphs 3(9), 4(7) and 7(13) may be disclosed by him to—

- (a) any other registration officer if he thinks that to do so will assist the other registration officer in the performance of his duties; and
- (b) any person exercising functions in relation to the preparation or conduct of legal proceedings under these Regulations.

Offences

10. A person who—

- (a) in any declaration or form used for any of the purposes of this Schedule, makes a statement which he knows to be false; or
- (b) attests an application under paragraph 3 or 4 when he knows that he is not authorised to do so or that it contains a statement which is false,

is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

Offences relating to applications for postal or proxy votes

11.—(1) A person commits an offence if he—

- (a) engages in an act specified in sub-paragraph (2) at a European Parliamentary election; and
- (b) intends, by doing so, to deprive another of an opportunity to vote or to make for himself or another a gain of a vote to which he or the other is not otherwise entitled or a gain of money or property.

(2) These are the acts—

- (a) applying for a postal or proxy vote as some other person (whether that other person is living or dead or is a fictitious person);
- (b) otherwise making a false statement in, or in connection with, an application for a postal or proxy vote;
- (c) inducing the registration officer or local returning officer to send a postal ballot paper or any communication relating to a postal or proxy vote to an address which has not been agreed to by the person entitled to the vote;
- (d) causing a communication relating to a postal or proxy vote or containing a postal ballot paper not to be delivered to the intended recipient.

(3) In sub-paragraph (1)(b) property includes any description of property.

(4) In sub-paragraph (2) a reference to a postal vote or a postal ballot paper includes a reference to a proxy postal vote or a proxy postal ballot paper (as the case may be).

(5) A person who commits an offence under sub-paragraph (1) or who aids, abets, counsels or procures the commission of such an offence is guilty of a corrupt practice.

PART 2

APPLICATIONS

Forms

12.—(1) The registration officer must supply free of charge as many forms for use in connection with applications made under this Part, Part 3 and Part 4 as appear to that officer reasonable in the circumstances to any person who satisfies that officer of his intention to use the forms in connection with an election.

(2) The forms set out in the Appendix to this Schedule or forms substantially to the like effect may be used with such variations as the circumstances may require.

Communication of applications, notices etc

13. The requirement in this Part, Part 3 and Part 4 that any application, notice, representation or objection should be in writing is satisfied where (apart from the usual meaning of that expression) the text of it—

- (a) is transmitted by electronic means;
- (b) is received in legible form; and
- (c) is capable of being used for subsequent reference.

Electronic signatures and related certificates

14.—(1) A requirement in this Part, Part 3 and Part 4 for an application, notice, representation or objection to be signed is satisfied (as an alternative to the signature given by hand) where there is—

- (a) an electronic signature incorporated into or otherwise logically associated with a particular electronic communication; and
- (b) the certification by any person of such a signature.

(2) For the purposes of this paragraph an electronic signature is so much of anything in electronic form as—

- (a) is incorporated into or otherwise logically associated with any electronic communication or both; and
- (b) purports to be so incorporated or associated for the purpose of being used in establishing the authenticity of the communication, the integrity of the communication or both.

(3) For the purposes of this paragraph an electronic signature incorporated into or associated with a particular electronic communication is certified by any person if that person (whether before or after the making of the communication) has made a statement confirming that—

- (a) the signature;
- (b) a means of producing, communicating or verifying the signature; or
- (c) a procedure applied to the signature,

is (either alone or in combination with other factors) a valid means of establishing the authenticity of the communication, the integrity of the communication or both.

(4) This paragraph does not apply to the provision of signatures under paragraphs 17(4), 31(1) (a) and 36(2) which must be given by hand.

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Time

15.—(1) Where the day or last day of the time allowed by this Part, Part 3 and Part 4 for the doing of any thing falls on any of the days mentioned in sub-paragraph (3), that time must be extended until the next following day which is not one of those days.

(2) Subject to paragraph 26(7), in computing any period of not more than 7 days for the purposes of this Part, Part 3 and Part 4 any of the days mentioned in sub-paragraph (3) must be disregarded.

(3) The days referred to in sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) are a Saturday, Sunday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Good Friday or a bank holiday.

(4) In sub-paragraph (3) “bank holiday” means—

- (a) as respects the combined region, a day which is a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 in England and Wales and a bank or public holiday in Gibraltar not otherwise falling within sub-paragraph (3);
- (b) as respects an electoral region other than Scotland or the combined region, a day which is a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 in England and Wales; and
- (c) as respects Scotland, a day which is a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 in Scotland.

Interference with notices etc

16. Any person who without lawful authority destroys, mutilates, defaces or removes any notice published by the registration officer in connection with his registration duties or any copies of a document which have been made available for inspection in pursuance of those duties, is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

General requirements for applications for an absent vote

17.—(1) An application under this Part must comply with the requirements of this paragraph and such further requirements in this Part as are relevant to the application.

(2) The application must state—

- (a) the full name of the applicant;
 - (b) the address in respect of which the applicant is registered or has applied to be (or is treated as having applied to be) registered in the register except in the case of an application under paragraph 7(4) or (7);
 - (c) in the case of such an application, the proxy’s address, together with the name of the elector for whom he will act as proxy and the elector’s address for the purposes of sub-paragraph (2)(b);
 - (d) in the case of a person applying to vote by post, the address to which the ballot paper should be sent;
 - (e) in the case of an application to vote by proxy, the grounds on which the elector claims to be entitled to an absent vote;
 - (f) in the case of a person who is unable to provide a signature, the reasons for his request for waiver of any requirement under paragraph 3, 4 or 7 to provide a signature and the name and address of any person who has assisted him to complete his application; and
 - (g) where the applicant has, or has applied for, an anonymous entry, that fact.
- (3) The application must be made in writing and must be dated.

(4) Where an application is required to contain a signature and date of birth, the information must be set out in a manner that is sufficiently clear and unambiguous as to be capable of electronic scanning into his record by configuring the information as follows—

- (a) the signature must appear against a background of white unlined paper of at least five centimetres long and two centimetres high; and
- (b) the applicant's date of birth must be set out numerically configured in the sequence of date, month and year, namely [d][d][m][m][y][y][y][y].

(5) Where the application contains a request that the registration officer waive the requirement for a signature, sub-paragraph (4)(a) does not apply.

(6) An application under this Schedule which is made for an indefinite period or the period specified in the application must state—

- (a) that it is so made; and
- (b) that it is made for European Parliamentary elections.

(7) An application under this Schedule which is made for a particular European Parliamentary election must—

- (a) state that it is so made; and
- (b) identify the election in question.

(8) Where an application is made to vote by proxy, it must include an application for the appointment of a proxy which meets the requirements of paragraph 22.

(9) An application under this Part may be combined with an application for an absent vote made under the 2001 Regulations, including those Regulations as applied by regulations under sections 44 and 105 or 45 and 105 of the Local Government Act 2000, or the 2001 (Scotland) Regulations.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C11 Sch. 2 para. 17(9) modified (3.8.2012) by [The Neighbourhood Planning \(Referendums\) Regulations 2012 \(S.I. 2012/2031\)](#), regs. 1, 8, 12, 13, **Sch. 4 para. 13(a)**

The personal identifiers record

18.—(1) The registration officer must maintain a record (“the personal identifiers record”), apart from the other records and lists which he is required to keep under this Schedule, of the signatures and dates of birth provided by persons whose applications under paragraph 3(1) or (2), paragraph 4(1) or (2) or paragraph 7(4)(a) or (b) were granted, until the expiry of 12 months from—

- (a) the date on which a person is removed from the record kept pursuant to paragraph 3(4) or 7(6); or
- (b) the date of the poll for the purposes of which the person's application for an absent vote was granted under paragraph 4(1) or (2) or 7(4)(b).

(2) The personal identifiers record must contain the following information in respect of each absent voter on the postal voters list, list of proxies or proxy postal voters list—

- (a) his name;
- (b) his date of birth; and
- (c) his signature, or a record of the waiver by the registration officer of the requirement for a signature.

(3) The registration officer may allow the disclosure of information held in the personal identifiers record to—

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- (a) any candidate or agent attending proceedings on receipt of postal ballot papers, in accordance with and for the purposes of paragraphs 62 and 63;
- (b) any person attending proceedings on receipt of postal ballot papers, who is entitled to do so by virtue of any of sections 6A to 6D of the 2000 Act, but only to the extent required to permit them to observe the proceedings.

Additional provision concerning the requirement that an application for an absent vote must be signed by the applicant

19. The registration officer may satisfy himself—

- (a) that an application under this Schedule meets any requirements that it has been signed by the applicant and states his date of birth by referring to any signature and date of birth—
 - (i) previously provided by the applicant to the registration officer or the returning officer; or
 - (ii) previously provided by the applicant to the council that appointed the registration officer or to a registrar of births and deaths, which the registration officer is authorised to inspect by virtue of regulation 35 of the 2001 Regulations or regulation 35 of the 2001 (Scotland) Regulations or paragraph 8(4) of Schedule 1 to the 2004 Act for the purposes of his registration duties; and
- (b) as to whether the applicant is unable to provide a signature or a consistent signature due to any disability or inability to read or write.

Additional requirement for applications for ballot papers to be sent to different address from that stated in application

20.—(1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies where—

- (a) in the case of an application to vote by post under paragraph 3(1) or (7) or 4(1), the addresses stated in accordance with paragraph 17(2)(b) and (d) are different;
- (b) in the case of an application by a proxy to vote by post under paragraph 7(4), the proxy's address stated in accordance with paragraph 17(2)(c) and the address stated in accordance with paragraph 17(2)(d) are different.

(2) The application must set out why the applicant's circumstances will be or are likely to be such that he requires the ballot paper to be sent to the address stated in accordance with paragraph 17(2)(d).

(3) This paragraph does not apply where an applicant has, or has applied for, an anonymous entry.

Additional requirements for applications for ballot papers to be sent to different address from that shown in the record kept under paragraph 3(4) or 7(6)

21.—(1) An application under—

- (a) paragraph 4(4)(a) by a person shown as voting by post in the record kept under paragraph 3(4); or
- (b) paragraph 7(7) by a person shown as voting by post in the record kept under paragraph 7(6),

for his ballot paper to be sent to a different address from that shown in the records must set out why the applicant's circumstances will be or are likely to be such that he requires his ballot paper to be sent to that address.

(2) This paragraph does not apply where an applicant has, or has applied for, an anonymous entry.

Additional requirements for applications for the appointment of a proxy

22. An application for the appointment of a proxy under paragraph 3 or 4 must state the full name and address of the person whom the applicant wishes to appoint as his proxy, together with his family relationship, if any, with the applicant, and—

- (a) if it is signed only by the applicant, must contain a statement by him that he has consulted the person so named and that that person is capable of being and willing to be appointed to vote as his proxy; or
- (b) if it is also signed by the person to be appointed, must contain a statement by that person that he is capable of being and willing to be appointed to vote as the applicant's proxy.

Additional requirements for applications for a proxy vote for a definite or indefinite period on grounds of blindness or other disability

23.—(1) An application to vote by proxy for a particular or indefinite period under paragraph 3(3)(c) must specify the disability by reason of which it is made.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraphs (3) and (6), such an application must be attested and signed by—

- (a) a registered medical practitioner;
- (b) a registered nurse;
- (c) a registered dentist as defined by section 53(1) of the Dentists Act 1984;
- (d) a registered dispensing optician or a registered optometrist within the meaning of section 36(1) of the Opticians Act 1989;
- (e) a registered pharmacist within the meaning of article 3(1) of the Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians Order 2007;
- (f) a registered osteopath as defined by section 41 of the Osteopaths Act 1993;
- (g) a registered chiropractor as defined by section 43 of the Chiropractors Act 1994;
- (h) a Christian Science practitioner;
- (i) a person for the time being listed in the British Psychological Society's Register of Chartered Psychologists;
- (j) a person who is registered as a member of a relevant profession for the purposes of the [F103Health and Social Work Professions Order 2001];
- (k) the person registered —
 - (i) in England and Wales, as carrying on a care home registered under Part 2 of the Care Standards Act 2000, or
 - (ii) in Scotland, as managing a care home service registered under [F104Part 5 of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010];where the applicant states that he is resident in such a home;
- (l) the warden of premises forming one of a group of premises provided for persons of pensionable age or disabled persons for which there is a resident warden, where the applicant states that he resides in such premises;
- (m) a manager —
 - (i) in England and Wales, within the meaning of section 145(1) of the Mental Health Act 1983, or
 - (ii) in Scotland, within the meaning of section 329 of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 responsible for the administration of a hospital within the meaning of that section,

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- or a person authorised to act on behalf of such a manager for these purposes;
- (n) a person registered in the register of social workers maintained—
- (i) in ^{F105}...Wales, in accordance with section 56 of the Care Standards Act 2000, or
 - (ii) in Scotland, in accordance with section 44 of the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001,
- (o) in Gibraltar, in the case of an applicant who is resident in a residential home for persons of pensionable age or for physically disabled persons, a senior nursing officer of the home; and
- (p) in Gibraltar, any person registered under the provisions of the Medical and Health Act 1997.
- (3) A person who qualifies—
- (a) by virtue of any of sub-paragraphs (2)(a) to (j) may not attest an application for these purposes unless—
 - (i) he is treating the applicant for the disability specified in the application; or
 - (ii) the applicant is receiving care from him in respect of that disability; or
 - ^{F106}(iii) the person is a social worker who qualifies by virtue of sub-paragraph (2)(j), and has arranged care or assistance for the applicant in respect of that disability; or]
 - (b) by virtue of sub-paragraph (2)(n) may not attest an application for these purposes unless—
 - (i) he is treating the applicant for the disability specified in the application;
 - (ii) the applicant is receiving care from him in respect of that disability; or
 - (iii) he has arranged care or assistance for the applicant in respect of that disability.
- (4) The person attesting the application must state—
- (a) his name and address and the qualification by virtue of which he attests the application;
 - (b) where the person who attests the application is a person referred to in sub-paragraph (3)(a), that—
 - (i) he is treating the applicant for the disability specified in the application; or
 - (ii) the applicant is receiving care from him in respect of that disability;
 - (c) where the person who attests the application is a person referred to in sub-paragraph (3)(b), that—
 - (i) he is treating the applicant for the disability specified in the application;
 - (ii) the applicant is receiving care from him in respect of that disability; or
 - (iii) he has arranged care or assistance for the applicant in respect of that disability;
 - (d) that, to the best of his knowledge and belief, the applicant has the disability specified in the application and that he cannot reasonably be expected to go in person to his allotted polling station or to vote unaided there by reason of that disability; and
 - (e) that, to the best of his knowledge and belief, the disability specified in the application is likely to continue either indefinitely or for a period specified by the person attesting the application.
- (5) A manager (or person authorised to act on behalf of such a manager) attesting an application by virtue of sub-paragraph (2)(m) must, instead of the matters specified in sub-paragraph (4)(a), state in the attestation—
- (a) the name of the person attesting the application;
 - (b) that the person is authorised to attest the application;

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- (c) the position of the person in the hospital at which the applicant is liable to be detained or at which he is receiving treatment;
 - (d) the statutory provision under which the applicant is detained, or liable to be detained, at the hospital, where applicable.
- (6) Sub-paragraphs (2), (4) and (5) do not apply where—
- (a) in England and Wales, the application is based on the applicant’s blindness and the applicant is registered as a blind person by the local authority which is specified in the application and which has made arrangements for the applicant under section 29(1) of the National Assistance Act 1948;
 - (b) in Gibraltar, the application is based on the applicant’s blindness and the applicant is registered as a blind person by the Gibraltar Health Authority;
 - (c) in Scotland, the application is based on the applicant’s blindness and the applicant is registered as a blind person by a local authority which is specified in the application; ^{F107} ...
 - (d) the application states that the applicant is in receipt of the higher rate of the mobility component of a disability living allowance (payable under section 73 of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992) because of the disability specified in the application; ^{F108} ...
 - ^{F109}(e) the application states that the applicant is in receipt of the enhanced rate of the mobility component of personal independence payment (payable under section 79(2) of the Welfare Reform Act 2012) because of the disability specified in the application^{F110}; or
 - (f) the application states that the applicant is in receipt of armed forces independence payment under the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces (Compensation Scheme) Order 2011 because of the disability specified in the application.]
- (7) The fact that an applicant is registered with a local authority, or the Gibraltar Health Authority, as mentioned in sub-paragraph (6) shall be deemed sufficient evidence that he is eligible to vote by proxy on the grounds set out in paragraph 3(3)(c).
- (8) In this paragraph and in paragraphs 24 and 25 “allotted polling station”, in relation to an elector, means the polling station to which the elector is allotted or likely to be allotted under rule 29(1) of the European Parliamentary elections rules.

Textual Amendments

- F103** Words in Sch. 2 para. 23(2)(j) substituted (1.8.2012) by [The Health and Social Care Act 2012 \(Consequential Provision-Social Workers\) Order 2012 \(S.I. 2012/1479\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. para. 36(a)**
- F104** Words in Sch. 2 para. 23(2)(k)(ii) substituted (28.10.2011) by [The Public Services Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \(Consequential Modifications of Enactments\) Order 2011 \(S.I. 2011/2581\)](#), art. 1(2)(b), **Sch. 2 para. 38**
- F105** Words in Sch. 2 para. 23(2)(n)(i) omitted (1.8.2012) by virtue of [The Health and Social Care Act 2012 \(Consequential Provision-Social Workers\) Order 2012 \(S.I. 2012/1479\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. para. 36(b)**
- F106** Sch. 2 para. 23(3)(a)(iii) added (1.8.2012) by [The Health and Social Care Act 2012 \(Consequential Provision-Social Workers\) Order 2012 \(S.I. 2012/1479\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. para. 36(c)(iii)**
- F107** Word in Sch. 2 para. 23(6)(c) omitted (6.5.2013) by virtue of [The Personal Independence Payment \(Supplementary Provisions and Consequential Amendments\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/388\)](#), reg. 3, **Sch. para. 34(a)**
- F108** Word in Sch. 2 para. 23(6) omitted (6.5.2013) by virtue of [The Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme \(Consequential Provisions: Subordinate Legislation\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/591\)](#), art. 2(2)(c), **Sch. para. 30(2)(a)**

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- F109** Sch. 2 para. 23(6)(e) and preceding word inserted (6.5.2013) by [The Personal Independence Payment \(Supplementary Provisions and Consequential Amendments\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/388\)](#), reg. 3, [Sch. para. 34\(b\)](#)
- F110** Sch. 2 para. 23(6)(f) and preceding word inserted (6.5.2013) by [The Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme \(Consequential Provisions: Subordinate Legislation\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/591\)](#), art. 2(2)(c), [Sch. para. 30\(2\)\(b\)](#)

Additional requirements for applications for a proxy vote for a definite or indefinite period based on occupation, service, employment or attendance on a course

24.—(1) An application to vote by proxy for a particular or indefinite period under paragraph 3(3)(d) must state—

- (a) whether the occupation, service or employment in respect of which it is made is that of the applicant or his spouse or civil partner or, as the case may be, it is the applicant or his spouse or civil partner who is attending the course provided by an educational institution in respect of which the application is made;
 - (b) the nature of the occupation, service or employment or course provided by an educational institution giving rise to the application;
 - (c) where the person in respect of whose occupation, service or employment it is made (in this regulation referred to as “the employed person”) is self employed, that fact; and in any other case the name of that person’s employer;
 - (d) the reason, relevant to the general nature of the employment, service or occupation in question or the course provided by an educational institution, why the applicant cannot reasonably be expected to go in person to his allotted polling station.
- (2) Such an application must be attested and signed—
- (a) where the person is self-employed, by a person who—
 - (i) is aged 18 years or over;
 - (ii) knows the self-employed person; and
 - (iii) is not related to him;
 - (b) by the employer of the employed person or by another employee to whom this function is delegated by the employer; and
 - (c) in the case of a course provided by an educational institution, by the director or tutor of that course or by the principal or head of that institution or an employee to whom this function is delegated by the principal or head.
- (3) The person attesting an application under sub-paragraph (2) must—
- (a) where the applicant is the employed person, self-employed person or the person attending the course, certify that the statements required by sub-paragraph (1)(a) to (d) to be included in the application are true; or
 - (b) where the applicant is the spouse or civil partner of the employed person, self-employed person or the person attending the course, certify that the statements included in the application in accordance with the requirements of sub-paragraph (1)(a) to (c) are true.
- (4) The person attesting an application under sub-paragraph (2) must also state—
- (a) his name and address, that he is aged 18 years or over, that he knows the employed person, self-employed person or person attending a course provided by an educational institution but is not related to him; and
 - (b) if he is attesting as or on behalf of the employer of the employed person, that he is the employer or the position he holds in the employment of that employer; or

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(c) if he is attesting an application made on the grounds of attendance at a course provided by an educational institution, the post he holds at that institution.

(5) For the purposes of this paragraph, one person is related to another if he is the spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild of the other.

Additional requirements for applications for a proxy vote in respect of a particular election

25.—(1) An application under paragraph 4(2) to vote by proxy at a particular election must set out why the applicant's circumstances on the date of the poll for that election in respect of which it is made will be or are likely to be such that he cannot reasonably be expected to vote in person at his allotted polling station.

(2) Where an application under paragraph 4(2)—

- (a) is made on the grounds of the applicant's disability; and
- (b) is made after 5 p.m. on the sixth day before the date of the poll at the election for which it is made,

the requirements of paragraph 23 as to the matters to be specified and the attestation shall apply.

(3) Where an application mentioned in sub-paragraph (2) is made, the person who attests the application must state, in addition to those matters specified in paragraph 23, to the best of his knowledge and belief, the date upon which the applicant became disabled.

[^{FIII}(3A) Where an application under paragraph 4(2) is made—

- (a) on grounds relating to the applicant's occupation, service or employment; and
- (b) after 5 p.m. on the sixth day before the date of the poll at the election for which it is made,

the requirements of paragraph 25A as to the matters to be specified and the attestation shall apply.]

(4) Where an application under paragraph 4(2) is made by a person to whom paragraph 2(6) applies after 5 p.m. on the sixth day before the date of the poll at the election for which it is made, the requirements of sub-paragraph (5) as to the matters to be specified and as to attestation shall apply.

