
DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2026 No.

**REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE, NORTHERN
IRELAND**

**The Voter Identification (Amendment of List of Specified
Documents) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2026**

Made - - - -

Coming into force in accordance with regulation 1(2)

The Secretary of State makes these Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by rules 28(3) and 37(1F) of Schedule 1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983 (“the 1983 Act”)(**a**).

In accordance with section 7(1) and (2)(e) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000(**b**) the Electoral Commission has been consulted prior to the making of these Regulations.

In accordance with section 201(2) of the 1983 Act(**c**) a draft of these Regulations has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

Citation, commencement and extent

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Voter Identification (Amendment of List of Specified Documents) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2026.

(2) These Regulations come into force on the day after the day on which they are made.

(3) These Regulations extend to Northern Ireland.

Amendment of rule 37(1E) of the Parliamentary Elections Rules

2.—(1) Rule 37(1E) of Schedule 1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983 (Parliamentary Elections Rules: voting procedure and voter identification requirements: Northern Ireland)(**d**) is amended as follows.

(2) After sub-paragraph (b) insert—

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- (**a**) 1983 c. 2. Rule 28(3) was amended by paragraph 70 of Schedule 1 to the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (c. 22). Rule 37(1F) was inserted by section 1 of the Elections (Northern Ireland) Act 1985 (c. 2). Rule 28(3) confers a power to prescribe which, by virtue of section 202(1) of the Act, means prescribed by regulations.
- (**b**) 2000 c. 41.
- (**c**) Section 201(2) was amended by paragraph 69 of Schedule 4 to the Representation of the People Act 1985 (c. 50).
- (**d**) Rule 37(1E) was inserted by section 1(2) of 1985 c. 2.

“(ba) a passport or passport card issued by a country listed in Schedule 3 to the British Nationality Act 1981 (countries whose citizens are Commonwealth citizens)(a);”.

(3) After sub-paragraph (n)(b) insert—

- “(o) an identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card);
- (p) a badge of a form prescribed under section 21 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970(c) or section 14 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Northern Ireland) Act 1978 (Blue Badge Scheme)(d);
- (q) a Ministry of Defence Form 100 (HM Armed Forces Veteran Card).”.

Amendment of Forms used in parliamentary elections

3. Schedule 3 (Forms) to the Representation of the People (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2008(e) is amended as follows—

- (a) for Form A (elector’s official poll card) substitute the form in Schedule 1;
- (b) for Form B (proxy’s official poll card) substitute the form in Schedule 2.

Date

Name
Minister
Northern Ireland Office

(a) 1981 c. 61.

(b) Rule 37(1E)(n) was inserted by paragraph 17(8) of Schedule 1 to the Elections Act 2022 (c. 37).

(c) 1970 c. 44.

(d) 1978 c. 53.

(e) S.I. 2008/1741. Forms A and B were substituted by S.I. 2023/1116.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

Regulation 3(a)

Form A (Elector's official poll card)

*Form A
Front of Card*

Poll card	
UK Parliamentary Election [insert name of constituency] constituency	
Voting information	
Polling day	
Polling hours	7.00am to 10.00pm
Ballot box number	
Your polling station will be	

You do not need to take this card with you in order to vote but it will save time if you do.

Your details:
[Elector's name and qualifying address details here]

Number on register:

Remember that you will not be able to vote unless you show one of the following forms of photographic identification:

- A UK, Irish or EEA driving licence
- A UK, Irish, EU or Commonwealth passport
- An Electoral Identity Card
- A Translink Senior SmartPass
- A Translink 60+ SmartPass
- A Translink War Disabled or War Disablement SmartPass
- A Translink Blind Person's or Registered Blind SmartPass
- A Translink Half Fare SmartPass
- A biometric immigration document
- A Ministry of Defence Form 100 (HM Armed Forces Veterans Card)
- An identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- A Blue Badge

It is an offence to:

- vote more than once at this election, unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person
- vote as a proxy on behalf of more than four electors, of which no more than two may be domestic electors (a domestic elector is one who is not an overseas or service elector)
- vote as a proxy for someone if you know that by law they are not allowed to vote

Please turn over

Back of Card

If you are away or cannot go to the polling station on [day] [date of poll] you can do one of the following: • Apply to vote by post. Completed applications must be returned by 5pm on [day] [date of deadline]. If you are given a postal vote, you will not be able to vote in person at this election. OR • Apply to vote by proxy (this means someone else can vote on your behalf). Completed applications must be returned by 5pm on [day] [date of deadline]. An application form is available on the website or can be requested from the helpline.	If you need any help, require information in another format or language or wish to find out if your polling station is accessible, please contact us. [Insert helpline and other contact details including website] Electoral fraud is a crime Issued by the Chief Electoral Officer. If undelivered return to: [Insert return address]
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SCHEDULE 2

Regulation 3(b)

Form B (Proxy's official poll card)

Form B
Front of Card

Proxy poll card	
UK Parliamentary Election [Insert name of constituency] constituency	
Voting information	
Polling day	
Polling hours	7.00am to 10.00pm
Ballot box number	
Your polling station will be	
For this election you are proxy for: [Elector's name] [Elector's address] [Elector's number on register] You do not need to take this card with you in order to vote but it will save time if you do.	
Your details: [Proxy's name and address details here] Remember that you will not be able to vote unless you show one of the following forms of photographic identification: - A UK, Irish or EEA driving licence - A UK, Irish, EU or Commonwealth passport - An Electoral Identity Card - A Translink Senior SmartPass - A Translink 60+ SmartPass - A Translink War Disabled or War Disablement SmartPass - A Translink Blind Person's or Registered Blind SmartPass - A Translink Half Fare SmartPass - A biometric immigration document - A Ministry of Defence Form 100 (HM Armed Forces Veterans Card) - An identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card) - A Blue Badge It is an offence to: - vote more than once at this election, unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person - vote as a proxy on behalf of more than four electors, of which no more than two may be domestic electors (a domestic elector is one who is not an overseas or service elector) - vote as a proxy for someone if you know that by law they are not allowed to vote Please turn over	

Back of Card

How to vote as a proxy At the polling station, tell the staff that you are a proxy for the person named on the front of this card. Show an accepted form of photographic identification for yourself. They will give you that person's ballot paper. If you need any help, just ask the staff. If you are away or cannot go to the polling station on [day] (date of poll) you can do one of the following: - Apply to vote by post. The deadline for completed applications is 5pm on [day] (date of deadline) - If you are given a postal vote, you or the person you are proxy for will not be able to vote in person at this election. To find out how to apply, please contact us.	The person you are proxy for can vote themselves if they wish – but only if you have not already voted on their behalf. If you need any help, require information in another format or language or wish to find out if your polling station is accessible, please contact us. [Insert helpline and other contact details including website] Electoral fraud is a crime Issued by the Chief Electoral Officer.
If undelivered return to: [insert return address]	

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations make a change to the list of the types of photographic identification that can be used by a person wishing to vote in person at a polling station at UK Parliamentary elections in Northern Ireland. The changes to the UK Parliamentary election rules also apply to elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly by virtue of article 3 of, and Schedule 1 to, the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001 (S.I. 2001/2599).

Regulation 2 adds the PASS card, the Blue Badge, the Veteran card and Commonwealth passports to the list of acceptable identification in rule 37(1E) of Schedule 1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983 (c. 2).

Regulation 3 and the Schedules replace the Poll Cards for the UK Parliamentary Elections (the same forms are used for Northern Ireland Assembly elections) to reflect the changes to acceptable voter identification.

A full impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no, or no significant, impact on the private, voluntary or public sector is foreseen.

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