



Representation of the People Act 1983

CHAPTER 2

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT 1983

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170 Conviction of illegal practice on charge of corrupt practice etc.

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173A Incapacity to hold public or judicial office in Scotland.

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174 Mitigation and remission etc.

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- 199ZA Functions of the Minister for the Cabinet Office
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- 206 Transitional and saving provisions, amendments and repeals.
- 207 Citation and commencement.

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SCHEDULE ZA1 — Civil penalties under section 9E

Introduction

- 1 This Schedule is about civil penalties under section 9E.

Amount

- 2 The amount of a civil penalty is to be specified...

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Procedure

- 3 (1) The procedure for imposing a civil penalty on a...
4 Regulations may specify steps that a registration officer must take...

Reviews and appeals

- 5 (1) Regulations may give a person on whom a civil...

Power to create exceptions

- 6 Regulations may specify circumstances in which— (a) a civil penalty...

Accounts and record keeping

- 7 Regulations may impose duties on registration officers about the keeping...

Interest and enforcement etc.

- 8 Regulations may— (a) allow interest to be charged on a...
9 In this Schedule “civil penalty” includes any interest...
10 Regulations may make provision about the recovery of civil penalties...
11 A civil penalty received by a registration officer is to...

Power to make further provision

- 12 Regulations may make further provision about civil penalties.

SCHEDULE A1 — Review of polling districts and polling places

- 1 The relevant authority must publish notice of the holding of...
2 The authority must consult the returning officer for every parliamentary...
3 (1) Every such returning officer must make representations to the...
4 (1) The authority must seek representations from such persons as...
5 Any elector in a constituency situated in whole or in...
6 Representations made by any person in connection with a review...
7 On completion of a review the authority must—

SCHEDULE 1 —

Part I — PROVISIONS AS TO TIME

Timetable

- 1 The proceedings at the election shall be conducted in accordance...

Computation of time

- 2 (1) In computing any period of time for the purposes...
Part II — STAGES COMMON TO CONTESTED AND UNCONTESTED ELECTIONS

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Issue of writ

- 3 (1) Writs for parliamentary elections shall continue to be sealed...

Conveyance of writ to acting returning officer

- 4 (1) For an election in a constituency in England and...

Notice of election

- 5 (1) The returning officer shall publish notice of the election...

NOMINATION

Nomination of candidates

- 6 (1) Each candidate shall be nominated by a separate nomination...

Nomination papers: name of registered political party

- 6A (1) A nomination paper may not include a description of...

Subscription of nomination paper

- 7 (1) The nomination paper shall be subscribed by two electors...

Consent to nomination

- 8 (1) A person shall not be validly nominated unless his...

Deposit

- 9 (1) A person shall not be validly nominated unless the...

Place for delivery of nomination papers

- 10 (1) The returning officer shall fix the place at which...

Right to attend nomination

- 11 (1) Except for the purpose of delivering a nomination paper...

Decisions as to validity of nomination papers

- 12 (1) Where a nomination paper and the candidate's consent to...

Withdrawal of candidates

- 13 (1) A candidate may withdraw his candidature by notice of...

Publication of statement of persons nominated

- 14 (1) The returning officer shall prepare and publish a statement...

Correction of minor errors

- 14A (1) A returning officer may, if he thinks fit, at...

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Disqualification by Representation of the People Act 1981

- 15 (1) If it appears to the returning officer that any...

Adjournment of nomination proceedings in case of riot

- 16 (1) Where the proceedings for or in connection with nomination...

Method of election

- 17 (1) If the statement of persons nominated shows more than...

Part III — CONTESTED ELECTIONS

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Poll to be taken by ballot

- 18 The votes at the poll shall be given by ballot,...

The ballot papers

- 19 (1) The ballot of every voter shall consist of a...

Corresponding number list

- 19A (1) The returning officer must prepare a list containing the...

Date of birth lists for polling stations in Northern Ireland

- 19B (1) The Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland must prepare...

The official mark

- 20 (1) Every ballot paper must contain an appropriate security marking...

Prohibition of disclosure of vote

- 21 No person who has voted at the election shall, in...

Use of schools and public rooms

- 22 (1) The returning officer may use, free of charge, for...

