

SCHEDULE 3

The Local Government Act Referendums Rules

PART 5

The Poll

Admission to polling station

21.—(1) The presiding officer must exclude all persons from the polling station except—

- (a) voters and proxies;
- (b) persons under the age of 18 who accompany voters and proxies to the polling station;
- (c) the polling observers appointed to attend at the polling station;
- (d) the clerks appointed to attend at the polling station;
- (e) persons who are entitled to attend by virtue of any of sections 6A to 6D of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 ^{M1};
- (f) the constables on duty;
- (g) the companions of voters and proxies with disabilities;
- (h) the elected mayor, if any, of the council in respect of which the referendum is held; and
- (i) any petition organiser.

(2) The presiding officer must regulate the total number of voters, proxies and persons under the age of 18 who accompany them to be admitted to the polling station at the same time.

(3) A constable or person employed by a counting officer must not be admitted to vote in person elsewhere than at the polling station allotted to that constable or employed person under these Rules, except on production and surrender of a certificate of employment which must be in the form in the Appendix, or a form to the like effect, and signed by an officer of police of or above the rank of inspector or by the counting officer, as the case may be.

(4) Any certificate surrendered under this rule must forthwith be cancelled.

Marginal Citations

M1 Sections 6A to 6F of the [Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 \(c. 41\)](#) were inserted by section 29 of the [Electoral Administration Act 2006 \(c. 22\)](#).

Keeping of order in station

22.—(1) It is the presiding officer's duty to keep order at the presiding officer's polling station.

(2) If a person misconducts themselves in a polling station, or fails to obey the presiding officer's lawful orders, the person may immediately, by the presiding officer's order, be removed from the polling station—

- (a) by a constable in or near that station, or
- (b) by any other person authorised in writing by the counting officer to remove that person,

and the person so removed must not, without the presiding officer's permission, again enter the polling station during the day.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (Wales) Regulations 2008, PART 5 . (See end of Document for details)

(3) Any person so removed may, if charged with the commission in the polling station of an offence, be dealt with as a person taken into custody by a constable for an offence without a warrant.

(4) The powers conferred by this rule must not be exercised so as to prevent a voter or proxy who is otherwise entitled to vote at a polling station from having an opportunity of voting at that station.

Sealing of ballot boxes

23. Immediately before the commencement of the poll, the presiding officer must show the ballot box empty to such persons, if any, as are present in the polling station, so that they may see that it is empty, and must then lock it up, if it has a lock and (in any case) place the presiding officer's seal on it in such a manner as to prevent its being opened without breaking the seal and must place it in the presiding officer's view for the receipt of ballot papers, and keep it so locked and sealed or sealed (as the case may be).

Questions to be put to voters and proxies

24.—(1) At the time of the application for a ballot paper (but not afterwards), the questions specified in the second column of the following Table—

- (a) may be put by the presiding officer to a person applying for a ballot paper who is mentioned in the first column, and
- (b) must be put if the letter “R” appears after the question and a petition organiser or polling observer requires the question to be put:

<i>Q. No.</i>	<i>Person applying for ballot paper</i>	<i>Question</i>
1	A person applying as a voter	<p>(a) (a) —Are you the person registered in the register of local government electors for this voting area as follows?</p> <p><i>read the whole entry from the register</i> [R]</p> <p>(b) —Have you already voted here or elsewhere at this referendum, otherwise than as proxy for some other person? [R]</p>
2	A person applying as proxy	<p>(a) (a) —Are you the person whose name appears as A.B. in the list of proxies for this voting area as entitled to vote as proxy on behalf of C.D.? [R]</p>

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| | | (b) —Have you already voted here or elsewhere at this referendum as proxy on behalf of C.D.? [R] |
| | | (c) —Are you the spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild of C.D.? [R] |
| 3 | A person applying as proxy for a voter who has an anonymous entry (instead of the questions at entry 2) | (a) (a) —Are you the person entitled to vote as proxy on behalf of the voter whose number on the register of electors is (<i>read out the number</i>)? [R] |
| | | (b) —Have you already voted here or elsewhere in this referendum as proxy on behalf of the voter whose number on the register of electors is (<i>read out the number</i>)? [R] |
| | | (c) —Are you the spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild of the person whose number on the register of electors is (<i>read out the number</i>)? [R] |
| 4 | A person applying as proxy if the question at entry 2(c) or 3(c) is not answered in the affirmative | Have you already voted at this referendum on behalf of two persons of whom you are not the spouse, civil partner, |

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| | | parent, grandparent, brother,
sister, child or grandchild? [R] |
| 5 | A person applying as a voter in relation to whom there is an entry in the postal voters list | (a) (a) —Did you apply to vote by post?

