
Committee Stage: Thursday 21 October 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 Tenth Sittings

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 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.”

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.”

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.”

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.”

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 **Negatived on division** 49
 Gill Furniss
 Nick Smith
 Fleur Anderson
 Kate Hollern

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

Cat Smith **Negatived on division** 50
 Gill Furniss
 Nick Smith
 Fleur Anderson
 Kate Hollern

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

Cat Smith **Negatived on division** 51
 Gill Furniss
 Nick Smith
 Fleur Anderson
 Kate Hollern

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

Cat Smith **Negatived on division** 52
 Gill Furniss
 Nick Smith
 Fleur Anderson
 Kate Hollern

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

Cat Smith **Not called** 53
 Gill Furniss
 Nick Smith
 Fleur Anderson
 Kate Hollern

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)."

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH SITTINGS

Cat Smith **Negated on division** 54
 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 poll card."

Cat Smith **Withdrawn after debate** 55
 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 utility bill dated within 3 months of the date of the poll."

Cat Smith **Negated on division** 56
 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 valid bank or building society debit card or credit card."

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."

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Not called 58

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.”

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.

Cat Smith	Not selected	67
Gill Furniss		
Nick Smith		
Fleur Anderson		
Kate Hollern		

Page 1, line 8, leave out Clause 2

Clause agreed to.

Cat Smith	Not selected	68
Gill Furniss		
Nick Smith		
Fleur Anderson		
Kate Hollern		

Page 82, line 7, leave out Schedule 2

Schedule agreed to.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Cat Smith	Negatived on division	69
Gill Furniss		
Nick Smith		
Fleur Anderson		
Kate Hollern		

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.

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.

Brendan O'Hara
Patrick Grady

Negated 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.

NINTH AND TENTH SITTINGS

Clause 9 agreed to.

Schedule 5 agreed to.

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Withdrawn after debate 79

Clause 10, page 13, line 4, 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; or
 - (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.”

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Withdrawn after debate 80

Clause 10, page 13, line 36, at end insert—

““resident” must be defined in regulations made by the Minister for the Cabinet Office or the Secretary of State”

Cat Smith
 Gill Furniss
 Nick Smith
 Fleur Anderson
 Kate Hollern

Not called 81

Clause 10, page 14, leave out lines 8 to 11 and 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."

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Withdrawn after debate 82

Clause 10, page 15, line 5, leave out from first "requirements" to end of line 6 and insert—

"(fa) contain a valid attestation of identity under section [Attestation of identity],"

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Not called 83

Clause 10, page 16, line 15, 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
 - 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)

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.”

Cat Smith
 Gill Furniss
 Nick Smith
 Fleur Anderson
 Kate Hollern

Negatied on division 84

Clause 10, page 16, line 15, at end insert—

“1CA Closing date for electoral registration applications by overseas electors

- (1) The Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001 are amended in accordance with subsections (2) and (3).
- (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
 - (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 Secretary of State must, by regulations, amend—
- (a) the Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001, and
 - (b) the Representation of the People (Northern Ireland) Regulations
- so that each closing date in Scotland and Northern Ireland for electoral registration applications by overseas electors moves back by seven days in keeping with the amendments made for England under subsections (2) and (3)."

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Withdrawn after debate 85

Clause 10, page 18, line 31, at end insert—

"1F Report on awareness of how to participate in elections as an overseas elector

- (1) 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 Secretary of State sees fit.
- (3) The report shall set out any steps 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 sections 1 to 1E of this Act.
- (4) The Minister may not make regulations to bring section 10 of the Elections Act 2021 into force until the report under this section has been laid before Parliament.”

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Not called 86

Clause 10, page 18, line 31, at end insert—

“1F 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 sections 1 to 1E 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 constituencies with electorates comprised of overseas electors.
- (3) The report must be laid before Parliament no later than three years after the day on which the Elections Act 2021 is passed.”

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Not selected 78

Page 12, line 10, leave out Clause 10

Clause agreed to.

Schedule 6 agreed to.

Clause 11 agreed to.

Kemi Badenoch

Agreed to 8

Schedule 7, page 122, line 8, leave out sub-paragraphs (1) to (7) and insert—

“(1) In section 2 of RPA 1983 (local government electors), in subsection (1)(c), for the words from “Ireland” to the end substitute “Ireland or—

- (i) in relation to a local government election in England, a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights, or
- (ii) in relation to a local government election in Wales, a relevant citizen of the Union or a qualifying foreign citizen; and”.

(2) In section 4 of that Act (entitlement to be registered as local government elector), in subsection (3)(c), for the words from “Ireland” to the end substitute “Ireland or—

- (i) in relation to a local government election in England, a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights, or
- (ii) in relation to a local government election in Wales, a relevant citizen of the Union or a qualifying foreign citizen; and”.

