



House of Commons

Wednesday 14 November 2018

PUBLIC BILL COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

OVERSEAS ELECTORS BILL

[FIRST TO FOURTH SITTINGS]

GLOSSARY

This document shows the fate of each clause, schedule, amendment and new clause.

The following terms are used:

Agreed to: agreed without a vote.

Agreed to on division: agreed following a vote.

Negatived: rejected without a vote.

Negatived on division: rejected following a vote.

Not called: debated in a group of amendments, but not put to a decision.

Not moved: not debated or put to a decision.

Question proposed: debate underway but not concluded.

Withdrawn after debate: moved and debated but then withdrawn, so not put to a decision.

Not selected: not chosen for debate by the Chair.

FIRST SITTING

Glyn Davies

That, if proceedings on the Overseas Electors Bill are not completed at this day's sitting, the Committee shall meet at 2.00 pm on Wednesdays on which the House sits.

Agreed to

Layla Moran
Christian Matheson

Clause 1, page 1, line 14, after "citizen," insert "(iia) is aged 16 or over," *Negatived on division* 1

Overseas Electors Bill, *continued*

Alex Norris

Withdrawn after debate 33

Clause 1, page 2, line 7, at end insert “and

- (c) the person satisfies at least one of the following conditions—
 - (i) he or she was included in a register of parliamentary electors at some time in the past fifteen years;
 - (ii) he or she was resident in the United Kingdom at some point in the last fifteen years;
 - (iii) he or she is a member of the United Kingdom armed forces;
 - (iv) he or she is employed in the service of the Crown;
 - (v) he or she is employed by the British Council;
 - (vi) he or she is employed by a United Kingdom public authority;
 - (vii) he or she is employed by a designated humanitarian agency;
 - (viii) he or she is the spouse or civil partner of a person mentioned in sub-paragraphs (iii) to (vii) above and is residing outside the United Kingdom to be with his or her spouse or civil partner.

(1A) The Minister for the Cabinet Office or the Secretary of State may by statutory instrument define “United Kingdom public authority” and “designated humanitarian agency” for the purposes of subsection (1)(c).

(1B) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (1A) is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.”

Alex Norris

Not moved 34

Clause 1, page 2, line 9, leave out “in the past” and insert “since 1 January 2004”

Alex Norris

Not moved 35

Clause 1, page 2, line 17, leave out “in the past” and insert “since 1 January 2004”

Christian Matheson

Question proposed 2

Clause 1, page 2, line 39, at end insert ““resident” must be defined in regulations made by the Minister for the Cabinet Office or the Secretary of State”

SECOND SITTING

Clause 1.

Amendment (No. 2) proposed, in page 2, line 39, at end, to insert ““resident” must be defined in regulations made by the Minister for the Cabinet Office or the Secretary of State”.—(*Mr Christian Matheson*).

Question proposed, That the Amendment be made.

Withdrawn after debate

Overseas Electors Bill, *continued*

Alex Norris

Negatived on division 36

Clause 1, page 3, leave out lines 5 to 8 insert—

- “(3) The second condition is that the person making the declaration (“the declarant”) proves that they qualify as an overseas elector in respect of the constituency by providing valid supporting documentation to the registration officer.
- (3A) Valid supporting documentation for the purposes of proving qualification for the previous registration condition are—
- (a) a poll card, or
 - (b) a letter from the appropriate local authority stating that the person was on the electoral roll at the appropriate time.
- (3B) Valid supporting documentation for the purposes of proving qualification for the previous residence condition must include—
- (a) one document from List A, or
 - (b) two documents from List B.
- (3C) For the purposes of subsection (3B), List A documents include but are not limited to—
- household utility bill (such as gas, electric, water or telephone);
 - full UK photocard driving licence with signature or ‘old style’ driving licence (including provisional or expired licences);
 - bank, building society or credit card statement, or bank or building society passbook;
 - local authority tax bill (e.g. council tax bill);
 - local authority rent book;
 - solicitor’s letter confirming house purchase or land registry confirmation, or an official copy of the land register or other proof of title;
 - HM Revenue & Customs (Inland Revenue) tax document such as a tax assessment, statement of account or notice of coding;
 - original notification letter from the relevant benefits agency confirming entitlement to benefits or the state pension;
 - pension or benefit correspondence from the Department for Work and Pensions;
 - instrument of a court appointment, e.g. probate or court-registered power of attorney.
- (3D) For the purposes of subsection (3B), List B documents include but are not limited to—
- payslip;
 - employment document, such offer of employment or reference;
 - school, college or university (or UCAS) document, such as offer of a place, or confirmation of attendance;
 - insurance documents, such as full insurance schedule, or letter confirming insurance cover;
 - student loans company letter;
 - mobile telephone bill;
 - other evidence prescribed in guidance given by the Minister.
- (3E) To be valid supporting documentation, a document must contain both a date (which can be earlier than the date the declarant left the address concerned) and the declarant’s declared last address in the United Kingdom.”

