

2007 No. 170

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE

The Representation of the People (Absent Voting at Local Government Elections) (Scotland) Regulations 2007

Made - - - - - *2nd March 2007*
Laid before the Scottish Parliament *6th March 2007*
Coming into force - - - *2nd May 2007*

The Scottish Ministers, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 33 and 61(2) of the Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006(a) and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, make the following Regulations:

Citation and commencement

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Representation of the People (Absent Voting at Local Government Elections) (Scotland) Regulations 2007.

(2) These Regulations shall come into force on 2nd May 2007.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

“the 1983 Act” means the Representation of the People Act 1983(b);

“the 2001 Regulations” means the Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001(c);

“allotted polling station” means the polling station allotted or likely to be allotted to an elector under the appropriate rules (as defined in paragraph 1 of Schedule 4);

“anonymous entry” shall be construed in accordance with section 9B of the 1983 Act;

“registration officer” has the meaning given by section 8(1) of the 1983 Act; and

“Schedule 4” means Schedule 4 to the Representation of the People Act 2000(d).

(2) Part IV of the 2001 Regulations is disapplied for the purposes of any local government election in Scotland taking place after 2nd May 2007.

(a) 2006 asp 14.

(b) 1983 c.2, as relevantly amended by the Representation of the People Act 1985 (c.50), sections 11, 24 and 28 and Schedule 2, paragraph 1, Schedule 4, paragraphs 12(a) and 16(a) and Schedule 5, by the Representation of the People Act 2000 (c.2), sections 8(a) and 15(2) and Schedule 1, paragraph 14(2)(a) and (b), Schedule 6, paragraph 9 (amending the definition of absent voters list) and Schedule 7 and by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (c.41), section 158(1) and Schedule 21, paragraph 6(5).

(c) S.I. 2001/497, which was amended by S.I. 2001/1749, S.I. 2002/1872, S.I. 2004/1771 and 1960, S.I. 2005/2114 and S.I. 2006/594 and 834.

(d) 2000 c.2, to which there are no relevant amendments.

General requirements for applications for an absent vote at a local government election in Scotland

3.—(1) An application under Schedule 4 (absent voting in Great Britain) must comply with the requirements of this regulation and such further requirements in these Regulations as are relevant to the application.

(2) The application must state—

- (a) the full name of the applicant;
- (b) the address in respect of which the applicant is registered or has applied to be (or is treated as having applied to be) registered in the register of local government electors, except in the case of an application under paragraph 7(4) or (7) (voting as proxy) of Schedule 4;
- (c) in the case of a person applying to vote by proxy, the proxy's address, together with the name of the elector for whom the applicant will act as proxy and the elector's address for the purposes of sub-paragraph (b);
- (d) in the case of a person applying to vote by post, the address to which the ballot paper should be sent; and
- (e) in the case of an application to vote by proxy, the grounds on which the elector claims to be entitled to an absent vote.

(3) The application shall be made in writing and be signed and dated by the applicant.

(4) An application under Schedule 4 which is made for an indefinite period, or a particular period specified in the application, must state—

- (a) that it is so made, and
- (b) whether it is made for local government elections only or both parliamentary and local government elections.

(5) An application under Schedule 4 which is made for a particular local government election must—

- (a) state that it is so made, and
- (b) identify the election in question,

but, where the poll at one election falls on the same day as the poll at another election, the application shall, unless a contrary intention appears, apply to both elections.

(6) Where an application is made to vote by proxy, it must include an application for the appointment of a proxy which meets the requirements of regulation 7.

Additional provision concerning the requirement that an application for an absent vote must be signed by the applicant

4. The registration officer may confirm whether an application for an absent vote meets the requirement in regulation 3(3) that it has been signed by the applicant by referring to any signature previously provided by the applicant to the registration officer or returning officer.

Additional requirement for applications for ballot papers to be sent to different address from that stated in application

5.—(1) Paragraph (2) applies where—

- (a) in the case of an application to vote by post under paragraph 3(1) and (7) (absent vote at elections for definite or indefinite period) or 4(1) (absent vote at particular election) of Schedule 4, the addresses stated in accordance with regulation 3(2)(b) and (d) are different;
- (b) in the case of an application by a proxy to vote by post under paragraph 7(4) (voting as proxy) of Schedule 4, the proxy's address stated in accordance with regulation 3(2)(c) and the address stated in accordance with regulation 3(2)(d) are different.

