



# Representation of the People Act 1983

## 1983 CHAPTER 2

### PART III

#### LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

##### *Questioning of a parliamentary election*

#### **121 Presentation and service of parliamentary election petition.**

- (1) A Parliamentary election petition may be presented by one or more of the following persons—
  - (a) a person who voted as an elector at the election or who had a right so to vote; or
  - (b) a person claiming to have had a right to be elected or returned at the election ;  
or
  - (c) a person alleging himself to have been a candidate at the election.
- (2) The member whose election or return is complained of is hereinafter referred to as the respondent, but if the petition complains of the conduct of a returning officer, the returning officer shall for the purposes of this Part of this Act be deemed to be a respondent.
- (3) The petition shall be in the prescribed form, state the prescribed matters and be signed by the petitioner, or all the petitioners if more than one, and shall be presented to the High Court, or to the Court of Session, or to the High Court of Northern Ireland, depending on whether the constituency to which it relates is in England and Wales, or Scotland or Northern Ireland.
- (4) The petition shall be presented by delivering it to the prescribed officer or otherwise dealing with it in the prescribed manner; and the prescribed officer shall send a copy of it to the returning officer of the constituency to which the petition relates, who shall forthwith publish it in that constituency.
- (5) The petition shall be served [<sup>F1</sup>in such] manner as may be prescribed.

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/11/2002. This version of this provision has been superseded.*

**Changes to legislation:** Representation of the People Act 1983, Section 121 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 30 June 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. (See end of Document for details)

### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 121(5) substituted (16.2.2001) by 2000 c. 41, s. 138(1)(2), **Sch. 18 para. 19(3)**, (with s. 156(6)); S.I. 2001/222, art. 2, **Sch. 1 Pt. I** (with Sch. 1 Pt. II)

### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 121 applied (E.W.S.) by S.I. 1986/2209, regs. 2, 3, 5(1)(6)-(8), **Sch. 1 Pt. I**  
S. 121 applied (N.I.) by S.I. 1986/2250, regs. 2, 3, 5, **Sch. 1 Pt. I**
- C2** S. 121 applied (with modifications) (N.I.) (4.5.1996) by S.I. 1996/1220, art. 3(1)(5)-(8), **Sch. 1**  
S. 121 applied (with modifications) (11.3.1999) by S.I. 1999/787, art. 85(1)-(3), Sch. 6 Pts. I, II (which S.I. was revoked (21.11.2002 except for specified purposes) by S.I. 2002/2779, **arts. 1, 2** (which S.I. was revoked (15.3.2007) by S.I. 2007/937, **art. 2(a)**))  
S. 121 applied (with modifications) (1.8.2001) by S.I. 2001/2599, art. 3(1), **Sch. 1**  
S. 121 applied (with modifications) (21.11.2002 except for specified purposes) by The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2002 (S.I. 2002/2779), arts. 1, 81, **Sch. 6 Pts. I, II** (which S.I. was revoked (15.3.2007) by S.I. 2007/937, art. 2(a))  
S. 121 applied (with modifications) (15.3.2007 except for specified purposes) by The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/937), arts. 1, 83, **Sch. 6 Pts. I, II**

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