Overseas Electors Bill, *continued*

Alex Norris

Withdrawn after debate 37

Clause 1, page 3, line 23, at end insert—

“(5A) An overseas elector’s declaration shall be disregarded for the purposes of registration to vote in a particular parliamentary election if it received by the registration officer after 5pm on the nineteenth day before the date of the poll at that election.”

Christian Matheson

Negated on division 3

Clause 1, page 3, line 34, after “name” insert “and date of birth”

Christian Matheson

Not called 4

Clause 1, page 3, line 35, at end insert—

“(aa) state either the declarant’s National Insurance number or the reason the declarant is unable to provide his or her National Insurance number,”

Christian Matheson

Not called 5

Clause 1, page 3, line 35, at end insert—

“(aa) state any previous full names held by the declarant in the period since they were last resident in the United Kingdom or registered and the reasons for any changes of name,”

Christian Matheson

Not called 6

Clause 1, page 3, line 35, at end insert—

“(aa) state the number and date of issue of a British passport held by the declarant or, if the declarant no longer holds a British passport, prescribed information relating to the nationality of the declarant,”

Christian Matheson

Not called 7

Clause 1, page 3, line 35, at end insert—

“(aa) state a telephone number for the declarant,”

Christian Matheson

Not called 8

Clause 1, page 3, line 35, at end insert—

“(aa) state an email address for the declarant,”

Christian Matheson

Not called 9

Clause 1, page 3, line 35, at end insert—

“(aa) state the declarant’s preferred means of contact by the registration officer,””

Christian Matheson

Not called 10

Clause 1, page 3, line 38, leave out “that the declarant is not resident in the United Kingdom” and insert “state the country of residence of the declarant, and how long they

Overseas Electors Bill, *continued*

have lived there,”

Christian Matheson

Not called 11

Clause 1, page 3, line 42, at end insert—

“(ea) state that the declarant is aware of the voting offences under sections 60 and 61 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and associated punishments under sections 168 and 169 of that Act,”

Christian Matheson

Not called 12

Clause 1, page 3, line 42, at end insert—

“(ea) state whether the declarant intends to make absent voting arrangements or to vote in person at a polling station,”

Alex Norris

Negated on division 38

Clause 1, page 3, line 44, leave out from first “requirements” to end of paragraph and insert—

“(fa) contain a valid attestation of identity under section [*Attestation of identity*],”

Alex Norris

Negated on division 39

Clause 1, page 4, line 48, at end insert—

“1CA Attestation of identity

- (1) A valid attestation of identity must contain attestations from two attestors.
- (2) The first attestor must be a registered elector resident in the constituency in which the declarant wishes to be registered.
- (3) The second attestor must be a registered overseas elector.
- (4) An attestor must not be the spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild of the declarant.
- (5) An attestation must—
 - (a) be in writing and signed by the attestor,
 - (b) swear that, to the best of the attestor’s knowledge, the declarant is the person named in the declaration,
 - (c) state the attestor’s British passport number together with its date of issue,
 - (d) be dated on the date on which the attestation is made,
 - (e) confirm that the person attestor is aware of the offence, under section 13D of the Representation of the People Act 1983, of providing false information to a registration officer, and
 - (f) confirm that the attestor is a person of good standing in the community
- (6) For the purposes of paragraph (5)(f), examples of a person of good standing in the community include, but are not limited to, the following or their local equivalents—
 - accountant
 - airline pilot
 - articled clerk of a limited company
 - assurance agent of recognised company
 - bank or building society official

