



# Trade Union Reform and Employment Rights Act 1993

## 1993 CHAPTER 19

### PART I

#### TRADE UNIONS ETC.

##### *Industrial action*

#### 20 Scrutiny of ballots

- (1) After section 226A of the 1992 Act (which is inserted by section 18 above) there shall be inserted—

##### **“226B Appointment of scrutineer**

- (1) The trade union shall, before the ballot in respect of the industrial action is held, appoint a qualified person (“the scrutineer”) whose terms of appointment shall require him to carry out in relation to the ballot the functions of—
- (a) taking such steps as appear to him to be appropriate for the purpose of enabling him to make a report to the trade union (see section 231B); and
  - (b) making the report as soon as reasonably practicable after the date of the ballot and, in any event, not later than the end of the period of four weeks beginning with that date.
- (2) A person is a qualified person in relation to a ballot if—
- (a) he satisfies such conditions as may be specified for the purposes of this section by order of the Secretary of State or is himself so specified; and
  - (b) the trade union has no grounds for believing either that he will carry out the functions conferred on him under subsection (1) otherwise

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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than competently or that his independence in relation to the union, or in relation to the ballot, might reasonably be called into question.

An order under paragraph (a) shall be made by statutory instrument which shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

- (3) The trade union shall ensure that the scrutineer duly carries out the functions conferred on him under subsection (1) and that there is no interference with the carrying out of those functions from the union or any of its members, officials or employees.
- (4) The trade union shall comply with all reasonable requests made by the scrutineer for the purposes of, or in connection with, the carrying out of those functions.”.

(2) In section 229 of that Act (voting paper), after subsection (1) there shall be inserted—

“(1A) Each voting paper must—

- (a) state the name of the independent scrutineer,
- (b) clearly specify the address to which, and the date by which, it is to be returned,
- (c) be given one of a series of consecutive whole numbers every one of which is used in giving a different number in that series to each voting paper printed or otherwise produced for the purposes of the ballot, and
- (d) be marked with its number.

This subsection, in its application to a ballot in which merchant seamen to whom section 230(2A) applies are entitled to vote, shall have effect with the substitution, for the reference to the address to which the voting paper is to be returned, of a reference to the ship to which the seamen belong.”.

(3) After section 231A of that Act (which is inserted by section 19 above) there shall be inserted—

**“231B Scrutineer’s report**

- (1) The scrutineer’s report on the ballot shall state whether the scrutineer is satisfied—
  - (a) that there are no reasonable grounds for believing that there was any contravention of a requirement imposed by or under any enactment in relation to the ballot,
  - (b) that the arrangements made with respect to the production, storage, distribution, return or other handling of the voting papers used in the ballot, and the arrangements for the counting of the votes, included all such security arrangements as were reasonably practicable for the purpose of minimising the risk that any unfairness or malpractice might occur, and
  - (c) that he has been able to carry out the functions conferred on him under section 226B(1) without any interference from the trade union or any of its members, officials or employees;

and if he is not satisfied as to any of those matters, the report shall give particulars of his reason for not being satisfied as to that matter.

(2) If at any time within six months from the date of the ballot—

- (a) any person entitled to vote in the ballot, or
- (b) the employer of any such person,

requests a copy of the scrutineer’s report, the trade union must, as soon as practicable, provide him with one either free of charge or on payment of such reasonable fee as may be specified by the trade union.”.

(4) After section 226B of the 1992 Act there shall be inserted—

**“226C Exclusion for small ballots**

Nothing in section 226B, section 229(1A)(a) or section 231B shall impose a requirement on a trade union unless—

- (a) the number of members entitled to vote in the ballot, or
- (b) where separate workplace ballots are held in accordance with section 228(1), the aggregate of the number of members entitled to vote in each of them,

exceeds 50.”.