STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2004 No. 293

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE

The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 (revoked)^{F1}

Made - - - - 22nd March 2004
Coming into force 23rd March 2004

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS REGULATIONS 2004 (REVOKED)

PART 1

GENERAL

- 1. Citation, commencement and extent
- 2. Interpretation
- 3. General application in relation to local government elections in England and Wales
- 4. General application to Scotland
- 5. General application to Gibraltar
- 6. Conduct of poll and count in each local counting area
- 7. Deputies and assistance
- 8. Polling districts and places
- 9. Rules for European Parliamentary elections and general duty of returning officers and local returning officers
- 10. Absent voting
- 11. Combination of polls
- 12. Entitlement to registration and legal incapacity to vote in Gibraltar
- 13. Modification of the 2003 Act and these Regulations for 2004 elections in relation to citizens of Accession States
- 14. Title of returning officers and local returning officers
- 15. Payments by and to returning officers and local returning officers
- 15A Inadequate performance of returning officer or local returning officer: reduction of charges
- 16. Taxation of returning officer's and local returning officer's account
- 17. Effect of registers
- 18. Effect of misdescription
- 19. Discharge of registration duties

- 20. Payment of expenses of registration
- 21. Registration appeals: England and Wales
- 22. Registration appeals: Scotland
- 23. Personation
- 24. Other voting offences
- 25. Breach of official duty
- 26. Tampering with nomination papers, ballot papers, etc
- 27. False statement in nomination papers
- 28. Offences in connection with candidature
- 29. Requirement of secrecy
- 30. Prohibition on publication of exit polls

PART 2

THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

- 31. Interpretation of Part 2
- 32. Computation of time for purposes of Part 2

Election agents of registered parties

- 33. Appointment of national election agent of registered party
- 34. Appointment of election agent by a registered party standing in one electoral region only
- 35. Appointment of sub-agent for registered parties
- 36. Office of agents of registered parties
- 37. Effect of default in appointment of agents of registered parties

Election agents of individual candidates

- 38. Appointment of election agent for individual candidate
- 39. Appointment of sub-agent for individual candidate
- 40. Office of election agent and sub-agent for individual candidate
- 41. Effect of default in election agent's appointment

Election expenses

- 42. Control of donations to individual candidates
- 43. Payment of expenses of individual candidates through election agent
- 44. Individual candidate's personal expenses, and petty expenses
- 45. Expenses of individual candidate incurred otherwise than for elections purposes
- 46. Prohibition of expenses of individual candidate not authorised by election agent
- 47. Limitation of election expenses for individual candidates
- 48. Time for sending in and paying claims: individual candidates
- 49. Disputed claims: individual candidates
- 50. Election agent's claim
- 51. Return as to election expenses: individual candidates
- 52. Declarations as to election expenses: individual candidates
- 53. Return as to personal expenses: candidates on party lists
- 54. Penalty for failure as respects return or declarations: individual candidates
- 55. Authorised excuses for failures as to return and declarations: individual candidates

- 56. Court's power to require information from election agent or sub-agent of individual candidate
- 57. Duty of appropriate officer to forward returns and declarations to Electoral Commission
- 58. Publication of time and place for inspection of returns and declarations
- 59. Inspection of returns and declaration
- 60. Meaning of "election expenses"
- 61. Schedule 7A, which makes provision for election expenses, has effect....
- 62. Property, goods, services etc provided free of charge or at a discount

General

- 63. Candidate's right to send election address post free
- 64. Broadcasting from outside United Kingdom
- 65. Broadcasting of local items during election period
- 66. Imitation poll cards
- 67. Schools and rooms for European Parliamentary election meetings
- 68. Disturbances at election meetings
- 69. Officials not to act for candidates
- 70. Illegal canvassing by police officers
- 71. False statements as to candidates
- 72. Corrupt withdrawal from candidature
- 73. Payments for exhibition of election notices
- 74. Details to appear on election publications
- 75. Prohibition of paid canvassers
- 76. Providing money for illegal purposes
- 77. Bribery
- 78. Treating
- 79. Undue influence
- 80. Rights of creditors
- 81. Savings as to European Parliamentary elections

PART 3

VACANCIES

- 81A Interpretation of Part 3 and computation of time
- 82. Initial response to vacancies
- 83. Filling of vacancies from a registered party's list
- 83A MEP stood for registered party: filling vacant seat by nomination
- 83B MEP stood for two or more registered parties: filling vacant seat by nomination
- 83C Party no longer registered
- 83D Independent candidate MEP: notice of substitutes
- 83E Independent MEP: filling vacant seat, notice of substitutes
- 83F Independent MEP: vacant seat, no notice of substitutes
- 84. By-election to fill certain vacancies
- 85. When a by-election is not needed
- 85A Relevant citizens of the Union

