

SCHEDULE 3
REFERENDUM RULES

PART 4

The poll

Voting by persons with disabilities

27.—(1) If a voter makes an application to the presiding officer to be allowed, on the ground of—

- (a) blindness or other disability; or
- (b) inability to read,

to vote with the assistance of another person by whom the voter is accompanied (in these Rules referred to as “the companion”), the presiding officer must require the voter to declare, orally or in writing, whether the voter is so incapacitated by blindness or other disability, or by an inability to read, as to be unable to vote without assistance.

(2) If the presiding officer —

- (a) is satisfied that the voter is so incapacitated; and
- (b) is also satisfied by a written declaration made by the companion (in these Rules referred to as “the companion’s declaration”) that the companion—
 - (i) is a qualified person within the meaning of these Rules; and
 - (ii) has not previously assisted more than one voter with disabilities to vote in the referendum,

the presiding officer must grant the application.

(3) Where an application is granted under paragraph (2), anything which is by these Rules required to be done to or by that voter in connection with the giving of the voter’s vote may be done to, or with the assistance of, the companion.

(4) The name and number in the register of every voter whose vote is given in accordance with this rule and the name and address of the companion must be entered on a list (in these Rules referred to as “the assisted voters list”) and, in the case of a person voting as proxy for an elector, the number to be entered is the elector’s number.

(5) In the case of a person in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, the reference in paragraph (4) to the voter’s number on the register is to be read as a reference to the number relating to the voter on the notice .

(6) The declaration made by the companion —

- (a) must be in the form M set out in Schedule 6;
- (b) must be made before the presiding officer at the time when the voter applies to vote with the assistance of a companion; and
- (c) must forthwith be given to the presiding officer who must attest and retain it.

(7) No fee or other payment may be charged in respect of the declaration.

(8) For the purpose of this rule —

- (a) a person is a voter with disabilities if that person has made such a declaration as is mentioned in paragraph (1); and
- (b) a person is qualified to assist a voter with disabilities to vote, if that person is either —

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- (i) a person who is entitled to vote as an elector in the referendum; or
- (ii) the spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild of the voter with disabilities and has attained the age of 18 years.