
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2008 No. 1741

**The Representation of the People
(Northern Ireland) Regulations 2008**

PART 5

ISSUE AND RECEIPT OF POSTAL BALLOT PAPERS

Issue of Postal Ballot Papers

Spoilt postal ballot papers

81.—(1) If a postal voter has inadvertently dealt with his postal ballot paper in such manner that it cannot be conveniently used as a ballot paper (referred to as “a spoilt postal ballot paper”) he may return (either by hand or by post) to the returning officer the spoilt ballot paper and the declaration of identity.

(2) On receipt of the documents referred to in paragraph (1), the returning officer shall issue another postal ballot paper except where those documents are received after 5p.m. on the day before the day of the poll.

(3) Regulations 76 (except paragraph (3)), 78, 79, and, subject to paragraph (6), 80 shall apply to the issue of a replacement postal ballot paper under paragraph (2).

(4) The spoilt postal ballot paper and the declaration of identity shall be immediately cancelled.

(5) The returning officer, as soon as practicable after cancelling those documents, shall make up those documents in a separate packet and shall seal the packet; and if on any subsequent occasion documents are cancelled as mentioned, the sealed packet shall be opened and the additional cancelled documents included in it and the packet shall be again made up and sealed.

(6) Where a postal voter applies in person, the returning officer may hand a replacement postal ballot paper to him instead of delivering it in accordance with regulation 80.

(7) The returning officer shall enter in a list kept for the purpose (“the list of spoilt ballot papers”)

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- (a) the name and address of the elector as stated in the register;
 - (b) the number of the postal ballot paper issued under this regulation; and
 - (c) where the postal voter whose ballot paper is spoilt is a proxy, his name and address.

Changes to legislation:

There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Representation of the People (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2008. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- Regulations amendment to earlier affecting provision S.I. 2009/256, Sch. 2 by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 23](#)
- Regulations applied (with modifications) by [2015 c. 36 Sch. 3 para. 15](#)
- reg. 81 applied (with modifications) by [S.I. 2016/219 Sch. 3 para. 92](#)
- reg. 81(7)(a) words added by [S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 26\(a\)](#)
- reg. 81(7)(c) words added by [S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 26\(b\)](#)

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

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

- Pt. 6A inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 9](#)
- reg. 5(1) reg. 5 renumbered as reg. 5(1) by [S.I. 2024/43 reg. 4\(a\)](#)
- reg. 5(1) word inserted by [S.I. 2024/43 reg. 4\(b\)](#)
- reg. 5(2) inserted by [S.I. 2024/43 reg. 4\(c\)](#)
- reg. 13A13B inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 3](#)
- reg. 17(3)(c) inserted by [S.I. 2018/699 reg. 12\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- reg. 20(5A) inserted by [2014 c. 13 s. 15\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 20(6A)(6B) inserted by [2014 c. 13 s. 15\(2\)\(d\)](#)
- reg. 22(3)(d) and word inserted by [2014 c. 13 s. 15\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 22(6) inserted by [2014 c. 13 s. 15\(3\)\(f\)](#)
- reg. 23A-23C inserted by [S.I. 2024/43 reg. 8](#)
- reg. 23A(4) modified by [S.I. 2024/43 reg. 27\(3\)](#)
- reg. 25(1A) inserted by [S.I. 2016/295 art. 152\(3\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- reg. 25A-25C inserted by [S.I. 2024/43 reg. 11](#)
- reg. 25B(2)(a)(iv) words substituted by [S.I. 2024/319 reg. 14\(2\)](#)
- reg. 25B(4) omitted by [S.I. 2024/665 reg. 3\(3\)](#)
- reg. 26A inserted by [S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 4](#)
- reg. 26A(2) words inserted by [S.I. 2018/699 reg. 11\(3\)](#)
- reg. 27(1)(c)-(cb) substituted for reg. 27(1)(c) by [S.I. 2018/699 reg. 15\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 27(1)(g) and word inserted by [S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 5\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- reg. 27(1)(caa) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1176 reg. 18\(2\)](#)
- reg. 27(1)(caa) words substituted by [S.I. 2024/665 reg. 3\(4\)\(a\)](#)
- reg. 27(1A) inserted by [S.I. 2018/699 reg. 15\(4\)](#)
- reg. 27(1B)(1C) inserted by [S.I. 2024/43 reg. 13\(a\)](#)
- reg. 27(1AA) inserted by [S.I. 2024/665 reg. 3\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 27(3)-(3B) substituted for reg. 27(3) by [S.I. 2018/699 reg. 15\(5\)](#)
- reg. 27(3ZA) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1176 reg. 18\(3\)](#)
- reg. 27(3ZZA)(3ZZB) inserted by [S.I. 2024/43 reg. 13\(c\)](#)
- reg. 27(4A) inserted by [S.I. 2018/699 reg. 15\(7\)](#)
- reg. 27(6A) inserted by [S.I. 2018/699 reg. 15\(9\)](#)
- reg. 27(10) inserted by [S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 5\(3\)](#)
- reg. 27(10) words substituted by [S.I. 2018/699 reg. 15\(10\)](#)
- reg. 27A inserted by [S.I. 2018/699 reg. 16](#)
- reg. 27A heading substituted by [S.I. 2024/43 reg. 15\(a\)](#)
- reg. 27A heading words substituted by [S.I. 2020/581 reg. 12\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- reg. 27A(A1) inserted by [S.I. 2024/43 reg. 15\(b\)](#)
- reg. 27A(1)(b) substituted by [S.I. 2024/43 reg. 15\(c\)](#)