PART 4

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

86. Interpretation of Part 4

- 87. Computation of time for purposes of Part 4
- 88. Method of questioning European Parliamentary elections
- 89. Presentation and service of European Parliamentary election petitions
- 90. Time for presentation or amendment of European Parliamentary election petition
- 91. Constitution of election court and place of trial
- 92. Judges' expenses and reception: England and Wales
- 93. Judges' expenses and reception: Scotland
- 94. Security for costs
- 95. Petition at issue
- 96. Trial of election issue
- 97. Witnesses
- 98. Duty to answer relevant questions
- 99. Expenses of witnesses
- 100. Conclusion of trial of European Parliamentary election petition
- 101. Special case for determination of the High Court
- 102. Withdrawal of petition
- 103. Abatement of petition
- 104. Costs of petition
- 105. Neglect or refusal to pay costs
- 106. Appeals and jurisdiction
- 107. Persons convicted of corrupt or illegal practices
- 108. Application for relief
- 109. Prosecution for corrupt practices
- 110. Prosecutions for illegal practices
- 111. Conviction of illegal practice on charge of corrupt practice
- 112. Mitigation and remission etc
- 113. Illegal payments
- 114. Time limit for prosecution
- 115. Prosecution of offences committed outside the United Kingdom
- 116. Offences by associations
- 117. Evidence by certificate of holding of elections
- 118. Evidence by certificate of electoral registration
- 119. Director of Public Prosecutions
- 120. Rules of procedure
- 121. Costs
- 122. Services of notices

PART 5

MISCELLANEOUS

- 122A Translations etc. of certain documents
- 123. Public notices and declarations
- 124. Remuneration for free postal services provided under the Regulations
- 125. Application of Local Government Finance Act 1988 for European Parliamentary Elections
- 125A Requirement to provide information about candidate standing in other Member State
- 126. Revocation Signature

SCHEDULE A1 —

SCHEDULE 1 — EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS RULES PART 1 — PROVISIONS AS TO TIME

- 1. Timetable
- 2. Computation of time

PART 2 — STAGES COMMON TO CONTESTED AND UNCONTESTED ELECTIONS

- 3. Notice of election
- 4. Nomination of individual candidates
- 5. Nomination papers: name of registered party at a by-election
- 6. Nomination papers: name of registered party at a general election
- 7. List of candidates
- 8. Consent to nomination
- 9. Candidature by relevant citizen of the Union
- 9A Request for information where candidate is relevant citizen of the Union
- 10. Deposit
- 11. Place for delivery of nomination papers
- 12. Right to attend nomination
- 13. Decisions as to validity of nomination papers
- 14. Withdrawal of candidates
- 15. Publication of statement of persons nominated
- 16. Correction of minor errors
- 17. Local publication of statement under rule 15
- 18. Disqualification by Representation of the People Act 1981
- 19. Adjournment of nomination proceedings in case of riot
- 20. Method of election

PART 3 — CONTESTED ELECTIONS

CHAPTER 1

General Provisions

- 21. Poll to be taken by ballot
- 22. The ballot papers
- 23. The corresponding number list
- 24. The official mark
- 25. Prohibition of disclosure of vote
- 26. Use of schools and public rooms

CHAPTER 2

Action to be Taken Before the Poll

- 27. Notice of poll
- 28. Postal ballot papers and postal voting statements
- 29. Provision of polling stations
- 30. Appointment of presiding officers and clerks
- 31. Issue of official poll cards
- 32. Equipment of polling stations
- 33. Appointment of polling and counting agents

- 34. Notification of requirement of secrecy
- 35. Return of postal ballot papers

CHAPTER 3

The Poll

- 36. Admission to polling station
- 37. Keeping of order in station
- 38. Sealing of ballot boxes
- 39. Questions to be put to voters
- 40. Challenge of voter
- 41. Voting procedure
- 42. Votes marked by presiding officer
- 43. Voting by persons with disabilities
- 44. Tendered ballot papers: circumstances where available
- 45. Tendered ballot papers: general provisions
- 46. Spoilt ballot papers
- 47. Alteration of registers
- 48. Adjournment of poll in case of riot
- 49. Procedure on close of poll