ACTION TO BE TAKEN BEFORE THE POLL

Notice of poll

- 23 (1) The returning officer shall in the statement of persons...

Postal ballot papers

- 24 (1) The returning officer shall, in accordance with regulations, issue...

Provision of polling stations

- 25 (1) The returning officer shall provide a sufficient number of...

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Appointment of presiding officers and clerks

26 (1) The returning officer shall appoint and pay a presiding...

Special lists

27

Issue of official poll cards

28 (1) The returning officer shall as soon as practicable after...

Equipment of polling stations

29 (1) The returning officer shall provide each presiding officer with...

Appointment of polling and counting agents

30 (1) Each candidate may, before the commencement of the poll,...

Notification of requirement of secrecy

31 (1) The returning officer shall make such arrangements as he...

Return of postal ballot papers

31A (1) Where— (a) a postal vote has been returned in...

THE POLL

Admission to polling station

32 (1) The presiding officer shall exclude all persons from the...

Keeping of order in station

33 (1) It is the presiding officer's duty to keep order...

Sealing of ballot boxes

34 Immediately before the commencement of the poll, the presiding officer...

Questions to be put to voters

35 (1) At the time of the application (but not afterwards),...

Challenge of voter

36 A person shall not be prevented from voting by reason...

Voting procedure and voter identification requirements: Great Britain

37 (1) Subject to rule 35(3) and to paragraphs (1A) to...

Votes marked by presiding officer

38 (1) Subject to paragraph (1A) below, the presiding officer, on...

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Voting by persons with disabilities

- 39 (1) If a voter makes an application to the presiding...

Tendered ballot papers

- 40 (1) If a person, representing himself to be—

Tendered postal ballot papers: anonymous entries in Northern Ireland

- 40ZA (1) This rule applies to a person (“P”) who—

Refusal to deliver ballot paper: Great Britain

- 40ZB (1) This rule applies in relation to an election held...

Refusal to deliver ballot paper: Northern Ireland

- 40A (1) This rule applies where a presiding officer refuses to...

Collection and disclosure of information relating to applications made under rules 37 to 40

- 40B (1) This rule applies in relation to an election held...

Spoilt ballot papers

- 41 A voter who has inadvertently dealt with his ballot paper...

Correction of errors on day of poll

- 41A The presiding officer shall keep a list of persons to...

Correction of errors on day of poll: Northern Ireland

- 41B The presiding officer shall keep a list of persons to...

Adjournment of poll in case of riot

- 42 (1) Where the proceedings at any polling station are interrupted...

Procedure on close of poll

- 43 (1) As soon as practicable after the close of the...

COUNTING OF VOTES

Attendance at counting of votes

- 44 (1) The returning officer shall make arrangements for counting the...

The count

- 45 (1) The returning officer shall— (a) in the presence of...

Recount

- 46 (1) A candidate or his election agent may, if present...

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Rejected ballot papers

- 47 (1) Any ballot paper— (a) which does not bear the...

Decisions on ballot papers

- 48 The decision of the returning officer on any question arising...

Equality of votes

- 49 Where, after the counting of the votes (including any recount)...
- Part IV — FINAL PROCEEDINGS IN CONTESTED AND UNCONTESTED ELECTIONS

Declaration of result

- 50 (1) In a contested election, when the result of the...

Return to the writ

- 51 (1) The returning officer shall return the name of the...

Record of returns at Crown Office

- 52 (1) The Clerk of the Crown shall from the certificate...

Return or forfeiture of candidate's deposit

- 53 (1) The deposit made under rule 9 of these rules...

Counting of votes: statement by returning officer

- 53ZA (1) In a contested election, if the counting of the...
- Part V — DISPOSAL OF DOCUMENTS

Destruction of home address forms

- 53A The returning officer shall destroy each candidate's home address form —...

Destruction of date of birth lists: Northern Ireland

- 53B The Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland must destroy the...

Sealing up of ballot papers

- 54 (1) On the completion of the counting at a contested...

Delivery of documents to registration officer

- 55 (1) The returning officer shall then forward to the relevant...

Orders for production of documents

- 56 (1) An order— (a) for the inspection or production of...

Inspection of ballot paper refusal list: Great Britain

- 56A (1) Regulations may make provision about the circumstances in which...

