
Committee Stage: Wednesday 22 September 2021

Elections Bill

(Committee Stage Decisions)

This document sets out the fate of each clause, schedule, amendment and new clause considered at committee stage. A glossary with key terms can be found at the end of this document.

First to Sixth Sitings

FIRST AND SECOND SITTINGS

Agreed to

Chloe Smith

That—

- (1) the Committee shall (in addition to its first meeting at 9.25 am on Wednesday 15 September) meet—
 - (a) at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 15 September;
 - (b) at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm on Thursday 16 September;
 - (c) at 9.25 am and 2.00 pm on Wednesday 22 September;
 - (d) at 9.25 am and 2.00 pm on Tuesday 19 October;
 - (e) at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm on Thursday 21 October;
 - (f) at 9.25 am and 2.00 pm on Tuesday 26 October;
 - (g) at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm on Thursday 28 October;
 - (h) at 9.25 am and 2.00 pm on Wednesday 3 November;
- (2) the Committee shall hear oral evidence in accordance with the following Table:

Date	Time	Witness
Wednesday 15 September	Until no later than 10.25 am	The Rt Hon Lord Pickles; Henderson Chambers
Wednesday 15 September	Until no later than 11.25 am	Councillor Peter Golds; National Police Chiefs' Council; Gillian Beasley, Peterborough City Council
Wednesday 15 September	Until no later than 2.30 pm	Professor David Howarth, Professor of Law and Public Policy, University of Cambridge; Blackstone Chambers

Date	Time	Witness
Wednesday 15 September	Until no later than 3.15 pm	The Electoral Office of Northern Ireland; The Electoral Commission; Association of Electoral Administrators
Wednesday 15 September	Until no later than 4.00 pm	SOLACE; Birmingham City Council
Wednesday 15 September	Until no later than 5.00 pm	Dr Kate Dommett, Department of Politics and International Relations, The University of Sheffield; Professor Justin Fisher, Director of Public Policy, Brunel University London; Darren Grimes
Thursday 16 September	Until no later than 12.15 pm	Conservatives Abroad; Liberal Democrats Overseas; Labour International
Thursday 16 September	Until no later than 1.00 pm	Race on the Agenda
Thursday 16 September	Until no later than 2.45 pm	Matrix Chambers
Thursday 16 September	Until no later than 3.30 pm	Disability Rights UK
Thursday 16 September	Until no later than 4.30 pm	Dr Alan Renwick, Deputy Director of the University College London Constitution Unit

(3) proceedings on consideration of the Bill in Committee shall be taken in the following order: Clause 1; Schedule 1; Clause 2; Schedule 2; Clauses 3 to 5; Schedule 3; Clauses 6 and 7; Schedule 4; Clauses 8 and 9; Schedule 5; Clause 10; Schedule 6; Clause 11; Schedule 7; Clauses 12 to 26; Schedule 8; Clauses 27 to 34; Schedule 9; Clauses 35 to 43; Schedule 10; Clauses 44 to 48; Schedule 11; Clauses 49 to 62; new Clauses; new Schedules; remaining proceedings on the Bill;

(4) the proceedings shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion at 5.00 pm on Wednesday 3 November.

Chloe Smith

Agreed to

That, subject to the discretion of the Chair, any written evidence received by the Committee shall be reported to the House for publication..

Chloe Smith

Agreed to

That, at this and any subsequent meeting at which oral evidence is to be heard, the Committee shall sit in private until the witnesses are admitted.

The following Witnesses gave oral evidence:

Richard Mawrey QC; and Rt Hon Lord Pickles

Councillor Peter Golds, Leader of the Conservative Group, London Borough of Tower Hamlets council; Gillian Beasley, Chief Executive and Returning Officer, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority; and Assistant Chief Constable Gary Cann QPM, NPCC Portfolio Lead for Election-Related Crime, National Police Chiefs' Council

Virginia McVea, Chief Electoral Officer, Electoral Office for Northern Ireland; Ailsa Irvine, Director of Electoral Administration and Guidance, Electoral Commission; and Peter Stanyon, Chief Executive, Association of Electoral Administrators

Louise Round, spokesperson for Elections and Democratic Renewal, Solace; and Rob Connolly, Returning Officer, Birmingham City Council

Dr Kate Dommett, Senior Lecturer in the Public Understanding of Politics, The University of Sheffield; Darren Grimes; and Professor Justin Fisher, Director of Public Policy, Brunel University

THIRD AND FOURTH SITTINGS

The following Witnesses gave oral evidence:

Heather Harper MBE, Chairman, Conservatives Abroad; George Cunningham, Chair, Liberal Democrats Overseas; Anne Wafer, Communications and Social Media Officer, Labour International

Maurice Mcleod, Chief Executive, Race on the Agenda

Gavin Millar QC, Matrix Chambers

Fazilet Hadi, Head of Policy, Disability Rights UK

Dr Alan Renwick, Deputy Director, Constitution Unit, University College London

FIFTH AND SIXTH SITTINGS

<p>Cat Smith Gill Furniss Nick Smith Fleur Anderson Kate Hollern</p>	<p>Not selected</p>	<p>23</p>
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Page 1, line 4, leave out Clause 1

Clause agreed to on division.

<p>Cat Smith Gill Furniss Nick Smith Fleur Anderson Kate Hollern</p>	<p>Negated on division</p>	<p>24</p>
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Schedule 1, page 63, line 21, leave out from “the” to end of line 22 and insert “Electoral Commission.”