(2) The application must set out why the applicant's circumstances will be or are likely to be such that the applicant requires the ballot paper to be sent to the address stated in accordance with regulation 3(2)(d).

(3) This regulation does not apply where an applicant has, or has applied for, an anonymous entry.

Additional requirements for applications for ballot papers to be sent to different address from that shown in the record kept under paragraph 3(4) or 7(6) of Schedule 4

6.—(1) An application under—

- (a) paragraph 4(3)(a) (absent vote at particular election) of Schedule 4 by a person shown as voting by post in the record kept under paragraph 3(4) of that Schedule; or
- (b) paragraph 7(7) (voting as proxy) of that Schedule by a person shown as voting by post in the record kept under paragraph 7(6) of that Schedule,

for that person's ballot paper to be sent to a different address from that shown in the record must set out why the applicant's circumstances will be or are likely to be such that the applicant requires the ballot paper to be sent to that address.

(2) This regulation does not apply where an applicant has, or has applied for, an anonymous entry.

Additional requirements for applications for the appointment of a proxy

7. An application for the appointment of a proxy under paragraphs 3 (absent vote at elections for definite or indefinite period) and 4 (absent vote at particular election) of Schedule 4 must state the full name and address of the person whom the applicant wishes to appoint as the applicant's proxy, together with that person's family relationship, if any, with the applicant, and—

- (a) if it is signed only by the applicant, must contain a statement by the applicant that the person so named has been consulted and that that person is capable of being and willing to be appointed to vote as the applicant's proxy; and
- (b) if it is also signed by the person to be appointed, shall contain a statement by that person that that person is capable of being and willing to be appointed to vote as the applicant's proxy.

Additional requirements for applications for a proxy vote for a particular or indefinite period on grounds of blindness or other disability

8.—(1) An application to vote by proxy for a particular or indefinite period under paragraph 3(3)(b) (absent vote at elections for definite or indefinite period – blindness or physical incapacity) of Schedule 4 shall specify the disability by reason of which it is made.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3) below, such an application must be attested and signed by—

- (a) a registered medical practitioner;
- (b) a nurse registered on the register maintained by the Nursing and Midwifery Council under article 5 of the Nursing and Midwifery Order 2001(a) by virtue of qualifications in nursing;
- (c) a registered dentist as defined by section 53(1) of the Dentists Act 1984(b);
- (d) a registered dispensing optician or a registered optometrist within the meaning of the Opticians Act 1989(c);
- (e) a registered pharmaceutical chemist as defined by section 24(1) of the Pharmacy Act 1954(d);

(a) S.I. 2002/253.
(b) 1984 c.24.
(c) 1989 c.44.
(d) 1954 c.61.

- (f) a registered osteopath as defined by section 41 of the Osteopaths Act 1993(a);
 - (g) a registered chiropractor as defined by section 43 of the Chiropractors Act 1994(b);
 - (h) a Christian Science practitioner;
 - (i) a person for the time being listed in the British Psychological Society's register of chartered psychologists;
 - (j) a person registered as a member of a profession to which the Health Professions Order 2001(c) for the time being extends;
 - (k) the person carrying on a care home registered under Part 1 of the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001(d);
 - (l) the warden of premises forming one of a group of premises provided for persons of pensionable age or disabled persons for which there is a resident warden, where the applicant states that the applicant resides in such premises;
 - (m) a manager (or a person on behalf of a manager) within the meaning of section 329(1) of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003(e) responsible for the administration of a hospital within the meaning of Part 2 of that Act; or
 - (n) a person registered as a social worker in the register maintained in accordance with section 44 of the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001.
- (3) A person who qualifies—
- (a) by virtue of paragraph (2)(a) to (j), may not attest an application for these purposes unless—
 - (i) that person is treating the applicant for the disability specified in the application; or
 - (ii) the applicant is receiving care from that person in respect of that disability;
 - (b) by virtue of paragraph (2)(n), may not attest an application for these purposes unless—
 - (i) that person is treating the applicant for the disability specified in the application;
 - (ii) the applicant is receiving care from that person in respect of that disability; or
 - (iii) that person has arranged care and assistance for the applicant in respect of their disability.
- (4) The person attesting an application under paragraph (2), other than a person attesting by virtue of paragraph (2)(m), must state—
- (a) the person's name and address and the qualification by virtue of which that person attests the application;
 - (b) where the person who attests the application is a person referred to in paragraph (3)(a), that he or she is treating the applicant for the disability specified in the application or that the applicant is receiving care from that person in respect of that disability;
 - (c) where the person who attests the application is a person referred to in paragraph (3)(b), that he or she is treating the applicant for the disability specified in the application, that the applicant is receiving care from that person in respect of that disability, or that he or she has arranged care or assistance for the applicant in respect of that disability;
 - (d) that, to the best of the person's knowledge and belief, the applicant has the disability specified in the application and that the applicant cannot reasonably be expected to go in person to the allotted polling station or to vote unaided there by reason of that disability; and
 - (e) that, to the best of the person's knowledge and belief, the disability specified in the application is likely to continue either indefinitely or for a period specified by the person attesting the application.