Overseas Electors Bill, *continued*

barrister
chiropodist
Commissioner of Oaths
civil servant (permanent)
dentist
director, manager or personnel officer of a limited company
director or manager of a VAT-registered charity
director or manager or personnel officer of a VAT-registered company
engineer (with professional qualifications)
financial services intermediary (e.g. a stockbroker or insurance broker)
fire service official
funeral director
insurance agent (full time) of a recognised company
journalist
Justice of the Peace
lecturer
legal secretary (fellow or associate member of the Institute of Legal Secretaries and PAs)
licensee of public house
local government officer
medical professional
member, associate or fellow of a professional body
Merchant Navy officer
minister of a recognised religion (including Christian Science)
nurse (Registered General Nurse or Mental Health Nurse)
officer of the armed services
optician
paralegal (certified paralegal, qualified paralegal or associate member of the Institute of Paralegals)
person with an honour (such as an OBE or MBE)
pharmacist
photographer (professional)
police officer
Post Office official
publicly-elected representative (such as MP, Councillor or MEP)
president or secretary of a recognised organisation
Salvation Army officer
social worker
solicitor
surveyor
teacher
trade union officer
travel agent (qualified)
valuer or auctioneer (fellows and associate members of the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers)
warrant officers and chief petty officers.”

Overseas Electors Bill, *continued*

- Christian Matheson *Not moved* 13
 Clause 1, page 5, line 5, leave out “12” and insert “18”
- Christian Matheson *Not called* 14
 Clause 1, page 5, line 5, , leave out “12 months” and insert “4 years”
- Christian Matheson *Not called* 15
 Clause 1, page 5, line 5, leave out “12 months” and insert “5 years and 1 month”
- Christian Matheson *Not called* 16
 Clause 1, page 5, line 18, leave out “12” and insert “18”
- Christian Matheson *Not called* 17
 Clause 1, page 5, line 18, leave out “12 months” and insert “4 years”
- Christian Matheson *Not called* 18
 Clause 1, page 5, line 18, leave out “12 months” and insert “5 years and 1 month”
- Christian Matheson *Not called* 19
 Clause 1, page 6, line 11, at end insert—
 “(aa) state either the declarant’s National Insurance number or the reason the declarant is unable to provide his or her National Insurance number,”
- Christian Matheson *Not called* 20
 Clause 1, page 6, line 11, at end insert—
 “(aa) state any previous full names held by the declarant in the period since they last made a renewal declaration and the reasons for any changes of name,”
- Christian Matheson *Not called* 21
 Clause 1, page 6, line 11, at end insert—
 “(aa) state the number and date of issue of a British passport held by the declarant or, if the declarant no longer holds a British passport, prescribed information relating to the nationality of the declarant,”
- Christian Matheson *Not called* 22
 Clause 1, page 6, line 11, at end insert—
 “(aa) state a telephone number for the declarant,”

Overseas Electors Bill, *continued*

Christian Matheson

Not called 23

Clause 1, page 6, line 11, at end insert—
“(aa) state an email address for the declarant,”

Christian Matheson

Not called 24

Clause 1, page 6, line 11, at end insert—
“(aa) state the declarant’s preferred means of contact by the registration officer,”

Christian Matheson

Not called 25

Clause 1, page 6, line 14, leave out “that the declarant is not resident in the United Kingdom” and insert “the country of residence of the declarant, and how long they have lived there,”

Christian Matheson

Not called 26

Clause 1, page 6, line 15, at end insert—
“(da) state that the declarant is aware of the voting offences under sections 60 and 61 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and associated punishments under sections 168 and 169 of that Act,”

Christian Matheson

Not called 27

Clause 1, page 6, line 15, at end insert—
“(da) state whether the declarant intends to make absent voting arrangements or to vote in person at a polling station,”

Clause agreed to.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Christian Matheson

Withdrawn after debate 28

Clause 3, page 8, line 11, at end insert—
“(2A) No regulations shall be made under subsection (2) until the report under section [Report on awareness of how to participate in elections as an overseas elector] has been laid before Parliament.”

