

Given under the Official Seal of the National Health Insurance Joint Committee this 7th day of December, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-five.

W. F. Wackrill,

Secretary to the National Health Insurance Joint Committee.

Given under the Official Seal of the Ministry of Labour this 7th day of December, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-five.

H. Conacher,

Secretary to the Ministry of Labour.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

Returning Officers' Expenses.

MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE UNDER SECTION 29 OF THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, 1918 (7 & 8 GEO. 5, C. 64), IN ITS APPLICATION TO NORTHERN IRELAND.

1925. No. 24.

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF NORTHERN IRELAND.
(General Elections).

In pursuance of the powers conferred upon the Ministry of Finance (hereinafter referred to as "the Ministry") by Section 29 of the Representation of the People Act, 1918, as that Act applies to Northern Ireland under the provisions of the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, and of any Order made by His Majesty in Council under the last-mentioned Act, the Ministry hereby prescribes that the Returning Officer shall be entitled in respect of the conduct of Parliamentary Elections (other than University Elections) of members of the House of Commons of Northern Ireland to his reasonable charges not exceeding the sums hereinafter set forth, provided that the charges for disbursements are in no case to exceed the sums actually and necessarily paid or payable.

This scale will be applicable to elections of the full number of members conducted after the 1st day of January, 1925, subject to any alterations which may from time to time be made.

I.

In this scale, unless the context otherwise requires :—

- (a) The expression “ constituency ” means any constituency named in Part II of the Fifth Schedule to the Government of Ireland Act, 1920 (a) other than a University constituency ;
- (b) The expression “ borough constituency ” means any constituency of the borough of Belfast named in Part II of the said Schedule ;
- (c) The expression “ county constituency ” means a constituency other than a borough constituency or a University constituency ;
- (d) For the purpose of ascertaining the maximum fee or expense payable pursuant to an Article of this Scale the term “ Electors ” means the number of registered Parliamentary Electors on that portion of the Register of Electors for the constituency in respect of which the returning officer or assistant returning officer discharges the duties mentioned in such Article.

II.

A. FOR SERVICES OF RETURNING OFFICER.

1. *In a Contested Election :*

(1) To the Returning Officer or the Assistant Returning Officer for conducting the election and generally performing all the duties which a Returning Officer is required by law to perform (other than duties in connection with the matters specially provided for at paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) below).

As respects a county constituency—

	£	s.	d.
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For every complete 100 of the electors on the register for the constituency up to 20,000 electors ..	0	4	6
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Beyond 20,000 electors	0	4	0
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As respects a borough constituency—

For every complete 100 of the electors on the register for the constituency up to 100,000 ..	0	3	9
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Beyond 100,000	0	1	0
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(2) To the Returning Officer for receiving nominations, withdrawals, making returns to writs, &c.—

	£	s.	d.
For each member to be returned in respect of the constituency	3	3	0

Subject to a minimum fee of	10	10	0
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(3) To the Returning Officer additional fee for services in connection with the dispatch and receipt of the ballot papers of absent voters :—

For every constituency—	£	s.	d.
(a) If the number of absent voters in the constituency (excluding proxy voters) does not exceed 1,000		Nil.	
(b) If the number exceeds 1,000 but does not exceed 2,000	10	0	0
(c) for each additional 50 or fraction thereof beyond 2,000 an additional	0	1	0
(4) To the Returning Officer for all duties appertaining to the counting of the votes in any constituency as defined above :—			
For the first 50,000 registered parliamentary electors	25	0	0
For each complete 1,000 registered Parliamentary electors in excess of 50,000	0	5	0

2. *In an Uncontested Election :*

(1) To the Returning Officer or the Assistant Returning Officer one-third of the appropriate fee mentioned at paragraph 1 (1) above.

(2) To the Returning Officer the appropriate fee mentioned at paragraph 1 (2) above.

The foregoing payments shall include any payments made to a Deputy Returning Officer for the discharge of any duties of a Returning Officer which may be assigned to him.

B. DISBURSEMENTS OF RETURNING OFFICERS. CONTESTED ELECTIONS.

(1) *The Whole Election :*

	£	s.	d.
Legal assistance per constituency not exceeding	30	0	0

(This fee is a maximum to cover the cost of providing legal assistance, and any sums paid will require to be supported by vouchers.)

(2) *Taking the Poll :*

(a) Each Presiding Officer to include all expenses other than travelling expenses and subsistence allowances authorised by this scale	3	10	0
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(b) One Poll Clerk for each Presiding Officer	1	10	0
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(c) An additional Clerk at a Polling Station to which more than 600 Parliamentary electors are assigned	1	10	0
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(d) To provide for emergencies, each Returning Officer may appoint one Presiding Officer in addition to those authorised for the taking of the Poll, provided that in the case where a constituency comprises two or more

portions as mentioned in I (d) of this Scale, two such additional Presiding Officers may be appointed. £ s. d.