(3) In section 7B of that Act (notional residence: declarations of local connection)—

(a) in subsection (3)(e), for the words from “Ireland” to the end substitute “Ireland or—

- (i) if the declaration is made for the purposes only of the registration of local government electors in England, a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights, or
- (ii) if the declaration is made for the purposes only of the registration of local government electors in Wales, a relevant citizen of the Union or a qualifying foreign citizen;”;

- (b) in subsection (7)(a), for “by a relevant citizen of the Union; and” substitute “—
- (i) in relation to local government elections in England, by a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights, or
 - (ii) in relation to local government elections in Wales, by a relevant citizen of the Union; and”.
- (4) In section 15 of that Act (service declaration), in subsection (5)(a), for “, or by a relevant citizen of the Union; and” substitute “or—
- (i) in relation to local government elections in England, by a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights, or
 - (ii) in relation to local government elections in Wales, by a relevant citizen of the Union; and”.
- (5) In section 16 of that Act (contents of service declaration), as it extends to England and Wales, in subsection (1)(e) for the words from “a relevant” to the end substitute “—
- (i) if the declaration is made for the purposes only of the registration of local government electors in England, a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights, or
 - (ii) if the declaration is made for the purposes only of the registration of local government electors in Wales, a relevant citizen of the Union or a qualifying foreign citizen,”.
- (6) In section 16 of that Act (contents of service declaration), as it extends to Northern Ireland, in paragraph (e) for “or a relevant citizen of the Union” substitute “or a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights”.
- (7) In section 17 of that Act (effect of service declaration), in subsection (1)(c), for the words from “a relevant” to the end substitute “—
- (i) if the declaration is made for the purposes only of the registration of local government electors in England, a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights, or
 - (ii) if the declaration is made for the purposes only of the registration of local government electors in Wales, a relevant citizen of the Union or a qualifying foreign citizen,
- of the age appearing from the declaration and as not being subject to any legal incapacity except as so appearing.””

Kemi Badenoch

Agreed to 9

Schedule 7, page 123, line 6, after “elector” insert “in England”

Kemi Badenoch **Agreed to** 10
 Schedule 7, page 123, line 11, leave out paragraph (b) and insert—
 “(b) in sub-paragraph (iv), after “elector” insert “in Wales”.”

Kemi Badenoch **Agreed to** 11
 Schedule 7, page 124, line 38, leave out “(5)” and insert “(4)”

Kemi Badenoch **Agreed to** 12
 Schedule 7, page 125, line 1, leave out from “has” to “granted” in line 2 and insert “UK or Islands leave”

Kemi Badenoch **Agreed to** 13
 Schedule 7, page 125, line 4, leave out from “with” to end of line 7 and insert
 “provision in residence scheme immigration rules for joining family members”

Kemi Badenoch **Agreed to** 14
 Schedule 7, page 125, line 8, leave out from beginning to end of line 2 on page 126 and insert—

“(3) A person falls within this subsection if—

- (a) the person has UK or Islands leave but does not fall within subsection (2), and
- (b) the requirements of subsection (5) are met in relation to the person.

(4) A person falls within this subsection if—

- (a) the person does not require UK or Islands leave,
- (b) the person is resident in the United Kingdom or any of the Islands, and
- (c) the requirements of subsection (5) are met in relation to the person.

(5) The requirements referred to in subsections (3)(b) and (4)(c) are that—

- (a) at all times since the relevant date, the person has either had UK or Islands leave or not required UK or Islands leave, and
- (b) the person was resident in the United Kingdom or any of the Islands at all times after the relevant date when the person did not require UK or Islands leave.

(6) In determining whether the requirement in subsection (5)(a) is met in relation to a person, any period to which subsection (6A) applies is to be disregarded if the person was resident in the United Kingdom or any of the Islands during the period.

(6A) This subsection applies to any period after the relevant date during which the person required UK or Islands leave but did not have it, if at the end of the period the person was granted UK or Islands leave—

- (a) in pursuance of an application made before the end of the relevant date, or
- (b) in pursuance of an application made after the relevant date, where the leave was granted—
 - (i) by virtue of residence scheme immigration rules, and
 - (ii) otherwise than in accordance with provision in such rules for joining family members.”

Kemi Badenoch

Agreed to 15

Schedule 7, page 126, line 11, leave out from “having” to “includes” in line 13 and insert “UK or Islands leave”

Kemi Badenoch

Agreed to 16

Schedule 7, page 126, line 28, at end insert—

““UK or Islands leave” means leave under the 1971 Act to enter or remain in the United Kingdom or any of the Islands.”

Kemi Badenoch

Agreed to 17

Schedule 7, page 126, leave out lines 29 and 30 and insert “In this section—”

Kemi Badenoch

Agreed to 18

Schedule 7, page 126, line 40, at end insert—

“(11)References in this section to provision in residence scheme immigration rules for joining family members are references to—

- (a) paragraph EU11A or EU14A of Appendix EU to the immigration rules or provision replacing either of those paragraphs, or
- (b) provision corresponding to provision within paragraph (a) in the Guernsey immigration rules, the Isle of Man immigration rules or the Jersey immigration rules.”

