Draft Legislation: *This is a draft item of legislation and has not yet been made as a UK Statutory Instrument. This draft has been replaced by a new draft, The Representation of the People (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2008 ISBN 978-0-11-081467-4*

Draft Regulations laid before Parliament under section 201(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (c.2), for approval by resolution of each House of Parliament.

DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2007 No.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE

The Representation of the People (Northern Ireland)(Amendment) Regulations 2007

Made - - - -	*2007*
Coming into force - -	*2007*

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

A draft of these Regulations was laid before Parliament in accordance with section 201(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1983(**2**) and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

Accordingly, the Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 53(1)(b)(i) and (3) of, and paragraphs 1(4), (4A), (4B) and (6) to (8) and 13(1ZA)of Schedule 2 to, that Act(**3**) makes the following Regulations:

Citation, commencement, extent and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Representation of the People (Northern Ireland) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 and shall come into force on the expiry of fourteen days beginning with the day on which the Regulations are made.

(2) In these Regulations—

"the 2001 Regulations" means the Representation of the People (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2001(**4**); and

"the 1983 Act" means the Representation of the People Act 1983.

(3) These Regulations extend to Northern Ireland only.

(**1**) 2000 c.41.
(**2**) 1983 c.2.
(**3**) Paragraphs 1(4A), (4B), (6) to (8) and 13(1ZA) of Schedule 2 to the 1983 Act were inserted by section 7 of the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 (c.33). Paragraphs 1(7) and (8) are interpretation provisions and are cited here because they define the meaning of "the relevant registration objectives" and "third party" respectively.
(**4**) S.I.2001/400 as amended by the Representation of the People (Northern Ireland)(Amendment) Regulations 2002 (S.I.2002/1873).

(4) Nothing in these Regulations shall be taken to require a specified authority or person mentioned in regulation 35(1) of the 2001 Regulations, as substituted by regulation 3 of these Regulations, to disclose information which came into their control before these Regulations came into force.

Amendment of the interpretation provisions

2. In regulation 3(1)(interpretation) of the 2001 Regulations insert the following at the appropriate places—

""specified authorities" means the authorities set out in regulation 35A(2); and

"specified information" means the information set out in regulation 35A(3) to (6)."

Provision of data to the registration officer

3. For regulations 35 (registration officer's right to inspect certain records) and 35A (disclosures relating to national insurance numbers)(**5**) of the 2001 Regulations substitute—

"**Requests for information**

35.—(1) The registration officer may, from time to time, request such specified information as he may require for the purposes mentioned in paragraph 1(4B) of Schedule 2 to the 1983 Act from—

(a) any specified authority; or

(b) any person providing services to, or authorised to exercise any function of, any such authority.

(2) A request for information shall—

(a) be in writing;

(b) specify the format in which the information shall be provided; and

(c) specify the date by which information shall be provided.

(3) A request for information may—

(a) request the regular disclosure of specified information at intervals not more frequent than monthly; and

(b) relate to a specified individual or a class of individuals of a particular description.

(4) A recipient of a request for information shall—

(a) provide the information requested by the specified date; or

(b) inform the registration officer that the information requested is not held by that authority or person; or

(c) request further time for the location of that information.

(5) Nothing in these Regulations requires the disclosure of information which came into the possession of an authority or person before any previous disclosure made in response to a request made in accordance with this regulation.

(6) Where a request for information is not made in accordance with paragraph (5), the recipient of the request may provide the information requested if, in his opinion, the information is reasonably required by the registration officer to replace any information

(**5**) Regulation 35A was inserted by the Representation of the People (Northern Ireland)(Amendment) Regulations 2002 (S.I.2002/1873).