(a) 1993 c.21.
 (b) 1994 c.17.
 (c) S.I. 2002/254.
 (d) 2001 asp 8.
 (e) 2003 asp 13.

(5) A manager (or a person on behalf of a manager) attesting an application under paragraph (2)(m) must state—

- (a) the name and address of the manager attesting the application;
- (b) that the manager is authorised to attest the application;
- (c) the position of the manager in the hospital at which the applicant is liable to be detained or at which the applicant is receiving treatment;
- (d) the statutory provision under which the applicant is detained, or is liable to be detained, at the hospital, where applicable;
- (e) that, to the best of the manager’s knowledge and belief, the applicant has the disability specified in the application and that the applicant cannot reasonably be expected to go in person to the allotted polling station or to vote unaided there by reason of that disability; and
- (f) that to the best of the manager’s knowledge and belief, the disability specified in the application is likely to continue either indefinitely or for a period specified by the manager attesting the application.

(6) Paragraphs (2) to (5) above shall not apply where—

- (a) the application is based on the applicant’s blindness; or
- (b) the applicant is in receipt of the higher rate of the mobility component of a disability living allowance (payable under section 73 of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992) because of the disability specified in the application and makes a statement to that effect in the application.

(7) The fact that an applicant is registered with the local authority shall be deemed sufficient evidence that the applicant is eligible to vote by proxy on the grounds set out in paragraph 3(3)(b) of Schedule 4.

Additional requirements for applications for a proxy vote for a particular or indefinite period based on occupation, service, employment or attendance on a course

9.—(1) An application to vote by proxy for a particular or indefinite period under paragraph 3(3)(c) (absent vote at elections for definite or indefinite period – occupation, service, employment, etc.) of Schedule 4 must state—

- (a) whether the occupation, service or employment in respect of which it is made is that of the applicant or the applicant’s spouse or civil partner or, as the case may be, it is the applicant or the applicant’s spouse or civil partner who is attending the course provided by an educational institution in respect of which the application is made;
- (b) the nature of the occupation, service, employment or course provided by an educational institution giving rise to the application;
- (c) where the person in respect of whose occupation, service or employment the application is made (in this regulation referred to as “the employed person”) is self-employed, that fact; and in any other case the name of that person’s employer;
- (d) the reason, relevant to the general nature of the employment, service or occupation in question or the course provided by an educational institution, why the applicant cannot reasonably be expected to go in person to the allotted polling station.

(2) Such an application must be attested and signed—

- (a) where the applicant is self-employed, by a person who—
 - (i) is aged 18 years or over;
 - (ii) knows the applicant; and
 - (iii) is not related to the applicant;
- (b) where the applicant is employed, by the employer of the applicant or by another employee to whom this function is delegated by the employer; and

