
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2001 No. 497

Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001

PART V

ISSUE AND RECEIPT OF POSTAL BALLOT PAPERS

Interpretation of Part V

- 64.** For the purposes of this Part of these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—
- “absent voters list” means the list kept under paragraph 5 of Schedule 4 to the 2000 Act;
 - “agent” includes the election agent and a person appointed to attend in the election agent’s place;
 - “ballot paper envelope” and “covering envelope” mean the envelopes referred to in regulation 74 below;
 - “list of postal proxies” means the list kept under paragraph 7(8) of Schedule 4 to the 2000 Act;
 - “postal ballot paper” means a ballot paper issued to a postal voter;
 - “postal voter” means an elector or proxy who is entitled to vote by post;
 - “postal voters’ ballot box” means the ballot box referred to in regulation 81(1)(a) above;
 - “receptacle for ballot paper envelopes”, and other references to specified receptacles, means the receptacles referred to in regulation 81(5) below;
 - “spoilt postal ballot paper” means a ballot paper referred to in regulation 77(1) below;
 - “universal postal service provider” has the meaning given in the Postal Services Act 2000(1) to a “universal service provider”; and
 - “valid declaration of identity” means one falling within regulation 85(1) below.

Commencement Information

- II** Reg. 64 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Issue of postal ballot papers

Combination of polls

- 65.** Where the polls at parliamentary and European Parliamentary elections are taken together under subsection (1) or (2) of section 15 of the 1985 Act, the proceedings on the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers in respect of each election may, if the returning officers concerned agree, be taken together.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/03/2004.

Changes to legislation: Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001, PART V is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 18 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)

Commencement Information

I2 Reg. 65 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Form of declaration of identity

66. The form of the declaration of identity for the purposes of rule 24 of the rules in Schedule 1 to the 1983 Act⁽²⁾ shall be—

- (a) in Form G at a parliamentary election taken alone;
- (b) in Form H at a parliamentary election where the proceedings on the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers are taken together with those proceedings at another election;
- (c) in Form J at a parliamentary election where the poll is taken together with the poll at another election, but where the proceedings on the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers are not.

Commencement Information

I3 Reg. 66 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Persons entitled to be present at proceedings on issue of postal ballot papers

67. No person may be present at the proceedings on the issue of postal ballot papers other than the returning officer and his staff.

Commencement Information

I4 Reg. 67 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Persons entitled to be present at proceedings on receipt of postal ballot papers

68. No person may be present at the proceedings on the receipt of postal ballot papers other than—

- (a) the returning officer and his staff,
- (b) a candidate,
- (c) an election agent or any person appointed by a candidate to attend in his election agent's place, and
- (d) any agents appointed under regulation 69 below.

Commencement Information

I5 Reg. 68 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

(2) Rule 24 was substituted by Schedule 6 to the 2000 Act.

Agents of candidates who may attend proceedings on receipt of postal ballot papers

69.—(1) Each candidate may appoint one or more agents to attend the proceedings on the receipt of the postal ballot papers up to the number he may be authorised by the returning officer to appoint; the number authorised shall be the same in the case of each candidate.

(2) Notice in writing of the appointment stating the names and addresses of the persons appointed shall be given by the candidate to the returning officer before the time fixed for the opening of the postal voters' ballot box.

(3) Where postal ballot papers for more than one election are issued together under regulation 65 above, the returning officer to whom notice shall be given under paragraph (2) above and paragraphs (4) and (5) below is the returning officer who issues the postal ballot papers.

(4) If an agent dies or becomes incapable of acting, the candidate may appoint another agent in his place and shall forthwith give to the returning officer notice in writing of the name and address of the agent appointed.

(5) Agents may be appointed and notice of appointment given to the returning officer by the candidate's election agent instead of by the candidate.

(6) In this Part of these Regulations references to agents shall be taken as references to agents whose appointments have been duly made and notified and, in the case of agents appointed under paragraph (1) above, who are within the number authorised by the returning officer.

(7) A candidate may himself do any act or thing which any agent of his, if appointed, would have been authorised to do, or may assist his agent in doing any such act or thing.

(8) Where in this Part of these Regulations any act or thing is required or authorised to be done in the presence of the candidates or their agents, the non-attendance of any such persons or person at the time and place appointed for the purpose shall not, if the act or thing is otherwise duly done, invalidate the act or thing done.

