

SCHEDULE 2

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION RULES

PART VI

DEATH OF CANDIDATE

Countermand or abandonment of poll etc. on death of candidate

70.—(1) If at a contested election for the return of a constituency member proof is given to the constituency returning officer's satisfaction before the result of the election is declared that one of the persons named or to be named as candidate in the ballot papers has died, then the constituency returning officer shall—

- (a) countermand notice of the poll; or
- (b) if polling has begun, direct that the poll be abandoned; and
- (c) except in the case of an election to fill a vacancy in the seat of a constituency member, forthwith notify the regional returning officer for the region in which the constituency is situated of the action that he has taken,

and all proceedings with reference to the election for the return of a constituency member for that constituency shall be commenced afresh in all respects as if publication of notice of election had been given 28 days after the day on which proof was given to the returning officer of the death.

(2) Where paragraph (1) above applies, no fresh nominations shall be necessary in the case of a person shown in the statement of persons nominated as standing nominated.

(3) Where there is a contested election for return of regional members and the poll at a constituency election for a constituency included within that region is abandoned, or notice of the poll countermanded, in accordance with paragraph (1) above, rule 61 above shall be satisfied when the regional returning officer has received the statement prepared under rule 59 above and the notification under rule 60(3) above in respect of each of the other constituencies in that region (other than a constituency in relation to which paragraph (1) above also applies); and in such a case section 7(1) of the 1998 Act shall apply with the modification that the reference in that subsection to “constituencies included in the region” shall be construed as a reference to the constituencies included in the region except those in relation to which paragraph (1) above applies.

(4) Where paragraph (3) applies, the subsequent election of a candidate for the constituency shall have no effect upon the validity of the election or return of any regional member.

(5) If at a contested election for return of regional members proof is given to the regional returning officer's satisfaction before the result of the election is declared that one of the persons named or to be named as candidate in the ballot papers (whether as an individual candidate or as a candidate on a regional list) has died and as a result of that death the election becomes uncontested, then the regional returning officer shall—

- (a) countermand notice of the poll; or
- (b) if polling has begun, direct that the poll be abandoned; and
- (c) in either case, forthwith notify each constituency returning officer in the region of the action that he has taken.

(6) If at a contested election for return of regional members proof is given to the regional returning officer's satisfaction before the result of the election is declared that one of the persons named or to be named as a candidate on the ballot paper (whether as an individual candidate or as a candidate on

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a regional list) has died, but notwithstanding that death the election continues to remain contested, the notice of poll shall not be countermanded nor, as the case may be, shall the poll be abandoned.

(7) Where such a death occurs, it shall have no effect upon the validity of the election or return of any regional members for that region and the regional returning officer shall take such steps as he considers reasonable to publicise—

- (a) the name of that candidate and the fact of his death;
- (b) whether that candidate was an individual candidate or a candidate on a regional list; and
- (c) if he was a candidate on a regional list the name of the registered party on whose regional list he appeared,

in the region for which the election is held.

(8) Subject to paragraph (9) below, where a poll is abandoned by reason of a candidate's death the proceedings at or consequent on that poll shall be interrupted, and the presiding officer at any polling station shall take the like steps (so far as not already taken) for the delivery to the constituency returning officer of ballot boxes and of ballot papers and other documents as he is required to take on the close of the poll in due course, and the constituency returning officer shall dispose of ballot papers and other documents in his possession as he is required to do on the completion in due course of the counting of the votes, but—

- (a) it shall not be necessary for any ballot paper account to be prepared or verified; and
- (b) the constituency returning officer, without taking any step or further step for the counting of the ballot papers or of the votes shall seal up all the ballot papers, whether the votes on them have been counted or not, and it shall not be necessary to seal up counted and rejected ballot papers in separate packets.

(9) At a Scottish parliamentary general election where only one poll is abandoned the steps required to be taken by the presiding officer at such a polling station by paragraph (8) above shall take place on the close of the poll, and paragraph (8) above shall have effect as if, after “the constituency returning officer” in sub-paragraph (b) there were inserted “having separated the ballot papers relating to the other poll”.

(10) The provisions of these Rules as to the inspection, production, retention and destruction of ballot papers and other documents relating to a poll at an election apply to any such documents relating to a poll abandoned by reason of a candidate's death, with the following modifications—

- (a) ballot papers on which the votes were neither counted nor rejected shall be treated as counted ballot papers; and
- (b) no order shall be made for the production or inspection of any ballot papers or for the opening of a sealed packet of counterfoils or certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll unless the order is made by a court with reference to a prosecution.