- (c) where the applicant is attending a course provided by an educational institution, by the director or tutor of that course or by the principal or head of that institution or an employee of the institution to whom this function is delegated by the head or principal.
- (3) The person attesting an application made under paragraph (2) above must—
- (a) where the applicant is the employed person or the person attending the course, certify that the statements required by paragraph (1)(a) to (d) to be included in the application are true; or
 - (b) where the applicant is the spouse or civil partner of the employed person or the person attending the course, certify that the statements included in the application in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (1)(a) to (d) are true.
- (4) The person attesting an application under paragraph (2) must also state—
- (a) his or her name and address, that he or she is aged 18 years or over, that he or she knows the employed person, self-employed person or person attending a course provided by an educational institution but is not related to that person; and
 - (b) if he or she is attesting as or on behalf of the employer of the employed person, that he or she is the employer or the position that he or she holds in the employment of that employer; or
 - (c) if he or she is attesting an application made on the grounds of attendance at a course provided by an educational institution, the post that person holds at that institution.
- (5) For the purpose of this regulation, one person is related to another if the person is the spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild of the other.

Additional requirements for applications for a proxy vote in respect of a particular election

10.—(1) An application under paragraph 4(2) (absent vote at particular election) of Schedule 4 to vote by proxy at a particular election must set out why the applicant’s circumstances on the date of the poll for that election in respect of which it is made will be or are likely to be such that the applicant cannot reasonably be expected to vote in person at the allotted polling station.

- (2) Where an application under paragraph 4(2) of Schedule 4 is made—
- (a) on the grounds of the applicant’s disability; and
 - (b) after 5 p.m. on the sixth day before the date of poll at the election for which it is made,
- the requirements of regulation 8 as to the matters to be specified and the attestation shall apply.

(3) Where an application mentioned in paragraph (2) is made, the person who attests the application must state, in addition to those matters specified in regulation 8, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, the date upon which the applicant became disabled.

(4) Where an application under paragraph 4(2) of Schedule 4 is made by a person to whom paragraph 2(5B) (manner of voting at parliamentary or local government elections) of that Schedule applies after 5 p.m. on the sixth day before the date of the poll at the election for which it is made, the requirements of paragraph (5) below as to the matters to be specified and as to attestation shall apply.

- (5) Where an application mentioned in paragraph (4) is made the application must—
- (a) state the name and address of the hospital at which the applicant is liable to be detained;
 - (b) be attested by or on behalf of the manager responsible for the administration of the hospital within the meaning of section 329(1) of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 at which the applicant is liable to be detained, and the attestation shall state—
 - (i) the name of the person attesting the application;
 - (ii) that person’s position in the hospital at which the applicant is liable to be detained;
 - (iii) that he or she is a person authorised to make the attestation; and

(iv) the statutory provision under which the applicant is liable to be detained in the hospital.

(6) This regulation does not apply where an applicant has an anonymous entry.

Closing date for applications

11.—(1) An application under paragraph 3(1), (6) or (7) (absent vote at elections for definite or indefinite period) or 7(4) (voting as proxy) of Schedule 4 shall be disregarded for the purposes of a particular local government election and an application under paragraph 4(3) (absent vote at particular election – different address or proxy vote) of Schedule 4 shall be refused if it is received by the registration officer after 5 p.m. on the eleventh day before the date of the poll at that election.

(2) An application under paragraph 3(2) (absent vote at elections for definite or indefinite period – proxy vote) or 6(7) (proxies at elections) of Schedule 4 shall be disregarded for the purposes of a particular local government election if it is received by the registration officer after 5 p.m. on the sixth day before the date of the poll at that election.

(3) Subject to paragraph (4), an application under paragraph 4(2) (absent vote at particular election by proxy) or 6(8) (proxies at elections) of Schedule 4 shall be refused if it is received by the registration officer after 5 p.m. on the sixth day before the date of the poll at the election for which it is made.

(4) Where an application under paragraph 4(2) of Schedule 4 is made–

- (a) on the grounds of the applicant’s disability and the applicant became disabled after 5 p.m. on the sixth day before the date of the poll at the election for which it is made; or
- (b) by a person to whom paragraph 2(5B) (manner of voting at parliamentary or local government elections) of that Schedule applies,

the application, or an application under paragraph 6(8) of that Schedule made by virtue of that application, shall be refused if it is received after 5 p.m. on the day of the poll at the election for which it is made.

(5) An application under paragraph 4(1) (absent vote at particular election – by post) or 7(7) (voting as proxy – different address) of Schedule 4 shall be refused if it is received by the registration officer after 5 p.m. on the eleventh day before the date of the poll at the election for which it is made.