Commencement Information

16 Reg. 69 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Notification of requirement of secrecy

70. The returning officer shall make such arrangements as he thinks fit to ensure that every person attending the proceedings in connection with the issue or receipt of postal ballot papers has been given a copy in writing of the provisions of subsections (4) and (6) of section 66 of the Act of 1983⁽³⁾.

Commencement Information

17 Reg. 70 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Time when postal ballot papers are to be issued

71.—(1) In the case of a person shown in the record kept under—

- (a) paragraph 3(4), or
- (b) paragraph 7(6),

⁽³⁾ Section 66(6) was amended by Schedule 3 to the 1985 Act.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/03/2004.

Changes to legislation: Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001, PART V is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 18 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)

of Schedule 4 to the 2000 Act (electors and proxies entitled to vote by post for an indefinite or particular period), no postal ballot paper (and declaration of identity) shall be issued until after 5 p.m. on the eleventh day before the date of the poll (computed in accordance with regulation 56(6) above).

(2) In the case of any other person, the postal ballot paper (and declaration of identity) shall be issued by the returning officer as soon as practicable after ^{F1}the application to vote by post has been granted.]

Textual Amendments

F1 Words in [reg. 71\(2\)](#) substituted (1.8.2002) by [Representation of the People \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2002 \(S.I. 2002/1872\)](#), regs. 2(1), **11**

Commencement Information

I8 Reg. 71 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Procedure on issue of postal ballot paper

72.—(1) Each postal ballot paper issued shall be stamped with the official mark.

(2) The number of the elector as stated in the register shall be marked on the counterfoil attached to the ballot paper.

(3) A mark shall be placed in the absent voters list or the list of postal proxies against the number of the elector to denote that a ballot paper has been issued to the elector or his proxy, but without showing the particular ballot paper issued.

(4) The number of a postal ballot paper shall be marked on the declaration of identity sent with that paper.

(5) Where postal ballot papers for more than one election are issued together under regulation 65 above—

- (a) one mark shall be placed in the absent voters list or the list of postal proxies under paragraph (3) above to denote that ballot papers have been issued in respect of all those elections; except that, where ballot papers are not so issued, a different mark shall be placed in the absent voters list or list of postal proxies to identify the election in respect of which the ballot paper was issued; and
- (b) the number of each ballot paper shall be marked on the declaration of identity under paragraph (4) above.

(6) Where the poll at one election is taken with the poll at another election under the provisions referred to in regulation 65 above but the proceedings on the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers are not taken together, the colour of the postal ballot paper shall also be marked on the declaration of identity sent with that paper.

^{F2}(7) The address to which the postal ballot paper, declaration of identity and the envelopes referred to regulation 74 below are to be sent is—

- (a) in the case of an elector, the address shown in the absent voters list;
- (b) in the case of a proxy, the address shown in the special list kept under paragraph 7(8) of Schedule 4 to the 2000 Act.]

Textual Amendments

F2 [Reg. 72\(7\)](#) inserted (1.8.2002) by [Representation of the People \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2002 \(S.I. 2002/1872\)](#), regs. 2(1), **12**

Changes to legislation: Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001, PART V is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 18 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)

Commencement Information

I9 Reg. 72 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Refusal to issue postal ballot paper

73. Where a returning officer is satisfied that two or more entries in the absent voters list, or the list of postal proxies or in each of those lists relate to the same elector, he shall not issue more than one ballot paper in respect of that elector at any one election.

Commencement Information

I10 Reg. 73 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Envelopes

74.—(1) Paragraphs (2) and (3) below prescribe the envelopes which are to be issued to a postal voter in addition to the ballot paper and declaration of identity (which are issued under rule 24 of the elections rules(4)).

(2) There shall be issued an envelope for the return of the postal ballot paper or, as the case may be, ballot papers and the declaration of identity (referred to as a “covering envelope”) which shall be marked with the letter “B”.

(3) There shall also be issued a smaller envelope (referred to as a “ballot paper envelope”) which shall be marked with—

- (a) the letter “A”;
- (b) the words “ballot paper envelope”, and
- (c) the number of the ballot paper or, as the case may be, ballot papers.