(b) —Why have you not voted by post? |
| 6 | A person applying as proxy who is named in the proxy postal voters list | (a) (a) —Did you apply to vote by post as proxy?

(b) —Why have you not voted by post as proxy? |

(2) In the case of a person in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, the references in the questions at entries 1(a) and 3(a), (b) and (c) to reading from the register are to be taken as references to reading from the notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act.

(3) A ballot paper must not be delivered to any person required to answer any of the above questions unless that person has answered each question satisfactorily.

(4) Except as authorised by this rule, no inquiry is permitted as to the right of any person to vote.

Challenge of voter or proxy

25. A person must not be prevented from voting by reason only that—

- (a) any petition organiser or polling observer permitted to be present in accordance with rule 21(1) declares that they have reasonable cause to believe that the person has committed an offence of personation, or
- (b) the person is arrested on the grounds of being suspected of committing or of being about to commit such an offence.

Voting procedure

26.—(1) A ballot paper must be delivered to a voter or proxy who applies for one, and immediately before delivery—

- (a) the number and (unless paragraph (2) applies) name of the voter as stated in the copy of the register of electors must be called out;
- (b) the number of the voter as stated in the register must be marked on the list mentioned in rule 17(3)(d) beside the number of the ballot paper to be issued to the voter;
- (c) a mark must be placed in the copy of the register of electors against the number of the voter to note that a ballot paper has been received but without showing the particular ballot paper which has been received; and
- (d) in the case of a person applying for a ballot paper as proxy, a mark must also be placed against that person's name in the list of proxies.

(2) In the case of a voter who has an anonymous entry, the voter must show the presiding officer the voter's official poll card and only the voter's number must be called out in pursuance of paragraph (1)(a).

(3) In the case of a voter who is added to the register in pursuance of a notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, paragraph (1) is modified as follows—

- (a) in sub-paragraph (a), for “copy of the register of electors” substitute “ copy of the notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act ”;
- (b) in sub-paragraph (b), for “in the register” substitute “ on the copy of the notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act ”;
- (c) in sub-paragraph (c), for “in the copy of the register of electors” substitute “ on the copy of the notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act ”.

(4) The voter or proxy, on receiving the ballot paper, must forthwith proceed into one of the compartments in the polling station and there secretly mark the voter's or proxy's paper and fold it up so as to conceal the voter's or proxy's vote, and must then show to the presiding officer the back of the paper, so as to disclose the number and other unique identifying mark, and put the ballot paper so folded up into the ballot box in the presiding officer's presence.

(5) The voter or proxy must vote without undue delay, and must leave the polling station as soon as the ballot paper has been put into the ballot box.

Votes marked by presiding officer

27.—(1) The presiding officer, on the application of a voter or proxy—

- (a) who is incapacitated by blindness or other disability from voting in the manner directed by these Rules, or
- (b) who declares orally that the voter or proxy is unable to read,

must, in the presence of the polling observers (if any), cause that person's vote to be marked on a ballot paper in the manner directed by that person, and the ballot paper to be placed in the ballot box.

(2) The name and number on the register of electors of every person whose vote is marked in pursuance of this rule, and the reason why it is so marked, must be entered on a list (in these Rules called “the list of votes marked by the presiding officer”).

In the case of a person voting as proxy for a voter, the number to be entered together with the proxy's name is to be the number in the register of the voter.

(3) In the case of a person in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, paragraph (2) applies as if for “on the register of electors of every person” there were substituted “ relating to every person in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act ”.

