



Representation of the People Act 1983

1983 CHAPTER 2

PART I

PARLIAMENTARY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FRANCHISE AND ITS EXERCISE

[^{F1} Entitlement to registration]

[^{F1}4 Entitlement to be registered as parliamentary or local government elector.

- (1) A person is entitled to be registered in the register of parliamentary electors for any constituency or part of a constituency if on the relevant date he—
 - (a) is resident in the constituency or that part of it;
 - (b) is not subject to any legal incapacity to vote (age apart);
 - (c) is either a qualifying Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of the Republic of Ireland; and
 - (d) is of voting age.
- (2) A person is not entitled to be registered in the register of parliamentary electors for any constituency in Northern Ireland unless, in addition to complying with subsection (1) above, he has been resident in Northern Ireland during the whole of the period of three months ending on the relevant date.
- (3) A person is entitled to be registered in the register of local government electors for any electoral area if on the relevant date he—
 - (a) is resident in that area;
 - (b) is not subject to any legal incapacity to vote (age apart);
 - (c) is a qualifying Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland or a relevant citizen of the Union; and
 - (d) is of voting age.
- (4) The preceding provisions have effect—
 - (a) subject to—

Status: Point in time view as at 15/09/2014. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation: Representation of the People Act 1983, Section 4 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 July 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)

- (i) any enactment imposing a disqualification for registration as a parliamentary, or (as the case may be) local government, elector; and
 - (ii) compliance with any prescribed requirements; and
 - (b) (as respects registration as a parliamentary elector) without prejudice to section 2(1) of the Representation of the ^{M1}People Act 1985 (registration of British citizens overseas).
- (5) A person otherwise qualified is (despite subsection (1)(d) or (3)(d), as the case may be) entitled to be registered in a register of parliamentary electors or local government electors if he will attain voting age before the end of the period of 12 months beginning with the 1st December next following the relevant date, but—
- (a) his entry in the register shall give the date on which he will attain that age; and
 - (b) until the date given in the entry he shall not by virtue of the entry be treated as an elector for any purposes other than those of an election the date of the poll for which is the date so given or any later date.
- [If a person entitled to be registered by virtue of subsection (5) above has an anonymous ^{F2}(5A) entry in the register, the references in paragraphs (a) and (b) of that subsection to his entry in the register are to be read as references to his entry in the record of anonymous entries prepared in pursuance of paragraph 8A of Schedule 2 below.]
- (6) In this section—
- “qualifying Commonwealth citizen” means a Commonwealth citizen who either—
- (a) is not a person who requires leave under the ^{M2}Immigration Act 1971 to enter or remain in the United Kingdom, or
 - (b) is such a person but for the time being has (or is, by virtue of any enactment, to be treated as having) any description of such leave;
- “the relevant date”, in relation to a person, means—
- (a) the date on which an application for registration is made (or, by virtue of section 10A(2) below, is treated as having been made) by him;
 - (b) in the case of a person applying for registration in pursuance of a declaration of local connection or a service declaration, the date on which the declaration was made.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 4 and preceding cross-heading substituted for s. 4 (29.1.2001 for specified purposes and 16.2.2001 otherwise) by 2000 c. 2, s. 1(2); S.I. 2001/116, art. 2(1)(2) (with art. 2(4))
- F2** S. 4(5A) inserted (E.W.S.) (1.1.2007) by Electoral Administration Act 2006 (c. 22), ss. 10, 77, Sch. 1 para. 3; S.I. 2006/3412, art. 3, Sch. 1 paras. 1, 12(a) (subject to transitional provisions and savings in art. 6, Sch. 2) (amendment extended to N.I. (15.9.2014) by The Anonymous Registration (Northern Ireland) Order 2014 (S.I. 2014/1116), arts. 1(1), 2(2))

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 4(5) applied (with modifications) (N.I.) (1.7.2008) by The Representation of the People (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2008 (S.I. 2008/1741), reg. 14(3)(4), Sch. 4
- C2** S. 4(6) modified (E.W.S.) (27.3.2013) by The Electoral Registration (Postponement of 2013 Annual Canvass) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/794), arts. 1(1), 2(4)

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1985 c. 50.

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M2 [1971 c. 77.](#)

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