

Status: This version of this part contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Representation of the People Act 1985, Paragraph 6 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

SCHEDULES

PROSPECTIVE

SCHEDULE 1

SPECIAL POLLING STATIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 [Sch. 1](#) applied with modifications (N.I.) by [S.I. 1986/2250](#), [regs. 2, 3, 5](#), [Sch. 1 Pt. III](#)

PART II

RULES RELATING TO SPECIAL POLLING STATIONS

- 6 (1) When the electoral officer has received the ballot boxes and packets from all the special polling stations, he shall in the presence of each candidate wishing to attend or (if a candidate so chooses) his agent—
- (a) open each ballot box and count and record the number of ballot papers in it,
 - (b) verify each ballot paper account, and
 - (c) in the case of a general election or two or more by-elections, sort the ballot papers into separate packets for each constituency.
- (2) The electoral officer shall give notice in writing to the candidates of the time and place at which he will begin to count the ballot papers under this paragraph, and no person other than the candidates or (where they so choose) their agents may be present unless permitted by the electoral officer.
- (3) A person not entitled to attend at the counting of ballot papers under this paragraph shall not be permitted to do so unless the electoral officer—
- (a) is satisfied that the efficient counting of the ballot papers will not be impeded, and
 - (b) has either consulted the candidates or, as the case may be, their agents or thought it impracticable to do so.
- (4) The electoral officer shall give to the candidates or, as the case may be, their agents all such reasonable facilities for overseeing the proceedings, and all such information with respect to them, as he can give them consistently with the orderly conduct of the proceedings and the discharge of his duties in connection with them.
- (5) The electoral officer shall verify each ballot paper account by comparing it with the number of ballot papers recorded by him, and the unused and spoilt ballot papers in his possession and the tendered votes list (opening and resealing the packets containing unused and spoilt ballot papers) and shall draw up a statement as to the

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result of the verification, which any candidate or, as the case may be, his agent may copy.

- (6) In the case of a general election or two or more by-elections, each packet of ballot papers for a constituency, accompanied by a statement of the number of ballot papers, shall be sent to the place where the votes for that constituency are to be counted and the votes given on the ballot papers may, when—
- (a) in the presence of the counting agents appointed under rule 30 of the parliamentary elections rules, the number of ballot papers in the packet has been counted and compared with the statement, and
 - (b) those ballot papers have been mixed with the ballot papers from at least one ballot box not used at a special polling station,
- be counted in accordance with the parliamentary elections rules (other than rule 45(1), (1A) and (5)).
- (7) In any other case, the votes given on any ballot papers counted under this paragraph may, when they have been mixed with the ballot papers from at least one ballot box not used at a special polling station, be counted in accordance with the parliamentary elections rules (other than rule 45(1), (1A) and (5)).
- (8) References in this paragraph to a candidate's agent are references to his election agent or to his counting agent appointed under rule 30 of the parliamentary elections rules to attend at the counting of the votes.

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 15(1)(d)(e) inserted by [2012 c. 11 s. 2\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 15(3ZA) inserted by [2012 c. 11 s. 2\(4\)](#)