(6) An application under–

- (a) paragraph 3(5)(a) (absent vote at elections for definite or indefinite period) of Schedule 4 by an elector to be removed from the record kept under paragraph 3(4) of that Schedule, or
- (b) paragraph 7(9)(a) (voting as proxy) of Schedule 4 by a proxy to be removed from the record kept under paragraph 7(6) of that Schedule,

and a notice under paragraph 6(10) (proxies at elections) of that Schedule by an elector cancelling a proxy’s appointment shall be disregarded for the purposes of a particular local government election if it is received by the registration officer after 5 p.m. on the eleventh day before the date of the poll at that election.

(7) In computing a period of days for the purposes of this regulation, Saturday, Sunday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday or a bank holiday shall be disregarded.

(8) In paragraph (7) “bank holiday” means a day which is a bank holiday in Scotland under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971(a).

(a) 1971 c.80.

Grant or refusal of applications

12.—(1) Where the registration officer grants an application to vote by post, the officer must, where practicable, notify the applicant of the decision.

(2) Where the registration officer grants an application for the appointment of a proxy, the officer must, where practicable, confirm in writing to the elector that the proxy has been appointed, the name and address of the proxy, and the duration of the appointment.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph 6(9) (proxies at elections) of Schedule 4, the form of the proxy paper for local government elections only is as prescribed in the Schedule to these Regulations.

(4) Where the registration officer refuses an application under Schedule 4 for the purposes of any particular local government election, the officer must notify the applicant of the decision and of the reason for it.

(5) Where the registration officer grants an application for the purposes of any particular local government election made under—

- (a) paragraph 4(3)(a) (absent vote at particular election – different address) of Schedule 4 by a person shown as voting by post in the record kept under paragraph 3(4) (absent vote at elections for definite or indefinite period) or 7(6) (voting as proxy) of that Schedule; or
- (b) paragraph 7(7) of that Schedule by a person shown as voting by post in the record kept under paragraph 7(6) of that Schedule,

the officer must notify the applicant of this.

(6) Where a person is removed from the record kept pursuant to paragraph 3(4) or 7(6) of Schedule 4 for the purposes of any particular local government election, the registration officer must where practicable notify that person of this and the reason for it.

(7) Where the appointment of a proxy is cancelled by the elector or otherwise ceases to be in force for the purposes of any particular local government election, the registration officer shall where practicable notify the elector that the appointment has been cancelled or, as the case may be, notify the elector that the appointment has ceased and the reason for it.

(8) Where, under regulation 11 above, a registration officer disregards an application for the purposes of any particular local government election, the officer shall notify the applicant of this.

Notice of appeal

13.—(1) A person desiring to appeal under section 56(1)(b) (registration appeals – by proxy or post) of the 1983 Act^(a) against the decision of a registration officer, which the registration officer has made for the purposes of any particular local government election, must give notice of the appeal to the registration officer within 14 days of the date of receipt of the notice given under regulation 12(4) specifying the grounds of appeal.

(2) The registration officer shall forward any such notice to the sheriff with a statement of the material facts which in the officer's opinion have been established in the case, of the officer's decision upon the whole case and on any point which may be specified as a ground of appeal; and the officer shall give to the sheriff any other information which the sheriff may require and which the registration officer is able to give.

(3) Where it appears to the registration officer that any notices of appeal given to the officer are based on similar grounds, the officer shall inform the sheriff of this to enable the sheriff (if the sheriff thinks fit) to consolidate the appeals or select a case as a test case.

Cancellation of proxy appointment

14. Where the appointment of a proxy is cancelled by notice given to the registration officer under paragraph 6(10) of Schedule 4 or ceases to be in force under that provision or is no longer in force under paragraph 6(11)(b) of that Schedule, the registration officer must—

(a) Section 56(1)(b) was amended by Schedule 2 to the Representation of the People Act 1985 c.50.

- (a) notify the person whose appointment as proxy has been cancelled, expired, ceases to be or is no longer in force, unless the registration officer has previously been notified in writing by that person that he or she no longer wishes to act as proxy; and
- (b) remove the name and address of the proxy from the record kept under paragraph 3(4)(c) of Schedule 4.