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Retention and public inspection of documents

57 (1) The relevant registration officer shall retain for a year...

Disposal of documents in Scotland

58 (1) This rule modifies rules 55 to 57 in relation...

Disposal of documents in Northern Ireland

59 In the application of rules 55 to 57 to elections...

Part VI — DEATH OF CANDIDATE

Independent candidate

60 (1) This rule applies if at a contested election proof...

Deceased independent candidate wins

61 (1) This rule applies if at an election mentioned in...

Deceased independent candidate with equality of votes

62 In an election mentioned in rule 60(1), if—

Party candidate

63 (1) This rule applies if— (a) at a contested election...

Speaker of the House of Commons seeking re-election

64 (1) This rule applies if at a contested election—

Abandoned poll

65 (1) This rule applies to— (a) a poll which is...

— APPENDIX OF FORMS

Form of writ

Label or direction of writ

Endorsement

Certificate endorsed on writ

Form of notice of election

Form of nomination paper

NOTE

- 1 The attention of candidates and electors is drawn to the...
 2 Where a candidate is commonly known by some title he...
 2A Where a candidate commonly uses a name or names—
 2B But the ballot paper will show the other name if...
 3
 4 An elector may not subscribe more than one nomination paper...

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- 5 A person whose name is entered in the register

Form of Ballot Paper

Directions as to printing the ballot paper

- 1 Nothing is to be printed on the ballot paper except...
- 2 So far as is practicable, the arrangements set out in...
- 3 No word may be printed on the face except:
- 4 A box must be printed around: (a) the heading and...
- 5 No rule may be printed on the face except:
- 6 The horizontal rules referred to in paragraph 5(c), (d) and...
- 7 The boxes referred to in paragraph 5(f) must not touch...
- 8 Each of the horizontal rules referred to in paragraph 5(c)...
- 9 The horizontal rule referred to in paragraph 5(e) must:
- 10 Where a registered emblem is to be printed against a...
- 11 All the words on the front of the ballot paper...
- 12 The surname of each candidate must appear in capitals and...
- 13 The number and other unique identifying mark must be printed...

Form of directions for the guidance of the voters in voting

- 1 You must satisfy the presiding officer about your identity by...
2. When you are given a ballot paper go to one...
- 3 Vote for one candidate only. Put no other mark on...
4. Fold the ballot paper in two. Show the back of...
5. If by mistake you spoil a ballot paper, show it...

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

...

SCHEDULE 2 — Provisions Which May be Contained in Regulations as to
Registration Etc.

- 1 (1) Provisions prescribing the arrangements to be made for the...
- 1A (1) Provision authorising or requiring a person to disclose information...
- 1B (1) Provision as to the information that a registration officer...
- 2 Provisions imposing on registration officers the duty of requiring persons...
- 2A Provisions requiring registration officers to remind persons registered in pursuance...
- 2B Provisions requiring registration officers to remind persons with anonymous entries...
- 3 Provisions laying down a timetable for the preparation of the...
- 3ZA (1) Provision about applications under section 10ZC, 10ZD, 13BD...
- 3ZB (1) Provision about renewal declarations (within the meaning given by...
- 3A (1) Provision about— (a) applications for registration in Northern Ireland...
- 3B Provisions as to the form and content of applications for...
- 3C (1) Provision authorising or requiring a registration officer conducting a...
- 4 Provisions as to the manner in which service declarations, and...
- 5 (1) Provisions as to the evidence which shall or may...
- 5ZA (1) Provision about the manner in which relevant absent voting...

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- 5A (1) Provision requiring applications under paragraph 3 or 4 of...
- 5B (1) Provision as to the steps that a registration officer...
- 6 Provisions as to the cases in which an application or...
- 7 Provisions authorising a registration officer to require any person's evidence...
- 8 Provisions requiring the registration officer to prepare a special list...
- 8A Provisions requiring the registration officer to prepare a record of...
- 8B (1) Provision authorising or requiring a registration officer in determining...
- 8BA (1) Provision requiring a registration officer in Great Britain to...
- 8C (1) Provision requiring the retention or disposal, or otherwise regulating...
- 9
- 10 (1) Provisions requiring a registration officer to prepare, in addition...
- 10A Provisions requiring copies of the full register and other documents,...
- 10B (1) Provisions authorising or requiring a registration officer—
- 11 (1) Provisions imposing prohibitions or restrictions relating to the extent...
- 11A (1) Provisions authorising or requiring registration officers to supply information...
- 12 Provisions as to the arrangements to be made in relation...
- 12ZA (1) Where regulations under rule 45(1B)(a) or (b) in Schedule...
- 12ZB (1) Where regulations under rule 45(2)(a) in Schedule 1 provide...
- 12A Regulations under section 53 making provision as mentioned in paragraph...
- 13 (1) Provisions making it an offence (punishable on summary conviction...