Voting by persons with disabilities

28.—(1) If a voter or proxy makes an application to the presiding officer to be allowed, on the ground of—

- (a) blindness or other disability, or
- (b) inability to read,

to vote with the assistance of another person by whom the voter or proxy is accompanied (in these Rules referred to as “the companion”), the presiding officer must require the voter or proxy to declare, orally or in writing, whether the voter or proxy is so incapacitated by blindness or other disability, or by an inability to read, as to be unable to vote without assistance.

(2) If the presiding officer—

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- (a) is satisfied that the voter or proxy is so incapacitated, and
- (b) is also satisfied by a written declaration made by the companion (in these Rules referred to as “the declaration made by the companion of a voter or proxy with disabilities”) that the companion—
 - (i) is a qualified person within the meaning of this rule; and
 - (ii) has not previously assisted more than one voter or proxy with disabilities to vote at the referendum,

the presiding officer must grant the application, and then anything which is by these Rules required to be done to or by that voter or proxy in connection with the giving of the voter's or proxy's vote may be done to, or with the assistance of, the companion.

(3) For the purposes of these Rules, a person is a voter or proxy with disabilities if that person has made such a declaration as is mentioned in paragraph (1), and a person is be qualified to assist a voter or proxy with disabilities to vote if that person—

- (a) is a person who is entitled to vote on that person's own behalf at the referendum; or
- (b) is the father, mother, brother, sister, spouse, civil partner, son or daughter of the voter or proxy and has attained the age of 18 years.

(4) The name and number in the register of electors of every person whose vote is given in accordance with this rule and the name and address of the companion must be entered on a list (in these Rules referred to as “the list of voters or proxies with disabilities assisted by companions”). In the case of a person voting as proxy for a voter, the number to be entered together with the proxy's name is the number in the register of the voter.

(5) In the case of a person in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, paragraph (4) applies as if for “in the register of electors of every person” there were substituted “relating to every person in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act”.

- (6) The declaration made by the companion of a voter or proxy with disabilities—
 - (a) must be in the form in the Appendix,
 - (b) must be made before the presiding officer at the time when the voter or proxy applies to vote with the assistance of a companion, and
 - (c) must forthwith be given to the presiding officer who must attest and retain it.
- (7) No fee or other payment is to be charged in respect of the declaration.

Tendered ballot papers: circumstances where available

- 29.**—(1) If a person, representing themselves to be—
- (a) a particular voter named on the register and not named in the absent voters list, or
 - (b) a particular person named in the list of proxies as proxy for a voter and not entitled to vote by post as proxy,

applies for a ballot paper after another person has voted in person either as the voter or the voter's proxy, the applicant is entitled, on satisfactorily answering the questions permitted by law to be asked at the poll, subject to the provisions of rule 30, to mark a ballot paper (in these Rules referred to as “a tendered ballot paper”) in the same manner as any other voter or proxy.

- (2) Paragraph (4) applies if—
 - (a) a person applies for a ballot paper representing themselves to be a particular voter named on the register,
 - (b) the person is also named in the postal voters list, and

- (c) the person claims not to have made an application to vote by post at the referendum.
- (3) Paragraph (4) also applies if—
- (a) a person applies for a ballot paper representing themselves to be a particular person named as a proxy in the list of proxies,
 - (b) the person is also named in the proxy postal voters list, and
 - (c) the person claims not to have made an application to vote by post as proxy.
- (4) The person is entitled, on satisfactorily answering the questions permitted by law to be asked at the poll, subject to the provisions of rule 30, to mark a ballot paper (in these Rules referred to as a “tendered ballot paper”) in the same manner as any other voter or proxy.
- (5) Paragraph (6) applies if, before the close of the poll but after the last time at which a person may apply for a replacement postal ballot paper, a person represents themselves to be—
- (a) a particular voter named on the register who is also named in the postal voters list, or
 - (b) a particular person named as a proxy in the list of proxies and who is also named in the proxy postal voters list,
- and claims to have lost or not received their postal ballot paper.
- (6) The person is entitled, on satisfactorily answering the questions permitted by law to be asked at the poll, subject to the provisions of rule 30, to mark a ballot paper (in these Rules referred to as a “tendered ballot paper”) in the same manner as any other voter or proxy.