(4) Where polls are taken together (under the provisions referred to in regulation 65 above) but not the proceedings on the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers—

- (a) the envelope referred to in paragraph (2) above shall also be marked “Covering envelope for the [*insert colour of ballot paper*] coloured ballot paper”, and
- (b) on the envelope referred to in paragraph (3) above, after the words “Ballot paper envelope” there shall be added the words “for the [*insert colour of ballot paper*] coloured ballot paper”.

Commencement Information

I11 Reg. 74 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Sealing up of counterfoils and security of special lists

75.—(1) As soon as practicable after the issue of each batch of postal ballot papers, the returning officer shall make up into a packet the counterfoils of those ballot papers which have been issued and shall seal such a packet.

(2) As soon as practicable after the last batch of postal ballot papers have been issued, the returning officer shall make up into a packet the marked copy of the absent voters list and the list of postal proxies and shall seal such a packet.

(4) Rule 24 was substituted by paragraph 10(3) of Schedule 6 to the 2000 Act.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/03/2004.

Changes to legislation: Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001, PART V is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 18 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)

(3) Until the time referred to in paragraph (2) above, the returning officer shall take proper precautions for the security of the lists referred to in that paragraph.

Commencement Information

I12 Reg. 75 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Delivery of postal ballot papers

76.—(1) For the purposes of delivering postal ballot papers, the returning officer may use—

- (a) a universal postal service provider;
- (b) a commercial delivery firm, or
- (c) persons appointed under rule 26(1) of the elections rules.

(2) Where the services of a universal postal service provider or commercial delivery firm are to be used, envelopes addressed to postal voters shall be counted and delivered by the returning officer with such form of receipt to be endorsed by that provider or firm as may be arranged.

(3) Postage shall be prepaid on envelopes addressed to the postal voters (except where paragraph (1)(c) above applies).

(4) Return postage shall be prepaid on all covering envelopes where the address provided by the postal voter for the receipt of the postal ballot paper is within the United Kingdom.

Commencement Information

I13 Reg. 76 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Spoilt postal ballot papers

77.—(1) If a postal voter has inadvertently dealt with his postal ballot paper in such manner that it cannot be conveniently used as a ballot paper (referred to as “a spoilt postal ballot paper”) he may return (either by hand or by post) to the returning officer the spoilt ballot paper and the declaration of identity.

(2) Where postal ballot papers for more than one election have been issued together under regulation 65 above, the postal voter shall, if he exercises the entitlement conferred by paragraph (1) above, return all of the ballot papers so issued, whether spoilt or not.

(3) On receipt of the documents referred to in paragraph (1) and, where applicable paragraph (2) above, the returning officer shall issue another postal ballot paper or, as the case may be, ballot papers except where those documents are received after 5 p.m. on the day before the day of the poll.

(4) Regulations 72 (except paragraph (3)), 74, 75 and, subject to paragraph (7) below, 76 above shall apply to the issue of a replacement postal ballot paper under paragraph (3) above.

(5) The spoilt postal ballot paper, and any other postal ballot paper issued with it, and the declaration of identity shall be immediately cancelled.

(6) The returning officer, as soon as practicable after cancelling those documents, shall make up those documents in a separate packet and shall seal the packet; and if on any subsequent occasion documents are cancelled as mentioned above, the sealed packet shall be opened and the additional cancelled documents included in it and the packet shall be again made up and sealed.

(7) Where a postal voter applies in person, the returning officer may hand a replacement postal ballot paper to him instead of delivering it in accordance with regulation 76 above.

(8) The returning officer shall enter in a list kept for the purpose (“the list of spoiled postal ballot papers”)—

- (a) the name and number of the elector as stated in the register;
- (b) the number of the postal ballot paper (or papers) issued under this regulation; and
- (c) where the postal voter whose ballot paper is spoiled is a proxy, his name and address.

Commencement Information

I14 Reg. 77 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Lost postal ballot papers

78.—(1) Where a postal voter has not received his postal ballot paper by the third day before the day of the poll, he may apply (whether or not in person) to the returning officer for a replacement ballot paper.

(2) Such an application shall include evidence of the voter’s identity.

(3) Where the application is received by the returning officer before 5 p.m. on the day before the day of the poll and the returning officer—

- (a) is satisfied as to the voter’s identity, and
- (b) has no reason to doubt that the postal voter did not receive the original postal ballot paper, he shall issue another postal ballot paper or, as the case may be, postal ballot papers.