Such Presiding Officer may be paid a retaining fee of £2, which may be increased to £3 10s. 0d., as provided under B (2) (a) of the scale if he is necessarily employed as a Presiding Officer at the Election 2 0 0

(3) *Counting the Votes :*

(a) The Supervisor—for each complete 1,000 registered parliamentary electors 0 6 0
 Minimum fee 6 0 0

Provided that where more than one person is appointed to act and acts as Supervisor the total of the payments made to such persons shall not exceed the amount calculated in accordance with this scale.

(b) Calculators (who also act as transfer clerks) not exceeding two :

For each complete 1,000 registered parliamentary electors :

Each 0 4 0
 Minimum fee, each 4 0 0

Provided that where more than two Calculators are appointed to act the total of the payments made shall not exceed the amount calculated in accordance with this scale.

(c) Sorters and Counters :

For each complete 100 registered parliamentary electors 0 3 6

(4) *Absent Voters :*

For the remuneration of persons employed for the purpose of dispatching and receiving the ballot papers of absent voters—

(a) If the number of absent voters (excluding proxy voters) does not exceed 200 3 0 0
 (b) For each additional 100 or fraction thereof beyond 200 (excluding proxy voters) an additional.. 0 15 0

(5) *Miscellaneous :*

(a) Clerical and other assistance employed by the Returning Officer or Deputy or Assistant Returning Officer for the purposes of an election, excluding any services for which payment is otherwise authorised by this scale, and for all expenses of the Returning Officer not otherwise authorised by this Scale :—

For each 100 registered parliamentary electors in the whole constituency or portion thereof : £ s. d.
 In a county constituency 0 3 6
 In a borough constituency 0 3 0

(b) Returning Officers' or Deputy or Assistant Returning Officers' travelling expenses where necessary to make arrangements for the poll, or otherwise in connection with the conduct of the election. First Class Railway expenses or where railway service is not available, actual and necessary cost with subsistence allowance at the rate of £1 a night for not more than four nights per Member to be elected in the whole constituency when necessarily absent from home on account of duty.

(c) Travelling expenses of presiding Officers and Poll Clerks (including any expenses incurred in conveying the ballot boxes from the polling station to the place where the votes are counted where the Presiding Officers and Poll Clerks are responsible for such). Third Class Railway Expenses (and for boxes necessary cost) or where railway service is not available, actual and necessary cost with subsistence allowance to Presiding Officers of £1 and to Poll Clerks of 10s. for each night necessarily spent away from home on account of duty.

(d) Travelling expenses of clerical or other assistants employed by the Returning Officer or Deputy or Assistant Returning Officer where necessary to make arrangements for the poll or otherwise in connection with the conduct of the election. Third Class Railway expenses, or where railway service is not available, actual and necessary cost with subsistence allowance of 10s. a night for each night necessarily spent away from home on account of duty.

(e) For printing and providing ballot papers. Actual and necessary cost.

(f) For printing and providing notices, and other documents required in and about the election or poll and costs of publishing same. Actual and necessary cost.

(g) For the hire of any building or room for the purposes of the election, and for expenses for heating, lighting and cleaning any building or room. Actual and necessary cost.

- (h) For adapting and fitting up any building or room for the purposes of the election and restoring it to fit condition for its normal use, including the provision and fitting up of voting compartments, and the hire of the necessary furniture where this is not otherwise obtainable. Actual and necessary cost.
- (i) For every ballot box required to be purchased, hired or repaired. Actual and necessary cost.
- (j) For the conveyance of polling screens, ballot boxes, ballot papers, &c., in connection with the election, where the cost of transport is not included under 5 (c) above. Actual railway charges, or where railway service is not available, actual and necessary cost.
- (k) For every stamping instrument required to be purchased, hired, altered or repaired. Actual and necessary cost.
- (l) For copies of the register. Actual and necessary cost.
- (m) For general stationery, postage and telegrams and telephone messages. Actual and necessary cost.

UNCONTESTED ELECTIONS.

(6) *The Whole Election:*

- (a) For preliminary work undertaken in anticipation of a contest, including clerical assistance. Actual and necessary cost within the above scale, not exceeding under B (5) (a) for clerical and other assistance one third of the sum that would be payable for a contested election.
- (b) For legal assistance prior to and on day of nomination. A fee not exceeding £12 12s.

NOTE.—Mileage expenses of Returning Officers or Deputy or Assistant Returning Officers shall not in any case exceed the amount calculated as though the journey were taken from the County Court-house of the whole Constituency, or the portion thereof, as described above.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland this 12th day of March, 1925, in the presence of

G. C. Duggan,
Assistant Secretary.

(L.S.)