

**ELECTORAL LAW****Electoral Law (Local General Election 1973 Postal Voting)  
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973**

REGULATIONS, DATED 18TH APRIL 1973, MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND UNDER THE ELECTORAL LAW (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1973.

In exercise of the powers conferred upon me by Article 3 of the Electoral Law (Northern Ireland) Order 1973(a) and all other powers thereunto enabling me I hereby make the following Regulations:—

*Citation*

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Electoral Law (Local General Election 1973 Postal Voting) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973.

*Interpretation*

2. "the 1973 election" means the local general election to be held in the year 1973 to the district councils;

"the principal Act" means the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962(b).

*Applications for postal votes*

3.—(1) To apply for a postal vote in the 1973 election an elector shall—

(a) indicate his wish to vote by post by signing his polling information card in the space provided therefor and sending it to the appropriate Deputy Returning Officer so as to reach him not later than 10th May 1973, and

(b) complete and cause to be duly certified, and send to the appropriate Deputy Returning Officer so as to reach him not later than 17th May 1973 an application on the form set out in Schedule 1, which form shall be sent to him by the Deputy Returning Officer on receipt of the elector's signed polling information card.

(2) Paragraph 1(a) shall not apply to an elector otherwise qualified to vote by post if not later than 12th May 1973 he satisfies the Deputy Returning Officer that he did not receive his polling information card in time for him to comply with that requirement, and indicates in writing his wish to vote by post.

(3) Paragraph 1(b) shall not apply to an elector who was granted a postal vote in the Border Poll held under the Northern Ireland Border Poll Act 1972.

(4) The preceding paragraphs shall apply to persons appointed to cast a proxy vote for a registered elector, the form in Schedule 1 being amended as appropriate.

*Form*

4. The form set out in Schedule 1 may be used with such variations as the circumstances may require.

*Adaptation of Parliamentary Election Rules*

5. Rules 22 to 27 of the Parliamentary Election Rules contained in Schedule 4 and Form 10 contained in Schedule 10 to the principal Act shall apply to the issue and return of postal ballot papers in the 1973 election, with the modifications set out in Schedule 2.

Dated this 18th day of April 1973.

*W. S. I. Whitelaw,*  
One of Her Majesty's Principal  
Secretaries of State.

SCHEDULE 1

NORTHERN IRELAND ELECTIONS

Form PVL 1

This Form, completed and certified, must be posted to reach the appropriate Deputy Returning Officer not later than 17th May 1973

APPLICATION TO VOTE BY POST

I .....  
Surname (Block letters)

.....  
Other Names (Block letters)

am registered as an elector at the following address:

.....  
(Block letters in full)  
.....

Where the address is in a rural area state the townland.....

Please state Ward and number on register (if known).....

\*I apply to vote by post at the Election to be held on 30th May 1973.

*(If an applicant has moved from his address as stated above he must indicate below his full postal address in the United Kingdom to which the Ballot Paper is to be sent.)*

Address .....  
(Block letters)

\*I apply to vote by post as proxy for the elector named overleaf.

.....  
(Block letters)

Signature (or mark) ..... Date.....

\*Delete whichever is inapplicable.

**CERTIFICATION** I certify that the above applicant, who has satisfied me as to his identity, has signed (or marked) the application in my presence.

Signature .....

- Justice of the Peace
- Minister of Religion
- Member of a Police Force (Sergeant or above)
- Established Civil Servant in the Civil Service of the United Kingdom or of Northern Ireland (**specify the Department**)  
.....
- Member of the House of Commons of the Parliament of the United Kingdom
- Member of the Senate of the Parliament of Northern Ireland
- Member of the House of Commons of the Parliament of Northern Ireland
- Officer employed by a Local Authority or Public Authority in Northern Ireland (**specify the Authority**)  
.....
- Teacher employed in a state or grant aided school, college or institution of higher education (**specify school etc.**)  
.....
- Commissioned officer in H.M. Forces

*Tick your qualification and add any additional information requested.*

Address .....

Telephone Number (Day) .....

Telephone Number (Night) .....

Date .....

(See notes overleaf)

**TO BE COMPLETED ONLY WHERE APPLICANT IS THE APPOINTED PROXY FOR A QUALIFIED REGISTERED SERVICE ELECTOR.**

Name of Service Elector .....

Qualifying address on Register .....

Ward (if known) .....

Electoral Number on 1973 Register .....

**NOTES**

1. This application when completed must be returned by post in the envelope provided to the office of the Deputy Returning Officer so as to reach his office NOT LATER THAN 17th May 1973.

2. This application cannot be allowed if the applicant is not included in the 1973 Register of Electors as a voter entitled to vote at a local general election in Northern Ireland.

3. Postal ballot papers can only be issued to qualified applicants with an address in the United Kingdom.

4. Applicants who have moved from the address at which they are registered must be sure to submit their applications to the Deputy Returning Officer acting for the District Council Area where they are registered.

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Applicants should ensure that they send their applications to the Deputy Returning Officer for the area in which they are registered, and should carefully address the envelope issued with this application form.

## SCHEDULE 2

**Modifications to Rules 22 to 27 of Schedule 4 and Form 10 of Schedule 10  
to the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962**

<i>Subject matter</i>	<i>Modifications</i>
Rule 22	<p>Paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) shall not apply and after Rule 22(3) there shall be inserted:—</p> <p>“(4) The Deputy Returning Officer shall prepare lists of postal voters and proxy voters entitled to vote by post and such lists shall be in such form as appears to the Deputy Returning Officer to be convenient for the purpose of issuing postal votes.</p> <p>(5) The Deputy Returning Officer shall not make any copy of a list of postal voters available to any person prior to the date or dates on which he issues postal votes to the persons on that list.”</p>
Rules 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27	<p>In each Rule when the words “returning officer” occur there shall be inserted immediately before such words the word “deputy”.</p>
Rule 25	<p>In paragraph 4(b) after the words “returning officer” there shall be inserted the words “or an assistant returning officer appointed for the local government electoral area”.</p>
Rule 27	<p>Paragraphs (5), (6) and (7) shall not apply and after Rule 27(7) there shall be inserted:—</p> <p>“(8) The Deputy Returning Officer shall retain for six months all packets and documents therein referred to in paragraph (3) of this Rule, endorsing on each packet a description of its contents, the date of the election to which it relates and the name of the district electoral and local government area, and thereafter shall, unless otherwise directed by an order of a court or tribunal having cognizance to any question relating to the election, cause the documents to be destroyed, maintaining until the destruction is complete due regard to the secrecy of the ballot.</p> <p>(9) The provisions of Rule 68 of the Electoral Law (Local General Election 1973) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973 shall apply with like effect to any packets referred to in paragraph (3) of this Rule.”</p>
Schedule 10 Form 10	<p>In the form of front of voter’s declaration the words from “constituency” where it first occurs to the end of that paragraph shall be omitted and there shall be substituted the words “local government electoral area”.</p>

EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)*

These Regulations set out the procedure governing applications of electors to vote by post and the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers in the local general election to district councils in the year 1973.