



# Registration of Political Parties Act 1998

## 1998 CHAPTER 48

### *Registration*

#### **2 Applications for registration**

- (1) A party may apply for inclusion in the register by sending to the registrar—
  - (a) an application which complies with the requirements of Schedule 1, and
  - (b) a declaration that the party intends to have one or more candidates at a relevant election.
- (2) The following elections are relevant for this purpose—
  - (a) parliamentary elections,
  - (b) elections to the European Parliament,
  - (c) elections to the Scottish Parliament,
  - (d) elections to the National Assembly for Wales,
  - (e) elections to the New Northern Ireland Assembly,
  - (f) local government elections, and
  - (g) local elections in Northern Ireland.

#### **3 Grant of applications**

- (1) The registrar shall grant an application by a party under section 2 unless in his opinion it proposes a registered name which—
  - (a) would be likely to result in the party's being confused by voters with a party which is already registered,
  - (b) comprises more than six words,
  - (c) is obscene or offensive,
  - (d) includes words the publication of which would be likely to amount to the commission of an offence,
  - (e) includes any script other than Roman script, or
  - (f) includes any word or expression prohibited by order made by the Secretary of State.

- (2) An order under subsection (1)(f) may except the use of a word or expression from the prohibition in specified circumstances.

#### **4 Entries in the register**

The registrar shall include in an entry in the register the particulars, apart from home addresses, given in the party's application in accordance with paragraphs 2 to 7 of Schedule 1.

#### **5 Emblems**

- (1) A party's application under section 2 may include a request for the registration of up to three emblems to be used by the party on ballot papers.
- (2) The registrar shall grant a request under this section in relation to an emblem unless in his opinion it—
- (a) would be likely to be confused by voters with an emblem which is already registered for another party,
  - (b) is obscene or offensive,
  - (c) is of such a character that its publication would be likely to amount to the commission of an offence, or
  - (d) includes a word or expression prohibited under section 3(1)(f).
- (3) A registered emblem shall be a black and white representation of the emblem shown in the application.