Inquiries by registration officer

15.—(1) The registration officer may, at such times as the officer thinks fit, make inquiries of a person—

- (a) who is shown as voting by proxy in the record kept under paragraph 3(4) of Schedule 4 in pursuance of an application granted on the grounds set out in paragraph 3(3)(b) and (c) (blindness or other disability, occupation, service or employment etc.) of that Schedule; or
- (b) who immediately before the date of the commencement of Schedule 4 was entitled to vote by proxy for an indefinite period at local government elections in pursuance of an application granted on grounds corresponding to those set out in paragraph 3(3)(b) and (c) of Schedule 4.

for the purpose of determining whether there has been a material change of circumstances affecting the proxy applications.

(2) Where the grant of an application for a proxy vote for an indefinite or particular period was based on the grounds referred to in paragraph 3(3)(c) of Schedule 4 (or grounds corresponding to those grounds), the registration officer shall make the inquiries referred to not later than 3 years after the granting of the application or the last such inquiries, as the case may be.

(3) The registration officer may treat the failure by a person of whom inquiries have been made to respond to such inquiries within one month of the date on which they were made as sufficient evidence of a material change in circumstances.

Records and lists kept under Schedule 4

16.—(1) The person or organisation entitled to the supply, in accordance with regulation 102, 104, 105 or 107 of the 2001 Regulations, of copies of the full register is also a person or organisation entitled, subject to this regulation and to regulation 17, to request that the registration officer supply free of charge the relevant part (within the meaning of those Regulations) of a copy of any of the following information which the officer keeps:

- (a) the information which would, in the event of a particular local government election, be included in the postal voters lists, the list of proxies or the proxy postal voters lists, which the officer is required to keep under paragraph 5 (absent voters list) or 7(8) (voting as proxy) of Schedule 4;
- (b) the current or final version of the postal voters list, the list of proxies or the proxy postal voters lists kept under paragraph 5 or 7(8) of Schedule 4.

(2) Any person is entitled to request that the registration officer make available for inspection a copy of any of the information specified in paragraph (1).

(3) A request under paragraph (1) or (2) must be made in writing and shall—

- (a) specify which records or lists (or relevant parts of such records or lists) are requested;
- (b) state whether the request is made only in respect of the current lists or whether it includes a request for the supply of any final list; and
- (c) state whether a printed copy of the records or lists is requested or a copy in data form.

(4) A request for inspection made in accordance with paragraph (2) must also specify—

- (a) who will be inspecting the information,
- (b) the date on which they wish to inspect the information, and

(c) whether they would prefer to inspect the information in a printed or data form.

(5) A person who obtains a copy of a list under this regulation may use it only for the permitted purposes specified in regulation 18, and any restrictions—

(a) specified in that regulation, or

(b) which would apply to the use of the full register under whichever of regulations 102, 104, 105 and 107 of the 2001 Regulations entitled that person to obtain that document,

shall apply to such use.

(6) The registration officer must supply a current copy of relevant information requested under paragraph (1) as soon as practicable after receipt of a request that is duly made.

(7) The registration officer must supply a final copy of the postal voters list kept under paragraph 5(2) (absent voters list) of Schedule 4, as soon as practicable after 5 p.m. on the eleventh day before the day of the poll, in response to a request that has been duly made by a person entitled under paragraph (1).

(8) As soon as practicable after 5 p.m. on the sixth day before the day of the poll the registration officer must—

(a) make a copy of the lists kept under paragraphs 5 and 7(8) of Schedule 4 available for inspection at the office of the registration officer in accordance with this regulation; and

(b) supply a final copy of the postal voters lists or the list of proxies in response to every request that has been duly made.

(9) The registration officer must supply a final copy of the proxy voters list kept under paragraph 5(3) (absent voters list) of Schedule 4, updated to include any additions to those lists made in consequence of emergency proxy applications granted in accordance with regulation 11(4) (emergency proxy applications), as soon as practicable after 5 p.m. on the day of the poll, to every person who received that list in accordance with paragraph (8)(b).

(10) The registration officer must make a copy of the information available for inspection under supervision as soon as practicable after the date of receipt of a request that has been duly made.