Christian Matheson

Withdrawn after debate 29

Clause 3, page 8, line 11, at end insert—
“(2A) No regulations shall be made under subsection (2) until the report under section [Report on effects of extension of the franchise] has been laid before Parliament.”

Overseas Electors Bill, continued*THIRD SITTING*

Christian Matheson

Negated on division 30

Clause 3, page 8, line 11, at end insert—

“(2A) No regulations shall be made under subsection (2) until the report under section [Review of absent vote arrangements] has been laid before Parliament.”

Christian Matheson

Negated on division 31

Clause 3, page 8, line 11, at end insert—

“(2A) No regulations shall be made under subsection (2) until the report under section [Report on postal voting arrangements for overseas electors] has been laid before Parliament.”

Christian Matheson

Not selected 32

Clause 3, page 8, line 11, at end insert—

“(2A) No regulations shall be made under subsection (2) until the report under section [Report on overseas electors in other national elections] has been laid before Parliament.”

Clause agreed to.

Layla Moran

Negated on division NC1

To move the following Clause—

“Report on the effects on the number of registered electors

- (1) The Secretary of State must prepare and publish a report on the effects of the provisions of this Act on—
 - (a) the number of overseas electors registered to vote in Parliamentary elections in each constituency, and
 - (b) the policy implications of any such changes.
 - (2) The report must consider—
 - (a) whether any differential effects on the electorates of constituencies necessitates a review of constituency boundaries, and
 - (b) the merits of creating one or more overseas constituencies.
 - (3) The report must be laid before Parliament within 3 years of the provisions of this Act coming into force.”
-

Overseas Electors Bill, *continued*

Layla Moran

Negatived on division NC2

To move the following Clause—

“Report on the effects on processes for controlling political party donations

- (1) The Secretary of State must prepare and publish a report on the effects of the provisions of this Act on—
 - (a) the ability of political parties and campaigners to determine the permissibility of donations from persons resident overseas, and
 - (b) the ability of the Electoral Commission to take enforcement action where the rules on such donations have been breached.
- (2) The report must be laid before Parliament within 3 years of the provisions of this Act coming into force.”

Christian Matheson

Question proposed NC3

To move the following Clause—

“Prompt to register as an overseas elector

- (1) If the registration officer receives information that leads him or her to believe that a registered elector has moved, or is going to move, outside the United Kingdom, the registration officer shall contact that elector to prompt him or her to register as an overseas elector.
- (2) The Electoral Commission may issue guidance for contact under subsection (1).”

FOURTH SITTING

A Clause (NC3) (*Prompt to register as an overseas elector*) — (Christian Matheson)
Brought up, and read the first time as follows—

- (3) If the registration officer receives information that leads him or her to believe that a registered elector has moved, or is going to move, outside the United Kingdom, the registration officer shall contact that elector to prompt him or her to register as an overseas elector.
- (4) The Electoral Commission may issue guidance for contact under subsection (1).”

Question proposed, That the Clause be read a second time.

Withdrawn after debate

Christian Matheson

Not selected NC4

To move the following Clause—

“Registration as an overseas elector and donations to registered political parties

- (1) The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 is amended as follows.

Overseas Electors Bill, *continued*

- (2) In section 54 (permissible donors), in subsection (2)(a), for “registered in an electoral register” substitute—
- “resident in the United Kingdom and registered in an electoral register;
- (aa) an overseas elector and registered in an electoral register at the time of the donation;”
-

Christian Matheson

Not called NC5

To move the following Clause—

“Report on awareness of how to participate in elections as an overseas elector

- (1) The Minister for the Cabinet Office or the Secretary of State must publish a report on levels of awareness of how to participate in parliamentary elections as a UK elector among—
- (a) persons entitled to vote as an overseas elector under the provisions of this Act, and
- (b) overseas electors in general.
- (2) The report shall consider awareness of—
- (a) the law governing entitlement to qualify and vote as an overseas elector,
- (b) the processes of registering and voting, and
- (c) other matters as the Minister for the Cabinet Office or the Secretary of State sees fit.
- (3) The report shall set out any steps the Minister for the Cabinet Office or the Secretary of State intends to take to increase awareness of—
- (a) how to participate in elections as an overseas elector, and
- (b) the provisions of this Act.”
-

