

Convicted Prisoners Voting Bill

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B I L L

TO

Make provision for rules relating to the exclusion of convicted prisoners from participation in Parliamentary and Local Elections.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Voting ban for prisoners

A prisoner serving a custodial sentence is disqualified from voting at a parliamentary or local government election.

2 Interpretation

- (1) In this Act— 5
- “custodial sentence” means a sentence of imprisonment, detention or custody passed in respect of an offence (including a corresponding sentence imposed by a foreign court);
- “local government election” has the meaning given by section 203(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983; 10
- “prison” means an institution to which the Prison Act 1952 applies;
- “prisoner” means—
- (a) a person detained in, or on temporary release from, prison, or
- (b) a person who is unlawfully at large but who would otherwise be detained in prison. 15
- (2) In subsection (1)—
- (a) “offence” includes a service offence within the meaning of the Armed Forces Act 2006;
- (b) “sentence” does not include a committal— 20
- (i) in default of payment of a sum adjudged to be paid by a conviction, or
- (ii) for contempt or any kindred offence.

- (3) This Act applies to a prisoner because of a sentence only if he or she is detained in pursuance of that particular sentence (or would if not on temporary release or unlawfully at large).

3 Transition

This Act applies to people sentenced before, as well as to people sentenced after, this Act comes into force. 5

4 Short title and extent

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Convicted Prisoners Voting Act 2016.
(2) This Act extends to the whole of the United Kingdom.

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To make provision for rules relating to the exclusion of convicted prisoners from participation in Parliamentary and Local Elections.

*Presented by Mr Christopher Chope,
supported by Mr Peter Bone,
Philip Davies,
Sir Edward Leigh,
Mr David Nuttall and
Mr Philip Hollobone.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 6 July 2015.*

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