Schedule 2A — Control of Donations to Candidates

Part I — INTRODUCTORY

Operation and interpretation of Schedule

1

Donations: general rules

- 2 (1) “Donation”, in relation to a candidate at...

Sponsorship

- 3 (1) For the purposes of this Schedule sponsorship is provided...

Payments etc. not to be regarded as donations

- 4 (1) None of the following shall be regarded as a...

Value of donations

- 5 (1) The value of any donation falling within paragraph 2(1)(a)...

Part II — CONTROLS ON DONATIONS

Prohibition on accepting donations from impermissible donors

- 6 (1) A relevant donation received by a candidate or his...

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Acceptance or return of donations

7 (1) Sections 56 to 60 of the 2000 Act shall...

Transfer of donations received by candidate to election agent

8 (1) Sub-paragraph (2) below applies in relation to any relevant...

Evasion of restrictions on donations

9 Section 61 of the 2000 Act shall apply for the...

Part III — REPORTING OF DONATIONS

Statement of relevant donations

10 (1) The candidate's election agent must include in any return...

Donations from permissible donors

11 The statement must record, in relation to each relevant donation...

Donations from impermissible donors

12 (1) This paragraph applies to relevant donations falling within paragraph...

SCHEDULE 3 — Return and Declarations as to Election Expenses

SCHEDULE 4 — Election Expenses at Certain Local Elections in England and Wales

- 1 (1) Any claim against any person in respect of any...
- 2 Every agent of a candidate at the election shall, within...
- 3 Within 28 days after the day of election every candidate...
- 4 (1) After the expiry of the time for making the...
- 5 If the candidate fails to make that return and declaration...
- 6 The High Court, an election court or the county court...
- 7 (1) If the candidate applies to the High Court, an...
- 8 (1) The return and declaration shall be kept at the...
- 9 For the purposes of this Schedule— (a) the jurisdiction vested...

SCHEDULE 4A — 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 9 of...
- 7A (1) Any matter that is reasonably attributable to the candidate's...
- 8 The publication of any matter, other than an advertisement, relating...
- 8A In relation to a local government election in Wales, expenses...
- 9 The provision of any facilities provided in pursuance of any...

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- 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...
 - 13A Except in relation to a local government election in Wales,...
- Part 3 — SUPPLEMENTAL

Guidance by Commission

- 14 (1) The Electoral Commission (“ the Commission ”) may prepare,...
- 14A (1) The Electoral Commission (“ the Commission ”) may prepare,...

Power to amend Parts 1 and 2

- 15 (1) The Secretary of State may by order made by...

SCHEDULE 4B — Scottish local government elections: 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 publication of any matter, other than an advertisement, relating...
 - 8 The provision of any facilities provided in pursuance of any...
 - 9 The provision by an individual of his own services which...
 - 10 (1) Accommodation which is the candidate's sole or main residence....
 - 11 (1) Transport by a means of transport which was acquired...
 - 12 (1) Computing or printing equipment which was acquired by the...
- PART 2A — GUIDANCE BY THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION
- 12A (1) The Commission may prepare, and from time to time...
- Part 3 — POWER TO AMEND PARTS 1 AND 2
- 13 (1) The Scottish Ministers may by order made by statutory...