Cat Smith	Not selected	91
Gill Furniss		
Nick Smith		
Fleur Anderson		
Kate Hollern		

★ Schedule 7, page 127, line 7, at end insert—

“5 Any other country which unilaterally grants local electoral rights to British citizens resident in that country.”

Kemi Badenoch	Agreed to	19
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Schedule 7, page 130, line 1, leave out sub-paragraph (5) and insert—

“(5) In Part 2 of Schedule 1 (modifications of provisions of RPA 1983 applied to local elections)—

(a) in paragraph 7, before sub-paragraph (2) insert—

“(1A) In section 4(3)(c)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (i), omit “in relation to a local government election in England,”, and

(b) omit sub-paragraph (ii) (and the “or” preceding it).”;

(b) for paragraph 7A substitute—

“7A In section 7B—

(a) references to the United Kingdom are to be read as references to Northern Ireland;

(b) in subsection (3)(e)—

(i) in sub-paragraph (i), omit “in England,”, and

(ii) omit sub-paragraph (ii) (and the “or” preceding it);

(c) in subsection (7)(a)—

(i) in sub-paragraph (i), omit “in England,”, and

(ii) omit sub-paragraph (ii) (and the “or” preceding it).”;

(c) before paragraph 12 insert—

“11A In section 15(5)(a)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (i), omit “in England,”, and

(b) omit sub-paragraph (ii) (and the “or” preceding it).

11B In section 17(1)(c)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (i), omit “in England,”, and

(b) omit sub-paragraph (ii) (and the “or” preceding it).”;

(d) in paragraph 12, for paragraph (b) substitute—

“(b) in subsection (5)—

(i) in the first sentence, omit “, or entered in the list of proxies,”,

(ii) in paragraph (b)(iiia), omit “in England or entered in the list of proxies”, and

(iii) omit paragraph (b)(iv).””

Kemi Badenoch **Agreed to** 20

Schedule 7, page 130, line 22, at end insert—

“Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001

9A (1) In Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001 (S.I. 2001/2599) (application with modifications of RPA 1983 etc), the table is amended as follows.

(2) In the right-hand column of the entry for section 49 of RPA 1983 (effect of registers), for the existing text substitute “In subsection (5)(b)(iiia), for “a local government elector in England” substitute “an elector””.

(3) After the entry for section 202 of RPA 1983 insert—

“Section 203A (meaning of “qualifying EU citizen”)
--

Section 203B (meaning of “EU citizen with retained rights”).
--

(4) After the entry for Schedule 4A to RPA 1983 insert—

“Schedule 6A (list of countries for purposes of section 203A).”

Schedule agreed to.

Brendan O’Hara **Withdrawn after debate** 61
Patrick Grady

Clause 12, page 20, line 42, at end insert—

“(4A)The Secretary of State may not designate the statement under section 4A unless the Scottish Parliament has, before the end of the 40-day period, passed a motion of the form “That the Parliament approves the draft Electoral Commission strategy and policy statement so far as it relates to the Commission’s devolved Scottish functions”.”

Cat Smith **Negatied on division** 75
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Clause 12, page 20, line 42, at end insert—

“(4A)The Secretary of State may not designate the statement under section 4A unless the Scottish Parliament and Senedd Cymru have each, before

the end of the 40-day period, passed a motion in the form “That this Parliament approves the draft Electoral Commission strategy and policy statement so far as it relates to the Commission’s devolved functions.””

Kemi Badenoch **Agreed to** 1

Clause 12, page 23, line 13, leave out “and (3) (consultation requirements) do” and insert “(consultation requirements) does”

Cat Smith **Not selected** 63
 Gill Furniss
 Nick Smith
 Fleur Anderson
 Kate Hollern

Page 19, line 4, leave out Clause 12

Clause agreed to on division.

Cat Smith **Not selected** 64
 Gill Furniss
 Nick Smith
 Fleur Anderson
 Kate Hollern

Page 24, line 3, leave out Clause 13

Clause agreed to.

Cat Smith **Negatied on division** 66
 Gill Furniss
 Nick Smith
 Fleur Anderson
 Kate Hollern

Clause 14, page 25, line 12, at the beginning insert—

“(A1) In section 2 of PPERA (Speaker’s Committee), after subsection (2)(d) insert—

“(e) two lay members appointed to membership of the Committee by the Speaker of the House of Commons.””

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Not called 65

Clause 14, page 25, line 20, at end insert—

“(1A) In section 2 of PPERA (Speaker’s Committee), at the end of subsection (4) insert—

“and the Speaker shall ensure that the governing party does not have a majority on the Committee.””

Clause agreed to.

Brendan O’Hara
Patrick Grady

Not selected 89

Page 25, line 29, leave out Clause 15

Clause 15 agreed to.

Adjourned until Tuesday 26 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.
