
DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2001 No.

**Representation of the People
(Northern Ireland) Regulations 2001**

PART V

ISSUE AND RECEIPT OF POSTAL BALLOT PAPERS

Receipt of Postal Ballot Papers

Procedure in relation to declarations of identity

82.—(1) The returning officer shall satisfy himself that the declaration of identity has been duly signed by the voter and authenticated by a witness who has signed the declaration and given his name and address (referred to as a “valid declaration of identity”).

(2) Where the returning officer is not so satisfied, he shall mark the declaration “rejected”, attach to it the ballot paper envelope, or if there is no such envelope, the ballot paper and, subject to paragraph (3) below, place it in the receptacle for rejected votes.

(3) Before placing the declaration in the receptacle for rejected votes, the returning officer shall show it to the agents and, if any of them object to his decision, he shall add the words “rejection objected to”.

(4) The returning officer shall then examine the number on the declaration of identity against the number on the ballot paper envelope and, where they are the same, he shall place the declaration and the ballot paper envelope respectively in the receptacle for declarations of identity and the receptacle for ballot paper envelopes.

(5) Where there is a valid declaration of identity but no ballot paper envelope, or where the envelope has been opened under regulation 81(3) above, he shall place—

- (a) in the postal ballot box, any ballot paper the number on which is the same as the number on the declaration of identity;
- (b) in the receptacle for rejected votes, any other ballot paper, to which shall be attached the declaration of identity marked “rejected”; and
- (c) in the receptacle for declarations of identity, any declaration of identity not disposed of under sub-paragraph (b) above.

(6) Where the number on a valid declaration of identity is not the same as the number on the ballot paper envelope or where that envelope has no number on it, the returning officer shall open the envelope.

(7) Where an envelope has been opened under regulation 81(3) above or paragraph (6) above, the returning officer shall—

- (a) place in the postal ballot box any ballot paper the number on which is the same as the number on the valid declaration of identity;

- (b) place in the receptacle for rejected votes any other ballot paper, to which shall be attached the declaration of identity marked “rejected”;
- (c) place in the receptacle for rejected votes any declaration of identity marked “rejected” in respect of a ballot paper envelope which does not contain a ballot paper; and
- (d) place in the receptacle for declarations of identity, any such declaration not disposed of under sub-paragraph (b) or (c) above.