SCHEDULE 5 — Use for Parliamentary Election Meetings of Rooms in School Premises and of Meeting Rooms

- 1 (1) Any arrangements for the use of a room in...
- 2 (1) Every local authority shall prepare and revise for their...
- 3 (1) Every district in the London borough council and every...
- 4 The lists of rooms in school premises and of meeting...
- 5 In the event of a dissolution, or of a vacancy...
- 5A In paragraphs 1 and 2 “local authority” has the meaning...
- 6 In the application of this Schedule to Scotland—

SCHEDULE 6 — Ward Elections in the City

- 1 Without prejudice to the application of any provision of this...
- 2 Notwithstanding anything in section 6(1) of the City Act—
- 3 Ward lists and provisional ward lists shall give for any...
- 4 Claims and objections asking for the omission, insertion or alteration...
- 5 Any power under this Act to prescribe the form of...
- 6 Nothing in this Act affects the operation of

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Schedule 6A — List of countries for purposes of section 203A

- 1 Luxembourg.
- 2 Poland.
- 3 Portugal.
- 4 Spain.
- 5 Denmark

SCHEDULE 7 — Transitional and Saving Provisions, and Interpretation of other Acts

Part I — TRANSITIONAL AND SAVING PROVISIONS

General

- 1 Where a period of time specified in an enactment repealed...
- 2 The imposition or subsistence of an incapacity is not affected...

Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962

- 3

Licensing Act 1964

- 4 Notwithstanding the repeal by this Act of section 24(2) of...

Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973

- 5 So far as sections 8(4) and 26 of this Act...

Variation of limits of candidates' election expenses

- 6

Section 254 of the Local Government Act 1972

- 7 Any power exercisable under section 254 of the Local Government...

Criminal Justice Act 1982

- 8

Mental Health (Amendment) Act 1982

- 9

Part II — INTERPRETATION OF OTHER ACTS

Register, electors, etc.

- 10 (1) A reference in any Act (whenever passed) to—

Registration and returning officers

- 11 A reference in any Act (whenever passed) to—

Registration expenses

- 12 A reference in any Act (whenever passed) to registration expenses...

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Supplemental

13 (1) Subject to this paragraph, the provisions of paragraphs 10...

SCHEDULE 8 — Consequential Amendments Acts

Public Meeting Act 1908

1 After subsection (3) of section 1 of the Public Meeting...

City of London (Various Powers) Act 1957

- 2 In section 4 of the City of London (Various Powers)...
- 3 In section 8 of the City of London (Various Powers)...
- 4 In section 9(4) of the City of London (Various Powers)...

City of London (Various Powers) Act 1960

5 In section 39 of the City of London (Various Powers)...

London Government Act 1963

6 In Schedule 3 to the London Government Act 1963—

Licensing Act 1964

- 7 In section 12(2) of the Licensing Act 1964 for “section...
- 8 In section 67(5) of the Licensing Act 1964 for “Representation...
- 9 In section 67(6) of the Licensing Act 1964—
- 10 In Schedule 8 to the Licensing Act 1964—

Post Office Act 1969

11

Local Government Act 1972

- 12 In the following provisions of the Local Government Act 1972...
- 13 In section 89(6) of the Local Government Act 1972 for...
- 14 In paragraphs 18(5) and 34(5) of Schedule 12 to the...

Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973

- 15 In the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973—
- 16

Juries Act 1974

17 In section 3(1) of the Juries Act 1974, for “Representation...

House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975

- 18 In section 6(3) of the House of Commons Disqualification Act...
- 19
- 20 In Part III of Schedule 1 to the House of...

European Parliamentary Elections Act 1978

21 In section 4(2) of the European Parliamentary Elections Act 1978—...

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- 22 In paragraph (b) of section 7(2) of the European Parliamentary...
- 23 In paragraph 4(2) of Schedule 1 to the European Parliamentary...

Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978

- 24 In paragraph (h) of section 35(2) of the Judicature (Northern...
- 25 In section 108(1) of the Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978...

Senior Courts Act 1981

- 26 In section 142(1) of the Senior Courts Act 1981 ,...

Mental Health (Amendment) Act 1982

- 27

Legal Aid, Advice and Assistance (Northern Ireland) Order 1981

- 28 In Schedule 1 to the Legal Aid, Advice and Assistance...

- SCHEDULE 9 — Repeals and Revocations
 - Part I — REPEALS OF OBSOLETE PROVISIONS
 - Part II — CONSEQUENTIAL REPEALS
 - Part III — CONSEQUENTIAL REVOCATIONS

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