(5) Where an application mentioned in sub-paragraph (4) is made—

- (a) the application must additionally state the name and address of the hospital at which the applicant is liable to be detained; and
- (b) the application must be attested by the manager, within the meaning of section 145(1) of the Mental Health Act 1983, or section 329 of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003, responsible for the administration of the hospital at which the applicant is liable to be detained, or a person authorised to act on behalf of such a manager for these purposes, or, in Gibraltar, by the Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Health Authority or a person authorised to act on his behalf, and the attestation must state—
 - (i) the name of the person, attesting the application;
 - (ii) that the person, is authorised to attest the application;
 - (iii) the position of the person in the hospital at which the applicant is liable to be detained; and
 - (iv) the statutory provision under which the applicant is detained, or liable to be detained, at the hospital, where applicable.

(6) This paragraph does not apply where the applicant has an anonymous entry.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

Changes to legislation: The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 June 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)

Textual Amendments

F111 Sch. 2 para. 25(3A) inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **35**

[^{F112} **Additional requirements for application for an emergency proxy vote in respect of a particular election based on occupation, service or employment**

- 25A.**—(1) This paragraph sets out the requirements referred to in paragraph 25(3A).
- (2) The application must (in addition to providing the information required by paragraph 25(1)) state—
- (a) where the applicant is self-employed, that fact; and in any other case the name of the applicant’s employer;
 - (b) that the reason provided in accordance with paragraph 25(1) relates to the applicant’s occupation, service or employment; and
 - (c) the date on which the applicant became aware of that reason.
- (3) Sub-paragraphs (4), (5) and (6) apply unless the applicant is or will be registered as a service voter.
- (4) The application must be attested and signed—
- (a) where the applicant is self-employed, by a person who—
 - (i) is aged 18 years or over;
 - (ii) knows the applicant; and
 - (iii) is not related to the applicant,
 - (b) where the applicant is not self-employed, by the applicant’s employer or by another employee to whom this function is delegated by the employer.
- (5) The person attesting an application under sub-paragraph (4) (the “attestor”) must certify that the statements required by sub-paragraph (2) and the information required by paragraph 25(1) are true to the best of their knowledge and belief.
- (6) The attestor must also state—
- (a) the attestor’s name and address; and
 - (b) if the attestor is attesting where the applicant is self-employed, that the attestor is aged 18 years or over, and that the attestor knows, but is not related to, the applicant; or
 - (c) if the attestor is attesting as or on behalf of the employer of the applicant, that the attestor is the employer or the position the attestor holds in the employment of that employer.
- (7) For the purposes of this paragraph, one person (‘A’) is related to another (‘B’) if A is the spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild of B.]

Textual Amendments

F112 Sch. 2 para. 25A inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **36**

Closing date for applications

26.—(1) An application under paragraph 3(1), (6) and (7) or 7(4) must be disregarded for the purposes of a particular European Parliamentary election and an application under paragraph 4(4) must be refused if it is received by the registration officer after 5 p.m. on the eleventh day before the date of the poll at that election.

(2) An application under paragraph 3(2) or 6(6) must be disregarded for the purposes of a particular European Parliamentary election if it is received by the registration officer after 5 p.m. on the sixth day before the date of the poll at that election.

(3) Subject to sub-paragraph (4), an application under paragraph 4(2) or 6(7) must be refused if it is received by the registration officer after 5 p.m. on the sixth day before the date of the poll at the election for which it is made.

(4) Where an application made under paragraph 4(2) is made—

(a) on the grounds of the applicant’s disability and the applicant became disabled after 5 p.m. on the sixth day before the date of the poll at the election for which it is made; or

[^{F113}(aa) on grounds relating to the applicant’s occupation, service or employment and the applicant became aware of those grounds after 5 p.m. on the sixth day before the date of the poll at the election for which it is made; or]

(b) by a person to whom paragraph 2(6) applies,

the application, or an application under paragraph 6(7) made by virtue of that application, must be refused if it is received after 5 p.m. on the day of the poll at the election for which it is made.

(5) An application under paragraph 4(1) or 7(7) must be refused if it is received by the registration officer after 5 p.m. on the eleventh day before the date of the poll at the election for which it is made.

(6) An application under—

(a) paragraph 3(5)(a) by an elector to be removed from the record kept under paragraph 3(4); or

(b) paragraph 7(10)(a) by a proxy to be removed from the record kept under paragraph 7(6), and a notice under paragraph 6(9) by an elector cancelling a proxy’s appointment must be disregarded for the purposes of a particular European Parliamentary election if it is received by the registration officer after 5 p.m. on the eleventh day before the date of the poll at that election.

[^{F114}(6A) Any application or notice mentioned in this paragraph must be disregarded for the purposes of a particular European Parliamentary election if, before the application or notice is considered by the registration officer, the elector or proxy has returned a postal ballot paper to the returning officer (except where it has been returned in accordance with paragraph 53 or 54 (spoilt and lost postal ballot papers)).]

(7) In computing a period of days for the purposes of this paragraph, Saturday, Sunday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Good Friday or a bank holiday must be disregarded.

(8) In sub-paragraph (7) “bank holiday” means—

(a) in relation to a general election in the combined region, a day which is a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 in any part of the United Kingdom or a bank or public holiday in Gibraltar not otherwise falling within sub-paragraph (7);

(b) in relation to a by-election in the combined region a day, which is a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 in England and Wales or a bank or public holiday in Gibraltar not otherwise falling within sub-paragraph (7);

(c) in relation to a general election in a region other than the combined region, a day which is a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 in any part of the United Kingdom; and

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

Changes to legislation: The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 June 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)

- (d) in relation to a by-election in a region other than the combined region, a day which is a bank holiday under that Act in that part of the United Kingdom in which the electoral region is situated.

Textual Amendments

F113 Sch. 2 para. 26(4)(aa) inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **37(1)**

F114 Sch. 2 para. 26(6A) inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **37(2)**

Grant or refusal of applications

27.—(1) Where the registration officer grants an application to vote by post, he must notify the applicant of his decision.

(2) Where the registration officer grants an application for the appointment of a proxy, he must confirm in writing to the elector that the proxy has been appointed, his name and address, and the duration of the appointment.

(3) Where the registration officer refuses an application under this Part, he must notify the applicant of his decision and of the reason for it.

(4) Where the returning officer grants an application made under—

- (a) paragraph 4(4)(a) by a person shown as voting by post in the record kept under paragraph 3(4); or
- (b) paragraph 7(7) by a person shown as voting by post in the record kept under paragraph 7(6),

he must notify the applicant of this.

(5) Where a person is removed from the record kept pursuant to paragraph 3(4) or 7(6), the registration officer must where practicable notify him of this and the reason for it.

(6) Where the appointment of a proxy is cancelled by the elector or otherwise ceases to be in force, the registration officer must notify the elector that the appointment has been cancelled or, as the case may be, notify him that the appointment has ceased to be in force and the reason for it.

(7) Where, under paragraph 26, a registration officer disregards an application for the purposes of any particular European Parliamentary election, he must notify the applicant of this.

(8) At a European Parliamentary election where the registration officer is not the local returning officer for any local counting area ^{F115}... in the area for which he is the registration officer, he must send to that officer details of any application to vote by post which he has granted as soon as practicable after doing so.

Textual Amendments

F115 Words in Sch. 2 para. 27(8) omitted (1.1.2014) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **38**

Notice of appeal

28.—(1) A person desiring to appeal under regulation 21(1) against the decision of a registration officer must give notice of the appeal to the registration officer within 14 days of the receipt of the notice given under paragraph 27(3) specifying the grounds of appeal.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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(2) The registration officer must forward any such notice to the appropriate county court or, in Gibraltar, the Gibraltar Court in the manner directed by rules of court together in each case with a statement of the material facts which in his opinion have been established in the case, of his decision upon the whole case and on any point which may be specified as a ground of appeal.

(3) In Scotland, the registration officer must forward any such notice to the sheriff with a statement of the material facts which in his opinion have been established in the case, of his decision upon the whole case and on any point which may be specified as a ground of appeal; and he must give to the sheriff any other information which the sheriff may require and which the registration officer is able to give.

(4) Where it appears to the registration officer that any notices of appeal given to him are based on similar grounds, he must inform the county court, sheriff or, in Gibraltar, the Gibraltar Court of this to enable the court or sheriff (if it or he thinks fit) to consolidate the appeals or select a case as a test case.

Cancellation of proxy appointment

29. Where the appointment of a proxy is cancelled by notice given to the registration officer under paragraph 6(9) or ceases to be in force under that provision or is no longer in force under paragraph 6(10)(b), the registration officer must—

- (a) notify the person whose appointment as proxy has been cancelled, expired or is no longer in force, unless the registration officer has previously been notified by that person that he no longer wishes to act as proxy; and
- (b) remove his name from the record kept under paragraph 3(4)(c).

Inquiries by registration officer

30.—(1) The registration officer may, at such times as he thinks fit, make inquiries of a person who is shown as voting by proxy in the record kept under paragraph 3(4) in pursuance of an application granted on the grounds set out in paragraph 3(3)(c) or (d) for the purpose of determining whether there has been a material change of circumstances.

(2) Where the grant of an application for a proxy vote for an indefinite or particular period was based on the grounds referred to in paragraph 3(3)(d), the registration officer must make the inquiries referred to not later than three years after the granting of the application or the last such inquiries, as the case may be.

(3) The registration officer may treat the failure by a person of whom inquiries have been made to respond to such inquiries within one month of the date on which they were made as sufficient evidence of a material change in circumstances.

Requirement to provide fresh signatures at five yearly intervals

31.—(1) The registration officer must every year by 31st January send every person who remains an absent voter at European Parliamentary elections and whose signature held on the personal identifiers record is more than five years old a notice in writing—

- (a) requiring him to provide a fresh signature; and
- (b) informing him of the date (6 weeks from the date of sending the notice) on which he would cease to be entitled to vote by post or by proxy in the event of a failure or refusal to provide a fresh signature.

(2) The notice must be sent by the registration officer to the current or last known address of the absent voter.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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(3) The registration officer must, if the absent voter has not responded to the notice within 3 weeks from the date on which the notice was sent, as soon as practicable send a copy of the notice to him.

(4) Where a notice or copy of a notice is sent by post, the registration officer may use—

- (a) a universal postal service provider; or
- (b) a commercial delivery firm,

and postage must be prepaid.

(5) A notice or copy of a notice sent to an absent voter in accordance with sub-paragraph (1) or (3) must be accompanied by a pre-addressed reply envelope and, in the case of any notice or copy of a notice sent to an address in the United Kingdom or Gibraltar, return postage must be prepaid.

(6) The registration officer must determine, not later than the date specified in the notice sent to the absent voter, whether the absent voter has failed or refused to provide a fresh signature.

(7) Where the registration officer determines that the absent voter has refused or failed to provide a fresh signature, he must from the date specified in the notice sent to the absent voter in accordance with sub-paragraph (1)(b) remove that person's entry from the records kept pursuant to paragraph 3(4) or 7(6) and from the postal voters list, list of proxies or proxy postal voters list (as the case may be) kept under paragraph 5(2), 5(3) or 7(8).

(8) Where a registration officer removes an absent voter's entry in the circumstances to which sub-paragraph (7) refers—

- (a) the registration officer must inform the absent voter, where appropriate, of the location of his allotted polling station or the polling station to which he is likely to be allotted (as determined in accordance with the European Parliamentary elections rules);
- (b) paragraph 27(3) and paragraph 28 shall apply as if the registration officer were refusing an application under this Schedule; and
- (c) in the case of an entry removed from the proxy postal voters list, the registration officer must also notify the elector who appointed the proxy whose entry has been removed.

(9) The registration officer must include in the notice to be sent to an absent voter regarding his removal from the records kept pursuant to paragraph 3(4) or 7(6) and from the postal voters list, list of proxies or proxy postal voters list (as the case may be) kept under paragraph 5(2), 5(3) or 7(8), information—

- (a) explaining the effect of such removal; and
- (b) reminding the absent voter that he may make a fresh application under Part 2 to vote by post or by proxy (as the case may be).

(10) Where a person to whom sub-paragraph (1) applies has provided a registration officer with the required personal identifiers under paragraph 3, 4 or 7 of Schedule 4 to the Representation of the People Act 2000, the 2001 Regulations, the 2001 (Scotland) Regulations, the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2007 or the National Assembly for Wales (Representation of the People) Order 2007 before the date specified in the notice sent to the absent voter in accordance with sub-paragraph (1)(b), the registration officer may use them and enter them in his records in accordance with paragraphs 3(9), 4(7), 7(13) and 18.

[^{F116}Notification of a rejected postal voting statement

31A.—(1) Where an absent voter (whether an elector or proxy) appears on the list created under paragraph 67(4) then—

- (a) the registration officer responsible for the personal identifiers record that contains information in respect of the absent voter must notify the absent voter (and the elector

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- if the absent voter is a proxy) that the ballot paper concerned was rejected because the returning officer was not satisfied that the postal voting statement was duly completed;
- (b) the registration officer must send the notification within the period of three months beginning with the date of the poll at which the ballot paper was rejected; and
 - (c) the notification must include information as to which of the specified reasons referred to in paragraph 67(5) applied to the postal voting statement.
- (2) The registration officer is not obliged to send a notification—
- (a) to any person who is no longer shown as voting by post in the relevant record at the time the registration officer proposes to send the notification; or
 - (b) where the registration officer suspects that an offence may have been committed in relation to the postal ballot paper, the postal voting statement or the absent voter’s registration as an elector.
- (3) A notification issued under paragraph (1) may also include any other information that the registration officer considers appropriate, but a notification must not include information held on the personal identifiers record.

Textual Amendments

F116 Sch. 2 paras. 31A, 31B inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **39**

Requirement to provide fresh signatures following rejection of a postal voting statement

31B.—(1) Where an absent voter is notified under paragraph 31A that the signature does not match the example held on the personal identifiers record, and the absent voter continues to be shown on the relevant record as voting by post, the registration officer may require the absent voter to provide a fresh signature for the personal identifiers record.

- (2) In doing so, the registration officer must—
- (a) issue a notice in writing to the absent voter, requiring the provision of a fresh signature; and
 - (b) inform the absent voter of the date (six weeks from the sending of the notice) on which the absent voter would cease to be entitled to vote by post in the event of a failure or refusal to provide a fresh signature.
- (3) The registration officer must, if the absent voter has not responded to the notice within three weeks from the date on which the notice was sent, as soon as practicable send a copy of the notice to the absent voter.
- (4) The notice and any copy must be sent by the registration officer to the current or last known address of the absent voter.
- (5) Where a notice or copy of a notice is sent by post, the registration officer may use—
- (a) a universal postal service provider; or
 - (b) a commercial delivery firm,
- and postage must be prepaid.
- (6) A notice or copy of a notice sent to an absent voter in accordance with sub-paragraph (2) or (3) must be accompanied by a pre-addressed reply envelope and, in the case of any notice or copy of a notice sent to an address in the United Kingdom or Gibraltar, return postage must be prepaid.
- (7) Following the date specified in the notice sent to the absent voter, the registration officer must determine whether the absent voter has failed or refused to provide a fresh signature.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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(8) Where the registration officer determines that the absent voter has refused or failed to provide a fresh signature, the registration officer must remove that person's entry from the records kept pursuant to paragraph 3(4) or 7(6) and from the postal voters list or proxy postal voters list (as the case may be) kept under paragraph 5(2) or 7(8).

(9) Where a registration officer removes an absent voter's entry in the circumstances to which sub-paragraph (8) refers—

- (a) the registration officer must inform the absent voter, where appropriate, of the location of the absent voter's allotted polling station or the polling station to which the absent voter is likely to be allotted (as determined in accordance with the European Parliamentary elections rules);
- (b) paragraph 27(3) and paragraph 28 shall apply as if the registration officer were refusing an application under this Schedule; and
- (c) in the case of an entry removed from the proxy postal voters list, the registration officer must also notify the elector who appointed the proxy whose entry has been removed.

(10) The registration officer must include in the notice to be sent to an absent voter regarding the removal from the records kept pursuant to paragraph 3(4) or 7(6) and from the postal voters list or proxy postal voters list (as the case may be) kept under paragraph 5(2) or 7(8), information—

- (a) explaining the effect of such removal; and
- (b) reminding the absent voter that they may make a fresh application under Part 2 to vote by post or by proxy (as the case may be).

(11) Where an absent voter has provided a registration officer with a fresh signature in response to a notice issued by the registration officer under this paragraph, or in response to a notice issued by the registration officer under any other enactment following the rejection of the absent voter's postal voting statement at an election or referendum, the registration officer may use that signature and enter it in the records kept in accordance with paragraphs 3(9), 4(7), 7(13) and 18.]

Textual Amendments

F116 Sch. 2 paras. 31A, 31B inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **39**

Records and lists kept under this Schedule

32.—(1) Any person entitled to be supplied in accordance with regulation 103, 105, 106 or 108 of the 2001 Regulations, or in accordance with regulation 102, 104, 105 or 107 of the 2001 (Scotland) Regulations, or in accordance with paragraphs 52, 53, 54 or 56 of Schedule 1 to the 2004 Act, with copies of the full register is also a person entitled, subject to this paragraph and to paragraph 33, to request that the registration officer supply free of charge the relevant part (within the meaning of those regulations) of a copy of any of the following information which he keeps—

- (a) the current version of the information which would, in the event of a particular European Parliamentary election, be included in the postal voters lists, the list of proxies or the proxy postal voters lists, which he is required to keep under paragraph 5 or 7(8);
 - (b) the current or final version of the postal voters list, the list of proxies or the proxy postal voters lists kept under paragraph 5 or 7(8).
- (2) A request under paragraph (1) must be made in writing and must specify—
- (a) the information (or the relevant parts of the information) requested;
 - (b) whether the request is made only in respect of the current lists or whether it includes a request for the supply of any final list; and

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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- (c) whether a printed copy of the records or lists is requested or a copy in data form.
- (3) A person who obtains any information under this paragraph may use it only for the permitted purposes specified in paragraph 33, and any restrictions—
- (a) specified in that paragraph; or
 - (b) which would apply to the use of the full register under whichever of regulation 103, 105, 106 or 108 of the 2001 Regulations, or regulation 102, 104, 105 or 107 of the 2001 (Scotland) Regulations or paragraphs 53 or 56 of Schedule 1 to the 2004 Act, entitled that person to obtain that information,
- shall apply to such use.
- (4) The registration officer must supply a current copy of the information requested under sub-paragraph (1), as soon as practicable after receipt of a request that is duly made.
- (5) The registration officer must supply a final copy of the postal voters list kept under paragraph 5(2), as soon as practicable after 5p.m. on the eleventh day before the day of the poll, in response to a request under sub-paragraph (1) that has been duly made.
- (6) As soon as practicable after 5p.m. on the sixth day before the day of the poll the registration officer must—
- (a) make a copy of the lists kept under paragraphs 5 and 7(8) available for inspection at his office in accordance with sub-paragraphs (10) to (15);
 - (b) if he is not the local returning officer for the local counting area ^{F117}... for which he is registration officer, send that officer a copy of those lists; and
 - (c) supply a final copy of the postal voters lists or the list of proxies in response to every request under sub-paragraph (1) that has been duly made.
- (7) The registration officer must supply a final copy of the list of proxies kept under paragraph 5(3), updated to include any additions to that list made in consequence of any applications granted in accordance with paragraph 26(4), as soon as practicable after 5p.m. on the day of the poll, to every person who received that list in accordance with sub-paragraph (6)(b).
- (8) Any person who has obtained or is entitled to obtain a copy of information specified in sub-paragraph (1) may—
- (a) supply a copy of the information to a processor, within the meaning of rule 67 of the European Parliamentary elections rules, for the purpose of processing the information; or
 - (b) procure that a processor processes and supplies to them any copy of the information which the processor has obtained under this paragraph,
- for use in respect of the purposes for which that person is entitled to obtain such information.
- (9) Paragraphs (2) and (3) of regulation 92 of the 2001 regulations and the condition in paragraph (9) of that regulation, or paragraph (4) of regulation 114 of the 2001 (Scotland) Regulations, or, as appropriate, paragraph 44(9) of Schedule 1 to the 2004 Act, shall be taken to apply to the supply and processing of information supplied under this paragraph as they apply to the supply and processing of the full register under Part 6 of the 2001 Regulations, under Part 6 of the 2001 (Scotland) Regulations or under Part 3 of Schedule 1 to the 2004 Act.
- (10) Any person is entitled to request that the registration officer make available for inspection a copy of any of the information specified in sub-paragraph (1).
- (11) A request under sub-paragraph (10) must be made in writing and must specify—
- (a) the information (or relevant parts of the information) requested;
 - (b) whether the request is made only in respect of the current lists or whether it includes a request for the inspection of any final list;
 - (c) who will inspect the information;

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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- (d) the date on which they wish to inspect the information; and
- (e) whether they would prefer to inspect the information in printed or data form.

(12) The registration officer must make a copy of the information available for inspection under supervision as soon as practicable after the date of receipt of a request that has been duly made.

(13) Where inspection takes place by providing a copy of the information on a computer screen or otherwise in data form, the registration officer must ensure that the manner in, and equipment on, which that copy is provided do not permit any person consulting that copy to—

- (a) search it by electronic means by reference to the name of any person; or
- (b) copy or transmit any part of that copy by electronic, or any other means.

(14) A person who inspects a copy of the information, whether a printed copy or in data form, may not—

- (a) make copies of any part of it; or
- (b) record any particulars in it;

otherwise than by means of hand-written notes.

(15) Subject to any direction by the Secretary of State under section 52(1) of the 1983 Act or paragraph 21 of Schedule 4 to these Regulations, any duty on a registration officer to supply a copy or make information available for inspection under this paragraph imposes only a duty to provide that information in the form in which he holds it.

(16) For the purposes of this paragraph—

- (a) a “current copy” of records or lists is a copy of the records or lists as kept by the registration officer at 9 a.m. on the date it is supplied; and
- (b) any period of days is to be calculated in accordance with paragraph 26(7).

(17) The registration officer must ensure that where he supplies or discloses information specified in sub-paragraph (1)(a) in accordance with this paragraph, he does not supply or disclose any record relating to a person specified in sub-paragraph (18).

(18) The persons specified in this paragraph are—

- (a) a person who has an anonymous entry;
- (b) the proxy of a person who has an anonymous entry.