(11) Where inspection takes place by providing a copy of the information on a computer screen or otherwise in data form, the registration officer must ensure that the manner in, and equipment on which that copy is provided do not permit any person consulting that copy to—

(a) search it by electronic means by reference to the name of any person; or

(b) copy or transmit any part of that copy by electronic, or any other means, subject to paragraph (12).

(12) A person who inspects a copy of the information, whether a printed copy or in data form, may not—

(a) make copies of any part of it; or

(b) record any particulars in it,

otherwise than by means of hand-written notes.

(13) Subject to any direction given under section 52(1) (discharge of registration duties) of the 1983 Act, any duty on a registration officer to supply a copy or make information available for inspection under this regulation, imposes only a duty to provide that information in the form in which the officer holds it.

(14) For the purposes of this regulation—

(a) a “current copy” of records or lists is a copy of the records or lists as kept by the registration officer at 9 a.m. on the date it is supplied; and

(b) any period of days shall be calculated in accordance with regulation 11(7).

Supply or disclosure of records: anonymous entries

17.—(1) The registration officer must ensure that where he or she supplies or discloses information covered by regulation 16(1)(a) in accordance with this regulation, the officer does not supply or disclose any record relating to a person specified in paragraph (2).

(2) The persons specified in this paragraph are—

- (a) a person who has an anonymous entry;
- (b) the proxy of a person who has an anonymous entry.

Conditions on the supply and inspection of absent voter records or lists

18.—(1) The provisions in regulations 94 (restrictions on supply of full register and disclosure of information from it by the registration officer and his staff) and 95 (restriction on use of full register, or of information contained in it, supplied in accordance with enactments or obtained otherwise) of the 2001 Regulations(a) shall apply to the supply of documents under regulation 16(1) as they apply to restrictions on the supply, disclosure and use of the full register, except that “permitted purposes” for the purposes of regulation 16(1)(a) and (b) means either—

- (a) research purposes within the meaning of that term in section 33 of the Data Protection Act 1998(b); or
- (b) electoral purposes.

Marked register for polling stations

19. To indicate that an elector or the elector’s proxy is entitled to vote by post and is for that reason not entitled to vote in person, the letter “A” shall be placed against the name of that elector in any copy of the register, or part of it, provided for a polling station.

TOM McCABE
A member of the Scottish Executive

St Andrew’s House,
Edinburgh
2nd March 2007

(a) S.I. 2001/497, which was amended by S.I. 2001/1749, S.I. 2002/1872, S.I. 2004/1771 and 1960, S.I. 2005/2114 and S.I. 2006/594 and 834.
(b) 1998 c.29.

SCHEDULE

Regulation 12(3)

PROXY PAPER

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE

Local government electoral area

Name of Proxy

Address

is hereby appointed as proxy for

(Name of elector)

*[who is qualified to be registered for]

(Qualifying address)

*[who qualifies as an overseas elector in respect of the above electoral area to vote for him/her at]

*[the local government election for the above electoral area on (*insert date*)]

*[any local government election for the above electoral area]

*[This proxy appointment is not valid until]

*[This proxy appointment remains valid until]

Signature

Electoral Registration Officer

Address

Date

*Delete whichever is inappropriate

YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE AS PROXY

1. This proxy paper gives you the right to vote as proxy on behalf of the elector whose name is given overleaf. However, you may not vote as proxy at the same election for more than two electors of whom you are not the spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild.

2. Your appointment as proxy may be for a particular election only, or it may be for a particular or indefinite period.

If it is for a particular election, you have the right to vote as proxy only at the election specified in the proxy paper.

If it is for an indefinite period, you have in general the right to vote as proxy at any local government election for which the elector is qualified to vote until the electoral registration officer informs you to the contrary.

If it is for a particular period, your right to vote as proxy expires on the date stated overleaf.

3. You may vote as proxy at the polling station allotted to the elector on whose behalf you are appointed. Shortly before polling day you will be sent a proxy poll card telling you where the polling station is. You do not need to take either the poll card or this proxy paper to the polling station but you may find it helpful to do so.

4. If you cannot vote in person at the polling station, you should consult the electoral registration officer about your right to vote by post.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

Regulations 1 to 15 provide for revised procedures on applications for absent voting and replicate for local government elections the procedures introduced by Part IV of the Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001 as amended by the Representation of the People (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2006. These regulations also reflect changes made to procedures relating to applications for proxy voting introduced following the Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006.

