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Committee Stage: Tuesday 19 October 2021

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## 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 Eighth Sitings

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### *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:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Witness</b>
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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Witness</b>
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.

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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..

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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.

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**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

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*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

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*FIFTH AND SIXTH SITTINGS*


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Cat Smith **Not selected** 23  
 Gill Furniss  
 Nick Smith  
 Fleur Anderson  
 Kate Hollern

Page 1, line 4, leave out Clause 1

*Clause agreed to on division.*

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Cat Smith **Negated on division** 24  
 Gill Furniss  
 Nick Smith  
 Fleur Anderson  
 Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 63, line 21, leave out from “the” to end of line 22 and insert “Electoral Commission.”

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Cat Smith **Withdrawn after debate** 25  
 Gill Furniss  
 Nick Smith  
 Fleur Anderson  
 Kate Hollern

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.”

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Cat Smith **Not called** 26  
 Gill Furniss  
 Nick Smith  
 Fleur Anderson  
 Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 63, line 29, leave out “A registration officer” and insert “The Electoral Commission”

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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"

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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"

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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"

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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"

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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"

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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.”

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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.”

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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.”

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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”

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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"

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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"

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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"

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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"

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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"

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Cat Smith Not called 41  
 Gill Furniss  
 Nick Smith  
 Fleur Anderson  
 Kate Hollern

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.”

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Cat Smith Withdrawn after debate 42  
 Gill Furniss  
 Nick Smith  
 Fleur Anderson  
 Kate Hollern

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.”

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Cat Smith Negatived on division 43  
 Gill Furniss  
 Nick Smith  
 Fleur Anderson  
 Kate Hollern

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.”

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Cat Smith Negatived on division 44  
 Gill Furniss  
 Nick Smith  
 Fleur Anderson  
 Kate Hollern

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.”



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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.”

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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.”

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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.”

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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.”

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Cat Smith  
Gill Furniss  
Nick Smith  
Fleur Anderson  
Kate Hollern

**Negatived on division 49**

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

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Cat Smith  
Gill Furniss  
Nick Smith  
Fleur Anderson  
Kate Hollern

**Negatived on division 50**

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

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Cat Smith  
Gill Furniss  
Nick Smith  
Fleur Anderson  
Kate Hollern

**Negatived on division 51**

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

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Cat Smith  
Gill Furniss  
Nick Smith  
Fleur Anderson  
Kate Hollern

**Negatived on division 52**

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

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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).”

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*SEVENTH AND EIGHTH SITTINGS*

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Cat Smith  
Gill Furniss  
Nick Smith  
Fleur Anderson  
Kate Hollern

**Negated on division**     **54**

Schedule 1, page 75, line 9, at end insert—

“(1HA) In this rule a “specified document” also means a poll card.”

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Cat Smith  
Gill Furniss  
Nick Smith  
Fleur Anderson  
Kate Hollern

**Withdrawn after debate**     **55**

Schedule 1, page 75, line 9, at end insert—

“(1HA) In this rule a “specified document” also means a utility bill dated within 3 months of the date of the poll.”

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Cat Smith  
Gill Furniss  
Nick Smith  
Fleur Anderson  
Kate Hollern

**Negated on division**     **56**

Schedule 1, page 75, line 9, at end insert—

“(1HA) In this rule a “specified document” also means a valid bank or building society debit card or credit card.”

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Cat Smith **Not called** 57  
Gill Furniss  
Nick Smith  
Fleur Anderson  
Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 75, line 9, at end insert—

“(1HA) In this rule a “specified document” also means a birth certificate.”

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Cat Smith **Not called** 58  
Gill Furniss  
Nick Smith  
Fleur Anderson  
Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 75, line 9, at end insert—

“(1HA) In this rule a “specified document” also means any of the following documents (in whatever form issued to the holder)—

- (a) a driving licence;
- (b) a birth certificate;
- (c) a marriage or civil partnership certificate;
- (d) an adoption certificate;
- (e) the record of a decision on bail made in respect of the voter in accordance with section 5(1) of the Bail Act 1976;
- (f) a bank or building society cheque book;
- (g) a mortgage statement dated within 3 months of the date of the poll;
- (h) a bank or building society statement dated within 3 months of the date of the poll;
- (i) a credit card statement dated within 3 months of the date of the poll;
- (j) a council tax demand letter or statement dated within 12 months of the date of the poll;
- (k) a P45 or P60 form dated within 12 months of the date of the poll;
- (l) a standard acknowledgement letter (SAL) issued by the Home Office for asylum seekers;
- (m) a trade union membership card;
- (n) a library card;
- (o) a pre-payment meter card;
- (p) a National Insurance card;
- (q) a workplace ID Card.”

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Cat Smith  
Gill Furniss  
Nick Smith  
Fleur Anderson  
Kate Hollern

**Negated on division 62**

Schedule 1, page 82, line 4, at end insert—

*“Reports on voter identification and turnout*

35A The Secretary of State must prepare and publish reports on the effect of the voter identification requirements in this Schedule on turnout—

- (a) across the electorate,
- (b) in minority groups,
- (c) among disabled people,
- (d) among young people.

35B The Secretary of State must publish a report under paragraph (35B)—

- (a) no later than 31 July each year, and
- (b) in the 90 days following a general election.”

*Schedule agreed to.*

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Cat Smith  
Gill Furniss  
Nick Smith  
Fleur Anderson  
Kate Hollern

**Not selected 67**

Page 1, line 8, leave out Clause 2

*Clause agreed to.*

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Cat Smith  
Gill Furniss  
Nick Smith  
Fleur Anderson  
Kate Hollern

**Not selected 68**

Page 82, line 7, leave out Schedule 2

*Schedule agreed to.*

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*Clause 3 agreed to.*

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Cat Smith  
Gill Furniss  
Nick Smith  
Fleur Anderson  
Kate Hollern

**Negatived on division 69**

Clause 4, page 8, line 27, at end insert—

“(6) The Secretary of State may not make any regulations using powers under this section unless they have first undertaken a public consultation on a draft of those regulations for a period of not shorter than 28 days.”

*Clause agreed to.*

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Cat Smith  
Gill Furniss  
Nick Smith  
Fleur Anderson  
Kate Hollern

**Not selected 70**

Page 8, line 28, leave out Clause 5

*Clause agreed to.*

*Schedule 3 agreed to.*

*Clause 6 agreed to.*

*Clause 7 agreed to.*

*Schedule 4 agreed to.*

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Brendan O’Hara  
Patrick Grady

**Negatived on division 60**

Clause 8, page 11, leave out lines 16 to 27 and insert—

“(a) in paragraph (3A)(b), for “a device” substitute “equipment”;

(b) after paragraph (3A)(b) insert—

“(c) such equipment as it is reasonable to provide for the purposes of enabling, or making it easier for, relevant persons to vote in the manner directed by rule 37.”;

(c) after paragraph (3A) insert—

“(3B) In paragraph (3A)(c), “relevant persons” means persons who find it difficult or impossible to vote in the manner directed by rule 37 because of a disability.””

*Clause agreed to.*

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**Adjourned until Thursday at 11.30 am**

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## 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.

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