Textual Amendments

F117 Words in Sch. 2 para. 32(6)(b) omitted (1.1.2014) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **40**

Conditions on the use, supply and inspection of absent voter records or lists

33. The restrictions on the supply, disclosure and use of the full register in regulations 94 and 96 of the 2001 Regulations or, as appropriate, regulations 94 and 95 of the 2001 (Scotland) Regulations or paragraphs 46 and 47 of Schedule 1 to the 2004 Act, apply to information specified in paragraph 32(1)(a) and (b) as they apply to the full register, except that the permitted purpose is to mean either—

- (a) research purposes, including statistical or historical purposes; or
- (b) electoral purposes.

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Marked register for polling stations

34. To indicate that an elector or his proxy is entitled to vote by post and is for that reason not entitled to vote in person, the letter “A” must be placed against the entry of that elector in any copy of the register, or part of it, provided for a polling station.

F118 PART 3

ABSENT VOTING (TRANSITIONAL PROVISION)

Textual Amendments
F118 Sch. 2 Pt. 3 omitted (1.1.2014) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), 41

Interpretation and extent

35.

Requiring personal identifiers from existing absent voters

36.

Required information to be provided to existing absent voters

37.

Determination by registration officer

38.

Consequences of failure or refusal to provide personal identifiers

39.

PART 4

ISSUE AND RECEIPT OF POSTAL BALLOT PAPERS

Interpretation of Part 4

40.—(1) For the purposes of this Part, unless the context otherwise requires—
“agent” includes the election agent and a person appointed to attend in the election agent’s place;
“ballot paper envelope” and “covering envelope” mean the envelopes referred to in paragraph 50;
“postal ballot paper” means a ballot paper issued to a postal voter;
“postal voter” means an elector or proxy who is entitled to vote by post;
“postal voters’ ballot box” means the ballot box referred to in paragraph 57(1)(a);

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

Changes to legislation: The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 June 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)

“receptacle for ballot paper envelopes”, and other references to specified receptacles, means the receptacles referred to in paragraph 57(5);

“relevant election or referendum” means one or more of the following—

- (a) a parliamentary election,
- (b) a local government election,
- (c) a mayoral election,
- (ca) [^{F119}an election of a police and crime commissioner in accordance with Chapter 6 of Part 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011;]
- (e) referendum conducted under the Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums)(England) Regulations 2007,
the poll at which is taken together with the poll at the European Parliamentary election;
and

“spoilt postal ballot paper” means a ballot paper referred to in paragraph 53(1).

(2) In the case of a referendum, a reference to—

- (a) a candidate must be construed as a reference to a petition organiser, within the meaning of regulation 2(1) of the Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (England) Regulations 2007;
- (b) an election agent or counting agent must be construed as a reference to a counting observer, within the meaning of that regulation;
- (c) a polling agent must be construed as a reference to a polling observer, within the meaning of that regulation; and
- (d) a returning officer or local returning officer must be construed as a reference to a counting officer, within the meaning of that regulation.

Textual Amendments

F119 Words in Sch. 2 para. 40(1) inserted (25.7.2012) by [The Police and Crime Commissioner Elections Order 2012 \(S.I. 2012/1917\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 4 para. 2(2)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C12 Sch. 2 para. 40 modified (3.8.2012) by [The Neighbourhood Planning \(Referendums\) Regulations 2012 \(S.I. 2012/2031\)](#), regs. 1, 8, 12, 13, Sch. 4 paras. 13(b)(c), **(d)**

Issue of Postal Ballot Papers

Combination of poll

41. Where the poll at the European Parliamentary election is to be taken together with—

- (a) the poll at an election under subsection (1) or (2) of section 15 of the 1985 Act (combination of polls at parliamentary, European Parliamentary and local government elections); or
- (b) the poll at a mayoral election or a referendum in accordance with regulations made under sections 44 and 105 or 45 and 105 of the Local Government Act 2000,

or two or more such polls, the proceedings on the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers in respect of each election or referendum may, if all the returning officers concerned agree, be taken together.

Changes to legislation: The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 June 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)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C13 Sch. 2 para. 41 modified (3.8.2012) by [The Neighbourhood Planning \(Referendums\) Regulations 2012 \(S.I. 2012/2031\)](#), regs. 1, 8, 12, 13, [Sch. 4 para. 13\(e\)](#)

Form of postal voting statement

42. The form of the postal voting statement for the purposes of rule 28 of the European Parliamentary elections rules in Schedule 1 to these Regulations must be—

- (a) in Form O in the Appendix at a European Parliamentary election taken alone;
- (b) in Form P in the Appendix at a European Parliamentary election where the proceedings on the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers are taken together with those proceedings at a relevant election or referendum; and
- (c) in Form Q in the Appendix at a European Parliamentary election where the poll is taken together with the poll at a relevant election or referendum, but where the proceedings on the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers are not.

Persons entitled to be present at proceedings on issue of postal ballot papers

43. Without prejudice to the provisions of sections 6A to 6E of the 2000 Act, no person may be present at the proceedings on the issue of postal ballot papers other than the local returning officer and his clerks.

Persons entitled to be present at proceedings on receipt of postal ballot papers

44. Without prejudice to the provisions of sections 6A to 6E of the 2000 Act, no person may be present at the proceedings on the receipt of postal ballot papers other than—

- (a) the local returning officer and his clerks;
- (b) a candidate;
- (c) an election agent or a person appointed by him to attend in his place;
- (d) a sub-agent;
- (e) any agents appointed under paragraph 45; and
- (f) where the proceedings on the receipt of postal ballot papers are taken together with the proceedings for a relevant election or referendum, persons entitled to be present at the proceedings for the relevant election or referendum.

Agents of candidates who may attend proceedings on receipt of postal ballot papers

45.—(1) The election agent or sub-agent of each registered party standing nominated or the election agent or sub-agent of each individual candidate may appoint one or more agents to attend the proceedings on the receipt of the postal ballot papers up to the number he may be authorised by the local returning officer to appoint so that the number authorised must be the same in the case of each registered party standing nominated or each individual candidate.

(2) Notice in writing of the appointment stating the names and addresses of the persons appointed must be given by the election agent or sub-agent to the local returning officer before the time fixed for the opening of the postal voters' ballot box.

(3) Where postal ballot papers for more than one election or referendum are issued together under paragraph 41, the returning officer to whom notice must be given under sub-paragraph (2) and sub-paragraph (4) is the returning officer who issues the postal ballot papers.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

Changes to legislation: The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 June 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)

(4) If an agent dies or becomes incapable of acting, the candidate or election agent of a registered party may appoint another agent in his place and must forthwith give to the local returning officer notice in writing of the name and address of the agent appointed.

(5) In this Part references to agents must be taken as references to agents whose appointments have been duly made and notified and, in the case of agents appointed under sub-paragraph (1), who are within the number authorised by the local returning officer.

(6) A candidate may himself do any act or thing which any agent of his or his party, if appointed, would have been authorised to do, or may assist his agent or the agent of his party in doing any such act or thing.

(7) Where in this Part any act or thing is required or authorised to be done in the presence of the candidates or their agents, the non-attendance of any such person at the time and place appointed for the purpose shall not, if the act or thing is otherwise duly done, invalidate the act or thing done.

Notification of requirement of secrecy

46. The local returning officer must make such arrangements as he thinks fit to ensure that every person attending the proceedings in connection with the issue or receipt of postal ballot papers has been given a copy in writing of the provisions of regulation 29(5) and (7).

Time when postal ballot papers are to be issued

[^{F120}**47.** Postal ballot papers (and postal voting statements) must be issued by the local returning officer as soon as it is practicable to do so.]

Textual Amendments

F120 Sch. 2 para. 47 substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), 42

Procedure on issue of postal ballot paper

48.—(1) The number of the elector as stated in the copy of the register of electors must be marked on the corresponding number list, next to the number and unique identifying mark of the ballot paper issued to that elector.

(2) A mark must be placed in the postal voters list or the proxy postal voters list against the number of the elector to denote that a ballot paper has been issued to the elector or his proxy, but without showing the particular ballot paper issued.

(3) The number of a postal ballot paper must be marked on the postal voting statement sent with that paper.

(4) Where postal ballot papers for the European Parliamentary election and a relevant election or referendum are issued together under paragraph 41—

- (a) one mark must be placed in the postal voters list or the proxy postal voters list under sub-paragraph (2) to denote that ballot papers have been issued in respect of each election or referendum; except that, where ballot papers are not so issued, a different mark must be placed in the postal voters list or proxy postal voters list to identify the election or referendum in respect of which the ballot paper was issued; and
- (b) the number of each ballot paper must be marked on the postal voting statement under sub-paragraph (3).

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

Changes to legislation: The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 June 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)

(5) Where the poll at a European Parliamentary election is taken with the poll at a relevant election or referendum (under the provisions referred to in paragraph 41) but not the proceedings on the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers, the colour of the postal ballot paper must also be marked on the postal voting statement sent with that paper.

(6) Subject to sub-paragraph (7), the address to which the postal ballot paper, postal voting statement and the envelopes referred to in paragraph 50 are to be sent is—

- (a) in the case of an elector, the address shown in the postal voters list;
- (b) in the case of a proxy, the address shown in the proxy postal voters list.

(7) Where a person has an anonymous entry in the register, the items specified in sub-paragraph (6) must be sent (as the case may be) to the address to which postal ballot papers should be sent—

- (a) as shown in the record kept under paragraph 3(4) or 7(6); or
- (b) as given in pursuance of an application made under paragraph 4(1) or 7(4)(b).

Refusal to issue postal ballot paper

49. Where a local returning officer is satisfied that two or more entries in the postal voters list, or in the proxy postal voters list or in each of those lists relate to the same elector, he must not issue more than one ballot paper in respect of that elector at any one election.

Envelopes

50.—(1) Sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) prescribe the envelopes which are to be issued to a postal voter in addition to the ballot paper and postal voting statement (which are issued under rule 28 of the European Parliamentary elections rules).

(2) There must be issued an envelope for the return of the postal ballot paper or, as the case may be, ballot papers and the postal voting statement (referred to as a “covering envelope”) which must be marked with the letter “B”.

(3) There must also be issued a smaller envelope (referred to as a “ballot paper envelope”) which must be marked with—

- (a) the letter “A”;
- (b) the words “ballot paper envelope”; and
- (c) unless the envelope has a window through which the number on the ballot paper (or ballot papers) can be displayed, the number of the ballot paper or, as the case may be, ballot papers.

(4) Where polls are taken together (under the provisions referred to in paragraph 41) but not the proceedings on the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers—

- (a) the envelope referred to in sub-paragraph (2) must also be marked “Covering envelope for the [*insert colour of ballot paper*] coloured ballot paper”; and
- (b) on the envelope referred to in sub-paragraph (3), after the words “Ballot paper envelope” there must be added the words “for the [*insert colour of ballot paper*] coloured ballot paper”.

Sealing up of completed corresponding number lists and security of special lists

51.—(1) As soon as practicable after the issue of each batch of postal ballot papers, the local returning officer must make up into a packet the completed corresponding number lists of those ballot papers which have been issued and must seal such a packet.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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(2) Until the time referred to in paragraph 60(11), the local returning officer must take proper precautions for the security of the marked copy of the postal voters list and the proxy postal voters list.

Delivery of postal ballot papers

52.—(1) For the purposes of delivering postal ballot papers, the local returning officer may use—

- (a) a universal postal service provider;
- (b) a commercial delivery firm; or
- (c) clerks appointed under rule 30(1) of the European Parliamentary elections rules.

(2) Where the services of a universal postal service provider or a commercial delivery firm are to be used, envelopes addressed to postal voters must be counted and delivered by the local returning officer with such form of receipt to be endorsed by that provider or firm as may be arranged.

(3) Postage must be prepaid on envelopes addressed to the postal voters (except where sub-paragraph (1)(c) applies).

(4) Return postage must be prepaid on all covering envelopes where the address provided by the postal voter for the receipt of the postal ballot paper is within the United Kingdom or Gibraltar.

Spoilt postal ballot papers

53.—(1) Where a postal voter has inadvertently dealt with his postal ballot paper or postal voting statement in such manner that it cannot be conveniently used as a ballot paper (referred to as “a spoilt postal ballot paper”) or, as the case may be, a postal voting statement (referred to as “a spoilt postal voting statement”) he may return (either by hand or by post) to the local returning officer the spoilt postal ballot paper or, as the case may be, the spoilt postal voting statement.

(2) Where a postal voter exercises the entitlement conferred by sub-paragraph (1), he must also return—

- (a) the postal ballot paper or, as the case may be, the postal voting statement, whether spoilt or not;
- (b) where postal ballot papers for more than one election have been issued together under paragraph 41, all other ballot papers so issued, whether spoilt or not; and
- (c) the envelopes supplied for the return of the documents mentioned in paragraph 50.

(3) Subject to sub-paragraph (4), on receipt of the documents referred to in sub-paragraph (1) and, where applicable, sub-paragraph (2), the local returning officer must issue another postal ballot paper or, as the case may be, ballot papers except where those documents are received after 5 p.m. on the day of the poll.

(4) Where the local returning officer receives the documents referred to in sub-paragraph (1) and, where applicable, sub-paragraph (2), after 5 p.m. on the day before the day of the poll, he must only issue another postal ballot paper or, as the case may be, ballot papers if the postal voter returned the documents in person.

(5) Paragraphs 48 (except sub-paragraph (2)), 50, 51 and, subject to sub-paragraph (8), 52 apply to the issue of a replacement postal ballot paper under sub-paragraph (3).

(6) Any postal ballot paper or postal voting statement, whether spoilt or not, returned in accordance with sub-paragraph (1) or (2) must be immediately cancelled.

(7) The local returning officer, as soon as practicable after cancelling those documents, must make up those documents in a separate packet and must seal the packet; and if on any subsequent occasion documents are cancelled under sub-paragraph (6), the sealed packet must be opened and the additional cancelled documents included in it and the packet must be sealed again.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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- (8) Where a postal voter applies in person for a replacement ballot paper—
- (a) by 5 p.m. on the day before the day of the poll, the local returning officer may hand a replacement postal ballot paper to him; or
 - (b) after 5 p.m. on the day before the day of the poll, the local returning officer may only hand a replacement postal ballot paper to him,

instead of delivering it in accordance with paragraph 52.

(9) The local returning officer must enter in a list kept for the purpose (“the list of spoilt postal ballot papers”)—

- (a) the name and number of the elector as stated in the register (or, in the case of an elector who has an anonymous entry, his electoral number alone);
- (b) the number of the postal ballot paper (or papers) issued under this paragraph; and
- (c) where the postal voter whose ballot paper is spoilt is a proxy, his name and address.

Lost postal ballot papers

54.—(1) Where a postal voter claims either to have lost or not to have received—

- (a) his postal ballot paper; or
- (b) the postal voting statement; or
- (c) one or more of the envelopes supplied for their return,

by the fourth day before the day of the poll, he may apply (whether or not in person) to the local returning officer for a replacement ballot paper.

(2) Such an application must include evidence of the voter’s identity.

(3) Where a postal voter exercises the entitlement conferred by sub-paragraph (1), he must return—

- (a) the documents referred to in sub-paragraph (1)(a) to (c); and
- (b) where the postal ballot papers for more than one election have been issued together under paragraph 41, all other ballot papers so issued,

which he has received and which have not been lost.

(4) Any postal ballot paper or postal voting statement returned in accordance with sub-paragraph (3) must be immediately cancelled.

(5) The local returning officer as soon as practicable after cancelling those documents, must make up those documents in a separate packet and must seal the packet; and if on any subsequent occasion documents are cancelled as mentioned above, the sealed packet must be opened and additional cancelled documents included in it and the packet must be sealed again.

(6) Subject to sub-paragraph (7), where the application is received by the local returning officer before 5 p.m. on the day of the poll and the local returning officer—

- (a) is satisfied as to the voter’s identity; and
- (b) has no reason to doubt that the postal voter has either lost or has not received the original ballot paper or postal voting statement or one or more of the envelopes provided for their return,

he must issue another postal ballot paper or, as the case may be, postal ballot papers.

(7) Where the application is received by the local returning officer after 5p.m. on the day before the day of the poll, he must only issue another postal ballot paper or, as the case may be, other ballot papers if the postal voter applies in person.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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(8) The local returning officer must enter in a list kept for the purpose (“the list of lost postal ballot papers”)—

- (a) the name and number of the elector as stated in the register (or, in the case of an elector who has an anonymous entry, his electoral number alone);
- (b) the number of the replacement postal ballot paper issued under this paragraph; and
- (c) where the postal voter is a proxy, his name and address.

(9) Paragraphs 48 (except sub-paragraph (2)), 50, 51 and, subject to sub-paragraph (10), 52 shall apply to the issue of a replacement postal ballot paper under sub-paragraph (6).

(10) Where a postal ballot voter applies in person—

- (a) by 5 p.m. on the day before the day of the poll, the returning officer may hand a replacement postal ballot paper to him; or
- (b) after 5 p.m. on the day before the day of the poll, the returning officer may only hand a replacement postal ballot paper to him,

instead of delivering it in accordance with [^{F121}paragraph 52].

Textual Amendments

F121 Words in Sch. 2 para. 54(10) substituted (1.4.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) \(No.2\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/848\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(3)(c)**

[^{F122}Cancellation of postal ballot papers

54A.—(1) Where, after the nineteenth day before the date of the poll at an election, an application under—

- (a) paragraph 3(5)(a) (application to be removed from record of absent voters),
- (b) paragraph 3(6) or 4(4)(b) (application to vote by proxy by person recorded as voting by post),
- (c) paragraph 3(7) (application to vote by post by person recorded as voting by proxy),
- (d) paragraph 4(4)(a) (application for postal ballot paper to be sent to different address),
- (e) paragraph 6(7) (appointment of proxy),
- (f) paragraph 7(7) (application from postal proxy voter for postal ballot paper to be sent to different address), or
- (g) paragraph 7(10)(a) (application by proxy to be removed from record of postal proxies),

is granted or a notice under paragraph 6(9) (cancellation of proxy appointment) is received, and the application or notice is not to be disregarded for the purposes of that election under paragraph 26, the registration officer must notify the local returning officer who must immediately cancel any postal ballot paper issued to the elector or proxy and, in the case of an application under paragraph 4(4)(a) or 7(7), must issue a replacement postal ballot paper.

(2) Where a person returns a postal ballot paper that has been or is to be cancelled in accordance with sub-paragraph (1) (whether to the registration officer or the local returning officer), it must be dealt with as follows—

- (a) the ballot paper, together with any other ballot papers, postal voting statements or covering envelopes which are returned to the registration officer, must be given by the registration officer to the local returning officer;
- (b) any document returned in accordance with this sub-paragraph but not cancelled in accordance with sub-paragraph (1) must be immediately cancelled;

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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- (c) the local returning officer, as soon as practicable after receiving and cancelling those documents, must make up those documents in a separate packet and must seal the packet, and if on any subsequent occasion documents are returned in accordance with this sub-paragraph, the sealed packet must be opened, the additional cancelled documents included in it and the packet must be again made up and sealed;
- (3) The local returning officer must enter in a list kept for the purpose of recording postal ballot papers cancelled under this paragraph (“the list of cancelled postal ballot papers”)—
 - (a) the name and number of the elector as stated in the register of electors (or, in the case of an elector who has an anonymous entry, their electoral number alone);
 - (b) the number of the cancelled postal ballot paper;
 - (c) the number of any replacement postal ballot paper issued under sub-paragraph (1); and
 - (d) where the postal voter is a proxy, their name and address.
- (4) Paragraphs 48 (except sub-paragraph (2)), 50, 51 and 52 apply to a replacement postal ballot paper issued under sub-paragraph (1).]

Textual Amendments

F122 Sch. 2 para. 54A inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), 43

Receipt of Postal Ballot Papers

Means of returning postal ballot paper or postal voting statement

55.—(1) The manner in which a postal ballot paper or postal voting statement may be returned to the local returning officer is by post or by hand, unless it is returned to the polling station in which case it must be returned by hand.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), the presiding officer of a polling station must deliver, or cause to be delivered, any postal ballot paper or postal voting statement returned to that station to the local returning officer in the same manner and at the same time as he delivers, or causes to be delivered, the packets referred to in rule 49(1) of the European Parliamentary elections rules.

(3) The local returning officer may collect, or cause to be collected, any postal ballot paper or postal voting statement which by virtue of sub-paragraph (2) the presiding officer of a polling station would otherwise be required to deliver or cause to be delivered to him.

(4) Where the local returning officer collects, or causes to be collected, any postal ballot paper or postal voting statement in accordance with sub-paragraph (3) the presiding officer must first make it (or them) into a packet sealed with his own seal and the seals of such polling agents as are present and desire to affix their seals.

Notice of opening of postal ballot paper envelopes

56.—(1) The local returning officer must give to each election agent or sub-agent, where appointments of sub-agents have been made, not less than 48 hours’ notice in writing of each occasion on which a postal voters’ ballot box and the envelopes contained in it is to be opened.

(2) Such a notice must specify—

- (a) the time and place at which such an opening is to take place; and
- (b) the number of agents the election agent or sub-agent may appoint under paragraph 45(1) to attend each opening.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

Changes to legislation: The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 June 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)

Postal ballot boxes and receptacles

- 57.—(1) The local returning officer must provide a separate ballot box for the reception of—
 - (a) the covering envelopes when returned by the postal voters (“postal voters’ ballot box”); and
 - (b) postal ballot papers (“postal ballot box”).

(2) Each such ballot box must be marked “postal voters’ ballot box” or “postal ballot box”, as the case may be, and with the name of the local counting area or parliamentary constituency or electoral area (or areas) or voting area for which the election (or elections) or referendum is (or are) held.

(3) The postal ballot box must be shown to the agents present on the occasion of opening the first postal voters’ ballot box as being empty.

(4) The local returning officer must then lock the ballot box, if it has a lock, and apply his seal in such manner as to prevent its being opened without breaking the seal; any of the agents present who wish to add their seals may then do likewise.

- (5) The local returning officer must provide the following receptacles—

- (a) the receptacle for rejected votes;
- ^{F123}(b)
- (c) the receptacle for ballot paper envelopes;
- (d) the receptacle for rejected ballot paper envelopes;
- (e) the receptacle for rejected votes (verification procedure); and
- (f) the receptacle for postal voting statements (verification procedure).

(6) The local returning officer must take proper precautions for the safe custody of every ballot box and receptacle referred to in this paragraph.

