STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2020 No. 635

The Local Elections (Northern Ireland) (Amendment) Order 2020

Amendment of rule 12 (publication of nominations)

- 6. In rule 12 (publication of nominations)(1)—
 - (a) in paragraph (2), after "nomination papers" insert "and home address forms",
 - (b) after paragraph (2) insert—

"(2ZA) Paragraph (2ZB) applies in relation to a person nominated whose home address form (or, if the person is nominated by more than one nomination paper, any of whose home address forms) contains the statement mentioned in rule 5(6).

(2ZB) The reference in paragraph (2) to the person's address is to be read as a reference to the information stated in the form under rule 5(7).",

- (c) after paragraph (3) insert—
 - "(3A) Where-
 - (a) two or more of the names shown in the statement are the same or so similar as to be likely to cause confusion,
 - (b) paragraph (2ZA) applies in relation to each of the persons in question, and
 - (c) the information mentioned in rule 5(7) is the same for each of them,

the returning officer may cause any of their particulars to be shown on the statement with such amendments or additions as the officer thinks appropriate in order to reduce the likelihood of confusion.

(3B) Where it is practicable to do so before the publication of the statement, the returning officer must consult any person whose particulars are to be amended or added to under paragraph (3A).

(3C) The returning officer must give notice in writing to any person whose particulars are amended or added to under paragraph (3A).

(3D) Anything done by the returning officer in pursuance of paragraph (3A) must not be questioned in any proceedings other than proceedings on an election petition.

(3E) The returning officer must have regard to any guidance issued by the Electoral Commission for the purposes of paragraph (3A).",

(d) after paragraph (4) insert—

"(4A) In the case of a person for whom more than one home address form has been submitted, the returning officer must take the particulars required by the provisions of this rule from such one of the forms as the candidate (or the returning officer in default of the candidate) may select.".

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