Christian Matheson

Not called NC6

To move the following Clause—

“Report on effects of extension of franchise

- (1) The Minister for the Cabinet Office or the Secretary of State must publish a report assessing the likely effects of the extension of the franchise in Section 1 of this Act and any measures necessary in response to those effects.
- (2) The report must contain assessments of—
- (a) how many British citizens currently resident overseas are eligible to register as overseas electors, and how many are likely to be eligible if the 15-year time limits under sections 1(3)(c) and 1(4)(a) of the Representation of the People Act 1985 were removed;
- (b) likely demand for online registration services and how this demand should be met;

Overseas Electors Bill, *continued*

- (c) the effects of removing the 15-year time limits on the workloads of local authorities, including demands on electoral registration officers, and how any consequent resourcing requirements should be met;
 - (d) any possible increased risk of electoral fraud by those purporting to be overseas electors related to the provisions in this Act;
 - (e) whether current election timetables are of sufficient duration to enable the full participation of any increased numbers of overseas electors;
 - (f) how the electorates of existing UK constituencies will be affected;
 - (g) how the electorates of new constituencies recommended by the most recent reports of the Boundary Commissions for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will be affected.”
-

Christian Matheson

Withdrawn after debate NC7

To move the following Clause—

“Report on the representation of overseas electors

- (1) The Minister for the Cabinet Office or the Secretary of State shall, within 12 months of this section coming into force, lay before Parliament a report on the representation of overseas electors.
 - (2) That report shall include—
 - (a) consideration of how well overseas electors are represented by their MPs and any related consequences of the provisions of this Act,
 - (b) an assessment of any additional demands that may be placed on MPs and their resources as a consequence of the provisions of this Act,
 - (c) any plans the Government has to monitor the representation of overseas electors, and
 - (d) an assessment of alternative models of representation of overseas electors, including the creation of overseas constituencies.”
-

Christian Matheson

Not called NC8

To move the following Clause—

“Review of absent vote arrangements

- (1) The Minister for the Cabinet Office or the Secretary of State shall—
 - (a) review absent voting arrangements to consider whether they allow sufficient time for overseas electors to participate adequately in parliamentary elections, taking into account the likely effects of the provisions of this Act;
 - (b) consult the Electoral Commission, local authorities and the Association of Electoral Administrators as part of the review; and

Overseas Electors Bill, *continued*

- (c) lay before Parliament a report on the review and any steps to be taken as a result.”
-

Christian Matheson

Not called NC9

To move the following Clause—

“Report on postal voting arrangements for overseas electors

- (1) The Minister for the Cabinet Office or the Secretary of State shall publish a report on postal voting arrangements for overseas electors.
 - (2) The report shall set out—
 - (a) any barriers to the participation of overseas electors in parliamentary elections, including in—
 - (i) the availability of pre-paid postal services for returning ballot papers,
 - (ii) the financial resources of returning officers, and
 - (iii) capacity in the specialist print and production markets to meet absent vote and ballot paper requirements;
 - (b) whether any such barriers are likely to become more significant or widespread as a result of the extension of the franchise in the provisions of this Act, including in particular countries and regions;
 - (c) any steps to be taken to make it easier for overseas electors to participate in parliamentary elections.
 - (3) The report shall, in particular, consider the effectiveness and cost of the International Business Response Licence for postal votes and any associated implications of the provisions of this Act.”
-

Christian Matheson

Not called NC10

To move the following Clause—

“Report on overseas electors in other national elections

The Minister for the Cabinet Office or the Secretary of State must publish a report on qualification requirements for non-resident citizens to participate in national elections in other countries.”

Overseas Electors Bill, *continued*

Christian Matheson

Not called **NC11**

To move the following Clause—

“Evaluation of the effects of the Act

- (1) The Minister for the Cabinet Office or the Secretary of State must, within 12 months of the provisions of this Act coming into force, lay before Parliament a report evaluating the effects of the Act and the extent to which it has met its objectives.
- (2) That report must include assessments of the effects on numbers of overseas electors registered in each parliamentary constituency.”