Textual Amendments
F123 Sch. 2 para. 57(5)(b) omitted (1.1.2014) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), 44

Receipt of covering envelope

58.—(1) The local returning officer must, immediately on receipt (whether by hand or by post) of a covering envelope (or an envelope which is stated to include a postal vote) before the close of the poll, place it unopened in a postal voters’ ballot box.

- (2) Where an envelope, other than a covering envelope issued by the local returning officer—
 - (a) has been opened; and
 - (b) contains a ballot paper envelope, postal voting statement or ballot paper,

the first-mentioned envelope, together with its contents, must be placed in a postal voters’ ballot box.

Opening of postal voters’ ballot box

59.—(1) Each postal voters’ ballot box must be opened by the local returning officer in the presence of the agents, if in attendance.

(2) So long as the local returning officer ensures that there is at least one sealed postal voters’ ballot box for the reception of covering envelopes up to the time of the close of the poll, the other postal voters’ ballot boxes may previously be opened by him.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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(3) The last postal voters' ballot box and the postal ballot box must be opened at the verification of the ballot paper accounts under rule 51 of the European Parliamentary elections rules.

Opening of covering envelopes

60.—(1) When a postal voters' ballot box is opened, the local returning officer must count and record the number of covering envelopes (including any envelope which is stated to include a postal vote and any envelope described in paragraph 58(2)).

^{F124}(2)

(3) The local returning officer must open separately each covering envelope (including an envelope described in paragraph 58(2)).

[^{F125}(4) The procedure in paragraph 63 applies where a covering envelope (including an envelope to which paragraph 58(2) applies) contains a postal voting statement.]

(5) Where the covering envelope does not contain the postal voting statement separately, the local returning officer must open the ballot paper envelope to ascertain whether the postal voting statement is inside.

[^{F126}(6) Where a covering envelope does not contain a postal voting statement (whether separately or not) the local returning officer must mark the covering envelope “provisionally rejected”, attach its contents (if any) and place it in the receptacle for rejected votes.]

^{F127}(7)

(8) In carrying out the procedures in this paragraph and paragraphs 61 to 68, the local returning officer—

- (a) must keep the ballot papers face downwards and must take proper precautions for preventing any person from seeing the votes made on the ballot papers; and
- (b) must not be permitted to view the corresponding number list used at the issue of postal ballot papers.

(9) Where an envelope opened in accordance with sub-paragraph (3) contains a postal voting statement, the local returning officer must place a mark in the marked copy of the postal voters list or proxy postal voters list in a place corresponding to the number of the elector to denote that a postal vote has been returned as provided for in rule 35 of the European Parliamentary election rules.

(10) A mark made under sub-paragraph (9) must be distinguishable from and must not obscure the mark made under paragraph 48(2).

(11) As soon as practicable after the last covering envelope has been opened, the local returning officer must make up into a packet the copy of the marked postal voters list and proxy postal voters list that have been marked in accordance with sub-paragraph (9) and must seal such a packet.

Textual Amendments

F124 Sch. 2 para. 60(2) omitted (1.1.2014) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **45(1)**

F125 Sch. 2 para. 60(4) substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **45(2)**

F126 Sch. 2 para. 60(6) substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **45(3)**

F127 Sch. 2 para. 60(7) omitted (1.1.2014) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **45(1)**

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

Changes to legislation: The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 June 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)

Confirming receipt of postal voting statements

61.—(1) An elector or a proxy voter who is shown in the postal voters list or proxy postal voters list may make a request, at any time between the first issue of postal ballots under paragraph 47 and the close of the poll, that the local returning officer confirm—

- (a) whether a mark is shown in the marked copy of the postal voters list or proxy postal voters list in a place corresponding to the number of the elector to denote that a postal vote has been returned; and
- (b) whether the number of the ballot paper issued to the elector or his proxy has been recorded on either of the lists of provisionally rejected votes kept by the returning officer under sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) of paragraph 67.

(2) A request under sub-paragraph (1) must—

- (a) be made by any method specified; and
- (b) include any evidence of the voter’s identity requested,

by the local returning officer.

(3) Where a request is received in accordance with sub-paragraph (2) the local returning officer must satisfy himself that the request has been made by the elector or their proxy and where he is so satisfied provide confirmation of the matters under sub-paragraph (1).

Procedure in relation to postal voting statements

^{F128}62.

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| <p>Textual Amendments</p> <p>F128 Sch. 2 para. 62 omitted (1.1.2014) by virtue of The European Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 2013/2876), regs. 1(2), 46</p> |
|--|

Procedure in relation to postal voting statements: personal identifier verification

63.—(1) [^{F129}This paragraph applies in the circumstances described in paragraph 60(4).]

(2) The local returning officer must satisfy himself that the postal voting statement is duly completed and as part of that process must compare the date of birth and the signature on the postal voting statement against the date of birth and signature contained in the personal identifier record relating to the person to whom the postal ballot paper was addressed.

(3) Where the local returning officer is not so satisfied, he must mark the statement “rejected”, attach to it the ballot paper envelope, or if there is no such envelope [^{F130}but there is a ballot paper], the ballot paper, and, subject to sub-paragraph (4), place it in the receptacle for rejected votes (verification procedure).

(4) Before placing a postal voting statement in the receptacle for rejected votes (verification procedure), the local returning officer must show it to the agents and must permit them to view the entries in the personal identifiers record which relate to the person to whom the postal ballot paper was addressed and, if any of them object to his decision, he must add the words “rejection objected to”.

(5) The local returning officer must then examine the number on the postal voting statement against the number on the ballot paper envelope and, where they are the same, he must place the statement and the ballot paper envelope respectively in the receptacle for postal voting statements (verification procedure) and the receptacle for ballot paper envelopes.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

Changes to legislation: The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 June 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)

- (6) Where—
 - (a) the number on a valid postal voting statement is not the same as the number on the ballot paper envelope; or
 - (b) that envelope has no number on it (or only one number when the postal voting statement has more than one),

the local returning officer must open the envelope.

- (7) Sub-paragraph (8) applies where—
 - (a) there is a valid postal voting statement but no ballot paper envelope; or
 - (b) the ballot paper envelope has been opened under paragraph 60(5) or sub-paragraph (6).
- (8) In the circumstances described in sub-paragraph (7), the local returning officer must place—
 - (a) in the postal ballot box, any ballot paper the number on which is the same as the number on the valid postal voting statement;
 - (b) in the receptacle for rejected votes (verification procedure), any other ballot paper, with the valid postal voting statement attached and marked “provisionally rejected”;
 - (c) in the receptacle for rejected votes (verification procedure), any valid postal voting statement marked “provisionally rejected” where—
 - (i) there is no ballot paper; or
 - (ii) in the case of a statement on which the number of more than one ballot paper appears, there is not a sufficient number of ballot papers and, in such a case, must mark the statement to indicate which ballot paper is missing;
 - (d) in the receptacle for postal voting statements (verification procedure), any valid statement not disposed of under paragraph (b) or (c).

Textual Amendments

F129 Sch. 2 para. 63(1) substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **47(1)**

F130 Words in Sch. 2 para. 63(3) inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **47(2)**

Postal Voting Statements: additional personal identifier verification

^{F131}**64.**

Textual Amendments

F131 Sch. 2 para. 64 omitted (1.1.2014) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **48**

Opening of ballot paper envelopes

65.—(1) The local returning officer must open separately each ballot paper envelope placed in the receptacle for ballot paper envelopes.

- (2) He must place—
 - (a) in the postal ballot box, any ballot paper the number on which is the same as the number (or one of the numbers) on the ballot paper envelope;

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

Changes to legislation: The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 June 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)

- (b) in the receptacle for rejected votes, any other ballot paper which must be marked “provisionally rejected” and to which must be attached the ballot paper envelope; and
- (c) in the receptacle for rejected ballot paper envelopes, any ballot paper envelope which must be marked “provisionally rejected” because it does not contain either a ballot paper or, where more than one number appears on the ballot paper envelope, a sufficient number of ballot papers (and indicating, in such a case, the missing ballot paper).

Retrieval of cancelled postal ballot papers

66.—(1) Where it appears to the local returning officer that a postal ballot paper which has been cancelled in accordance with paragraph 53(6)^[F132], 54(4), 54A(1) or (2)] has been placed—

- (a) in a postal voters’ ballot box;
- (b) in the receptacle for ballot paper envelopes; or
- (c) in a postal ballot box,

he must proceed as follows.

(2) He must, on at least one occasion on which a postal voters’ ballot box is opened in accordance with paragraph 59, also open any postal ballot box and the receptacle for ballot paper envelopes and—

- (a) retrieve the cancelled ballot paper;
- (b) show the ballot paper number on the cancelled ballot paper to the agents;
- (c) retrieve the postal voting statement that relates to a cancelled ballot paper from the receptacle for postal voting statements ^[F133](verification procedure)];
- (d) attach any cancelled postal ballot paper to the postal voting statement to which it relates;
- (e) place the cancelled documents in a separate packet and deal with that packet in the manner provided for by paragraph 53(7) ^[F134]or 54A(2)]; and
- (f) unless the postal ballot box has been opened for the purposes of the counting of votes under rule 53 of the European Parliamentary elections rules, re-lock or re-seal (or both re-lock and re-seal), the postal ballot box in the presence of the agents.

(3) Whilst retrieving a cancelled ballot paper in accordance with sub-paragraph (2), the local returning officer and his staff—

- (a) must keep the ballot papers face downwards and must take proper precautions for preventing any person seeing the votes made on the ballot papers; and
- (b) must not be permitted to view the corresponding number list used at the issue of postal ballot papers.

Textual Amendments

F132 Words in Sch. 2 para. 66(1) substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **49(1)**

F133 Words in Sch. 2 para. 66(2)(c) inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **49(2)(a)**

F134 Words in Sch. 2 para. 66(2)(e) inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **49(2)(b)**

Lists of rejected postal ballot papers

67.—(1) In respect of any election, the local returning officer must keep [^{F135}lists relating to rejected postal ballot papers as required by this paragraph].

(2) In the first list, he must record the ballot paper number of any postal ballot paper for which no valid postal voting statement was received with it.

(3) In the second list, he must record the ballot paper number of any postal ballot paper which is entered on a valid postal voting statement where that ballot paper is not received with the postal voting statement.

[^{F136}(4) In the third list, the local returning officer must record, for every postal voting statement in the receptacle for rejected votes (verification procedure) immediately prior to sealing—

- (a) the elector's name and address (and the name and address of the proxy if the elector has a proxy);
- (b) the elector's number on the register of electors (and that of the proxy if the elector has a proxy);
- (c) the specified reason or reasons for the rejection of the postal voting statement; and
- (d) any other information relating to the rejection that the returning officer considers appropriate, but not the ballot paper number.

(5) The specified reasons that may be given under sub-paragraph (4)(c) for the rejection of a postal voting statement are as follows—

- (a) the signature does not match the example held on the personal identifiers record;
- (b) the date of birth does not match the one held on the personal identifiers record;
- (c) the signature field is blank; or
- (d) the date of birth field is blank.

(6) Sub-paragraphs (4) and (5) do not apply to the local returning officer for Gibraltar.]

Textual Amendments

F135 Words in Sch. 2 para. 67(1) substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **50(1)**

F136 Sch. 2 para. 67(4)-(6) inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **50(2)**

Checking of lists kept under paragraph 67

68.—(1) Where the local returning officer receives a valid postal voting statement without the postal ballot paper (or papers or, as the case may be, all of the papers) to which it relates, he may, at any time prior to the close of the poll, check the list kept under paragraph 67(2) to see whether the number (or numbers) of a postal ballot paper to which the statement relates is entered in that list.

(2) Where the local returning officer receives a postal ballot paper without the postal voting statement to which it relates, he may, at any time prior to the close of the poll, check the list kept under paragraph 67(3) to see whether the number of that ballot paper is entered in that list.

(3) The local returning officer must conduct the checks required by sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) as soon as practicable after the receipt of packets from every polling station in the local counting area, parliamentary constituency, electoral area or, as the case may be, voting area under rule 49(1) of the European Parliamentary elections rules.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

Changes to legislation: The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 June 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)

(4) Where the ballot paper number in the list matches that number on a valid postal voting statement or, as the case may be, the postal ballot paper, the local returning officer must retrieve that statement or paper.

(5) The local returning officer must then take the appropriate steps under this Part as though any document earlier marked “provisionally rejected” had not been so marked and must amend the document accordingly.

Sealing of receptacles

69.—(1) As soon as practicable after the completion of the procedure under paragraph 68(3) and (4), the local returning officer must make up into separate packets the contents of—

- (a) the receptacle of rejected votes;
- ^{F137}(b)
- (c) the receptacle of rejected ballot paper envelopes;
- (d) the lists of [^{F138}spoilt, lost or cancelled] postal ballot papers;
- (e) the receptacle of rejected votes (verification procedure); and
- (f) the receptacle of postal voting statements (verification procedure),

and must seal up such packets.

(2) Any document in those packets marked “provisionally rejected” must be deemed to be marked “rejected”.

Textual Amendments

F137 Sch. 2 para. 69(1)(b) omitted (1.1.2014) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **51(a)**

F138 Words in Sch. 2 para. 69(1)(d) substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **51(b)**

Forwarding of documents

70.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) and (7), the local returning officer must forward to the relevant registration officer, at the same time as he forwards the documents mentioned in rule 64 of [^{F139}the European Parliamentary elections rules][^{F140}—

- (a) the packets referred to in paragraphs 51(1), 53(7), 54(5), 54A(2), 60(11) and 69, endorsing on each a description of the contents;
- (b) any list compiled under paragraph 67(4); and
- (c) a completed statement in Form R in the Appendix.]

(2) Where the proceedings on the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers are taken together under paragraph 41, the returning officer or local returning officer discharging those functions must forward the packets containing—

- (a) the marked copies of the postal voters list and proxy postal voters list; and
- (b) the postal voting statements,

to the same person, and at the same time and in the same manner, as he is required to forward those documents as respects the election or referendum for which he is the returning officer.

(3) Where—

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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- (a) any covering envelopes are received by the local returning officer after the close of the poll (apart from those delivered in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 55(2));
- (b) any envelopes addressed to postal voters are returned as undelivered and are too late to be readdressed; or
- (c) any spoilt postal ballot papers are returned too late to enable other postal ballot papers to be issued,

the local returning officer must put them unopened in a separate packet, seal up such packet and endorse and retain it and subsequently deal with it in the manner described in sub-paragraph (1).

(4) Rules 65 and 66 of the European Parliamentary elections rules apply to any packet or document retained under this paragraph [^{F141}except that in applying those rules the list compiled under paragraph 67(4) must be treated in the same manner as a counted ballot paper].

(5) A completed statement in Form R in the Appendix must be provided by the local returning officer to the Secretary of State and the Electoral Commission in the period which starts 10 days after the day of the poll and ends 15 days after that day.

(6) The statement referred to in sub-paragraph (5) must identify the local counting areas within the electoral region for which it is prepared.

(7) In the case of the Scottish electoral region, sub-paragraph (1) does not apply and the local returning officer must retain on behalf of the returning officer the packets [^{F142}and documents] to which it refers.

Textual Amendments

- F139** Words in Sch. 2 para. 70(1) substituted (1.4.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) \(No.2\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/848\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(3)(d)**
- F140** Words in Sch. 2 para. 70(1) substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **52(1)**
- F141** Words in Sch. 2 para. 70(4) inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **52(2)**
- F142** Words in Sch. 2 para. 70(7) inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **52(3)**

[^{F143}Forwarding copy of list of rejected postal voting statements in Scotland

71.—(1) As soon as practicable after the declaration of the result under rule 61 of the European Parliamentary elections rules, the local returning officer for each local government area in Scotland must send a copy of the list compiled under paragraph 67(4) (rejected postal voting statements) to the registration officer for that local government area.

(2) A registration officer may only use the copy of the list sent under sub-paragraph (1) for the purposes of notifying voters of rejected postal voting statements in accordance with paragraph 31A and requiring fresh signatures to be provided in accordance with paragraph 31B.

(3) Rule 65 (orders for the production of documents) of the European Parliamentary elections rules shall apply to the copy of the list sent in accordance with sub-paragraph (1) as if—

- (a) references to counted ballot papers in the custody of the relevant registration officer were references to the copy of the list sent to a registration officer in accordance with sub-paragraph (1); and
- (b) references to the relevant registration officer were references to the registration officer who was sent a copy of a list in accordance with sub-paragraph (1).

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

Changes to legislation: The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 June 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)

(4) Except as provided for by virtue of sub-paragraph (3), no other person may be allowed to inspect the copy of the list sent to a registration officer in accordance with sub-paragraph (1).

(5) The registration officer must cause the copy of the list sent in accordance with sub-paragraph (1) to be destroyed—

- (a) as soon as practicable after the registration officer has complied with the requirements of paragraph 31A and issued any notices under paragraph 31B in relation to the information provided in the copy of the list; and
- (b) in any event, within four months of receipt.]

Textual Amendments

F143 Sch. 2 para. 71 inserted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **53**

PART 5

APPENDIX OF FORMS

Note:—The forms contained in this Appendix may be adapted so far as circumstances require.

Form N: Form of proxy paper

Form O: Form of postal voting statement to be used at a European Parliamentary election taken alone

Form P: Form of postal voting statement to be used at a European Parliamentary election where the proceedings on the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers are taken together with those proceedings at a relevant election or referendum

Form Q: Form of postal voting statement to be used at a European Parliamentary election where the poll is taken together with the poll at a relevant election or referendum, but where the proceedings on the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers are not

Form R: Statement as to postal ballot papers.

Form N

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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Form N
Proxy Paper

Paragraph 6(8), Schedule 2

Constituency.....

Polling District.....

Local Government electoral area(s).....

European Parliamentary electoral region.....

Name of Proxy.....

Address.....

Is appointed as proxy for
(Name of elector).....

*[who is qualified to be registered for
(Qualifying address).....]

*[who qualifies as an overseas elector in respect of the above constituency] to vote for
him/her at

*[the *[parliamentary] *[local government] *[European Parliamentary] election for the above
&[constituency] *[electoral area] * [European Parliamentary electoral region] on
(date).....]

*[any *[parliamentary] *[local government] * [European Parliamentary] election for the above *
[constituency] *[electoral area] *[European Parliamentary electoral region]]

*[This proxy appointment is not valid until.....]

* [This proxy appointment remains valid until.....]

Signature.....

Electoral Registration Officer

Address.....

.....

.....

Date.....

* Delete whichever is inappropriate

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE AS PROXY

- (1) This proxy paper gives you the right to vote as proxy on behalf of the elector whose name is given overleaf. However, you may not vote as proxy at the same election for more than two electors of whom you are not the spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild.
- (2) Your appointment as proxy may be for a particular election only, or it may be for a definite or indefinite period.

If it is for a particular election, you have the right to vote as proxy only at the election specified in the proxy paper.

If it is for an indefinite period, you will have in general the right to vote as proxy at any parliamentary, European Parliamentary or local government election for which the elector is qualified to vote until the electoral registration officer informs you to the contrary.

If it is for a definite period, your right to vote as proxy expires on the date stated on the form.
- (3) You may vote as proxy at the polling station allotted to the elector on whose behalf you are appointed. Shortly before polling day you will be sent a proxy poll card telling you where the polling station is. You do not need to take either the poll card or this proxy paper to the polling station but you may find it helpful to do so. **However, if the elector on whose behalf you are appointed has registered to vote anonymously you must take the polling card with you.**
- (4) If you cannot vote in person at the polling station, you should consult the electoral registration officer about your right to vote by post.

^{F144}Form O: Form of postal voting statement to be used at a European Parliamentary election taken alone

Front of statement

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

Changes to legislation: The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 June 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)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----|--|-------|--|------|--|
| Postal voting statement | [Space for barcode] | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Election of Members of the European Parliament for the [insert name of Region, e.g. 'North-West Region'] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Date of election [day] [date] [name of month] [year] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Important – you must fill in and return this postal voting statement with your completed ballot paper for it to be counted. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Please read the instructions carefully and use a black pen. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| * Name _____ Ballot paper number _____ | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| * Local Returning Officer to insert name but omit where sent to an anonymous elector | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (!) Check that the number on the back of your ballot paper matches the number shown above. If these do not match, call us immediately on (insert helpline number). | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I am the person the ballot paper numbered above was sent to. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| My Date of Birth is: | <table border="1"><tr><td><input type="text"/></td><td><input type="text"/></td><td><input type="text"/></td><td><input type="text"/></td><td><input type="text"/></td><td><input type="text"/></td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Day</td><td colspan="2">Month</td><td colspan="2">Year</td></tr></table> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Day | | Month | | Year | |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | | | | | | | | |
| Day | | Month | | Year | | | | | | | | | |
| * My Signature is: (You must sign inside the box) | <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 60px; width: 100%;"></div> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| * Local Returning Officer to omit box where the elector has been granted a waiver | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| We will check this information against our records for security. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| It is an offence to vote using a ballot paper that was not sent for your use or interfere with another voter's ballot paper. It is an offence to vote more than once (unless you are appointed as a proxy) at the same election. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Local Returning Officer to add pictorial guidance as appropriate. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Back of statement

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

Changes to legislation: The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 June 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)

Instructions for voting by post

Please read through carefully. If you need help, please call us on [insert helpline number]

1. For your vote to be counted, you must fill in and return this postal voting statement with your ballot paper.
2. Make sure you have filled in the **date of birth *[and signature] box[es]** on this postal voting statement.
**Local Returning Officer to delete where elector is granted a waiver.*
3. Vote **only once** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice on the ballot paper.
4. Do not mark the ballot paper in any other way or your vote may not count.
5. We must get your postal vote by 10pm on **[day] [date of poll]**. If you miss the post, you can hand it in at our office or at any polling station in the local counting area before **10pm on [day] [date of poll]**.
6. After receiving this postal vote, you cannot vote in person at a polling station in this election.

Getting help

If you need help to vote, you can ask someone you know or get independent help by calling the helpline on *[insert helpline number]*. The person helping you must not tell anyone how you voted.

Please call the helpline if you require copies of this form or guidance in Braille or languages other than English.

If you make a mistake, or lose your postal ballot paper or this statement, you can get a replacement. Call us immediately as **we can only issue a replacement before 5pm on [day] [date] [name of month]**. If you apply after 5pm on **[day]** before poll we can only issue a replacement if you return this ballot pack by hand. You will need to return all the contents of this postal voting pack to us.

Electoral fraud is a crime. It is an offence to vote more than once in this election unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person.

