

Draft Regulations laid before Parliament under section 201(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, for approval by resolution of each House of Parliament.

DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2015 No. 0000

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE, ENGLAND AND WALES

**The Representation of the People (England and Wales)
(Amendment) Regulations 2015**

Made - - - - *2015*

Coming into force in accordance with regulation 1

The Lord President of the Council makes these Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 9D(3) and (4), 10ZC(3), 10ZD(3) and 53(1) and (3) of, and paragraphs 1, 1A, 1B and 3ZA of Schedule 2 to, the Representation of the People Act 1983(a) and, having regard to the meaning of “prescribed” in section 202(1), by sections 13A(2), 13AB(2) and 13B(3), (3B) and (3D) of that Act(b).

The Lord President of the Council has consulted the Electoral Commission, the Information Commissioner and such other persons as he considered appropriate in accordance with section 53(5) of that Act(c) and (in the case of the Electoral Commission) with section 7(1) and (2)(e) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000(d).

In accordance with section 201(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1983(e), a draft of these Regulations has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

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- (a) 1983 c.2. Sections 9D, 10ZC and 10ZD were inserted by, respectively, sections 4 and 1 of and paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (c.6). Section 53(1) and (3) was amended by paragraphs 1 and 13 of Schedule 1, and Schedule 7, to the Representation of the People Act 2000 (c.2) and paragraph 13 of Schedule 4 to the Representation of the People Act 1985 (c.50). Relevant amendments were made to paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to the 1983 Act by section 2 of, and paragraphs 1 and 20 of Schedule 4 to, the 2013 Act. Paragraph 1A was inserted by paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 2 to the 2013 Act. Paragraph 1B was inserted by paragraphs 1 and 20 of Schedule 4 to the 2013 Act. Paragraph 3ZA was inserted by section 2 of the 2013 Act. Under article 3 of the Lord President of the Council Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1837) these powers are exercisable concurrently by the Secretary of State and the Lord President of the Council.
 - (b) Sections 13A and 13B were substituted by paragraphs 1 and 6 of Schedule 1 to the Representation of the People Act 2000. Section 13A(2) was amended by paragraph 4 of Schedule 4 to the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 (c.33). Section 13AB was inserted by section 16 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013. Section 13B(3B) and (3D) was inserted by section 11 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (c.22). Section 202 has been amended but the amendments are not relevant to this instrument.
 - (c) Section 53(5) was inserted by paragraph 5 of Schedule 2 to the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.
 - (d) 2000 c.41. There are amendments to section 7 but none is relevant to this instrument.
 - (e) Section 201(2) was substituted by paragraph 69 of Schedule 4 to the Representation of the People Act 1985 and amended by paragraph 6 of Schedule 21 to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and article 5(b) of S.I. 1991/1728.

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Representation of the People (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 and come into force on the day after the day on which they are made.

Amendments to the Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001

2. The Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001(a) are amended in accordance with regulations 3 to 9.

3. In regulation 26(1)(a) (applications for registration), for the words from “any previous name” to the end substitute “the most recent name (if any) by which the applicant has previously been known”.

4. In regulation 26A (application for alteration of register in respect of name)—

- (a) in paragraph (4), for the words from “a copy” to the end substitute “documentary evidence of the applicant’s change of name”;
- (b) in paragraph (5), for “one of the documents in paragraph (4)” substitute “any documentary evidence”;
- (c) in paragraph (6), for “the copy document” substitute “any copy document”.

5. In regulation 29ZA(1) (verification of information in an application) for “on a paper application form” substitute “otherwise than through the digital service”.

6. In regulation 32ZA(3) (annual canvass) for sub-paragraph (f) substitute—

“(f) include a statement that the information provided in response to the form will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998”.

7. In regulation 32ZA(3)(i)—

- (a) omit “signed”;
- (b) for “signing the declaration” substitute “making the declaration”;
- (c) for “they are signing” substitute “they are making it”.

8. Omit regulation 34 (retaining entries in register).

9. In regulation 36(2)(b) (notices in connection with registration), for “regulation 31C(2)(d)” substitute “regulation 31C(2)(b)(ii) or (iii)”.

Signed by authority of the Lord President of the Council

Name
Minister for the Constitution
Cabinet Office

Date

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations amend certain regulations in the Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001 (S.I. 2001/341) which relate to the new system of individual electoral registration.

(a) S.I. 2001/341, amended by S.I. 2002/1871, 2006/2910 and 2013/3198; there are other amendments which are not relevant to this instrument.

Regulation 3 requires applicants for registration to provide their most recent previous name (if any) instead of any previous name by which they have been known in the 12 months before their application.

Regulation 4 provides that, where people wish to change their name in the electoral register, the requirement to provide documentary evidence of the change of name is not limited to particular documents.

The effect of regulation 7 is that responses to the annual canvass form do not have to be made by completing and returning the form.

Regulations 5, 6, 8 and 9 make minor clarificatory and correcting amendments.

An overall impact assessment in relation to the individual electoral registration scheme is available on the Cabinet Office website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/individual-electoral-registration-impact-assessment>.

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£4.25

UK201412084 12/2014 19585

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/ukdsi/2015/9780111125038>

ISBN 978-0-11-112503-8



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