STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2015 No. 221

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE, NORTHERN IRELAND

The Parliamentary Elections (Forms) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2015

Made - - - - 11th February 2015

Coming into force in accordance with regulation 1(2)

In accordance with section 201(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1983(**1**), a draft of these Regulations has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

In accordance with section 7(1) and (2)(e) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000(**2**), the Secretary of State has consulted with the Electoral Commission prior to these Regulations being made.

Accordingly, the Secretary of State makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 53(1)(c), 201(1) and (3) and 202(1) of, and rules 24(1)(c) and (3), 28(3) and (3A), and 32(3) of Schedule 1 to, the Representation of the People Act 1983(**3**) and section 15(5) of the Representation of the People Act 1985(**4**).

Citation, commencement, extent and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Parliamentary Elections (Forms) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2015.

(2) These Regulations come into force on the day after the day on which they are made.

(3) These Regulations extend to Northern Ireland only.

(**1**) 1983, c. 2; section 201(2) was substituted by section 24 of, and paragraph 69 of Schedule 4 to, the Representation of the People Act 1985 (c. 50), and amended by S.I. 1991/1728; section 158 of, and paragraph 6 of Schedule 21 to, the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (c. 41); and section 13(2) of the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 (c. 13).

(**2**) 2000 c. 41; amendments have been made to section 7 but they are not relevant to these Regulations.

(**3**) See the definition of "prescribed" in section 202(1). Rule 24 was substituted by section 37 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (c. 22). Section 201(1) was amended by S.I. 1991/1728. Section 201(3) was added by paragraph 21 of Schedule 1 to the Representation of the People Act 2000 (c. 2) and amended by paragraph 6 of Schedule 21 to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (c. 41). Rule 28(3) was amended by paragraph 70 of Schedule 1 to the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (c. 22); rule 28(3A) was inserted by paragraph 14 of Schedule 1 to that Act and extended to Northern Ireland by S.I. 2014/1116.

(**4**) 1985 c. 50; section 15 has effect as if it were contained in Part 1 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (c. 2) (see section 27(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1985 (c. 50)).

(4) In these Regulations, "the 2008 Regulations" means the Representation of the People (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2008(**5**).

Amendments relating to the declaration of identity

2.—(1) In regulation 71(b) of the 2008 Regulations, for the words "a local" substitute "another".

(2) In regulation 87 of the 2008 Regulations (procedure in relation to declarations of identity)—

(a) in paragraph (1)(a), omit the words "and given his name and address"; and

(b) after paragraph (1) insert—

"(1A) A person must not sign the declaration as a witness under paragraph (1)(a) unless he is—

(a) aged 18 years or over; and

(b) satisfied to the best of his knowledge and belief as to the identity of the voter.".

Amendment of Schedule 3 to the 2008 Regulations (Forms)

3.—(1) Schedule 3 to the 2008 Regulations (Forms) is amended as follows.

(2) Replace Form A (elector's official poll card) with the form in Schedule 1 to these Regulations.

(3) Replace Form A1 (elector's official postal poll card)(**6**) with the form in Schedule 2 to these Regulations.

(4) Replace Form B (proxy's official poll card) with the form in Schedule 3 to these Regulations.

(5) Replace Form B1 (proxy's official postal poll card)(**7**) with the form in Schedule 4 to these Regulations.

(6) Replace Form E (proxy paper)(**8**) with the form in Schedule 5 to these Regulations.

(7) Replace Form F (certificate of employment) with the form in Schedule 6 to these Regulations.

(8) Replace Form L (declaration of identity)(**9**) with the form in Schedule 7 to these Regulations.

(9) Replace Form M (declaration of identity (combined polls))(**10**) with the form in Schedule 8 to these Regulations.

Andrew Murrison
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Northern Ireland Office

11th February 2015

(**5**) S.I. 2008/1741; relevant amendments are referenced in these Regulations.
(**6**) Form A1 was inserted by S.I. 2014/1808.
(**7**) Form B1 was inserted by S.I. 2014/1808.
(**8**) Form E was amended by S.I. 2014/1808.
(**9**) Form L was amended by S.I. 2014/1808.
(**10**) Form M was amended by S.I. 2014/1808.

SCHEDULE 1 Regulation 3(2)

Form A

Front of card

Poll card

UK Parliamentary Election
[insert name of constituency] **constituency**

Voting information	
Polling day	
Polling hours	7.00am to 10.00pm
Ballot box number	
Your polling station will be	

You do not need to take this card with you in order to vote but it will save time if you do.