The Local Returning Officer issued this statement.
Local Returning Officer to add pictorial guidance as appropriate.

Textual Amendments

F144 Sch. 2 Pt. 5: Forms O, P, Q substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), 55, **Sch. 3**

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

Changes to legislation: The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 June 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)

F144 Form P: Form of postal voting statement to be used at a European Parliamentary election where the proceedings on the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers are taken together with those proceedings at a relevant election or referendum

Front of statement

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Postal voting statement | [Space for barcode] |
| Election of Members of the European Parliament for the [insert name of Region, e.g. 'North-West Region'] <i>[Local Returning Officer to insert title(s) of other elections as appropriate]</i> | |
| Date of elections [day] [date] [name of month] [year] | |
| <p>Important – you must fill in and return this postal voting statement with your completed ballot papers for them to be counted.</p> <p>Please read the instructions carefully and use a black pen.</p> <p>* Name _____ Ballot paper numbers _____</p> <p>* <i>Local Returning Officer to insert name but omit where sent to an anonymous elector</i></p> <p>(!) Check that the numbers on the backs of your ballot papers match the numbers shown above. If they do not match, call us immediately on (insert helpline number).</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>I am the person the ballot papers numbered above were sent to.</p> <p>My Date of Birth is: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Day Month Year</p> <p>* My Signature is: (You must sign inside the box)</p> <p>* <i>Local Returning Officer to omit box where the elector has been granted a waiver</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 200px; height: 60px; margin-left: 100px;"></div> </div> <p>We will check this information against our records for security.</p> <p>It is an offence to vote using a ballot paper that was not sent for your use or interfere with another voter's ballot paper. It is an offence to vote more than once (unless you are appointed as a proxy) at the same election.</p> <p><i>Local Returning Officer to add pictorial guidance as appropriate.</i></p> | |

Back of statement

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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Instructions for voting by post

Please read through carefully. If you need help, please call us on *[insert helpline number]*

- For your votes to be counted, you must fill in and return this postal voting statement with all your ballot papers (listed below).
- Make sure you have filled in the date of birth **[and signature] box(es)* on this postal voting statement.
**Local Returning Officer to delete where elector is granted a waiver.*

*** European Parliamentary election (*[insert colour]* ballot paper)**

- [Vote only once by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.]

*** UK Parliamentary election (*[insert colour]* ballot paper)**

- Vote for only one candidate by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.

*** [Local government election] / [Parish/Town council election] (*[insert colour]* ballot paper)**

- [Vote only once by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.]
[Vote for no more than ___ candidates by putting a cross in the box next to each of your choices.]

*** Scottish local government election (*[insert colour]* ballot paper)**

- [Vote using numbers
- Put the number 1 in the box next to the name of the candidate who is your first choice
- Then put the number 2 in the box next to the name of the candidate who is your second choice
- Then put the number 3 in the box next to your third choice
- Then put the number 4 in the box next to your fourth choice, and so on
- You can mark as many choices as you wish]

*** Greater London Authority constituency members election (*[insert colour]* ballot paper)**

*** Greater London Authority London members election (*[insert colour]* ballot paper)**

- [Vote only once by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.]

*** London Mayoral election (*[insert colour]* ballot paper)**

- [Vote by putting a cross in the box
- In column 1 next to your first choice candidate
- In column 2 next to your second choice candidate

[Your first and second choices should be different]

*** *[Name of election/referendum]* election/referendum (*[insert colour]* ballot paper)**

- [Vote according to the instructions on your ballot paper.]
**Local Returning Officer to add/amend as appropriate.*
- (!) Do not mark the ballot papers in any other way or your votes may not count.
- (!) We must get your postal vote by **10pm on *[day]* *[date of poll]***. If you miss the post, you can hand it in at our office or at any polling station in the local counting area before **10pm on *[day]* *[date of poll]***.
- (!) After receiving this postal vote, you cannot vote in person at a polling station in this election.

Getting help

- If you need help to vote, you can ask someone you know or get independent help by calling the helpline on *[insert helpline number]*. The person helping you must not tell anyone how you voted.
- Please call the helpline if you require copies of this form or guidance in Braille or languages other than English.
- If you make a mistake, or lose your postal ballot papers or this statement, you can get a replacement. Call us immediately as we can only issue a replacement before 5pm on *[day]* *[date]* *[name of month]*. If you apply after 5pm on *[day]* before poll we can only issue a replacement if you return this ballot pack by hand. You will need to return all the contents of this postal voting pack to us.

Electoral fraud is a crime. It is an offence to vote more than once in this election unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person.

The Local Returning Officer issued this statement.
Local Returning Officer to add pictorial guidance as appropriate.

^{F144}Form Q: Form of postal voting statement to be used at a European Parliamentary election where the poll is taken together with the poll at a relevant election or referendum, but where the proceedings on the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers are not

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Front of statement

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----|-------|------|--|--|--|
| Postal voting statement | [Space for barcode] | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Election of Members of the European Parliament for the [insert name of Region, e.g. 'North-West Region'] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Date of election [day] [date] [name of month] [year] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Important – you must fill in and return this postal voting statement with your completed ballot paper for it to be counted. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Please read the instructions carefully and use a black pen. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| * Name _____ Ballot paper number _____ | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| * Local Returning Officer to insert name but omit where sent to an anonymous elector | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (!) Check that the number on the back of your ballot paper matches the number shown above. If these do not match, call us immediately on (insert helpline number). | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I am the person the ballot paper numbered above was sent to. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| My Date of Birth is: | <table border="1"><tr><td><input type="text"/></td><td><input type="text"/></td><td><input type="text"/></td><td><input type="text"/></td><td><input type="text"/></td><td><input type="text"/></td></tr><tr><td>Day</td><td>Month</td><td colspan="4">Year</td></tr></table> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Day | Month | Year | | | |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | | | | | | | | |
| Day | Month | Year | | | | | | | | | | | |
| * My Signature is: (You must sign inside the box) | <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| * Local Returning Officer to omit box where the elector has been granted a waiver | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| We will check this information against our records for security. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| It is an offence to vote using a ballot paper that was not sent for your use or interfere with another voter's ballot paper. It is an offence to vote more than once (unless you are appointed as a proxy) at the same election. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Local Returning Officer to add pictorial guidance as appropriate. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Back of statement

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Instructions for voting by post

Please read through carefully. If you need help, please call us on [insert helpline number]

- For your vote to be counted, you must fill in and return this postal voting statement with your ballot paper for the **European Parliamentary election**.
- Make sure you have filled in the **date of birth *[and signature] box[es]** on this postal voting statement.
**Local Returning Officer to delete where elector is granted a waiver.*

European Parliamentary election ([insert colour] ballot paper)

- Vote **only once** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice on the ballot paper.
- Do not mark the ballot paper in any other way or your vote may not count.
- We must get your postal vote by 10pm on **[day] [date of poll]**. If you miss the post, you can hand it in at our office or at any polling station in the local counting area before **10pm on [day] [date of poll]**.
- After receiving this postal vote, you cannot vote in person at a polling station in this election.

Getting help

- If you need help to vote, you can ask someone you know or get independent help by calling the helpline on **[insert helpline number]**. The person helping you must not tell anyone how you voted.
- Please call the helpline if you require copies of this form or guidance in Braille or languages other than English.
- If you make a mistake, or lose your postal ballot paper or this statement, you can get a replacement. Call us immediately as **we can only issue a replacement before 5pm on [day] [date] [name of month]**. If you apply after 5pm on **[day]** before poll we can only issue a replacement if you return this ballot pack by hand. You will need to return all the contents of this postal voting pack to us.

Electoral fraud is a crime. It is an offence to vote more than once in this election unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person.

The Local Returning Officer issued this statement.

Local Returning Officer to add pictorial guidance as appropriate.

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Textual Amendments

F145 Sch. 2 Pt. 5 Form R amended (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **54**

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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Form R:

Paragraph 70(5), Schedule 2

| Form R: STATEMENT AS TO POSTAL BALLOT PAPERS REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACTS EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION | |
|--|---------------|
| Electoral Region: Date of Poll:..... | |
| Local Counting Area..... | |
| A. Issue of postal ballot papers | <i>Number</i> |
| 1. Total number of postal ballot papers issued under paragraph 48 | |
| 2. Total number of replacement postal ballot papers issued under paragraph 53 (spoilt and returned for cancellation) and paragraph 54 (lost or not received) | |
| 3. Total number of postal ballot papers cancelled under paragraph 53 (where the first ballot paper was cancelled and retrieved) | |
| 4. Total number of postal ballot papers issued (1 to 3) | |
| B (1). Receipt of and replacement postal ballot papers | <i>Number</i> |
| 5. Number of covering envelopes received by the local returning officer or at a polling station before the close of poll (excluding any dealt with in the manner provided for by paragraph 53 and paragraph 54) | |
| 6. Number of covering envelopes received by the local returning officer after the close of poll, excluding any returned as undelivered | |
| 7. Number of postal ballot papers returned spoilt for cancellation in time for another ballot paper to be issued | |
| 8. Number of postal ballot paper(s) identified as lost or not received in time for another ballot paper to be issued | |
| 9. Number of ballot papers cancelled and retrieved in time for another ballot paper to be issued | |
| 10. Number of postal ballot papers returned as spoilt too late for another ballot paper to be issued | |
| 11. Number of covering envelopes returned as undelivered (up to the 10 th day after the date of poll) | |
| 12. Number of covering envelopes not received by the local returning officer (by the 10 th day after the date of poll) | |
| 13. Total numbers 5 to 12 (this should be the same as that in 4 above) | |
| 14. Number of postal ballot papers replaced as lost or not received but not returned for cancellation. | |
| B (2). Receipt of postal ballot papers – Personal Identifiers | <i>Number</i> |
| 15. Number of covering envelopes set aside for the verification of personal identifiers on postal vote statements | |
| 16. Number of postal voting statements not subject to verification procedure rejected as not completed (excluding prior cancellations) | |
| 17. Number of postal voting statements subject to verification procedure rejected as not completed (excluding prior cancellations) | |
| 18. Number of postal voting statements rejected following verification procedures due to the personal identifiers on the postal voting statement not matching those in the personal identifiers record (excluding prior cancellations) | |

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| C. Count of postal ballot papers | Number |
|---|--------|
| 19. Number of ballot papers returned by postal voters which were included in the count of ballot papers | |
| 20. Number of cases in which a covering envelope or its contents were marked "Rejected" (cancellations under paragraphs 53, 54 and 66 are not rejections and should be included in items 2,3,7,8 and 9 above) | |
| Date Signed | |
| Local Returning Officer | |
| Authority | |

A COMPLETED STATEMENT MUST BE PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL RETURNING OFFICER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION IN THE PERIOD WHICH STARTS 10 DAYS AFTER THE DAY OF THE POLL

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[^{F146}SCHEDULE 3

Regulation 11

MODIFICATION OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTIONS RULES FOR COMBINED POLLS

Textual Amendments

F146 Sch. 3 substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), 41, **Sch. 4**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C14 Sch. 3 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)

PART 1

ENGLAND AND WALES

1. This Part of this Schedule applies in the circumstances set out in regulation 11(i) of these Regulations.

2.—(1) In this Part of this Schedule, and in any provision of the European Parliamentary elections rules modified by this Schedule—

[^{F147}“police and crime commissioner election” means an election of a police and crime commissioner in accordance with Chapter 6 of Part 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011;]

“relevant election or referendum” means one or more of the following—

- (a) parliamentary election,
- (b) local government election,
- (c) mayoral election,
- (d) referendum,
- (e) [^{F148}a police and crime commissioner election,]

the poll at which is taken together with a poll at the European Parliamentary election; and

“GLRO” means the Greater London Returning Officer, being the person who is for the time being a proper officer of the Greater London Authority for the purposes of section 35(2C) of the 1983 Act.

(2) In the case of a referendum, a reference to—

- (a) an election agent or counting agent shall be construed as a reference to a counting officer within the meaning of regulation 2(1) of the Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (England) Regulations 2007;
- (b) a polling agent shall be construed as a reference to a polling observer, within the meaning of that regulation; and
- (c) the returning officer or local returning officer shall be construed as a reference to a counting officer, within the meaning of that regulation.

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Textual Amendments

F147 Words in Sch. 3 para. 2(1) inserted (25.7.2012) by [The Police and Crime Commissioner Elections Order 2012 \(S.I. 2012/1917\)](#), [art. 1\(2\)](#), [Sch. 4 para. 2\(3\)\(a\)](#)

F148 Words in Sch. 3 para. 2(1) inserted (25.7.2012) by [The Police and Crime Commissioner Elections Order 2012 \(S.I. 2012/1917\)](#), [art. 1\(2\)](#), [Sch. 4 para. 2\(3\)\(b\)](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C15 Sch. 3 para. 2(2) modified (3.8.2012) by [The Neighbourhood Planning \(Referendums\) Regulations 2012 \(S.I. 2012/2031\)](#), [regs. 1, 8, 12, 13](#), [Sch. 4 para. 14](#)

3.—(1) In rule 22 (the ballot papers) at the end of paragraph (2)(b) omit “and”.

(2) At the end of paragraph (2) insert—

“; and

(d) must be of a different colour from that of any ballot papers used at any relevant election or referendum.”

4. At the end of rule 27 (notice of poll) insert—

“(3) A notice published under paragraph (2) must, in addition—

(a) state that the poll at the European Parliamentary election is to be taken together with the poll at a relevant election or referendum;

(b) specify the relevant parliamentary constituency, local authority or, as the case may be, voting area and, in the case of a local government election to fill a casual vacancy, the electoral area for which the election is held; and

(c) where the polls are to be taken together in part of the local counting area only, specify that part.”

5. At the end of rule 31 (issue of official poll cards) insert—

“(9) If the returning officer for each relevant election or referendum agrees, an official poll card issued under this rule may be combined with an official poll card issued at each relevant election or referendum, with necessary adaptations.”

6. After paragraph (1) of rule 32 (equipment of polling stations) insert—

“(1A) The same ballot box may be used for the poll at the European Parliamentary election and the poll at each relevant election or referendum, if the returning officer who discharges the functions specified in regulation 5 of the Combination of Polls Regulations thinks fit.

(1B) Where the same ballot box is not used under paragraph (1A), each ballot box must be clearly marked with—

(a) the election or referendum to which it relates, as shown on the ballot papers for that election or referendum; and

(b) the words “Please insert the [*specify colour of ballot papers in question*] coloured ballot papers in here.””.

7. After paragraph (5) of rule 32 (equipment of polling stations) insert—

“(5A) The large version of the ballot paper referred to in paragraph (5)(a) must be printed on paper of the same colour as that of the ballot papers for use at the European Parliamentary election.”

[^{F149}8. For paragraph (7) of rule 32 (equipment of polling stations) substitute the following—

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“(7) In every compartment of every polling station there must be exhibited the notice:

*PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION
 ([Specify colour] ballot paper)
 Vote for ONLY ONE CANDIDATE by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your choice.

*EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION
 ([Specify colour] ballot paper)
 Vote ONLY ONCE by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your choice.

*[Specify name of council] COUNCIL ELECTION
 ([Specify colour] ballot paper)
 *[Vote for NO MORE THAN ... CANDIDATES by putting a cross [X] in the box next to EACH of your choices]
 *[Vote ONLY ONCE by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your choice]

*ELECTION OF THE MAYOR OF LONDON
 ([Specify colour] ballot paper)
 #On the ballot paper for the election of the Mayor, vote ONCE for your first choice and ONCE for your second choice.

*ELECTION OF THE LONDON ASSEMBLY
 #On the constituency members ballot paper [(specify colour)] vote for ONE candidate only.
 #On the London members ballot paper [(specify colour)] vote for ONE party or individual candidate only.

*[Specify other] ELECTION/REFERENDUM
 ([Specify colour] ballot paper)
 *[Vote for ONE candidate only]
 *Vote ONCE for your first choice and ONCE for your second choice]
 *[Mark ONE answer to the referendum question]

PUT NO OTHER MARK ON THE BALLOT PAPER(S)*
 OR YOUR VOTE(S)* MAY NOT COUNT

*[PLEASE DO NOT FOLD THE BALLOT PAPERS FOR [specify the elections at which the votes are to be counted electronically]. *Post them, face downwards, in the [*appropriate] ballot box.]

*Complete or omit as necessary
 #Alternatively, insert such information as the GLRO may decide”].

Textual Amendments

F149 Sch. 3 Pt. 1 para. 8 substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), 56

9. In paragraph (1)(b) of rule 33 (appointment of polling and counting agents) omit the words “the verification of the ballot paper accounts and” and in paragraph (3)(b) of that rule omit the words “the verification of the ballot paper accounts or”.

10. At the end of paragraph (4) of rule 33 (appointment of polling and counting agents) insert—

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“Notices of the appointment of polling agents and counting agents which are required by this paragraph and paragraph (5) to be given to the local returning officer must be given to the returning officer who discharges the functions specified in regulation 5 of the Combination of Polls Regulations”.

11. In [F150 rule 34(1)(b)] (notification of requirement of secrecy) omit the words “the verification of the ballot paper accounts or” and “,(3)”.

Textual Amendments

F150 Words in Sch. 3 Pt. 1 para. 11 substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), 57

12.—(1) In rule 36(1) (admission to polling station), after sub-paragraph (g) omit “and”.

(2) After sub-paragraph (h), insert—

“; and

(i) persons entitled to be admitted to the polling station at a relevant election or referendum.”.

13. In rule 39 (questions to be put to voters) in questions 1(b), 2(b), 3(b) and 4 specified in the second column of the table set out in paragraph (1) after the words “at this” (wherever they occur) insert “European Parliamentary”.

14. At the end of rule 41 (voting procedure) insert—

“(6) The same copy of a register of electors or, where paragraph (3) applies, the same copy of the notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, may be used under paragraph (1) for each relevant election or referendum, and

(a) one mark may be placed in that register or on that notice under paragraph (1)(c) or in the list of proxies under paragraph (1)(d), to denote that a ballot paper has been issued in respect of each election or referendum; and

(b) where a ballot paper has not been issued in respect of a relevant election or referendum, a different mark must be placed in the register, or on the notice or list so as to identify each election or referendum in respect of which the ballot paper was issued.”.

15. At the end of paragraph (2) of rule 42 (votes marked by presiding officer) insert—

“The same list may be used for each relevant election or referendum and, where it is so used, an entry in that list shall be taken to mean that the ballot papers were so marked in respect of each election or referendum, unless the list identifies the election or referendum at which the vote was so marked.”.

16. At the end of paragraph (4) of rule 43 (voting by persons with disabilities) insert—

“The same list may be used for each relevant election or referendum and, where it is so used, an entry in that list shall be taken to mean that votes were so given in respect of each election or referendum, unless the list identifies the election or referendum at which the vote was given.”.

17. At the end of paragraph (2) of rule 45 (tendered ballot papers: general provisions) insert—

“The same list may be used for each relevant election or referendum and, where it is so used, an entry in that list shall be taken to mean that tendered ballot papers were marked in respect of each election or referendum, unless the list identifies the election or referendum at which a tendered ballot paper was marked”.

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- 18.** At the end of paragraph (1) of rule 47 (alteration of registers) insert—
- “The same list may be used for each relevant election or referendums and, where it is so used, an entry in that list shall be taken to mean that ballot papers were issued in respect of each election or referendum, unless the list identifies the election or referendum for which a ballot paper was issued.”.
- 19.** In paragraph (1) of rule 48 (adjournment of poll in case of riot) omit “local” and after “returning officer” insert “who discharges the functions specified in regulation 5 of the Combination of Polls Regulations”.
- 20.** In paragraph (1) of rule 49 (procedure on close of poll) after the words “polling agents”, in the first place where they occur, insert “appointed for the purpose of the European Parliamentary election and those appointed for the purposes of each relevant election or referendum”.
- 21.** After paragraph (1) of rule 49 (procedure on close of poll) insert—
- “(1A) The contents of the packets referred to in sub-paragraphs (b), (c) and (f) of paragraph (1) must not be combined with the contents of packets made up under the corresponding rule that applies at each relevant election or referendum; nor shall the statement prepared under paragraph (3) be so combined.
- (1B) References to the local returning officer in paragraph (1) above are references to the returning officer who discharges the functions specified in regulation 5 of the Combination of Polls Regulations”.
- 22.** Omit rules 50 (attendance at verification of ballot paper accounts) and 51 (procedure at verification of ballot paper accounts).
- 23.** For paragraph (1) of rule 52 (attendance at counting of votes) substitute—
- “(1) The local returning officer must make arrangements for counting the votes in the presence of the counting agents after the delivery of the ballot papers to him by the returning officer who discharges the functions specified in regulation 5 of the Combination of Polls Regulations —
- (a) in the case of a general election of MEPs, before or after the material time and in either case so that the requirements of rule 57(1) are satisfied as soon as practicable after the material time;
- (b) in the case of a by-election, as soon as practicable after that delivery,
- and must give to the counting agents and the returning officer notice in writing of the time after which he will begin to count the votes if by then he has received the ballot papers and of the place at which the count will take place.”
- 24.** For paragraph (1) of rule 53 (the count) substitute—
- “(1) The local returning officer must –
- (a) on receipt of the containers of ballot papers from the returning officer who discharges the functions specified in regulation 5 of the Combination of Polls Regulations and after the time specified in the notice given under rule 52(1) in the presence of the counting agents open each container;
- (b) where the proceedings on the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers are not taken together with those proceedings at another relevant election or referendum under paragraph 41 of Schedule 2, count such of the postal ballot papers as have been duly returned and record the number counted; and
- (c) mix together the postal ballot papers and the ballot papers from the containers and count the votes given on them.

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(1A) Where separate ballot boxes have been used, no vote for any individual candidate or registered party shall be rendered invalid by the ballot paper being placed in the ballot box used at any relevant election or referendum.

(1B) A postal ballot paper must not be deemed to be duly returned unless—

- (a) it is returned in the manner prescribed in paragraph 55 of Schedule 2 so as to reach the local returning officer or any polling station in the appropriate area before the close of the poll;
- (b) the postal voting statement duly signed (unless the requirement for a signature has been waived) is also returned in that manner before that time;
- (c) the postal voting statement states the date of birth of the elector or proxy (as the case may be), and

[^{F151}(d) the local returning officer verifies the date of birth and the signature of the elector or proxy (as the case may be) under paragraph 63 of Schedule 2.]