<p>Cat Smith Gill Furniss Nick Smith Fleur Anderson Kate Hollern</p>	<p>Withdrawn after debate</p>	<p>25</p>
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Schedule 1, page 63, line 22, at end insert—

“(2A) The registration officer must take steps to ensure that a person may apply for an electoral identity document in the following locations in the relevant local area—

- (a) local government office;
- (b) library;
- (c) GP’s surgery;
- (d) Member of Parliament’s constituency office.”

<p>Cat Smith Gill Furniss Nick Smith Fleur Anderson Kate Hollern</p>	<p>Not called</p>	<p>26</p>
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Schedule 1, page 63, line 29, leave out “A registration officer” and insert “The Electoral Commission”

Cat Smith **Not called** 27
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 63, line 30, leave out "registration officer" and insert "Electoral Commission"

Cat Smith **Not called** 28
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 63, line 34, leave out "a registration officer" and insert "the Electoral Commission"

Cat Smith **Not called** 29
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 63, line 35, leave out "officer" and insert "Electoral Commission"

Cat Smith **Not called** 30
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 63, line 37, leave out "officer" and insert "Electoral Commission"

Cat Smith **Not called** 31
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 64, line 3, leave out "a registration officer" and insert "the Electoral Commission"

Cat Smith **Withdrawn after debate** 32
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 64, line 27, at end insert “though that period may not be less than 15 years from the day on which it is issued.”

Cat Smith **Not called** 33
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 65, line 1, leave out from “the” to end of line 3 and insert “Electoral Commission.”

Cat Smith **Not called** 34
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 65, line 3, at end insert—

“(2A) The registration officer must take steps to ensure that a person may apply for an anonymous elector’s document in the following locations in the relevant local area—

- (a) local government office;
- (b) library;
- (c) GP’s surgery;
- (d) Member of Parliament’s constituency office.”

Cat Smith **Not called** 35
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 65, line 10, leave out “A registration officer” and insert “The Electoral Commission”

Cat Smith **Not called** 36
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 65, line 11, leave out "registration officer" and insert "Electoral Commission"

Cat Smith **Not called** 37
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 65, line 15, leave out "a registration officer" and insert "the Electoral Commission"

Cat Smith **Not called** 38
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 65, line 16, leave out "officer" and insert "Electoral Commission"

Cat Smith **Not called** 39
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 65, line 18, leave out "officer" and insert "Electoral Commission"

Cat Smith **Not called** 40
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 65, line 21, leave out "a registration officer" and insert "the Electoral Commission"

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Not called 41

Schedule 1, page 66, line 5, at end insert “though that period may not be less than 15 years from the day on which it is issued.”

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Withdrawn after debate 42

Schedule 1, page 66, line 5, at end insert—

“13BF Application for electoral identity document on Government website: Great Britain

The Secretary of State must ensure that a person eligible for an electoral identity document under section 13BD or an anonymous elector’s document under section 13BE is able to apply for that document on the gov.uk website.”

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Negatived on division 43

Schedule 1, page 66, line 5, at end insert—

“13BF Prohibition of outsourcing of administration and production of electoral identity documents

The administration or production of an electoral identity document under section 13BD or an anonymous elector’s document under section 13BE may not be outsourced to a private company.”

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Negatived on division 44

Schedule 1, page 66, line 5, at end insert—

“13BF Public consultation on regulations under sections 13BD and 13BE

The Secretary of State may not lay before Parliament a draft of a statutory instrument containing regulations under section 13BD or section 13BE unless they have first undertaken public consultation on those regulations for a period no shorter than 28 days.”

Cat Smith **Negatived on division 45**
 Gill Furniss
 Nick Smith
 Fleur Anderson
 Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 73, line 9, at end insert “, or another eligible voter who has produced a specified document to the presiding officer or clerk on that day attests to the identity of the voter.”

Cat Smith **Negatived on division 46**
 Gill Furniss
 Nick Smith
 Fleur Anderson
 Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 73, line 9, at end insert “, or signs an affidavit in a manner and form as may be prescribed by regulations in the presence of the presiding officer or a clerk.”

Cat Smith **Withdrawn after debate 47**
 Gill Furniss
 Nick Smith
 Fleur Anderson
 Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 73, line 9, at end insert—

“(1AA) The presiding officer or clerk must—

- (a) deliver a provisional ballot paper to a voter who is unable to produce a specified document,
- (b) take reasonable steps as may be prescribed by regulations to establish if the voter, had they been able to produce a specified document, would have been entitled to a ballot paper, and
- (c) if the voter would have been so entitled, covert the provisional ballot paper to a ballot paper in a manner as may be prescribed by regulations.”

Cat Smith **Negatived on division 48**
 Gill Furniss
 Nick Smith
 Fleur Anderson
 Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 73, line 14, at end insert—

“(1BA) The presiding officer must ensure that a woman presiding officer or clerk is available to confirm privately the identity of a woman voter if that voter so requests.”

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Negated on division 49

Schedule 1, page 75, line 9, at end insert—
“(o) a student ID card;”

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Negated on division 50

Schedule 1, page 75, line 9, at end insert—
“(o) an 18+ Student Oyster photocard;”

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Negated on division 51

Schedule 1, page 75, line 9, at end insert—
“(o) a National Rail Railcard;”

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Negated on division 52

Schedule 1, page 75, line 9, at end insert—
“(o) a Young Scot National Entitlement Card;”

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Not called 53

Schedule 1, page 75, line 9, at end insert—
“(o) a firearms certificate granted under the Firearms Act 1968;

- (p) a digital ID (such as the NHS app, EU settled status app or Railcard app).”

Adjourned until Tuesday 19 October at 9.25 am

Glossary

Added: New Clause agreed without a vote and added to the Bill.

Agreed to: agreed without a vote.

Agreed to on division: agreed following a vote.

Negated: rejected without a vote.

Negated 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.
