1973. No. 122 **[NC]**

ELECTORAL LAW (LOCAL GENERAL ELECTION 1973) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1973

REGULATIONS, DATED 16TH APRIL 1973, MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND UNDER THE ELECTORAL LAW (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1972.

In exercise of the powers conferred upon me by Article 4(12) of the Electoral Law (Northern Ireland) Order 1972(a) and every other power thereunto enabling me I hereby make the following Regulations:

Citation

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Electoral Law (Local General Election 1973) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973.

Interpretation

2. "the 1973 election" means the local general election to be held in the year 1973 to the district councils;

"the 1972 Order" means the Electoral Law (Northern Ireland) Order 1972;

"the principal Act" means the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962(b).

Conduct of the 1973 General Election

3. The proceedings at the 1973 Election shall be conducted in accordance with the Local Election Time-table and Rules contained in Schedule 1.

Forms

4. The forms contained in Schedule 2 shall be used at the 1973 Election for the purposes for which they are expressed to be applicable and the returning officer may make any adaptation in any such form which may be necessary for its use in any particular circumstances.

Dated this 16th day of April 1973.

W. S. I. Whitelaw,
One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

(a) S.I. 1972, No. 1264 (N.I. 13). (b) 1962. c. 14.

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LOCAL ELECTION RULES

PART I

Time-table

1. The proceedings at the 1973 general election shall be conducted in accordance with the following table:—

Proceeding (1)	*Time fixed or allowed at 1973 Local General Election to District Councils* (2)
1 Publication of notice of election	Not later than Wednesday the 25th day of April 1973.
2 Delivery of nomination papers	Subject to Rule 18, during the period between the hours of 10 in the morning and 5 in the afternoon on Wednesday the 2nd day of May 1973.
3 Delivery of notice of withdrawal of candidature	Not later than the hour of 3 in the afternoon of Thursday the 3rd day of May 1973.
4 The making of objections to nomination papers	Within the time specified in paragraph (12) of Rule 14.
5 Notice to candidates (*a*) of valid nomination (*b*) of invalid nomination	As soon as practicable after the expiration of the time allowed for withdrawal in proceeding 3, and not in any event later than noon on Saturday the 5th day of May 1973.
6 Publication of statement of candidates validly nominated	As soon after the close of the time allowed for proceeding 3 above as the validity of all nomination papers has been determined.
7 Notice of poll	Not later than Friday the 11th day of May 1973.
8 Poll	Wednesday, the 30th day of May 1973.

Computation of time

2. In the computation of any period of time for the purpose of these Rules, a Sunday or public holiday shall be disregarded and shall not be treated as a day for the purposes of any proceedings up to the completion of the poll, nor shall the returning officer be obliged to proceed with the count on such a day.

PART II

OFFICERS AND ELECTION STAFF

Deputy and assistant returning officers

3.—(1) The Chief Electoral Officer who in accordance with the 1972 Order is the returning officer for the 1973 Election may under and in accordance with section 14A of the principal Act (as substituted by Article 6 of the 1972 Order) appoint one deputy returning officer for each local government electoral area and such number of assistant returning officers as he considers necessary having regard to the number of district electoral areas and the size of the electorate in each.

(2) If a person appointed as a deputy or assistant returning officer is for any reason unable or unwilling to act, the Chief Electoral Officer may appoint a fit person in his stead.

(3) The functions of a deputy or assistant returning officer shall be those delegated to him by the Chief Electoral Officer but the Chief Electoral Officer shall not delegate—

(*a*) to a deputy returning officer or assistant returning officer—

(i) the transmission of any documents or records required to be transmitted by the Chief Electoral Officer to district councils; or

(ii) the furnishing of any accounts or returns required to be furnished by the Chief Electoral Officer to the Ministry of Home Affairs; or

(*b*) to an assistant returning officer—

(i) the receipt of nominations; or

(ii) the publication of the summary of returns regarding election expenses of candidates; or

(iii) the giving of any public notice in accordance with Rule 9.

(4) The Chief Electoral Officer may give to a deputy or an assistant returning officer such instructions and directions as he considers necessary and it shall be the duty of a deputy or an assistant returning officer to comply with any such instructions or directions given to him.

(5) In these Rules any reference—

(*a*) to the returning officer in relation to any function which has been delegated to a deputy or assistant returning officer shall, unless the content otherwise requires, be construed as a reference to the deputy or, as the case may be, the assistant returning officer;

(*b*) to the functions of a deputy or an assistant returning officer shall be construed as functions relating to elections to the district council for the local government electoral area for which they have been appointed.

Election offices

4. Each deputy returning officer—

(*a*) shall appoint some convenient place, within the area for which he has been appointed, to be his principal office for all the statutory purposes of that election and such office is in these Rules referred to as "the principal office";

(*b*) may, if he considers it necessary, appoint, within that area, subsidiary offices for dealing with specified matters other than the receipt of nomination and the withdrawal of candidates' nominations and such subsidiary offices shall be under the jurisdiction of an assistant returning officer;