(1C) In paragraph (1B) the “appropriate area” means—

- (a) the area in the local counting area common to the parliamentary constituency, electoral area or voting area (as the case may be) in which the polls at the European Parliamentary election and a relevant election or referendum are being taken together; and
- (b) in respect of which polls the voter has been issued with a postal ballot paper.”

Textual Amendments

F151 Words in Sch. 3 Pt. 1 para. 24 substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **58**

25. In paragraph (3) of rule 53 (the count) after the word “while” insert “counting and recording the number of postal ballot papers and”.

26. For paragraph (2) of rule 63 (sealing up of ballot papers) substitute—

“(2) The local returning officer must not open the sealed packets of—

- (a) tendered ballot papers, or
- (b) certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll.

(3) Where he is the returning officer who discharges the functions referred to in regulation 5 of the Combination of Polls Regulations, the local returning officer must not open the sealed packets of—

- (a) the completed corresponding number lists, or
- (b) marked copies of a register of electors (including any marked copy notices issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act) and lists of proxies”.

27. In paragraph (1) of rule 64 (delivery and retention of documents), omit sub-paragraphs (c) and (f).

[^{F152}**28.** In the Appendix of Forms, for Form K (form of directions for guidance of voters in voting) substitute Form K1 in the Appendix of Forms to this Schedule.]

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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Textual Amendments

F152 Sch. 3 Pt. 1 paras. 28, 29 substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **59**

[^{F152}**29.** In the Appendix of Forms, for Form M (form of declaration by companion of voter with disabilities) substitute Form M1 in the Appendix of Forms to this Schedule.]

Textual Amendments

F152 Sch. 3 Pt. 1 paras. 28, 29 substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **59**

PART 2

SCOTLAND

1. This Part of this Schedule applies in the circumstances set out in regulation 11(ii) of these Regulations.

2.—(1) In rule 22 (the ballot papers) at the end of paragraph (2)(b) omit “and”.

(2) At the end of paragraph (2) insert—

“; and

(d) must be of a different colour from that of any ballot papers used at an election the poll for which is taken together with the poll for the European Parliamentary election.”

3. At the end of rule 27 (notice of poll) insert—

“(3) The notice published under paragraph (2) must, in addition:

(a) state that the poll at the European Parliamentary election is to be taken together with the poll at a parliamentary or, as the case may be, local government election;

(b) specify the relevant parliamentary constituency or, as the case may be, local authority and, in the case of a local government election to fill a casual vacancy, the electoral area for which the election is held; and

(c) where the polls are to be taken together in part of the European Parliamentary electoral region only, specify that part.”

4. At the end of rule 31 (issue of official poll cards) insert —

“(9) An official poll card issued under this rule may be combined with an official poll card issued at a parliamentary election or, as the case may be, local government election.”

5. After paragraph (1) of rule 32 (equipment of polling stations) insert —

“(1A) The same ballot box may be used for the poll at the European Parliamentary election and the poll at the parliamentary election or, as the case may be, local government election, if the returning officer who discharges the functions specified in regulation 96 of the 1986 (Scotland) Regulations thinks fit.

(1B) Where the same ballot box is not used under paragraph (1A), each ballot box must be clearly marked with—

(a) the election to which it relates, as shown on the ballot papers for that election; and

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(b) the words “Please insert the [*specify colour of ballot papers in question*] coloured ballot papers in here.””

6. After paragraph (5) of rule 32 (equipment of polling stations) insert—

“(5A) The large version of the ballot paper referred to in paragraph (5)(a) must be printed on paper of the same colour as that of the ballot papers for use at the European Parliamentary election.”

[^{F153}7. For paragraph (7) of rule 32 (equipment of polling stations) substitute—

“(7) In every compartment of every polling station there must be exhibited the notice:

*PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

([Specify colour]) ballot paper)

Vote for ONLY ONE CANDIDATE by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your choice.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

([Specify colour] ballot paper)

Vote ONLY ONCE by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your choice.

*LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION

On the Local Government ballot paper (coloured [Specify colour]) you vote using numbers. Put the number 1 in the box next to the name of the candidate who is your first choice, then put the number 2 in the box next to the name of the candidate who is your second choice, the number 3 in the box next to your third choice, the number 4 in the box next to your fourth choice, and so on. You can mark as many choices as you wish.

PUT NO OTHER MARK ON THE BALLOT PAPER(S)*

OR YOUR VOTE(S)* MAY NOT COUNT

**Delete as necessary”.]*

Textual Amendments

F153 Sch. 3 Pt. 2 para. 7 substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **60**

8. In paragraph (1)(b) of rule 33 (appointment of polling and counting agents) omit the words “the verification of the ballot paper accounts and” and in paragraph (3)(b) of that rule omit the words “verification of the ballot papers accounts or”.

9. At the end of paragraph (4) of rule 33 (appointment of polling and counting agents) insert —

“Notices of the appointment of polling agents and counting agents which are required by this paragraph and paragraph (5) to be given to the local returning officer must be given to the returning officer who discharges the functions specified in regulation 96 of the 1986 (Scotland) Regulations.”.

10. In [^{F154}rule 34(1)(b)] (notification of requirement of secrecy) omit the words “the verification of the ballot paper accounts or” and “(3)”.

Textual Amendments

F154 Words in Sch. 3 Pt. 2 para. 10 substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **61**

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- 11.**—(1) In rule 36(1)(admission to polling station), after sub-paragraph (g) omit “and”.
- (2) After sub-paragraph (h) insert the following—
- “; and
- (i) persons entitled to be admitted to the polling station at an election the poll for which is taken together with the poll for the European Parliamentary election.”
- 12.** In rule 39 (questions to be put to voters) in questions 1(b), 2(b), 3(b) and 4 specified in the second column of the table set out in paragraph (1) after the words “at this” (wherever they occur) insert “European Parliamentary”.
- 13.** At the end of rule 41 (voting procedure) insert—
- “(6) The same copy of a register of electors or, where paragraph (3) applies, the same copy of the notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, may be used under paragraph (1) for each election, and
- (a) one mark may be placed in that register or on that notice under paragraph (1)(c) or in the list of proxies under paragraph (1)(d) to denote that a ballot paper has been issued in respect of each election; and
- (b) where a ballot paper has not been issued in respect of one election only, a different mark must be placed in the register, on the notice or list so as to identify the election in respect of which the ballot paper was issued.”
- 14.** At the end of paragraph (2) of rule 42 (votes marked by presiding officer) insert—
- “The same list may be used for each election and, where it is so used, an entry in that list shall be taken to mean that the ballot papers were so marked in respect of each election, unless the list identifies the election at which the ballot paper was so marked.”
- 15.** At the end of paragraph (4) of rule 43 (voting by person with disabilities) insert—
- “The same list may be used for each election and, where it is so used, an entry in that list shall be taken to mean that votes were so given in respect of each election, unless the list identifies the election at which the vote was given.”
- 16.** At the end of paragraph (2) of rule 45 (tendered ballot papers: general provisions) insert—
- “The same list may be used for each election and, where it is so used, an entry in that list shall be taken to mean that tendered ballot papers were marked in respect of each election, unless the list identifies the election at which the ballot papers were so marked.”
- 17.** At the end of paragraph (1) of rule 47 (alteration of registers) insert—
- “The same list may be used for each election and, where it is so used, an entry in that list shall be taken to mean that ballot papers were issued in respect of each election, unless the list identifies the election for which a ballot paper was issued.”
- 18.** At the end of paragraph (1) of rule 48 (adjournment of poll in case of riot) insert “who discharges the functions specified in regulation 96 of the 1986 (Scotland) Regulations”.
- 19.** In rule 49 (1) (procedure on close of poll), after the words “polling agents”, in the first place where they occur, insert “for the European Parliamentary election and for the parliamentary, or as the case may be, local government election”.
- 20.** After paragraph (1) of rule 49 (procedure on close of poll) insert —
- “(1A) The contents of the packets referred to in sub-paragraphs (b), (c) and (f) of paragraph (1) must not be combined with the contents of packets made up under the corresponding rule that applies at a parliamentary election or, as the case may be, local government election; nor shall the statement prepared under paragraph (3) be so combined.

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(1B) References to the local returning officer in paragraph (1) above are references to the returning officer who discharges the functions specified in regulation 96 of the 1986 (Scotland) Regulations.”

21. Omit rules 50 (attendance at verification of ballot paper accounts) and 51 (procedure at verification of ballot paper accounts).

22. For paragraph (1) of rule 52 (attendance at counting of votes) substitute—

“(1) The local returning officer must make arrangements for counting the votes in the presence of the counting agents after the delivery of the ballot papers to him by the returning officer who discharges the functions specified in regulation 96 of the 1986 (Scotland) Regulations —

(a) in the case of a general election of MEPs, before or after the material time and in either case so that the requirements of rule 57(1) are satisfied as soon as practicable after the material time;

(b) in the case of a by-election, as soon as practicable after that delivery,

and must give to the counting agents and the returning officer notice in writing of the time after which he will begin to count the votes if by then he has received the ballot papers and of the place at which the count will take place.”

23. For paragraph (1) of rule 53 (the count) substitute—

“(1) The local returning officer must—

(a) on receipt of the containers of ballot papers from the returning officer who discharges the functions specified in regulation 96 of the 1986 (Scotland) Regulations and after the time specified in the notice given under rule 52(1), in the presence of the counting agents open each container;

(b) where the proceedings on the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers are not taken together with those proceedings at another election under paragraph 41 of Schedule 2, count such of the postal ballot papers as have been duly returned and record the number counted; and

(c) mix together the postal ballot papers and the ballot papers from the containers and count the votes given on them.

(1A) Where separate ballot boxes have been used, no vote for any individual candidate or registered party shall be rendered invalid by the ballot paper being placed in the ballot box used for another election.

(1B) A postal ballot paper must not be deemed to be duly returned unless—

(a) it is returned in the manner prescribed in paragraph 55 of Schedule 2 so as to reach the local returning officer or any polling station in the local counting area before the close of the poll;

(b) the duly completed postal voting statement is also returned in that manner before that time;

[^{F155}(c) the local returning officer verifies the date of birth and the signature of the elector or proxy (as the case may be) under paragraph 63 of Schedule 2.”]

Textual Amendments

F155 Words in Sch. 3 Pt. 2 para. 23 substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), 62

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24. In paragraph (3) of rule 53 (the count) after the word “while” insert “counting and recording the number of postal ballot papers and”.

25. For paragraph (2) of rule 63 (sealing up of ballot papers) substitute—

“(2) The local returning officer must not open the sealed packets of—

(a) tendered ballot papers, or

(b) certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll.

(3) Where he is the returning officer who discharges the functions referred to in regulation 96 of the 1986 (Scotland) Regulations, the local returning officer must not open the sealed packets of—

(a) the completed corresponding number lists, or

(b) marked copies of a register of electors (including any marked copy notices issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act) and lists of proxies.”

26. In paragraph (1) of rule 64 (delivery and retention of documents) omit sub-paragraphs (c) and (f).]

[^{F156}**27.** In the Appendix of Forms, for Form K (form of directions for the guidance of voters in voting) substitute Form K1 in the Appendix of Forms to this Schedule.]

Textual Amendments

F156 Sch. 3 Pt. 2 paras. 27, 28 substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **63**

[^{F156}**28.** In the Appendix of Forms, for Form M (form of declaration by companion of voter with disabilities) substitute Form M1 in the Appendix of Forms to this Schedule.]

Textual Amendments

F156 Sch. 3 Pt. 2 paras. 27, 28 substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **63**

[^{F157}FORMS TO BE USED WHEN POLLS ARE COMBINED

Form K1: Form of directions for the guidance of voters in voting

How to vote at this election

1

Go to the desk and tell the staff your name and address.
They will give you your ballot papers.



2

Take your ballot papers to a voting booth.



3

Read the instructions in the booth and mark your ballot papers.



4

When you have marked your ballot papers, fold them so that nobody can see how you have voted.



5

Put your folded ballot papers into the ballot boxes for each election.



(!) Voting is secret. Do not let anyone see how you have voted.
🗣️ If you make a mistake or need some help, just ask the staff.

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Form M1: Form of declaration to be made by the companion of a voter with disabilities

| | |
|--|--|
| Declaration for the companion of a voter with disabilities | |
| <p>* [Election of Member of Parliament for the <i>[insert name of constituency]</i> constituency]</p> <p>* [Election of Members of the European Parliament for the <i>(insert name of Region, e.g. 'North-West Region')</i>]</p> <p>* [Election of councillors to <i>[insert name of local authority/parish/town council in full]</i>]</p> <p>* [Election of the Greater London Authority [London] [constituency] member for <i>[insert name of constituency]</i>]</p> <p>* [Election of the Mayor [of London] for <i>[insert name of authority]</i>]</p> <p>* [<i>Insert title of election/referendum</i>] election/referendum]</p> <p>* <i>Delete or amend as appropriate</i></p> | |
| Date of election <i>[insert name of day] [insert date] [name of month] [year]</i> | |
| A voter with disabilities is a voter who has made a declaration that he or she is so incapacitated by his or her blindness or other disability, or by his or her inability to read, as to be unable to vote in this election without assistance. | |
| Part 1 To be completed by the voter's companion | |
| Companion name | |
| Companion address | |
| Elector name | |
| Elector number | |
| [Only for use if the disabled elector is acting as a proxy] Elector is acting as proxy for: | |
| <p>I have been requested to assist the elector named above to record their vote at this election. I declare that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am entitled to vote as an elector at this election <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am the *spouse/*civil partner/*parent/*brother/*sister/*child of the voter with disabilities and am 18 years of age or over *Please delete whichever does not apply <p>And</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have not previously assisted more than one voter with disabilities at the election. If I have assisted one other voter their name and address is: | |
| [Complete if appropriate] Name and address of other person assisted | |

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| | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|--|
| NOTE – It is a criminal offence to knowingly make a false statement in this form. | | | |
| Companion signature | | Date | |
| Part 2 To be completed by the Presiding Officer | | | |
| I, the undersigned, being the Presiding Officer for: | | | |
| Polling station | | Counting area of | |
| Hereby certify that the above declaration was signed in my presence. | | Presiding Officer signature | |
| Date | | Time (exact) | |

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SCHEDULE 4

Regulation 12

ENTITLEMENT TO REGISTRATION AND LEGAL INCAPACITY TO VOTE IN GIBRALTAR

PART 1

GENERAL APPLICATION AND INTERPRETATION

General application and interpretation

- 1.—(1) This Schedule makes provision as to—
- (a) legal incapacity to vote in Gibraltar as an elector at a European Parliamentary election; and
 - (b) entitlement to registration in the Gibraltar register.
- (2) For the purposes of this Schedule, “the register” means the Gibraltar register.

Time

- 2.—(1) Where the day or last day of the time allowed by this Schedule for the doing of any thing falls on any of the days mentioned in sub-paragraph (3), that time shall be extended until the next following day which is not one of those days.
- (2) In computing any period of not more than 7 days for the purposes of this Schedule any of the days mentioned in sub-paragraph (3) shall be disregarded.
- (3) The days referred to in sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) are a Saturday, Sunday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, ^{F158}... Good Friday or a bank holiday.
- (4) In this regulation “bank holiday” means a day which is a Bank or Public Holiday in Gibraltar not otherwise falling within sub-paragraph (3).

Textual Amendments

F158 Words in Sch. 4 para. 2(3) omitted (30.1.2009) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **42(4)**

PART 2

ENTITLEMENT TO REGISTRATION AND LEGAL INCAPACITY

Legal incapacity

Legal incapacity to vote of offenders in prison etc

- 3.—(1) A convicted person during the time that he is detained in a penal institution in Gibraltar in pursuance of his sentence or unlawfully at large when he would otherwise be so detained is legally incapable of voting at any European Parliamentary election.
- (2) For this purpose—

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- (a) “convicted person” means any person found guilty of an offence (whether under the law of Gibraltar or not), including a person found guilty by a court-martial, but not including a person dealt with by committal or other summary process for contempt of court; and
 - (b) a person detained for default in complying with his sentence shall not be treated as detained in pursuance of the sentence, whether or not the sentence provided for detention in the event of default, but a person detained by virtue of a conditional pardon in respect of an offence shall be treated as detained in pursuance of his sentence for the offence.
- (3) It is immaterial for the purposes of this paragraph whether a conviction or sentence was before or after the coming into force of these Regulations.

Legal incapacity to vote of offenders detained in mental hospitals

- 4.—(1) A person to whom this paragraph applies is, during the time that he is—
- (a) detained at any place in pursuance of the order by virtue of which this paragraph applies to him, or
 - (b) unlawfully at large when he would otherwise be so detained,
- legally incapable of voting at any European Parliamentary election.
- (2) This paragraph applies to the following persons—
- (a) any person in respect of whom an order has been made under [^{F159}sections 662(2)(a) or (b) of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act 2011];
 - (b) a convicted person, within the meaning of paragraph 3, in respect of whom an order has been made under [^{F160}section 668 or 669 of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act 2011]; and
 - (c) any person in respect of whom [^{F161}a hospital order has been made under][^{F162}section 169(2)(a) of the Armed Forces Act 2006].
- (3) Any reference in any of sub-paragraphs (2)(a) to (c) to a provision of any ^{F163}... Act includes a reference to any earlier provision (whether of that ^{F163}... Act as originally enacted or made or as previously amended, or otherwise) to the like effect.

Textual Amendments

- F159** Words in Sch. 4 para. 4(2)(a) substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **65(1)**
- F160** Words in Sch. 4 para. 4(2)(b) substituted (1.1.2014) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/2876\)](#), regs. 1(2), **65(2)**
- F161** Words in Sch. 4 para. 4(2)(c) substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **42(5)**
- F162** Words in Sch. 4 para. 4(2)(c) substituted (31.10.2009) by [The Armed Forces Act 2006 \(Consequential Amendments\) Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/2054\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 1 para. 26** (with Sch. 2 para. 17)
- F163** Words in Sch. 4 para. 4(3) omitted (30.1.2009) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **42(6)**

Persons under the age of 18

Entitlement to registration of person under the age of 18

- 5.—(1) A person otherwise qualified for registration is (despite sections 15(1)(d) and 16(1)(d) and (2)(d) of the 2003 Act) entitled to be registered in the register if he will attain voting age before

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the end of the period of 12 months beginning with the 1st December next following the relevant date, but—

- (a) his entry in the register shall give the date on which he will attain that age; and
 - (b) until the date given in the entry he shall not by virtue of the entry be treated as an elector for any purposes other than those of an election the date of the poll for which is the date so given or any later date.
- (2) In this paragraph “the relevant date”, in relation to a person, means—
- (a) the date on which an application for registration is made (or, by virtue of paragraph 6, is treated as having been made) by him;
 - (b) in the case of a person applying for registration in pursuance of a declaration of local connection or a service declaration, the date on which the declaration was made.

Circumstances in which an application for registration in the Gibraltar register may be treated as having been made

6. Where—

- (a) in connection with a canvass under paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to the [F1642004 Act], the form completed in respect of any address specifies any person as a person who is entitled to be registered in the register, and
- (b) that person is not for the time being registered in the register in respect of that address,

he shall be treated as having made, on the canvass date (within the meaning of that [F165Act]) in question, an application for registration in the register in respect of that address.

Textual Amendments

- F164** Words in Sch. 4 substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **42(3)**
- F165** Word in Sch. 4 substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **42(2)** (with reg. 42(3)(6))

Alteration of Gibraltar register: pending elections

^{F166}7.

Textual Amendments

- F166** Sch. 4 para. 7 omitted (30.1.2009) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **42(7)**

Residence

Residence: general

8.—(1) This paragraph applies where the question whether a person is resident at a particular address on the relevant date for the purposes of section 16(1)(a) of the 2003 Act falls to be determined for the purposes of that section.

(2) Regard shall be had, in particular, to the purpose and other circumstances, as well as to the fact, of his presence at, or absence from, the address on that date.

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For example, where at a particular time a person is staying at any place otherwise than on a permanent basis, he may in all the circumstances be taken to be at that time—

- (a) resident there if he has no home elsewhere, or
- (b) not resident there if he does have a home elsewhere.

(3) For the purpose of determining whether a person is resident in a dwelling on the relevant date for the purposes of section 16(1)(a) of the 2003 Act, his residence in the dwelling shall not be taken to have been interrupted by reason of his absence in the performance of any duty arising from or incidental to any office, service or employment held or undertaken by him if—

- (a) he intends to resume actual residence within six months of giving up such residence, and will not be prevented from doing so by the performance of that duty; or
- (b) the dwelling serves as a permanent place of residence (whether for himself or for himself and other persons) and he would be in actual residence there but for his absence in the performance of that duty.

(4) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (3) any temporary period of unemployment shall be disregarded.

(5) Sub-paragraph (3) shall apply in relation to a person's absence by reason of his attendance on a course provided by an educational institution as it applies in relation to a person's absence in the performance of any duty such as is mentioned in that subsection.

(6) Subject to paragraphs 10 and 11, a person who is detained at any place in legal custody shall not, by reason of his presence there, be treated for the purposes of section 16(1)(a) of the 2003 Act as resident there.

Residence: merchant seamen

9. At any time when a merchant seaman is not resident in Gibraltar and would have been resident there but for the nature of his occupation, he shall be entitled to be treated for the purposes of section 16(1)(a) of the 2003 Act as resident—

- (a) at any place at which he would have been resident but for the nature of his occupation; or
- (b) at any hostel or club providing accommodation for merchant seamen at which he commonly stays in the course of his occupation.

For this purpose “merchant seaman” means any person not having a service qualification whose employment or the greater part of it is carried out on board seagoing ships, and includes any such person while temporarily without employment.

Residence: patients in mental hospitals who are not detained offenders or on remand

10.—(1) This paragraph applies to a person who—

- (a) is a patient in a mental hospital in Gibraltar (whether or not he is liable to be detained there), but
- (b) is not a person to whom paragraph 4 or paragraph 11 applies.

(2) A person to whom this paragraph applies shall (subject to sub-paragraph (5)) be regarded for the purposes of section 16(1)(a) of the 2003 Act as resident at the mental hospital in question if the length of the period which he is likely to spend at the hospital is sufficient for him to be regarded as being resident there for the purposes of electoral registration.

