

NOTES TO ACCOMPANY FORM RPF 37



Application to be registered as an Overseas Elector
in the Northern Ireland Register of Electors

If you are a British citizen living outside the United Kingdom and you satisfy the conditions set out below, you are eligible to register as an Overseas Elector. This will enable you to vote at Parliamentary and European Parliamentary elections in the United Kingdom (if you are a Peer you will be able to vote only at European Parliamentary elections). Do not use this form if you are a Crown Servant or British Council employee or the spouse of such a person. Use form E79 or E80. Members of the Armed Forces serving abroad, and their spouses, should use Forms RPF32/33.

You must be a BRITISH CITIZEN. You must also satisfy one of the following two sets of conditions:

Set 1:

- (a) Your name was previously on the electoral register for an address in the United Kingdom
and
- (b) you were living in the UK at the time your name was on that register
and
- (c) there are no more than 15 years between the time your name appeared on that register and the date of this application.

Set 2:

- (a) You last lived in the United Kingdom less than 15 years before the date of this application
and
- (b) at the time you left the United Kingdom you were too young to have your name included on the electoral register
and
- (c) a parent or guardian was included on that electoral register for the address at which you were living prior to leaving the United Kingdom
and
- (d) you are at least 18 years old or will become 18 within 12 months from the date of this application.

EDITED REGISTER – Section 6

The Electoral Registration officer makes and keeps two versions of the electoral register – the full register and the edited register.

The full register

The full register lists everyone who is entitled to vote and includes their address. Only certain people and organisations can have copies of the full register, and they can only use it for specified purposes. Details of others who can have copies of the full register and what they can use it for are given in the Representation of the People(Northern Ireland) (Amendment) Regulations 2002(SI 2002 No.1873). These regulations are available on the internet at www.legislation.hms0.gov.uk/stat.htm or you can buy a copy from The Stationery Office Ltd. It is a criminal offence not to comply with the regulations.

The edited register

The edited register leaves out the names and addresses of people who have asked for them to be excluded from that version of the register. The edited register can be bought by anyone who asks for a copy and they may use it for any purpose

APPOINTING A PROXY- Section 10

In order to vote you must appoint someone in the United Kingdom to vote on your behalf (unless you are able to return on polling day to the area in the United Kingdom where you are registered). This is called a proxy. YOU CANNOT VOTE BY POST. Your vote will be cast by your proxy in the constituency which includes the address where you last registered as an elector in the United Kingdom (or where a parent or guardian was registered).

If you are currently registered as an overseas elector and have not cancelled your proxy appointment, you need not complete Part 10 of the form, as your proxy can continue to vote for you.

If you are registering as a new overseas elector, you need to consider the appointment of a proxy and, if appropriate, complete Part 10 of the form.

HOW TO RETURN THIS FORM

You should send the completed form (together with a photocopy of your birth certificate, if required) to the electoral registration officer for the area in which you were last registered as an elector (or in which a parent or guardian was registered) ie. for the address you have filled in as “UK” registration address in Part 1.

If you (or your parent or guardian) were previously registered in Northern Ireland please send your application to:

Area Electoral Officer

You are advised to send applications by airmail if you live outside Europe.