Regulation 3 deals with the general requirements for applications for an absent vote at a local government election and sets out what the application must state. Regulation 4 provides that the registration officer may satisfy himself or herself that the application has been signed by the applicant by referring to any signature which the applicant has previously provided to the registration officer or the returning officer.

Regulations 5 and 6 provide for additional requirements to be met when requesting that ballot papers for an absent vote be sent to an address other than the one given in the application for an absent vote. Applicants must set out why they require their ballot paper to be sent to that address.

Regulation 7 requires an application for the appointment of a proxy to state the full name and address of the proposed proxy together with the family relationship, if any, with the applicant. A statement must be provided by the voter to say that the proposed proxy has been consulted and is capable of being and willing to be appointed. Where the application is also signed by the proposed proxy, a statement must be provided by that person to say that they are capable of and willing to be appointed.

Regulation 8 provides for additional requirements for applications to vote by proxy for a definite or indefinite period on grounds of disability or blindness and sets out the list of health care professionals and others who may attest applications for proxy votes. This includes persons who may be caring for or treating people with disabilities of a non-physical nature. It prescribes the information to be provided by a person attesting an application for a proxy vote on the grounds of the applicant's disability.

Regulation 9 provides for additional requirements for applications for a proxy vote made in respect of the applicants or their spouses or civil partners for a definite or indefinite period on grounds of occupation, service, employment or attendance on a course. It prescribes the information to be provided by a person attesting such an application on the grounds of occupation, service, employment or attendance on a course.

Regulation 10 sets out additional requirements for applications for a proxy vote in respect of a particular election. The application, if made by reason of the applicant's disability and if made after 5 p.m. on the sixth working day before the date of the poll, will be subject to the requirements of attestation set out in regulation 8.

Regulation 11 deals with closing dates for an application for an absent vote and requires that, except in the case of applications to vote by proxy, the application must be received by the registration officer not later than 5 p.m. on the eleventh working day before the date of the poll at a relevant election.

Where a person applies to vote by proxy at a specific election, the application must be received by not later than 5 p.m. on the sixth working day before the date of the poll at the relevant election. However, where a person applies to vote by proxy at a particular election on the grounds of disability and the applicant became incapacitated after 5 p.m. on the sixth working day before the date of the poll, the application, or an application for the appointment of a proxy made by virtue of that application, must be received by not later than 5 p.m. on the date of the poll.

Regulation 12 deals with the granting or refusal of applications and requires that where—

- (a) a registration officer grants an application for a postal vote, that officer must notify the applicant of the decision
- (b) a registration officer grants an application for the appointment of a proxy, that officer must, where practicable, confirm the appointment in writing to the elector
- (c) for the purposes of a particular election where a person applies for his or her postal ballot paper to be sent to an address different from that shown in the record, the registration officer must notify them if the application is granted.

The registration officer is also required to notify a person removed from the record of absent voters for a definite or indefinite period of the reason for the removal. Similarly, where the appointment of a proxy is cancelled by the elector or otherwise ceases to be in force, the officer must confirm the cancellation or notify the elector that the appointment is no longer in force, along with the reason for this.

Regulation 13 sets out the procedures to be followed in making an appeal against a decision of a registration officer and the subsequent action to be taken by the registration officer in relation to the appeal.

Regulation 14 requires that where the appointment of a proxy is cancelled by the elector or otherwise ceases to be in force, the registration officer must notify the person appointed as proxy that the appointment is no longer in force and remove that person's name from the list of proxy voters.

Regulation 15 makes provision for a registration officer to make enquiries at no more than 3-year intervals to determine whether there has been any material change in circumstances affecting proxy appointments where the application was granted for an indefinite period on grounds of blindness or other disability, occupation, service or employment. The regulation also provides that where no response has been received to such queries within a month of their being made, this may be treated as sufficient evidence of a material change in circumstances.

Regulations 16 to 18 make provision for the supply and inspection of lists of absent voters in advance of an election. The regulations require the registration officer to supply copies of documents to political parties and candidates and to permit inspection of those documents by members of the public.

Regulation 19 makes provision for the marked register to indicate who is entitled to vote by post by the letter 'A' being marked against that person's name.

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REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE

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