(3) A person registered in the register in pursuance of an application for registration made by virtue of sub-paragraph (2) is entitled to remain so registered until—

- (a) the end of the period of 12 months beginning with the date when the entry in the register first takes effect, or

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

Changes to legislation: The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 June 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)

- (b) another entry made in respect of him in the register takes effect (whether or not in pursuance of an application made by virtue of sub-paragraph (2)),

whichever first occurs.

(4) Where the entitlement of such a person to remain so registered terminates by virtue of sub-paragraph (3), the registration officer concerned shall remove that person's entry from the register, unless he is entitled to remain registered in pursuance of a further application made by virtue of sub-paragraph (2).

(5) Sub-paragraph (2) shall not be taken as precluding the registration of a person to whom this paragraph applies—

- (a) by virtue of his residence at some place other than the mental hospital in which he is a patient, or
(b) in pursuance of a declaration of local connection.

(6) In this paragraph “mental hospital” means any establishment (or part of an establishment) maintained wholly or mainly for the reception and treatment of persons suffering from any form of mental disorder; and for this purpose “mental disorder”, has the same meaning as in section 3(1) of the Mental Health [F165Act].

Textual Amendments

F165 Word in Sch. 4 substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **42(2)** (with reg. 42(3)(6))

Residence: persons remanded in custody etc

11.—(1) This paragraph applies to a person who is detained at any place in Gibraltar pursuant to a relevant order or direction and is so detained otherwise than after—

- (a) being convicted of any offence, or
(b) a finding in criminal proceedings that he did the act or made the omission charged.

(2) A person to whom this paragraph applies shall (subject to sub-paragraph (5)) be regarded for the purposes of section 16(1)(a) of the 2003 Act as resident at the place at which he is detained if the length of the period which he is likely to spend at that place is sufficient for him to be regarded as being resident there for the purposes of electoral registration.

(3) A person registered in the register in pursuance of an application for registration made by virtue of sub-paragraph (2) is entitled to remain so registered until—

- (a) the end of the period of 12 months beginning with the date when the entry in the register first takes effect, or
(b) another entry made in respect of him in the register takes effect (whether or not in pursuance of an application made by virtue of sub-paragraph (2)),

whichever first occurs.

(4) Where the entitlement of such a person to remain so registered terminates by virtue of sub-paragraph (3), the registration officer concerned shall remove that person's entry from the register, unless he is entitled to remain registered in pursuance of a further application made by virtue of sub-paragraph (2).

(5) Sub-paragraph (2) shall not be taken as precluding the registration of a person to whom this section applies—

- (a) by virtue of his residence at some place other than the place at which he is detained, or

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- (b) in pursuance of a declaration of local connection.
- (6) In this section “a relevant order or direction” means—
 - (a) a remand or committal in custody;
 - (b) a remand to a hospital under section 249(6)(c), 250(4) or (5) of the Criminal Procedure [F165 Act];
 - (c) a direction for removal to a hospital under section 257 of that [F165 Act].

Textual Amendments

F165 Word in Sch. 4 substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **42(2)** (with [reg. 42\(3\)\(6\)](#))

Notional residence: declarations of local connection

- 12.—**(1) A declaration under this paragraph (“a declaration of local connection”)—
- (a) may be made only by a person to whom this paragraph applies, but
 - (b) may be made by such a person despite the fact that by reason of his age he is not entitled to vote.
- (2) This paragraph applies to any person who on the date when he makes such a declaration is—
- (a) a person to whom paragraph 10 applies and who would not be entitled to be registered by virtue of residence at any place other than the mental hospital (within the meaning of that paragraph) at which he is a patient, or
 - (b) a person to whom paragraph 11 applies and who would not be entitled to be registered by virtue of residence at any place other than the place at which he is detained as mentioned in sub-paragraph (1) of that paragraph, or
 - (c) a person who does not fall within paragraph (a) or (b) (and is not otherwise in legal custody) and who is not, for the purposes of section 16(1)(a) of the 2003 Act, resident at any address in Gibraltar (a “homeless person”).
- (3) A declaration of local connection shall state—
- (a) the name of the declarant and either—
 - (i) an address to which correspondence for him from the registration officer or the returning officer can be delivered, or
 - (ii) that he is willing to collect such correspondence periodically from the registration officer’s office;
 - (b) the date of the declaration;
 - (c) that on the date of the declaration the declarant falls into one of the categories of persons to whom this paragraph applies, specifying—
 - (i) the category in question, and
 - (ii) (in the case of a person falling within sub-paragraph (2)(a) or (b)) the name and address of the mental hospital at which he is a patient or (as the case may be) of the place at which he is detained;
 - (d) the required address (as defined by sub-paragraph (4));
 - (e) the nationality of the declarant on the date of the declaration confirming that he is a Commonwealth citizen or a relevant citizen of the Union;

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- (f) whether the declarant has on the date of the declaration attained the age of 18 years, and, if he has not, the date of his birth.
- (4) For the purposes of this paragraph “the required address” is—
- (a) in the case of a person falling within sub-paragraph (2)(a) or (b)—
- (i) the address in Gibraltar where he would be residing if he were not such a patient, or detained, as mentioned in that provision, or
- (ii) if he cannot give such an address, an address in Gibraltar at which he has resided;
- (b) in the case of a homeless person, the address of, or which is nearest to, a place in Gibraltar where he commonly spends a substantial part of his time (whether during the day or at night).
- (5) If a person—
- (a) makes a declaration of local connection stating more than one address under sub-paragraph (3)(d), or
- (b) makes more than one declaration of local connection bearing the same date and stating different addresses under that provision,

the declaration or declarations shall be void.

(6) A declaration of local connection may be cancelled at any time by the declarant.

(7) A declaration of local connection shall be of no effect unless it is received by the registration officer within the period of three months beginning with the date of the declaration.

Effect of declaration of local connection

13.—(1) Where a person’s declaration of local connection is in force when he applies for registration, he shall be regarded for the purposes of section 16(1)(a) of the 2003 Act as resident on the date of the declaration at the address stated in it in accordance with paragraph 12.

(2) A person registered in the register in pursuance of a declaration of local connection is entitled to remain so registered until—

- (a) the end of the period of 12 months beginning with the date when the entry in the register first takes effect,
- (b) the declaration is cancelled under paragraph 12(6), or
- (c) another entry made in respect of him in the register takes effect (whether or not in pursuance of a declaration of local connection),

whichever first occurs.

(3) Where the entitlement of such a person to remain so registered terminates by virtue of sub-paragraph (2), the registration officer shall remove that person’s entry from the register, unless he is entitled to remain registered in pursuance of a further declaration of local connection.

(4) This paragraph shall not be taken as precluding the registration of a person falling within paragraph 12(2)(a) or (b) in pursuance of an application made by virtue of paragraph 10(2) or 11(2).

Overseas electors

Registration of overseas electors

14.—(1) A person qualifies for registration in Gibraltar as an overseas elector, for the purposes of section 16(2)(a) of the 2003 Act and these Regulations, if—

- (a) he makes a declaration under and in accordance with paragraph 15; and

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- (b) on that date (“the relevant date”)—
 - (i) he is not resident in Gibraltar; and
 - (ii) he satisfies one of the following sets of conditions.
- (2) The first set of conditions is that—
 - (a) he was included in the register in respect of an address at a place that is situated within Gibraltar,
 - (b) that entry in the register was made on the basis that he was resident, or to be treated for the purposes of registration as resident, at that address,
 - (c) that entry in the register was in force at any time falling within the period of 15 years ending immediately before the relevant date, and
 - (d) subsequent to that entry ceasing to have effect no entry was made in the register on the basis that he was resident, or to be treated for the purposes of registration as resident, at any other address.
- (3) The second set of conditions is that—
 - (a) he was last resident in Gibraltar within the period of 15 years ending immediately before the relevant date,
 - (b) he was by reason only of his age incapable of being included in the register in force on the last day on which he was resident in Gibraltar, and
 - (c) the address at which he was resident on that day was at a place that is situated within Gibraltar and a parent or guardian of his was included, in respect of that address, in the register in force on that day.

Overseas elector's declaration

15.—(1) A declaration made by an elector under and in accordance with this paragraph is referred to in these Regulations as an “overseas elector’s declaration”.

(2) A person registered in the register in pursuance of an overseas elector’s declaration is entitled to remain so registered until—

- (a) the end of the period of 12 months beginning with the date when the entry in the register first takes effect,
- (b) the declaration is cancelled under sub-paragraph (5), or
- (c) any entry made in respect of him in the register takes effect otherwise than in pursuance of an overseas elector’s declaration,

whichever first occurs; and, where the entitlement of such a person to remain so registered terminates by virtue of this sub-paragraph, the registration officer shall remove that person’s entry from the register, unless he is entitled to remain registered in pursuance of a further overseas elector’s declaration.

(3) An overseas elector’s declaration must state—

- (a) the date of the declaration,
- (b) the declarant’s nationality confirming that he is a Commonwealth citizen,
- (c) that the declarant is not resident in Gibraltar on the relevant date, and
- (d) when he ceased to be so resident or, in the case of a person relying on registration in pursuance of a service declaration, when he ceased to have a service qualification or, if later, ceased to be so resident,

and must also satisfy the requirements of sub-paragraph (4) and paragraph 14 of Schedule 1 to the [F164]2004 Act].

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- (4) An overseas elector’s declaration must—
- (a) show which set of conditions in paragraph 14 the declarant claims to satisfy,
 - (b) in the case of the first set of conditions, specify the address in respect of which he was registered, and
 - (c) in the case of the second set of conditions, specify—
 - (i) the date of the declarant’s birth,
 - (ii) the address in Gibraltar at which he was resident, and
 - (iii) the name of the parent or guardian on whose registration in respect of that address he relies, and whether the person named was a parent or guardian,
 and may not, in the case of either set of conditions, specify more than one such address; and if the declarant makes more than one such declaration bearing the same date and specifying different addresses in Gibraltar as the address in respect of which he was registered or, as the case may be, at which he was resident the declarations shall be void.
- (5) An overseas elector’s declaration may be cancelled at any time by the declarant.
- (6) An overseas elector’s declaration shall be of no effect unless it is received by the registration officer concerned within the period of three months beginning with the relevant date.
- (7) For the purposes of paragraph 12, where a person is registered in the register in pursuance of an overseas elector’s declaration, it shall be conclusively presumed that he was not resident in Gibraltar on the relevant date.
- (8) In this paragraph “the relevant date” has the meaning given by paragraph 14(1).

Textual Amendments

F164 Words in Sch. 4 substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **42(3)**

Service Voters

Service qualification

- 16.** A person has a service qualification for the purposes of these Regulations who—
- (a) is a member of the Royal Gibraltar regiment,
 - (b) is the wife or husband of a member of the Royal Gibraltar regiment.

Service declaration

17.—(1) A service declaration shall be made only by a person who has a service qualification, and a service declaration may be made by such a person notwithstanding the fact that by reason of his age he is not yet entitled to vote.

(2) Where a person is registered in the Gibraltar register in pursuance of a service declaration, the person is entitled to remain so registered until—

- (a) the end of the period of [^{F167}3 years] beginning with the date when the entry in the register first takes effect,
- (b) the declaration is cancelled under sub-paragraph (5), or
- (c) another entry made in respect of him in the register takes effect (whether or not in pursuance of a service declaration),

whichever first occurs.

(3) Where the entitlement of such a person to remain so registered terminates by virtue of sub-paragraph (2), the registration officer shall remove that person's entry from the register, unless he is entitled to remain registered in pursuance of a further service declaration.

(4) If a person—

- (a) makes a service declaration declaring to more than one address, or
- (b) makes more than one service declaration bearing the same date and declaring to different addresses,

the declaration or declarations shall be void.

(5) A service declaration may at any time be cancelled by the declarant.

(6) A service declaration shall be of no effect unless it is received by the registration officer within the period of three months beginning with the date of the declaration.

(7) Arrangements shall be made by the Gibraltar Ministry of Defence for securing that (so far as circumstances permit) every person having a service qualification by virtue of sub-paragraph (a) or (b) of paragraph 16 shall—

- (a) have an effective opportunity of exercising from time to time as occasion may require the rights conferred on him by these Regulations in relation to the making and cancellation of service declarations and of appointments of a proxy, and in relation to voting by post; and
- (b) receive such instructions as to the effect of these Regulations, and such other assistance, as may be reasonably sufficient in connection with the exercise by him and any wife of his or, as the case may be, by her and any husband of hers, of any rights conferred on them as mentioned above.

Textual Amendments

F167 Words in Sch. 4 para. 17(2)(a) substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **42(8)**

Contents of service declaration

18. A service declaration shall state—

- (a) the date of the declaration,
- (b) that on that date the declarant is, or but for the circumstances entitling him to make the declaration would have been, residing in Gibraltar,
- (c) the address where the declarant is or, as the case may be, would have been residing in Gibraltar or, if he cannot give any such address, an address at which he has resided in Gibraltar,
- (d) the nationality of the declarant on the date of the declaration confirming that he is a Commonwealth citizen or a relevant citizen of the Union,
- (e) whether the declarant had on the date of the declaration attained the age of 18 years, and, if he had not, the date of his birth, and
- (f) such particulars (if any) of the declarant's identity and service qualifications as are required by paragraph 19 of Schedule 1 to the [^{F164}2004 Act].

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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Textual Amendments

F164 Words in Sch. 4 substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **42(3)**

Effect of service declaration

19.—(1) Where a person’s service declaration is in force when he applies for registration, he shall be regarded for the purposes of section 16(1)(a) of the 2003 Act as—

- (a) resident on the date of the declaration at the address specified in it in accordance with paragraph 18(c);
- (b) until the contrary is proved, as being a Commonwealth citizen or a relevant citizen of the Union of the age appearing from the declaration and as not being subject to any legal incapacity except as so appearing.

(2) Where a service declaration appearing to be properly made out and (where required) attested is transmitted to the registration officer in the proper manner, the declarant shall, until the contrary is proved, be treated for the purposes of registration as having had from the date of the declaration or such later date, if any, as appears from it, and as continuing to have, a service qualification.

Relevant citizens of the Union

Notification of and removal of names of relevant citizens of the Union from the register

20.—(1) As soon as practicable after the registration officer has entered the name of a relevant citizen of the Union in the register where he would be entitled to vote at a European Parliamentary election in pursuance of the registration, he shall send a copy of the application and declaration by virtue of which he entered the name in the register to the person shown as the representative of the State in respect of which the applicant is a national in a direction containing a list of such representatives issued by the Lord Chancellor under regulation 8(3) of the 2001 Franchise Regulations ^{MI9}.

(2) A declaration under paragraph 25(3)(b) of Schedule 1 to the [F1642004 Act] may be cancelled at any time by the declarant.

(3) A relevant citizen of the Union registered in the register is entitled to remain so registered until—

- (a) the end of the period of 12 months beginning with the date when the entry in the register first takes effect;
- (b) the declaration under paragraph 25(3)(b) of Schedule 1 to the [F1642004 Act] is cancelled under sub-paragraph (2);
- (c) the citizen applies for his name to be removed,

whichever first occurs.

(4) Where the entitlement of such a person to remain registered terminates by virtue of sub-paragraph (3), the registration officer shall remove the person’s entry from the register, unless he is entitled to remain in pursuance of a further application and declaration under paragraph 25 of Schedule 1 to the European Parliamentary Elections [F165Act].

(5) The registration officer shall remove the name of a relevant citizen of the Union from the register where the Secretary of State sends to that officer a copy of information provided by the Member State of which that citizen is a national to show that he has lost the right to vote there.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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Textual Amendments

F164 Words in Sch. 4 substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **42(3)**

F165 Word in Sch. 4 substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **42(2)** (with reg. 42(3)(6))

Marginal Citations

M19 Regulation 8(1) was amended and Regulation 8(3) was inserted by Regulation 5(a) and (b) of [S.I. 2003/1557](#), respectively.

PART 3

DISCHARGE OF REGISTRATION DUTIES

Discharge of registration duties

21.—(1) The registration officer shall comply with any general or special directions which may be given by the Secretary of State with respect to the arrangements to be made by the registration officer for carrying out his functions under this Schedule.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-paragraph (1), the directions which may be given under sub-paragraph (1) include directions requiring the registration officer to maintain the register in a specified electronic form; and any such directions may in particular specify—

- (a) the software which is to be used in connection with the maintenance of the register in that form;
- (b) the standards in accordance with which that software is to be maintained and updated;
- (c) how information required by this Schedule to be included in the register is to be recorded and stored in that form.

^{F168}SCHEDULE 5

MODIFICATIONS FOR RELEVANT CITIZENS OF THE ACCESSION STATES IN 2004

Textual Amendments

F168 Sch. 5 omitted (30.1.2009) by virtue of [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **43**

- F168
- F168
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Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014.

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SCHEDULE 6

Regulation 42

CONTROL OF DONATIONS TO INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATES

PART 1

INTRODUCTORY

Operation and interpretation of Schedule

- 1.—(1) This Schedule has effect for controlling donations to individual candidates at an election.
- (2) The following provisions have effect for the purposes of this Schedule.
- (3) In accordance with sub-paragraph (1), references to a candidate are to an individual candidate.
- (4) “Relevant donation”, in relation to a candidate at an election, means a donation to the candidate or his election agent for the purpose of meeting election expenses incurred by or on behalf of the candidate.
- (5) In sub-paragraph (4) above the reference to a donation for the purpose of meeting election expenses incurred by or on behalf of a candidate includes a reference to a donation for the purpose of securing that any such expenses are not so incurred; and a donation shall be taken to be a donation for either of those purposes if, having regard to all the circumstances, it must be reasonably assumed to be such a donation.
- (6) “Donation” shall be construed in accordance with paragraphs 2 to 4 below.
- [^{F169}(7) In relation to a donation received by a candidate at an election in Great Britain or Gibraltar, references to a permissible donor falling within section 54(2) of the 2000 Act are to be read as if section 54(2) did not include a party registered in the Northern Ireland register maintained by the Commission under Part 2 of that Act.]
- (8) “The Commission” means the Electoral Commission established by section 1 of that Act.

Textual Amendments

F169 Sch. 6 para. 1(7) substituted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **44(2)**

Donations: general rules

2.—(1) “Donation”, in relation to an individual candidate at an election, means (subject to paragraph 4 below)—

- (a) any gift to the candidate or his election agent of money or other property;
- (b) any sponsorship provided in relation to the candidate (as defined by paragraph 3 below);
- (c) any money spent (otherwise than by the candidate, his election agent or any sub-agent) in paying any election expenses incurred by or on behalf of the candidate;
- (d) any money lent to the candidate or his election agent otherwise than on commercial terms;
- (e) the provision otherwise than on commercial terms of any property, services or facilities for the use or benefit of the candidate (including the services of any person).

(2) Where—

- (a) any money or other property is transferred to a candidate or his election agent pursuant to any transaction or arrangement involving the provision by or on behalf of the candidate of any property, services or facilities or other consideration of monetary value, and
- (b) the total value in monetary terms of the consideration so provided by or on behalf of the candidate is less than the value of the money or (as the case may be) the market value of the property transferred,

the transfer of the money or property shall (subject to sub-paragraph (4) below) constitute a gift to the candidate or (as the case may be) his election agent for the purposes of sub-paragraph (1)(a) above.

(3) In determining—

- (a) for the purposes of sub-paragraph (1)(d) above, whether any money lent to a candidate or his election agent is so lent otherwise than on commercial terms, or
- (b) for the purposes of sub-paragraph (1)(e) above, whether any property, services or facilities provided for the use or benefit of a candidate is or are so provided otherwise than on such terms,

regard shall be had to the total value in monetary terms of the consideration provided by or on behalf of the candidate in respect of the loan or the provision of the property, services or facilities.

(4) Where (apart from this sub-paragraph) anything would be a donation both by virtue of sub-paragraph (1)(b) above and by virtue of any other provision of this paragraph, sub-paragraph (1)(b) (together with paragraph 3 below) shall apply in relation to it to the exclusion of the other provision of this paragraph.

(5) The reference in sub-paragraph (1)(c) above to money spent as mentioned in that provision is a reference to money so spent by a person, other than the candidate, his election agent or any sub-agent, out of his own resources (with no right to reimbursement out of the resources of any such other person); and where, by virtue of sub-paragraph (1)(c) above, money so spent constitutes a donation to the candidate, the candidate shall be treated as receiving an equivalent amount on the date on which the money is paid to the creditor in respect of the expenses in question.

(6) In this paragraph—

- (a) any reference to anything being given or transferred to a candidate or his election agent includes a reference to its being given or transferred either directly or indirectly through any third person;
- (b) “gift” includes a bequest or any other form of testamentary disposition.

Sponsorship

3.—(1) For the purposes of this Schedule sponsorship is provided in relation to a candidate if—

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- (a) any money or other property is transferred to the candidate or to any person for the benefit of the candidate, and
- (b) the purpose (or one of the purposes) of the transfer is (or must, having regard to all the circumstances, reasonably be assumed to be)—
 - (i) to help the candidate with meeting, or to meet, to any extent any defined expenses incurred or to be incurred by or on behalf of the candidate, or
 - (ii) to secure that to any extent any such expenses are not so incurred.
- (2) In sub-paragraph (1) above “defined expenses” means expenses in connection with—
 - (a) any conference, meeting or other event organised by or on behalf of the candidate,
 - (b) the preparation, production or dissemination of any publication by or on behalf of the candidate, or
 - (c) any study or research organised by or on behalf of the candidate.
- (3) The following do not, however, constitute sponsorship by virtue of sub-paragraph (1) above—
 - (a) the making of any payment in respect of—
 - (i) any charge for admission to any conference, meeting or other event, or
 - (ii) the purchase price of, or any other charge for access to, any publication;
 - (b) the making of any payment in respect of the inclusion of an advertisement in any publication where the payment is made at the commercial rate payable for the inclusion of such an advertisement in any such publication.
- (4) In this paragraph “publication” means a publication made available in whatever form and by whatever means (whether or not to the public at large or any section of the public).

Payments etc not to be regarded as donations

- 4.—(1) None of the following shall be regarded as a donation—
- (a) the provision of any facilities provided in pursuance of any right conferred on a candidate at an election by these Regulations;
 - (b) the provision by an individual of his own services which he provides voluntarily in his own time and free of charge;
 - (c) any interest accruing to a candidate or his election agent in respect of any donation which is dealt with by the candidate or (as the case may be) his election agent in accordance with section 56(2)(a) or (b) of the 2000 Act (as applied by paragraph 7 below).
- (2) There shall also be disregarded any donation whose value (determined in accordance with paragraph 5 below) is not more than £50.