Alex Norris

Not called **NC12**

To move the following Clause—

“Closing date for electoral registration applications by overseas electors

- (1) The Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001 are amended as follows.
- (2) In regulation 56, after paragraph (7), insert—
 “(8) This regulation does not apply to applications by overseas electors.”
- (3) After regulation 56 insert—

“56A Closing date for electoral registration applications by overseas electors

- (1) The provisions in this regulation relate to applications to vote by post or proxy by overseas electors in parliamentary elections.
- (2) An application by an overseas elector under paragraph 3(6) or (7) of Schedule 4 shall be disregarded for the purposes of a particular parliamentary election and an application under paragraph 4(3) of Schedule 4 shall be refused if it is received by the registration officer after 5 p.m. on the eighteenth day before the date of the poll at that election.
- (3) An application under paragraph 3(1) or (2), or 6(7) or 7(4) of Schedule 4 shall be disregarded for the purposes of a particular parliamentary election if it is received by the registration officer after 5 p.m. on the thirteenth day before the date of the poll at that election.
- (4) An application under paragraph 4(1) or (2) or 6(8) of Schedule 4 shall be refused if it is received by the registration officer after 5 p.m. on the thirteenth day before the date of the poll at the election for which it is made.
- (5) An application under paragraph 7(7) of Schedule 4 shall be refused if it is received by the registration officer after 5 p.m. on the eighteenth day before the date of the poll at the election for which it is made.
- (6) An application under—
 - (a) paragraph 3(5)(a) of Schedule 4 by an elector to be removed from the record kept under paragraph 3(4) of that Schedule, or

Overseas Electors Bill, *continued*

- (b) paragraph 7(9)(a) of Schedule 4 by a proxy to be removed from the record kept under paragraph 7(6) of that Schedule, and a notice under paragraph 6(10) of that Schedule by an elector cancelling a proxy's appointment shall be disregarded for the purposes of a particular parliamentary election if it is received by the registration officer after—
- (i) 5 p.m. on the eighteenth day before the date of the poll at that election in the case of an application by an elector who is entitled to vote by post to be removed from the record kept under paragraph 3(4) of Schedule 4, and
 - (ii) 5 p.m. on the thirteenth day before the date of the poll at that election in any other case.
- (7) In computing a period of days for the purposes of this regulation, the same rules shall apply as in regulation 56.”
- (4) The Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001 are amended as follows.
- (5) In regulation 56, after paragraph (7), insert—
- “(8) This regulation does not apply to applications by overseas electors.”
- (6) After regulation 56 insert—

“56A Closing date for electoral registration applications by overseas electors

- (1) The provisions in this regulation relate to applications to vote by post or proxy by overseas electors in parliamentary elections.
- (2) An application by an overseas elector under paragraph 3(6) or (7) of Schedule 4 shall be disregarded for the purposes of a particular parliamentary election and an application under paragraph 4(3) of Schedule 4 shall be refused if it is received by the registration officer after 5 p.m. on the eighteenth day before the date of the poll at that election.
- (3) An application under paragraph 3(1) or (2), or 6(7) or 7(4) of Schedule 4 shall be disregarded for the purposes of a particular parliamentary election if it is received by the registration officer after 5 p.m. on the thirteenth day before the date of the poll at that election.
- (4) An application under paragraph 4(1) or (2) or 6(8) of Schedule 4 shall be refused if it is received by the registration officer after 5 p.m. on the thirteenth day before the date of the poll at the election for which it is made.
- (5) An application under paragraph 7(7) of Schedule 4 shall be refused if it is received by the registration officer after 5 p.m. on the eighteenth day before the date of the poll at the election for which it is made.
- (6) An application under—
 - (a) paragraph 3(5)(a) of Schedule 4 by an elector to be removed from the record kept under paragraph 3(4) of that Schedule, or
 - (b) paragraph 7(9)(a) of Schedule 4 by a proxy to be removed from the record kept under paragraph 7(6) of that Schedule,and a notice under paragraph 6(10) of that Schedule by an elector cancelling a proxy's appointment shall be disregarded for the purposes of a particular parliamentary election if it is received by the registration officer after—