CHAPTER 4

Counting of Votes

- 50. Attendance at verification of ballot paper accounts
- 51. Procedure at verification of ballot paper accounts
- 52. Attendance at counting of votes
- 53. The count
- 54. Re-count
- 55. Rejected ballot papers
- 56. Decisions on ballot papers
- 57. Notification of local result
- 58. Attendance at allocation of seats
- 59. Allocation of seats
- 60. Equality of seats
- 60A Disqualification in home Member State

PART 4 — FINAL PROCEEDINGS IN CONTESTED AND UNCONTESTED ELECTIONS

- 61. Declaration of result
- 62. Return or forfeiture of candidate's deposit

PART 5 — DISPOSAL OF DOCUMENTS

- 63. Sealing up of ballot papers
- 64. Delivery and retention of documents
- 65. Orders for production of documents
- 66. Retention of documents by relevant registration officer

PART 6 — ACCESS TO MARKED REGISTERS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS OPEN TO PUBLIC INSPECTION AFTER AN ELECTION

- 67. Interpretation and general
- 68. Supply of marked registers and lists after a European Parliamentary election

- 69. Inspection of documents open to public inspection
- 70. Conditions on the use, supply and disclosure of documents open to public inspection
- 71. Fees relating to the marked registers and lists
- 72. Access to marked registers and other election documents: contravention of conditions

PART 7 — APPENDIX OF FORMS

SCHEDULE 2 — ABSENT VOTING

PART 1 — ENTITLEMENT

- 1. Interpretation
- 2. Manner of voting at European Parliamentary elections
- 3. Absent vote at elections for definite or indefinite period
- 4. Absent vote at a particular election
- 5. Absent voters list
- 6. Proxies at elections
- 7. Voting as proxy
- 8. Provision of fresh signatures
- 9. Use of personal identifier information
- 10. Offences
- 11. Offences relating to applications for postal or proxy votes PART 2 APPLICATIONS
- 12. Forms
- 13. Communication of applications, notices etc
- 14. Electronic signatures and related certificates
- 15. Time
- 16. Interference with notices etc
- 17. General requirements for applications for an absent vote
- 18. The personal identifiers record
- 19. Additional provision concerning the requirement that an application for an absent vote must be signed by the applicant
- 20. Additional requirement for applications for ballot papers to be sent to different address from that stated in application
- 21. 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)
- 22. Additional requirements for applications for the appointment of a proxy
- 23. Additional requirements for applications for a proxy vote for a definite or indefinite period on grounds of blindness or other disability
- Additional requirements for applications for a proxy vote for a definite or indefinite period based on occupation, service, employment or attendance on a course
- 25. Additional requirements for applications for a proxy vote in respect of a particular election
- Additional requirements for application for an emergency proxy vote in respect of a particular election based on occupation, service or employment
- 26. Closing date for applications
- 27. Grant or refusal of applications
- 28. Notice of appeal
- 29. Cancellation of proxy appointment
- 30. Inquiries by registration officer
- 31. Requirement to provide fresh signatures at five yearly intervals
- 31A Notification of a rejected postal voting statement

- 31B Requirement to provide fresh signatures following rejection of a postal voting statement
- 31C Further notification of a rejected postal voting statement
- 32. Records and lists kept under this Schedule
- 33. Conditions on the use, supply and inspection of absent voter records or lists
- 34. Marked register for polling stations
 - PART 3 ABSENT VOTING (TRANSITIONAL PROVISION)
- 35. Interpretation and extent
- 36. Requiring personal identifiers from existing absent voters
- 37. Required information to be provided to existing absent voters
- 38. Determination by registration officer
- Consequences of failure or refusal to provide personal identifiers
 PART 4 ISSUE AND RECEIPT OF POSTAL BALLOT PAPERS
- 40. Interpretation of Part 4

Issue of Postal Ballot Papers

- 41. Combination of poll
- 42. Form of postal voting statement
- 43. Persons entitled to be present at proceedings on issue of postal ballot papers
- 44. Persons entitled to be present at proceedings on receipt of postal ballot papers
- 45. Agents of candidates who may attend proceedings on receipt of postal ballot papers
- 46. Notification of requirement of secrecy
- 47. Time when postal ballot papers are to be issued
- 48. Procedure on issue of postal ballot paper
- 49. Refusal to issue postal ballot paper
- 50. Envelopes
- 51. Sealing up of completed corresponding number lists and security of special lists
- 52. Delivery of postal ballot papers
- 53. Spoilt postal ballot papers
- 54. Lost postal ballot papers
- 54A Cancellation of postal ballot papers