Value of donations

- 5.—(1) The value of any donation falling within paragraph 2(1)(a) above (other than money) shall be taken to be the market value of the property in question.
- (2) Where, however, paragraph 2(1)(a) above applies by virtue of paragraph 2(2) above, the value of the donation shall be taken to be the difference between—
- (a) the value of the money, or the market value of the property, in question, and
 - (b) the total value in monetary terms of the consideration provided by or on behalf of the candidate or his election agent.
- (3) The value of any donation falling within paragraph 2(1)(b) above shall be taken to be the value of the money, or (as the case may be) the market value of the property, transferred as mentioned

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in paragraph 3(1) above; and accordingly any value in monetary terms of any benefit conferred on the person providing the sponsorship in question shall be disregarded.

(4) The value of any donation falling within paragraph 2(1)(d) or (e) above shall be taken to be the amount representing the difference between—

(a) the total value in monetary terms of the consideration that would have had to be provided by or on behalf of the candidate or his election agent in respect of the loan or the provision of the property, services or facilities if—

(i) the loan had been made, or

(ii) the property, services or facilities had been provided, on commercial terms, and

(b) the total value in monetary terms of the consideration (if any) actually so provided by or on behalf of the candidate or his election agent.

(5) Where a donation such as is mentioned in sub-paragraph (4) above confers an enduring benefit on the donee over a particular period, the value of the donation—

(a) shall be determined at the time when it is made, but

(b) shall be so determined by reference to the total benefit accruing to the donee over that period.

(6) In this paragraph “market value” in relation to any property, means the price which might reasonably be expected to be paid for the property on a sale in the open market.

PART 2

CONTROLS ON DONATIONS

Prohibition on accepting donations from impermissible donors

6.—(1) A relevant donation received by an individual candidate or his election agent must not be accepted if—

(a) the person by whom the donation would be made is not, at the time of its receipt by the candidate or (as the case may be) his election agent, a permissible donor falling within section 54(2) of the 2000 Act; or

(b) the candidate or (as the case may be) his election agent is (whether because the donation is given anonymously or by reason of any deception or concealment or otherwise) unable to ascertain the identity of the person offering the donation.

(2) For the purposes of this Schedule any relevant donation received by a candidate or his election agent which is an exempt trust donation shall be regarded as a relevant donation received by the candidate or his election agent from a permissible donor; and section 162 of the 2000 Act (interpretation: exempt trust donations) shall apply for the purposes of this Schedule as it applies for the purposes of that Act.

(3) But, for the purposes of this Schedule, any relevant donation received by a candidate or his election agent from a trustee of any property (in his capacity as such) which is not—

(a) an exempt trust donation, or

(b) a relevant donation transmitted by the trustee to the candidate or his election agent on behalf of beneficiaries under the trust who are—

(i) persons who at the time of its receipt by the candidate or his election agent are permissible donors falling within section 54(2) of the 2000 Act, or

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(ii) the members of an unincorporated association which at that time is such a permissible donor,

shall be regarded as a relevant donation received by the candidate or his election agent from a person who is not such a permissible donor.

(4) Where any person (“the principal donor”) causes an amount (“the principal donation”) to be received by a candidate or his election agent by way of a relevant donation—

- (a) on behalf of himself and one or more other persons, or
- (b) on behalf of two or more other persons,

then for the purposes of this Part each individual contribution by a person falling within paragraph (a) or (b) of more than £50 shall be treated as if it were a separate donation received from that person.

(5) In relation to each such separate donation, the principal donor must ensure that, at the time when the principal donation is received by the candidate or his election agent, the candidate or (as the case may be) his election agent is given—

- (a) (except in the case of a donation which the principal donor is treated as making) all such details in respect of the person treated as making the donation as are required by virtue of paragraph 11(c) below; and
- (b) (in any case) all such details in respect of the donation as are required by virtue of paragraph 11(a) below.

(6) Where—

- (a) any person (“the agent”) causes an amount to be received by a candidate or his election agent by way of a donation on behalf of another person (“the donor”), and
- (b) the amount of the donation is more than £50,

the agent must ensure that, at the time when the donation is received by the candidate or his election agent, the candidate or (as the case may be) his election agent is given all such details in respect of the donor as are required by virtue of paragraph 11(c) below.

(7) A person commits an offence if, without reasonable excuse, he fails to comply with sub-paragraph (5) or (6) above.

(8) A person guilty of an offence under sub-paragraph (7) shall be liable—

- (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 6 months (or both);
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year (or both).

(9) In the application of this paragraph to an individual candidate (or his election agent) at an election in the combined region—

- (a) the references in sub-paragraphs (1)(a) and (3)(b)(i) to a permissible donor falling within section 54(2) include references to persons listed in section 54(2A)(a) to (g) of the 2000 Act;
- (b) in sub-paragraph (3)(b)(ii) the reference to an unincorporated association which is a permissible donor includes a reference to an unincorporated association falling within section 54(2A)(g) of the 2000 Act; and
- (c) in sub-paragraph (2) and (3)(a) the references to an exempt trust donation include a reference to an exempt Gibraltar trust donation (within the meaning of section 162 of the 2000 Act).

Acceptance or return of donations

7.—(1) Sections 56 to 60 of the 2000 Act shall apply for the purposes of this Schedule in relation to—

- (a) a relevant donation received by a candidate or his election agent, and
- (b) the candidate or (as the case may be) the election agent,

as they apply in relation to a donation received by a registered party and the registered party.

(2) In the application of sections 56 to 60 of that Act in accordance with sub-paragraph (1)—

- (a) section 56(1) shall have effect as if the reference to the particulars relating to a donor which would be required to be included in a donation report by virtue of paragraph 2 of Schedule 6 (if the donation were a recordable donation within the meaning of that Schedule) were construed as a reference to the particulars which are required to be included in a return by virtue of paragraph 11(c) below;
- (b) section 56(3) shall have effect as if the reference to the party were omitted and the reference to the treasurer of the party were construed as a reference to the candidate or (as the case may be) his election agent; and
- (c) section 56(4) shall have effect as if the reference to the treasurer of the party were construed as a reference to the candidate or (as the case may be) his election agent.

Transfer of donations received by candidate to election agent

8.—(1) Sub-paragraph (2) below applies in relation to any relevant donation received by a candidate after the deadline for appointing an election agent (unless the candidate is, or is deemed to be, his own election agent at the time of receipt of the donation).

(2) The candidate shall, on receipt of any such donation as is mentioned in sub-paragraph (1) above, forthwith deliver to his election agent—

- (a) the donation,
- (b) where paragraph 6(5) or (6) above applies in relation to the donation, the information provided to the candidate in pursuance of that provision, and
- (c) any other information which the candidate has about the donation and its donor which might reasonably be expected to assist the election agent in the discharge of any duties imposed on him, in relation to the donation, under this Part or Part 3 of this Schedule.

(3) Where a donation is delivered to an election agent in accordance with sub-paragraph (2) above, the donation shall be treated for the purposes of paragraph 6(1) to (4) above and the provisions applied by paragraph 7 above as if it had been—

- (a) originally received by the election agent, and
- (b) so received by him on the date on which it was received by the candidate.

(4) Where a candidate receives a relevant donation before the deadline for appointing an election agent but at a time when an appointment of a person (other than the candidate himself) as election agent is in force he shall either—

- (a) forthwith deliver the donation and the information mentioned in sub-paragraph (2)(b) and (c) above to the agent, or
- (b) (if he fails to do so) deal with the donation in accordance with section 56 of the 2000 Act.

(5) Sub-paragraph (3) above shall have effect in relation to any relevant donation delivered to an election agent in accordance with sub-paragraph (4)(a) above as it has effect in relation to a donation delivered to him in accordance with sub-paragraph (2) above.

(6) Sub-paragraph (7) below applies where—

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- (a) a relevant donation received by a candidate before the deadline for appointing an election agent has been dealt with by the candidate in accordance with section 56 of the 2000 Act either because—
 - (i) it was received by him at a time when no appointment of another person as his election agent was in force, or
 - (ii) although such an appointment was in force, he was by virtue of sub-paragraph (4)(b) required to deal with the donation; and
 - (b) an appointment of a person (other than the candidate himself) as election agent is in force at, or at any time after—
 - (i) the deadline for appointing an election agent, or
 - (ii) if later, the time when the candidate has dealt with the donation in accordance with section 56 of the 2000 Act.
- (7) Subject to sub-paragraph (9) below, the candidate shall, as soon as reasonably practicable after the relevant time, deliver to the election agent—
- (a) the donation (if it has been accepted by him), and
 - (b) any information which he has about the donation and the donor which might reasonably be expected to assist the election agent in the discharge of any duties imposed on him, in relation to the donation, under Part 3 of this Schedule.
- (8) The relevant time for the purposes of sub-paragraph (7) above is—
- (a) the time mentioned in sub-paragraph (6)(b)(i) or (ii) (as the case may be) if the appointment of another person as election agent is in force at that time, or
 - (b) otherwise, the time when any such appointment subsequently comes into force.
- (9) The duty imposed on a candidate by sub-paragraph (7)(a) above does not apply to any relevant donation to the extent to which it has been lawfully used by the candidate for the purpose of paying election expenses.
- (10) In this paragraph—
- (a) any reference to the deadline for appointing an election agent is a reference to the latest time by which an election agent may in accordance with regulation 38(1) be named as election agent by the candidate; and
 - (b) any reference to any provision of section 56 of the 2000 Act is a reference to that provision as applied by paragraph 7 above.

Evasion of restrictions on donations

9. Section 61 of the 2000 Act shall apply for the purposes of this Schedule as if—
- (a) any reference to donations were to relevant donations;
 - (b) any reference to a registered party were, in relation to a relevant donation, a reference to an individual candidate or (as the case may be) his election agent; and
 - (c) any reference in subsection (2) to the treasurer of a registered party were, in relation to a relevant donation, a reference to either the candidate or his election agent (or both).

PART 3

REPORTING OF DONATIONS

Statement of relevant donations

10.—^[F170(1)] The candidate's election agent must include in any return required to be delivered under regulation 51 a statement of relevant donations which complies with paragraphs 11 and 12 below.

^[F171(2)] If the statement states that the candidate's election agent has seen a certificate of anonymous registration issued pursuant to regulation 45G of the 2001 Regulations, regulation 45F of the 2001 (Scotland) Regulations or the equivalent provision forming part of the law of Gibraltar, which is evidence that an individual donor has an anonymous entry in an electoral register, the statement must be accompanied by a copy of that certificate of anonymous registration.]

Textual Amendments

F170 Sch. 6 para. 10(1) renumbered (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **44(3)**

F171 Sch. 6 para. 10(2) inserted (30.1.2009) by [The European Parliamentary Elections \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/186\)](#), regs. 1(2), **44(3)**

Donations from permissible donors

11. The statement must record, in relation to each relevant donation accepted by the candidate or his election agent—

- (a) the amount of the donation (if a donation of money, in cash or otherwise) or (in any other case) the nature of the donation and its value as determined in accordance with paragraph 5 above;
- (b) the date when the donation was accepted by the candidate or his election agent;
- (c) the information about the donor which is, in connection with recordable donations to registered parties, required to be recorded in donation reports by virtue of paragraph 2 of Schedule 6 to the 2000 Act; and
- (d) such other information as may be required by regulations made by the Commission.

Donations from impermissible donors

12.—(1) This paragraph applies to relevant donations falling within paragraph 6(1)(a) or (b) above.

(2) Where paragraph 6(1)(a) above applies, the statement must record—

- (a) the name and address of the donor;
- (b) the amount of the donation (if a donation of money, in cash or otherwise) or (in any other case) the nature of the donation and its value as determined in accordance with paragraph 5 above;
- (c) the date when the donation was received, and the date when, and the manner in which, it was dealt with in accordance with section 56(2)(a) of the 2000 Act; and
- (d) such other information as is required by regulations made by the Commission.

(3) Where paragraph 6(1)(b) above applies, the statement must record—

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- (a) details of the manner in which the donation was made;
 - (b) the amount of the donation (if a donation of money, in cash or otherwise) or (in any other case) the nature of the donation and its value as determined in accordance with paragraph 5 above;
 - (c) the date when the donation was received, and the date when, and the manner in which, it was dealt with in accordance with section 56(2)(b) of the 2000 Act; and
 - (d) such other information as is required by regulations made by the Commission.
- (4) In this paragraph any reference to any provision of section 56 of the 2000 Act is a reference to that provision as applied by paragraph 7 above.

SCHEDULE 7

Regulation 51

DECLARATION AS TO ELECTION EXPENSES
FORM OF DECLARATION

*[General election of MEPs on (insert date of poll)]
 *[European Parliamentary election in electoral region on (insert date of poll)]
 [Name of candidate]
 I solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:-
 1. I am the person named above as a candidate at this election (and was my own election agent) or was at this election the election agent of the person named above as a candidate.
 2. I have examined the return of election expenses (about to be) delivered by my election agent (by me) to the returning officer, of which a copy is now shown to me and marked and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is a complete and correct return as required by law.
 3. To the best of my knowledge and belief, all expenses shown in the return as paid were paid by my election agent (by me), except as otherwise stated.
 Signature of declarant
 Signed and declared by the above named declarant on the day of before me.
 (Signed)
 (NOTE: Where there has been a change of election agent, suitable variations may be introduced into the declaration as to expenses.)

[^{F172}SCHEDULE 7A

Regulation 61

Election expenses

Textual Amendments
F172 Sch. 7A inserted (30.1.2009) by The European Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 2009/186), regs. 1(2), 45, Sch. 5

PART 1

List of matters

1. Advertising of any nature (whatever the medium used).

Expenses in respect of such advertising include agency fees, design costs and other costs in connection with preparing, producing, distributing or otherwise disseminating such advertising or anything incorporating such advertising and intended to be distributed for the purpose of disseminating it.

2. Unsolicited material addressed to electors (whether addressed to them by name or intended for delivery to households within any particular area).

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Expenses in respect of such material include design costs and other costs in connection with preparing, producing or distributing such material (including the cost of postage).

3. Transport (by any means) of persons to any place.

Expenses in respect of the transport of such persons include the costs of hiring a means of transport for a particular period.

4. Public meetings (of any kind).

Expenses in respect of such meetings include costs incurred in connection with the attendance of persons at such meetings, the hire of premises for the purposes of such meetings or the provision of goods, services or facilities at them.

5. The services of an election agent or any other person whose services are engaged in connection with the candidate's election.

6. Accommodation and administrative costs.

PART 2

General exclusions

7. The payment of any deposit required by rule 10 of the European Parliamentary elections rules.

8. The publication of any matter, other than an advertisement, relating to the election in—

- (a) a newspaper or periodical;
- (b) a broadcast made by the British Broadcasting Corporation, the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation, or by Sianel Pedwar Cymru;
- (c) a programme included in any service licensed under Part 1 or 3 of the Broadcasting Act 1990 or Part 1 or 2 of the Broadcasting Act 1996.

9. The provision of any facilities provided in pursuance of any right conferred on candidates at an election by these Regulations other than facilities in respect of which expenses fall to be defrayed by virtue of regulation 67(4).

10. The provision by an individual of his own services which he provides voluntarily in his own time and free of charge.

- 11.—(1) Accommodation which is the candidate's sole or main residence.

- (2) The provision by any other individual of accommodation which is his sole or main residence if the provision is made free of charge.

- 12.—(1) Transport by a means of transport which was acquired by the candidate principally for his own personal use.

- (2) Transport provided free of charge by any other individual if the means of transport was acquired by him principally for his own personal use.

- 13.—(1) Computing or printing equipment which was acquired by the candidate principally for his own personal use.

- (2) The provision by any other individual of computing or printing equipment which was acquired by the individual principally for his own personal use if the provision is made free of charge.]

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SCHEDULE 8

Regulation 66

USE FOR EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION MEETINGS OF ROOMS IN SCHOOL PREMISES AND OF MEETING ROOMS

1. Any arrangements for the use of a room in school premises shall be made with the [^{F173}local authority (within the meaning of the Education Act 1996)] maintaining the school or, in the case of a room in the premises of a foundation or voluntary aided school, with the governing body of the school.

Textual Amendments

F173 Words in Sch. 8 para. 1 substituted (5.5.2010) by The Local Education Authorities and Children's Services Authorities (Integration of Functions) (Local and Subordinate Legislation) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1172), art. 1(1), Sch. 3 para. 50(3)(a)

2. Any question as to the rooms in school premises which a candidate in any local counting area is entitled to use, or as to the times at which he is entitled to use them, or as to the notice which is reasonable, shall be determined by the Secretary of State.

3. Any person stating himself to be, or to be authorised by, a candidate or the election agent of a registered party or an individual candidate shall be entitled at all reasonable hours to inspect the lists of rooms in school premises and of meeting rooms prepared under Schedule 5 to the 1983 Act, or a copy of those lists.

4. In the application of this Schedule to Scotland, for any reference to a [^{F174}local authority (within the meaning of the Education Act 1996)] substitute a reference to an education authority.

Textual Amendments

F174 Words in Sch. 8 para. 4 substituted (5.5.2010) by The Local Education Authorities and Children's Services Authorities (Integration of Functions) (Local and Subordinate Legislation) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1172), art. 1(1), Sch. 3 para. 50(3)(b)

5. In the application of this Schedule to Gibraltar—

- (a) in paragraph 1, for the reference to the [^{F175}local authority (within the meaning of the Education Act 1996)] substitute a reference to the Department of Education and Training;
- (b) in paragraph 2, for the reference to the Secretary of State substitute a reference to the Government of Gibraltar;
- (c) for paragraph 3, substitute the following paragraph—

“3.—(1) The Department of Education and Training shall prepare and revise lists of the rooms in school premises in Gibraltar which candidates are entitled to use.

(2) The Government of Gibraltar shall prepare and revise lists of the meeting rooms in Gibraltar which candidates are entitled to use, and the list shall-

- (a) indicate the person to whom applications for the use of the room are to be made in each case; and
- (b) not include any room if the person maintaining it disputes the right of candidates to use it.

(3) The list of rooms in school premises and of meeting rooms prepared under sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be kept by the European Parliamentary electoral registration

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officer for Gibraltar, and those lists and particulars of any change made on their revision shall be forwarded to him accordingly.

(4) Any person stating himself to be, or to be authorised by, a candidate or the election agent of a registered party or an individual candidate shall be entitled at all reasonable hours to inspect the lists of rooms in school premises and of meeting rooms prepared under this paragraph.”

Textual Amendments

F175 Words in [Sch. 8 para. 5\(a\)](#) substituted (5.5.2010) by [The Local Education Authorities and Children's Services Authorities \(Integration of Functions\) \(Local and Subordinate Legislation\) Order 2010 \(S.I. 2010/1172\)](#), art. 1(1), [Sch. 3 para. 50\(3\)\(c\)](#)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations apply to England, Wales, Scotland and Gibraltar. They revoke the European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 1999.

Those Regulations made provision dealing with the conduct of the elections, supplementary provisions about the election campaign and registered parties and about what happens where there is a vacancy. They applied the provisions of the Representation of the People Acts and regulations made under them with appropriate modifications, for the purposes of the conduct of European Parliamentary elections and related matters, including the consequences of irregularities and challenges to the result.

Many of the provisions of these Regulations are similar in effect to provisions which were made for the European Parliamentary elections of 1999. However, they also take into account changes in legislation since that time, including the effects of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, the Representation of the People Act 2000 and the European Parliament (Representation) Act 2003.

By virtue of the European Parliament (Representation) Act 2003, provision is made to enable Gibraltar electors, for the first time, to vote in European Parliamentary elections. This requires a number of modifications throughout the Regulations to take account of practical differences. At Schedule 4 provision is also made in relation to the entitlement to vote in Gibraltar and to be on the Gibraltar register of European Parliamentary electors. In addition, a Gibraltar Ordinance will make provision about the maintenance of the Gibraltar register.

Provisions covering absent voting in parliamentary and local government elections have been revised since the last European Parliamentary elections, by the Representation of the People Act 2000, the Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001 and the Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001. Those changes enabled electors to vote by post more easily and these Regulations reflect those changes, taking a similar approach for European Parliamentary elections.

It is expected that 10 further states will have become part of the European Union by the time of the European Parliamentary election in June 2004. Citizens of those States who are resident in the United Kingdom are to be enabled to vote in those elections, in pursuance of Council Directive [93/109/EC](#). That Directive provides for citizens of the Union to be able to vote in the Member States in which they reside under similar conditions to the nationals of the State in which they

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reside. A Transposition Note laid before Parliament with these Regulations sets this out, and how it has been transposed under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972, in more detail. Schedule 5 makes provision about the citizens of Accession States. Other provisions made specifically giving effect to that Directive in relation to existing citizens of the European Union are in regulations 17(2)(b)(iv) and 28(1), rule 9 of Schedule 1, the references to that rule in rules 13(1) and (5)(c), and in paragraphs 12(3)(e), 18(d), 19(1)(b) and 20(1) and (5) of Schedule 4. The Rules relating to verification and counting of the votes and notification of the local result take into account the amendments to the Act concerning the election of the representatives of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage, annexed to Council Decision [77/787/ECSC](#), EEC, Euratom to be made by Council Decision [2002/772/EC](#). Once those amendments are in force it will be possible to commence counting the votes before the close of the poll in other Member States, although the result will not be made available to the public until after all polls have closed across Europe.

Other changes as a result of legislation subsequent to the 1999 European Parliamentary elections include: publication of exit polls before the close of poll will be an offence, liable to fine or imprisonment (*regulation 30*); as the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 now controls campaign expenditure by political parties, the Regulations control the election expenses of individual candidates only (*Part 2*); controls on broadcasting in the amended section 93 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 will be reflected (*regulation 64*); provision is made for a tactile voting device to assist visually impaired voters, and for large-print display ballot papers and assistance for voters who are physically incapacitated or unable to read (*Schedule 1, rules 30 and 40*); and postal voters will be permitted to return postal ballot papers by hand to polling stations in the local counting area (*Schedule 2, rule 41*).

The Regulations refer to a number of Gibraltar Ordinances. They can be obtained from: Publications, Government Secretariat, No 6 Convent Place, Gibraltar. Telephone: 00 350 47932. Fax: 00 350 74524. email: legisunit2@gibnynex.gi

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