Your details:

[Elector's name and qualifying address details here]

Number on register:

Remember that you will not be able to vote unless you show one of the following forms of photographic identification:

- **A UK, Irish or EEA driving licence**
- **A UK or Irish passport**
- **An Electoral Identity Card**
- **A Translink Senior SmartPass**
- **A Translink 60+ SmartPass**
- **A Translink War Disabled SmartPass**
- **A Translink Blind Person's SmartPass**

Please turn over

Back of card

If you are away or cannot go to the polling station on [day] [date of poll] you can do one of the following:

- Apply to vote by post. Completed applications must be returned **by 5pm on [day] [date of deadline]**. If you are given a postal vote, you will not be able to vote in person at this election.

OR

- Apply to vote by proxy (this means someone else can vote on your behalf). Completed applications must be returned **by 5pm on [day] [date of deadline].**

An application form is available on the website or can be requested from the helpline.

If you need any help, require information in another format or language or wish to find out if your polling station is accessible, please contact us.

[Insert helpline and other contact details including website]

Electoral fraud is a crime

Issued by the Chief Electoral Officer.

If undelivered return to: *[Insert return address]*

SCHEDULE 2 Regulation 3(3)

Form A1

Front of card

Postal poll card

UK Parliamentary Election
[insert name of constituency]
constituency

Voting information
We will send your postal vote approximately 10 working days before polling day.

Your details:

**[Elector's name and qualifying address details here]*

Number on register:

**Returning Officer to omit where postal poll card sent to an anonymous elector. Postal poll card to an anonymous elector must be delivered in a sealed envelope.*

Your postal vote

- You will receive a postal vote for this election because you successfully applied to vote by post.
- You will not be able to vote in a polling station.
- **If you have not received your postal vote by [day] [date] [name of month] please contact us.**

Please turn over

Back of card

How to vote

1. When you receive your postal vote, read the instructions carefully.
2. Your postal vote includes your ballot paper and a declaration of identity.
3. Complete the declaration of identity.
4. Complete the ballot paper.
5. Return your postal voting papers in the envelope provided.
6. We need to receive your postal vote by **10pm on [day/date of poll]**. Postal voting papers cannot be accepted at polling stations.

If you need help to vote, you can ask someone you know or get advice by calling our helpline.
If you need information in another format or language please call our helpline.

If you make a mistake:

- Please phone the helpline immediately.
- We can only issue a replacement postal vote if you return all your postal vote documents **by 5pm on [day/date of deadline]**.

If you would rather vote in person, or ask someone else to vote on your behalf, you must cancel your postal vote **before 5pm on [day/date of deadline]**.
*[*Note that if you have an anonymous entry on the register you will not be able to vote in person, but you can ask someone else to vote by post on your behalf.]*
**Returning Officer to only include on postal poll card sent to an anonymous elector.*

Electoral fraud is a crime

[Insert helpline and other contact details including website]

Issued by the Chief Electoral Officer.

If undelivered return to: *[Insert return address]*

SCHEDULE 3 Regulation 3(4)

Form B

Front of card

Proxy poll card

UK Parliamentary Election
[insert name of constituency]
constituency

Voting information	
Polling day	
Polling hours	7.00am to 10.00pm
Ballot box number	
Polling station	

For this election you are proxy for:
[Elector's name
Elector's address
Elector's number on register]

You do not need to take this card with you in order to vote but it will save time if you do.

Your details:

[Proxy's name and address details here]

Remember that you will not be able to vote unless you show one of the following forms of photographic identification for yourself:

- **A UK, Irish or EEA driving licence**
- **A UK or Irish passport**
- **An Electoral Identity Card**
- **A Translink Senior SmartPass**
- **A Translink 60+ SmartPass**
- **A Translink War Disabled SmartPass**
- **A Translink Blind Person's SmartPass**

Please turn over

Back of card

How to vote as a proxy
At the polling station, tell the staff that you are a proxy for the person named on the front of this card. Show an accepted form of photographic identification for yourself. They will give you that person's ballot paper.
If you need any help, just ask the staff.

If you are away or cannot go to the polling station on [day] [date of poll]:

- You can apply to vote by post. The deadline for completed applications is **5pm on [day] [date of deadline]**.
- If you are given a postal vote, you or the person you are proxy for will not be able to vote in person at this election.
- **To find out how to apply, please contact us.**

The person you are proxy for can vote themselves if they wish – but only if you have not already voted on their behalf.

If you need any help, require information in another format or language or wish to find out if your polling station is accessible, please contact us.

[Insert helpline and other contact details including website]

Electoral fraud is a crime

Issued by the Chief Electoral Officer.

If undelivered return to: *[Insert return address]*