Receipt of Postal Ballot Papers

- 55. Means of returning postal ballot paper or postal voting statement
- 56. Notice of opening of postal ballot paper envelopes
- 57. Postal ballot boxes and receptacles
- 58. Receipt of covering envelope
- 59. Opening of postal voters' ballot box
- 60. Opening of covering envelopes
- 61. Confirming receipt of postal voting statements
- 62. Procedure in relation to postal voting statements
- 63. Procedure in relation to postal voting statements: personal identifier verification
- 64. Postal Voting Statements: additional personal identifier verification
- 65. Opening of ballot paper envelopes
- 66. Retrieval of cancelled postal ballot papers

- 67. Lists of rejected postal ballot papers
- 68. Checking of lists kept under paragraph 67
- 69. Sealing of receptacles
- 70. Forwarding of documents
- 71. Forwarding copy of list of rejected postal voting statements in Scotland PART 5 APPENDIX OF FORMS

SCHEDULE 3 — MODIFICATION OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS RULES FOR COMBINED POLLS

PART 1 — ENGLAND AND WALES

- 1. This Part of this Schedule applies in the circumstances set...
- 2. (1) In this Part of this Schedule, and in any...
- 3. (1) In rule 22 (the ballot papers) at the end...
- 4. At the end of rule 27 (notice of poll) insert—...
- 5. At the end of rule 31 (issue of official poll...
- 6. After paragraph (1) of rule 32 (equipment of polling stations)...
- 7. After paragraph (5) of rule 32 (equipment of polling stations)...
- 8. For paragraph (7) of rule 32 (equipment of polling stations)...
- 9. In paragraph (1)(b) of rule 33 (appointment of polling and...
- 10. At the end of paragraph (4) of rule 33 (appointment...
- 11. In rule 34(1)(b) (notification of requirement of secrecy) omit the...
- 12. (1) In rule 36(1) (admission to polling station), after sub-paragraph...
- 13. In rule 39 (questions to be put to voters) in...
- 14. At the end of rule 41 (voting procedure) insert—
- 15. At the end of paragraph (2) of rule 42 (votes...
- 16. At the end of paragraph (4) of rule 43 (voting...
- 17. At the end of paragraph (2) of rule 45 (tendered...
- 18. At the end of paragraph (1) of rule 47 (alteration...
- 19. In paragraph (1) of rule 48 (adjournment of poll in...
- 20. In paragraph (1) of rule 49 (procedure on close of...
- 21. After paragraph (1) of rule 49 (procedure on close of...
- 22. Omit rules 50 (attendance at verification of ballot paper accounts)...
- 23. For paragraph (1) of rule 52 (attendance at counting of...
- 24. For paragraph (1) of rule 53 (the count) substitute—
- 25. In paragraph (3) of rule 53 (the count) after the...
- 26. For paragraph (2) of rule 63 (sealing up of ballot...
- 27. In paragraph (1) of rule 64 (delivery and retention of...
- 28. In the Appendix of Forms, for Form K (form of...
- 29. In the Appendix of Forms, for Form M (form of...

PART 2 — SCOTLAND

- 1. This Part of this Schedule applies in the circumstances set...
- 2. (1) In rule 22 (the ballot papers) at the end...
- 3. At the end of rule 27 (notice of poll) insert—...
- 4. At the end of rule 31 (issue of official poll...
- 5. After paragraph (1) of rule 32 (equipment of polling stations)...
- 6. After paragraph (5) of rule 32 (equipment of polling stations)...
- 7. For paragraph (7) of rule 32 (equipment of polling stations)...
- 8. In paragraph (1)(b) of rule 33 (appointment of polling and...
- 9. At the end of paragraph (4) of rule 33 (appointment...
- 10. In rule 34(1)(b) (notification of requirement of secrecy) omit the...
- 11. (1) In rule 36(1)(admission to polling station), after sub-paragraph (g)...
- 12. In rule 39 (questions to be put to voters) in...
- 13. At the end of rule 41 (voting procedure) insert—