- reg. 27A(3)-(5) inserted by S.I. 2020/581 reg. 12(2)(b)
- reg. 27ZA-27ZI inserted by S.I. 2024/43 reg. 14
- reg. 29(1) reg. 29 renumbered as reg. 29(1) by S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 6
- reg. 29(1) words inserted by S.I. 2018/699 reg. 17(a)(ii)
- reg. 29(1) words substituted by S.I. 2018/699 reg. 17(a)(i)
- reg. 29(2) inserted by S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 6
- reg. 29(2) omitted by S.I. 2018/699 reg. 17(b)
- reg. 30(3A) inserted by S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 7(2)
- reg. 30(7A) inserted by S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 7(4)
- reg. 36(2A) inserted by S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 8
- reg. 37(4) inserted by S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 9
- reg. 38A applied (with modifications) by SI 2001/1184 reg. 9 Sch. Pt. 2 (as inserted) by S.I. 2014/1803 reg. 8(3)(a)
- reg. 38A-38E inserted by S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 10
- reg. 38A(1)(b)(ba) substituted for reg. 38A(1)(b) by S.I. 2024/43 reg. 17
- reg. 38B applied by SI 2001/1184 reg. 9 Sch. Pt. 2 (as inserted) by S.I. 2014/1803 reg. 8(3)(a)
- reg. 38C applied by SI 2001/1184 reg. 9 Sch. Pt. 2 (as inserted) by S.I. 2014/1803 reg. 8(3)(a)
- reg. 38C(3)(c) words inserted by 2020 c. 17 Sch. 24 para. 368
- reg. 38C(3)(p) word omitted by S.I. 2018/331 reg. 2(2)(a)
- reg. 38C(3)(r)(s) inserted by S.I. 2018/331 reg. 2(2)(b)
- reg. 38C(3)(r) word omitted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 41(a)
- reg. 38C(3)(s) word inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 41(b)
- reg. 38C(3)(t) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 41(c)
- reg. 38D applied by SI 2001/1184 reg. 9 Sch. Pt. 2 (as inserted) by S.I. 2014/1803 reg. 8(3)(a)
- reg. 38D(4)(a) word substituted by S.I. 2018/331 reg. 2(3)(a)
- reg. 38D(4)(b) word substituted by S.I. 2018/331 reg. 2(3)(a)
- reg. 38D(4)(c) word substituted by S.I. 2018/331 reg. 2(3)(a)
- reg. 38D(4)(l)-(n) inserted by S.I. 2018/331 reg. 2(3)(b)
- reg. 38D(5) inserted by S.I. 2018/331 reg. 2(4)
- reg. 38E applied by SI 2001/1184 reg. 9 Sch. Pt. 2 (as inserted) by S.I. 2014/1803 reg. 8(3)(a)
- reg. 38E(5)(b) words inserted by S.I. 2018/699 reg. 11(8)
- reg. 38E(7)(b) words inserted by S.I. 2018/699 reg. 11(8)
- reg. 39(1)(c)(d) inserted by S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 11
- reg. 41(4)(d) and word inserted by S.I. 2024/43 reg. 18(a)(ii)
- reg. 41(4A) inserted by S.I. 2024/43 reg. 18(b)
- reg. 41(8) inserted by S.I. 2024/43 reg. 18(c)
- reg. 42A inserted by S.I. 2018/699 reg. 20
- reg. 42A words substituted by S.I. 2020/581 reg. 12(3)(a)
- reg. 42A(5) substituted by S.I. 2020/581 reg. 12(3)(b)
- reg. 42A(7) substituted by S.I. 2020/581 reg. 12(3)(c)
- reg. 44(4) inserted by S.I. 2016/295 art. 152(3)(b)(ii)
- reg. 46(3) inserted by S.I. 2018/699 reg. 21(b)
- reg. 50A inserted by S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 12
- reg. 51(3A) inserted by S.I. 2023/1176 reg. 19(c)
- reg. 53(1A) inserted by S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 14(2)
- reg. 53(1ZA) inserted by S.I. 2024/43 reg. 20(b)
- reg. 53A applied (with modifications) by SI 2001/1184 reg. 9 Sch. Pt. 2 (as inserted) by S.I. 2014/1803 reg. 8(3)(b)
- reg. 53A-53D inserted by S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 15
- reg. 53B applied by SI 2001/1184 reg. 9 Sch. Pt. 2 (as inserted) by S.I. 2014/1803 reg. 8(3)(b)
- reg. 53C applied by SI 2001/1184 reg. 9 Sch. Pt. 2 (as inserted) by S.I. 2014/1803 reg. 8(3)(b)
- reg. 53C(1)(e) omitted by S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 5(1)

