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

DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2004 No.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE

The Representation of the People (Form of Canvass) (England and Wales) Regulations 2004

Made - - - -	*2004*
Coming into force - -	*2004*

Whereas a draft of these Regulations has been laid before and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament;

And whereas the Secretary of State has consulted the Electoral Commission about these Regulations in accordance with section 7(1) and (2) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000(**1**);

Now, therefore, the Secretary of State in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 10(4)(**2**), 53 and 201(1) and (3) of, and paragraph 10(2) of Schedule 2 to, the Representation of the People Act 1983(**3**), and now vested in him(**4**), hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation, commencement, interpretation and extent

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Representation of the People (Form of Canvass) (England and Wales) Regulations 2004 and shall come into force on the expiry of 14 days beginning with the day on which they are made.

(2) In these Regulations, "the 2001 Regulations" means the Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001(**5**).

(3) These Regulations do not extend to Scotland or Northern Ireland.

(**1**) 2000 c. 41.
(**2**) Having regard to the definition of "prescribed" in section 202(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 c. 2.
(**3**) 1983 c. 2; section 10 was substituted by Schedule 1 to the Representation of the People Act 2000 (c. 2); section 201(3) was inserted by Schedule 1 to that Act.
(**4**) Transfer of Functions (Transport, Local Government and the Regions) Order 2002, S.I.2002/2626, article 11, and Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs Order 2003, S.I. 2003/1887, article 4.
(**5**) S.I. 2001/341, amended by S.I. 2001/1700, S.I. 2002/881 and S.I. 2002/1871.

Revocation

2. The Representation of the People (Form of Canvass) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003 are hereby revoked.(**6**)

Prescribed forms

3.—(1) The form set out in Part I of the Schedule to these Regulations is hereby prescribed for use for the purposes of the canvass which is required to be conducted by section 10 of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

Amendment of provision about applications

4. In regulation 26(6) of the 2001 Regulations (applications for registration)(**7**) for "the Representation of the People (Form of Canvass) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003" substitute "the Representation of the People (Form of Canvass) (England and Wales) Regulations 2004".

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State.

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Department for Constitutional Affairs

Date

(**6**) S.I. 2003/1899.
(**7**) Regulation 26(6) was inserted by S.I. 2002/1871, regulation 8(6).

SCHEDULE Regulation 3

Form of Canvass and Form of Words about the Two Versions of the Register

PART I

Form prescribed for the purposes of section 10(4) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as substituted by Schedule 1 to the Representation of the People Act 2000)

RETURN BY OCCUPIER AS TO RESIDENTS

Your right to vote

You can vote in elections only if your name appears in the register of electors. A new version of the register is published at least once a year following an annual canvass which takes place each autumn.

About this form

The law requires you to give the information requested in this form. So please fill it in, sign it and return it to the electoral registration officer as quickly as possible.

Remember to include the names of all those living in your household who will be eligible to vote —their right to vote is important too.

The form should include all those living in your household on 15th October [*insert year***]. But you need not wait until then to fill in the form.**

If you do not return this form, your name may be left out of the new version of the register, even though it may already be included in the current one.

With this form there are notes about who is eligible to vote and instructions on how to fill it in.

If there is anything you don't understand, or if you would like more information, contact your electoral registration office at the address—or on the telephone number—shown on the form. They will be pleased to help.

Checking the register

The new register is published on or shortly before 1st December and you can look at a copy of it at your local council offices. If for some reason you have been missed off the register, or your details have changed since 15th October (for example, because you have changed your address) you should ask immediately to have your name added to the register or to have the register changed. The electoral registration officer will tell you what you have to do.

Would you prefer to vote by post?

Anyone on the electoral register can vote by post. You can have a postal vote for just one election, for all elections in a set period, or for all elections indefinitely. To make it easy for you to apply for a postal vote, there is a tick box alongside each name on the form. If you want to apply for a postal vote, you should tick the box and an application form will be sent to you.

ANNUAL CANVASS OF ELECTORS [*insert year****]***

You must by law give the information requested in this form.

Be sure to include:—

British citizens, citizens of other Commonwealth countries or of the Irish Republic.

Citizens of other Member States of the European Union—you should therefore include all citizens of the following States:

Austria	Finland	Ireland	Poland
Belgium	France	Latvia	Portugal
Cyprus	Germany	Lithuania	Slovakia
Czech Republic	Greece	Luxembourg	Slovenia
Denmark	Hungary	Malta	Spain
Estonia	Italy	Netherlands	Sweden

These citizens will be registered as local government electors only (unless they are also Commonwealth citizens such as citizens of Cyprus and Malta, or citizens of the Irish Republic, who can vote in all elections).

Those living in your household who are 16 and 17 years old—they can vote as soon as they are 18. Please give their dates of birth in Part 4.

Those who normally live in your household but are away for the time being—for example on holiday, as students, or in hospital (including voluntary patients in psychiatric hospitals).

Anyone who is away working, unless they are away for more than six months.

Any other residents, lodgers or guests (but not short-stay visitors) in your household, whether this is a private address, a hostel or a club.

Don't include:—

Foreign nationals—except for citizens of Member States of the European Union (see list of States above).

People under 16.

Anybody who will be leaving your address before 15th October [*insert year*].

Jury Service

Please put a tick in Part 5 for **anyone who is eligible to vote and who will be 70 or over on 15th October [***insert year***].**

People aged 70 and over cannot sit on a jury. Those who may not be able to sit on a jury for other reasons will be able to say so if they receive a jury summons.

European Parliamentary Elections

If you are a citizen of a Member State of the European Union, you may be able to vote in European Parliamentary Elections in this country if you wish, **but you will need to fill in another form to allow you to do so.** Ask the electoral registration officer for more details.

The two versions of the register

The electoral registration officer makes and keeps two versions of the electoral register—the full register and the edited register.

Please put a tick in Part 6 against anyone who wishes their name and address to be excluded from the edited register. Each elector must choose each year whether they want their details to be excluded from the edited register. You must therefore ask each of them their preference