- 14. At the end of paragraph (2) of rule 42 (votes...
- 15. At the end of paragraph (4) of rule 43 (voting...
- 16. At the end of paragraph (2) of rule 45 (tendered...
- 17. At the end of paragraph (1) of rule 47 (alteration...
- 18. At the end of paragraph (1) of rule 48 (adjournment...
- 19. In rule 49 (1) (procedure on close of poll), after...
- 20. After paragraph (1) of rule 49 (procedure on close of...
- 21. Omit rules 50 (attendance at verification of ballot paper accounts)...
- 22. For paragraph (1) of rule 52 (attendance at counting of...
- 23. For paragraph (1) of rule 53 (the count) substitute—
- 24. In paragraph (3) of rule 53 (the count) after the...
- 25. For paragraph (2) of rule 63 (sealing up of ballot...
- 26. In paragraph (1) of rule 64 (delivery and retention of...
- 27. In the Appendix of Forms, for Form K (form of...
- 28. In the Appendix of Forms, for Form M (form of...

FORMS TO BE USED —

WHEN POLLS ARE

COMBINED

Form K1: Form of directions for the guidance of voters in voting

Form M1: Form of declaration to be made by the companion of a voter with disabilities

SCHEDULE 4 — ENTITLEMENT TO REGISTRATION AND LEGAL INCAPACITY TO VOTE IN GIBRALTAR

PART 1 — GENERAL APPLICATION AND INTERPRETATION

- 1. General application and interpretation
- 2. Time

PART 2 — ENTITLEMENT TO REGISTRATION AND LEGAL INCAPACITY

Legal incapacity

- 3. Legal incapacity to vote of offenders in prison etc
- 4. Legal incapacity to vote of offenders detained in mental hospitals

Persons under the age of 18

- 5. Entitlement to registration of person under the age of 18
- 6. Circumstances in which an application for registration in the Gibraltar register may be treated as having been made
- 7. Alteration of Gibraltar register: pending elections

Residence

- 8. Residence: general
- 9. Residence: merchant seamen
- 10. Residence: patients in mental hospitals who are not detained offenders or on remand
- 11. Residence: persons remanded in custody etc
- 12. Notional residence: declarations of local connection
- 13. Effect of declaration of local connection

Overseas electors

- 14. Registration of overseas electors
- 15. Overseas elector's declaration

Service Voters

- 16. Service qualification
- 17. Service declaration
- 18. Contents of service declaration
- 19. Effect of service declaration

Relevant citizens of the Union

20. Notification of and removal of names of relevant citizens of the Union from the register

PART 3 — DISCHARGE OF REGISTRATION DUTIES

21. Discharge of registration duties

SCHEDULE 6 — CONTROL OF DONATIONS TO INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATES PART 1 — INTRODUCTORY

- 1. Operation and interpretation of Schedule
- 2. Donations: general rules
- 3. Sponsorship
- 4. Payments etc not to be regarded as donations
- 5. Value of donations

PART 2 — CONTROLS ON DONATIONS

- 6. Prohibition on accepting donations from impermissible donors
- 7. Acceptance or return of donations
- 8. Transfer of donations received by candidate to election agent
- 9. Evasion of restrictions on donations

PART 3 — REPORTING OF DONATIONS

- 10. Statement of relevant donations
- 11. Donations from permissible donors
- 12. Donations from impermissible donors

SCHEDULE 7 — DECLARATION AS TO ELECTION EXPENSES — FORM OF DECLARATION

SCHEDULE 7A — Election expenses

PART 1 — List of matters

- 1. Advertising of any nature (whatever the medium used). Expenses in...
- 2. Unsolicited material addressed to electors (whether addressed to them by...
- 3. Transport (by any means) of persons to any place. Expenses...
- 4. Public meetings (of any kind). Expenses in respect of such...
- 5. The services of an election agent or any other person...
- 6. Accommodation and administrative costs.

PART 2 — General exclusions

- 7. The payment of any deposit required by rule 10 of...
- 8. The publication of any matter, other than an advertisement, relating...
- 9. The provision of any facilities provided in pursuance of any...
- 10. The provision by an individual of his own services which...
- 11. (1) Accommodation which is the candidate's sole or main residence....
- 12. (1) Transport by a means of transport which was acquired...
- 13. (1) Computing or printing equipment which was acquired by the...

SCHEDULE 8 — 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...
- 2. Any question as to the rooms in school premises which...
- 3. Any person stating himself to be, or to be authorised...
- 4. In the application of this Schedule to Scotland, for any...
- 5. In the application of this Schedule to Gibraltar—

Explanatory Note

Changes to legislation:

The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 (revoked) is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 May 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.

View outstanding changes

Changes and effects yet to be applied to:

- reg. 6(2) excluded by S.I. 2004/294 reg. 7(5)(b)