Overseas Electors Bill, *continued*

- (i) 5 p.m. on the eighteenth day before the date of the poll at that election in the case of an application by an elector who is entitled to vote by post to be removed from the record kept under paragraph 3(4) of Schedule 4, and
 - (ii) 5 p.m. on the thirteenth day before the date of the poll at that election in any other case.
- (7) In computing a period of days for the purposes of this regulation, the same rules shall apply as in regulation 56.”
- (7) The Representation of the People (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2001 are amended as follows.
- (8) In regulation 57, after paragraph (6), insert—
- “(7) This regulation does not apply to applications by overseas electors.”
- (9) After regulation 57 insert—

“57A Closing date for electoral registration applications by overseas electors

- (1) The provisions in this regulation relate to applications to vote by post or proxy by overseas electors in parliamentary elections.
 - (2) An application under section 6(1) or (5), 8(6) or 9(4) of the 1985 Act shall be disregarded for the purposes of a particular election if it is received by the registration officer after 5 p.m. on the twenty-first day before the day of the poll at that election.
 - (3) Subject to paragraph (4) below, an application under section 7(1) or (2), 8(7) or 9(7) or (8) of the 1985 Act shall be refused if it is received by the registration officer after 5 p.m. on the twenty-first day before the day of the poll at the election for which is made.
 - (4) Paragraph (3) above shall not apply to an application which satisfies the requirements of either paragraphs (6) and (7) or paragraph (8) of regulation 55 above; and such an application shall be refused if it is received by the registration officer after 5 p.m. on the thirteenth day before the day of the poll at the election for which it is made.
 - (5) An application under—
 - (a) section 6(4)(a) of the 1985 Act by an elector to be removed from the record kept under section 6(3) of that Act, or
 - (b) section 9(11)(a) of that Act by a proxy to be removed from the record kept under section 9(6) of that Act,and a notice under section 8(9) of that Act by an elector cancelling a proxy’s appointment shall be disregarded for the purposes of a particular election if it is received by the registration officer after 5 p.m. on the twenty-first day before the date of the poll at that election.
 - (6) In computing a period of days for the purposes of this regulation, the same rules shall apply as in regulation 57.”
-

Overseas Electors Bill, continued

Alex Norris

Withdrawn after debate NC13

To move the following Clause—

“Offence of registering to vote as overseas elector in more than one constituency

- (1) A person commits an offence if he or she is an overseas elector and is simultaneously registered to vote in more than one constituency.
 - (2) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.”
-

Alex Norris

Not called NC14

To move the following Clause—

“Consolidated register of overseas electors

- (1) The Minister for the Cabinet Office or the Secretary of State to compile a single, consolidated register of overseas electors for UK parliamentary elections.
 - (2) The Minister for the Cabinet Office or the Secretary of State may, by regulations, specify requirements for the publication, availability for inspection and sale of information in that register.”
-

Christian Matheson

Not called NC15

To move the following Clause—

“Report on electoral offences, overseas electors and the extension of the franchise

- (1) The Minister for the Cabinet Office or Secretary of State must publish a report on electoral offences, overseas electors and the extension of the franchise.
- (2) The report must include assessments of—
 - (a) the effects of the extension of the franchise under the provisions of this Act on the incidence of—
 - (i) reports of electoral offences under the Representation of the People Act 1983, and
 - (ii) prosecutions for such offences,
 - (b) the capacity of appropriate authorities to investigate and prosecute such alleged offences,
 - (c) the number of reports of electoral offences under the Representation of the People Act 1983 alleged to have been committed by overseas electors—
 - (i) in the period since the provisions of this Act came into force, and
 - (ii) in a comparable period before the provisions of this Act came into force,

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- (d) the number of prosecutions for electoral offences under the Representation of the People Act 1983 alleged to have been committed by overseas electors—
 - (i) in the period since the provisions of this Act came into force, and
 - (ii) in a comparable period before the provisions of this Act came into force, and
- (e) any steps to be taken to reduce the incidence of such electoral offences.”

Schedule 1 agreed to.

Schedule 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.