- reg. 53D applied by SI 2001/1184 reg. 9 Sch. Pt. 2 (as inserted) by [S.I. 2014/1803 reg. 8\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 55(2)(e) and word inserted by [S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 16\(b\)](#)
- reg. 55A(3) inserted by [S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 17](#)
- reg. 55B(1) reg. 55B renumbered as reg. 55B(1) by [S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 18](#)
- reg. 55B(2) inserted by [S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 18](#)
- reg. 56(1) reg. 56 renumbered as reg. 56(1) by [S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 19](#)
- reg. 56(1) words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 6\(a\)](#)
- reg. 56(1) words omitted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 6\(b\)](#)
- reg. 56(2) inserted by [S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 19](#)
- reg. 57(4)(b)(v) inserted by [S.I. 2021/1188 art. 8\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- reg. 57(4)(b)(iv) and preceding word inserted by [S.R. 2016/228 reg. 35\(b\)](#)
- reg. 57(4)(b)(iv) word inserted by [S.I. 2021/1188 art. 8\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 57(4)(b)(iv) word omitted by [S.I. 2022/332 art. 12\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- reg. 57(4)(b)(vi) and word inserted by [S.I. 2022/332 art. 12\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 62(6)-(10) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 8](#)
- reg. 66(2A) inserted by [S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 21](#)
- reg. 70(1) reg. 70 renumbered as reg. 70(1) by [S.I. 2024/319 reg. 3\(a\)](#)
- reg. 70(1) words inserted by [S.I. 2024/319 reg. 3\(b\)](#)
- reg. 70(2) inserted by [S.I. 2024/319 reg. 3\(c\)](#)
- reg. 70A inserted by [S.I. 2016/219 Sch. 3 para. 82](#)
- reg. 72(2) inserted by [S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 22](#)
- reg. 73(10) inserted by [S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 23](#)
- reg. 75(3) inserted by [S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 24](#)
- reg. 81A applied (with modifications) by [S.I. 2016/219 Sch. 3 para. 93](#)
- reg. 81A inserted by [S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 27](#)
- reg. 81B inserted by [S.I. 2024/319 reg. 4](#)
- reg. 84(1) reg. 84 renumbered as reg. 84(1) by [S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 28](#)
- reg. 84(1) words substituted by [S.I. 2024/319 reg. 5\(b\)](#)
- reg. 84(2) inserted by [S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 28](#)
- reg. 84A-84I applied by S.I. 2001/2599, Sch. 2 (as amended) by [S.I. 2024/319 reg. 13\(3\)](#)
- reg. 84A-84I inserted by [S.I. 2024/319 reg. 6](#)
- reg. 86(5)-(8) inserted by [S.I. 2024/319 reg. 7](#)
- reg. 87(1A) inserted by [S.I. 2015/221 reg. 2\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 91(1)(aa) inserted by [S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 29\(c\)](#)
- reg. 91(2A) inserted by [S.I. 2024/319 reg. 8\(b\)](#)
- reg. 91(3A) inserted by [S.I. 2024/319 reg. 8\(d\)](#)
- reg. 93(2A) inserted by [S.I. 2014/1808 reg. 30](#)
- reg. 117(1A) inserted by [S.I. 2024/319 reg. 9\(b\)](#)
- reg. 118(4) inserted by [2018 c. 12 Sch. 19 para. 331\(b\)](#)
- reg. 118(4) substituted by [S.I. 2019/419 Sch. 3 para. 70\(3\)](#)