(4) The returning officer shall enter in a list kept for the purpose (“the list of lost postal ballot papers”)—

- (a) the name and number of the elector as stated in the register;
- (b) the number of the lost postal ballot paper and of its replacement issued under this regulation; and
- (c) where the postal voter whose ballot paper is lost is a proxy, his name and address.

(5) Regulations 72 (except paragraph (3)), 74, 75 and, subject to paragraph (6) below, 76 above shall apply to the issue of a replacement postal ballot paper under paragraph (3) above.

(6) Where a postal ballot voter applies in person, the returning officer may hand a replacement ballot paper to him instead of delivering it in accordance with regulation 76 above.

(7) Where the registration officer issues another ballot paper, or, as the case may be, postal ballot papers under paragraph (3) above, the lost ballot paper shall be void and of no effect.

Commencement Information

I15 Reg. 78 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Receipt of postal ballot papers

Alternative means of returning postal ballot paper or declaration of identity

79.—(1) For the purposes of rule 45(1B) of the elections rules—

- (a) the manner in which a postal ballot paper or declaration of identity may be returned to a polling station in the same constituency, is by hand;

Status: Point in time view as at 01/03/2004.

Changes to legislation: Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001, PART V is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 18 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)

(b) the manner in which such a paper or declaration may be returned to the returning officer is by post or by hand.

(2) The presiding officer of the polling station shall deliver, or cause to be delivered, any postal ballot paper or declaration of identity returned to that station to the returning officer in the same manner and at the same time as he delivers, or causes to be delivered, the packets referred to in rule 43(1) of the elections rules.

Commencement Information

I16 Reg. 79 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Notice of opening of postal ballot paper envelopes

80.—(1) The returning officer shall give to each candidate not less than 48 hours' notice in writing of each occasion on which a postal voters' ballot box and the envelopes contained in it is to be opened.

(2) Such a notice shall specify—

- (a) the time and place at which such an opening is to take place, and
- (b) the number of agents a candidate may appoint under regulation 69(1) above to attend each opening.

Commencement Information

I17 Reg. 80 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Postal ballot boxes and receptacles

81.—(1) The returning officer shall provide a separate ballot box for the reception of—

- (a) the covering envelopes when returned by the postal voters (“postal voters' ballot box”), and
- (b) postal ballot papers (“postal ballot box”).

(2) Each such ballot box shall be marked “postal voters' ballot box” or “postal ballot box”, as the case may be, and with the name of the constituency or electoral area for which the election or elections is or are held.

(3) The postal ballot box shall be shown to the agents present on the occasion of opening the first postal voters' ballot box as being empty.

(4) The returning officer shall then lock the ballot box and apply his seal in such manner as to prevent its being opened without breaking the seal; any of the agents present who wish to add their seals may then do likewise.

(5) The returning officer shall provide the following receptacles—

- (a) the receptacle for rejected votes;
- (b) the receptacle for declarations of identity;
- (c) the receptacle for ballot paper envelopes; and
- (d) the receptacle for rejected ballot paper envelopes.

(6) The returning officer shall take proper precautions for the safe custody of every ballot box and receptacle referred to in this regulation.

Commencement Information

I18 Reg. 81 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Receipt of covering envelope

82.—(1) The returning officer shall, immediately on receipt (whether by hand or by post) of a covering envelope (or an envelope which is stated to include a postal vote) before the close of the poll, place it unopened in a postal voters' ballot box.

(2) Where an envelope, other than a covering envelope issued by the returning officer—

(a) has been opened, and

(b) contains a ballot paper envelope, declaration of identity or ballot paper,

the first mentioned envelope, together with its contents, shall be placed in a postal voters' ballot box.

Commencement Information

I19 Reg. 82 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Opening of postal voters' ballot box

83.—(1) Each postal voters' ballot box shall be opened by the returning officer in the presence of any agents, if in attendance.

(2) So long as the returning officer ensures that there is at least one sealed postal voters' ballot box for the reception of covering envelopes up to the time of the close of the poll, the other postal voters' ballot boxes may previously be opened by him.

(3) The last postal voters' ballot box and the postal ballot box shall be opened at the counting of the votes under rule 45 of the elections rules.