Tendered ballot papers: general provisions

- 30.**—(1) A tendered ballot paper must—
- (a) be of a colour differing from that of the other ballot papers;
 - (b) instead of being put into the ballot box, be given to the presiding officer and endorsed by the presiding officer with the name of the person who has marked a tendered ballot paper and that person's number in the register of electors, and set aside in a separate packet.
- (2) The name of the person who has marked a tendered ballot paper and that person's number in the register of electors must be entered on a list (in these Rules referred to as the “tendered votes list”).
- (3) In the case of a person voting as proxy for a voter, the number to be endorsed or entered together with the proxy's name must be the number in the register of the voter.
- (4) In the case of a voter who has an anonymous entry, this rule and rule 29 apply subject to the following modifications—
- (a) in paragraphs (1)(b) and (2) above, the references to the name of the person who has marked a tendered ballot paper must be ignored;
 - (b) otherwise, a reference to a person named on a register or list is to be construed as a reference to a person whose number appears in the register or list (as the case may be).
- (5) In the case of a person in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, this rule and rule 29 apply as if—
- (a) in rule 29(1)(a), (2)(a) and (5)(a), for “named on the register” there were substituted “ in respect of whom a notice under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act has been issued ”;
 - (b) in paragraph (1)(b) of this rule for “that person's number in the register of electors” there were substituted “ the number relating to that person on a notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act ”;

- (c) in paragraph (2) of this rule, for “that person's number in the register of electors” there were substituted “ the number relating to that person on a notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act ”.

Spoilt ballot papers

31. A voter or proxy who has inadvertently dealt with their ballot paper in such manner that it cannot be conveniently used as a ballot paper may, on delivering it to the presiding officer and proving to the presiding officer's satisfaction the fact of the inadvertence, obtain another ballot paper in the place of the ballot paper so delivered (in these Rules referred to as “a spoilt ballot paper”), and the spoilt ballot paper must be immediately cancelled.

Correction of errors on day of poll

32. The presiding officer must keep a list of persons to whom ballot papers are delivered in consequence of an alteration to the register made by virtue of section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act which takes effect on the day of the poll.

Adjournment of poll in case of riot

33.—(1) Where the proceedings at any polling station are interrupted or obstructed by riot or open violence, the presiding officer must adjourn the proceedings until the following day and must forthwith give notice to the counting officer.

(2) Where the poll is adjourned at any polling station—

- (a) the hours of polling on the day to which it is adjourned must be the same as for the original day; and
- (b) references in these Rules to the close of the poll are to be construed accordingly.

Procedure on close of poll

34.—(1) As soon as practicable after the close of the poll, the presiding officer must, in the presence of the polling observers (if any), make up into separate packets, sealed with the presiding officer's own seal and the seals of such polling observers as desire to affix their seals—

- (a) each ballot box in use at the station, sealed so as to prevent the introduction of additional ballot papers and unopened, but with the key, if any, attached,
- (b) the unused and spoilt ballot papers placed together,
- (c) the tendered ballot papers,
- (d) the marked copies of the register of electors (including any marked copy notices issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act) and of the list of proxies,
- (e) the lists prepared under rule 8 including the parts which were completed in accordance with rule 26(1)(b) (together referred to in these Rules as “the completed corresponding number lists”),
- (f) the certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll,
- (g) the tendered votes list, the list of voters and proxies with disabilities assisted by companions, the list of votes marked by the presiding officer, a statement of the number of voters and proxies whose votes are so marked by the presiding officer under the heads “disability” and “unable to read”, the list maintained under rule 32 (correction of errors on day of poll), and the declarations made by the companions of voters and proxies with disabilities,

and must deliver the packets or cause them to be delivered to the counting officer to be taken charge of by the counting officer; but if the packets are not delivered by the presiding officer personally to the counting officer, the arrangements for their delivery require the counting officer's approval.

(2) The marked copies of the register of electors and of the list of proxies must be in one packet but must not be in the same packet as the completed corresponding number lists or the certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll.

(3) The packets must be accompanied by a statement (in these Rules referred to as “the ballot paper account”) made by the presiding officer showing the number of ballot papers entrusted to the presiding officer, and accounting for them under the heads of ballot papers issued and not otherwise accounted for, unused, spoilt and tendered ballot papers.

Changes to legislation:

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