Commencement Information

I20 Reg. 83 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Opening of covering envelopes

84.—(1) When a postal voters' ballot box is opened, the returning officer shall count and record the number of covering envelopes (including any envelope to which regulation 82(2) above applies), and shall then open each covering envelope separately.

(2) The procedure in regulation 85 below applies where a covering envelope (including an envelope to which regulation 82(2) above applies) contains both—

(a) a declaration of identity; and

(b) a ballot paper envelope, or if there is no ballot paper envelope, a ballot paper (or ballot papers).

(3) Where the covering envelope does not contain the declaration of identity separately, the returning officer shall open the ballot paper envelope to ascertain whether the declaration of identity is inside.

(4) Where a covering envelope does not contain both—

Status: Point in time view as at 01/03/2004.

Changes to legislation: Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001, PART V is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 18 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)

- (a) a declaration of identity (whether separately or not), and
- (b) a ballot paper envelope or, if there is no ballot paper envelope, a ballot paper (or ballot papers),

the returning officer shall mark the covering envelope “provisionally rejected”, attach its contents (if any) and place it in the receptacle for rejected votes.

Commencement Information

I21 Reg. 84 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Procedure in relation to declarations of identity

85.—(1) The returning officer shall satisfy himself that the declaration of identity has been duly signed by the voter and authenticated by a witness who has signed the declaration and given his address (referred to as a “valid declaration of identity”).

(2) Where the returning officer is not so satisfied, he shall mark the declaration “rejected”, attach to it the ballot paper envelope, or if there is no such envelope, the ballot paper (or ballot papers), and, subject to paragraph (3) below, place it in the receptacle for rejected votes.

(3) Before placing the declaration in the receptacle for rejected votes, the returning officer shall show it to the agents and, if any of them object to his decision, he shall add the words “rejection objected to”.

(4) The returning officer shall then examine the number (or numbers) on the declaration of identity against the number (or numbers) on the ballot paper envelope and, where they are the same, he shall place the declaration and the ballot paper envelope respectively in the receptacle for declarations of identity and the receptacle for ballot paper envelopes.

[^{F3}(5) Where—

- (a) the number (or numbers) on a valid declaration of identity is (or are) not the same as the number (or numbers) on the ballot paper envelope, or
- (b) that envelope has no number on it (or only one number when the declaration of identity has more than one),

the returning officer shall open the envelope.

(6) Paragraph (7) below applies where—

- (a) there is a valid declaration of identity but no ballot paper envelope, or
- (b) the ballot paper envelope has been opened under regulation 84(3) or paragraph (5) above.

(7) In the circumstances described in paragraph (6) above, the returning officer shall place—

- (a) in the postal ballot paper box, any ballot paper the number on which is the same as the number (or one of the numbers) on the valid declaration of identity;
- (b) in the receptacle for rejected votes, any other ballot paper, with the valid declaration of identity attached and marked “provisionally rejected”;
- (c) in the receptacle for rejected votes, any valid declaration of identity marked “provisionally rejected” where—
 - (i) there is no ballot paper, or
 - (ii) in the case of a declaration on which the number of more than one ballot paper appears, there is not a sufficient number of ballot papers and, in such a case, shall mark the declaration to indicate which ballot paper is missing;

Changes to legislation: Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001, PART V is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 18 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)

- (d) in the receptacle for declarations of identity, any valid declaration not disposed of under sub-paragraph (b) or (c) above.]

Textual Amendments

- F3** Reg. 85(5)-(7) substituted (1.8.2002) by [Representation of the People \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2002 \(S.I. 2002/1872\)](#), regs. 2(1), **13**

Commencement Information

- I22** Reg. 85 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Opening of ballot paper envelopes

86.—(1) The returning officer shall open separately each ballot paper envelope placed in the receptacle for ballot paper envelopes.

(2) He shall place—

- (a) in the postal ballot box, any ballot paper the number on which is the same as the number (or one of the numbers) on the ballot paper envelope;
- (b) in the receptacle for rejected votes, any other ballot paper which shall be marked “provisionally rejected” and to which shall be attached the ballot paper envelope; and
- (c) in the receptacle for rejected ballot paper envelopes, any ballot paper envelope which shall be marked “provisionally rejected” because it does not contain either a ballot paper or, where more than one number appears on the ballot paper envelope, a sufficient number of ballot papers (and indicating, in such a case, the missing ballot paper).

Commencement Information

- I23** Reg. 86 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Lists of rejected postal ballot papers

87.—(1) In respect of any election, the returning officer shall keep two separate lists of rejected postal ballot papers.

(2) In the first list, he shall record the ballot paper number of any postal ballot paper for which no valid declaration of identity was received with it.

(3) In the second list, he shall record the ballot paper number of any postal ballot paper which is entered on a valid declaration of identity where that ballot paper is not received with the declaration of identity.

Commencement Information

- I24** Reg. 87 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Checking of lists kept under regulation 87

88.—(1) Where the returning officer receives a valid declaration of identity without the postal ballot paper (or papers or, as the case may be, all of the papers) to which it relates, he may, at any time prior to the close of the poll, check the list kept under regulation 87(2) above to see whether the number (or numbers) of a postal ballot paper to which the declaration relates is entered in that list.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/03/2004.

Changes to legislation: Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001, PART V is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 18 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)

(2) Where the returning officer receives a postal ballot paper without the declaration of identity to which it relates, he may, at any time prior to the close of the poll, check the list kept under regulation 87(3) above to see whether the number of that ballot paper is entered in that list.

(3) The returning officer shall conduct the checks required by paragraphs (1) and (2) above as soon as practicable after the receipt of packets from every polling station in the constituency under rule 43(1) of the elections rules.

(4) Where the ballot paper number in the list matches that number on a valid declaration of identity or, as the case may be, the postal ballot paper, the returning officer shall retrieve that declaration or paper.

(5) The returning officer shall then take the appropriate steps under this Part of these Regulations as though any document earlier marked “provisionally rejected” had not been so marked and shall amend the document accordingly.

Commencement Information

I25 Reg. 88 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Sealing of receptacles

89.—(1) As soon as practicable after the completion of the procedure under regulation 88(3) and (4) above, the returning officer shall make up into separate packets the contents of—

- (a) the receptacle of rejected votes,
- (b) the receptacle of declarations of identity,
- (c) the receptacle of rejected ballot paper envelopes, and
- (d) the lists of spoilt and lost postal ballot papers,

and shall seal up such packets.

(2) Any document in those packets marked “provisionally rejected” shall be deemed to be marked “rejected”.

Commencement Information

I26 Reg. 89 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Abandoned poll

90.—(1) Where a poll is abandoned or countermanded after postal ballot papers have been issued, by reason of the death of a candidate, the returning officer—

- (a) shall not take any step or further step to open covering envelopes or deal with the contents in accordance with the provisions of this Part of these Regulations; and
- (b) shall, notwithstanding regulations 84 to 86 above, treat all unopened covering envelopes and the contents of those that have been opened as if they were counted ballot papers.

(2) Paragraph (1) above shall not apply where postal ballot papers for more than one election have been issued together under regulation 65 above.

Commencement Information

I27 Reg. 90 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Forwarding of documents

91.—(1) The returning officer shall forward to the sheriff clerk at the same time as he forwards the documents mentioned in rule 55 of the elections rules—

- (a) any packets referred to in regulations 75, 77(6), and 89 above, subject to regulation 90 above, endorsing on each packet a description of its contents, the date of the election to which it relates and the name of the constituency or electoral ward for which the election (or elections) was (or were) held, and
- (b) a completed statement in Form K of the number of postal ballot papers issued.

(2) Where—

- (a) any covering envelopes are received by the returning officer after the close of the poll (apart from those delivered in accordance with the provisions of regulation 79(3) above);
- (b) any envelopes addressed to postal voters are returned as undelivered too late to be readdressed, or
- (c) any spoilt postal ballot papers are returned too late to enable other postal ballot papers to be issued,

the returning officer shall put them unopened in a separate packet, seal up such packet and endorse and forward it at a subsequent date in the manner described in paragraph (1) above.

(4) Rules 56 and 57 of the elections rules shall apply to any packet or document forwarded under this regulation.

(5) A copy of the statement referred to in paragraph (1)(b) above shall be provided by the returning officer to the Secretary of State.

Commencement Information

I28 Reg. 91 in force at 16.2.2001, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Status:

Point in time view as at 01/03/2004.

Changes to legislation:

Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001, PART V is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 18 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.