

SOLACE Elections and Democracy Network Board response

Representation of the People (England & Wales) (Amendment No 3) Regulations 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the draft Statutory Instrument, the *Representation of the People (England and Wales) (Amendment no.3) Regulations 2015*.

The SOLACE Elections and Democracy Network have been consulted on the proposals and as a group we generally have no difficulty with the proposed changes. We do have some minor, specific, points which we would wish you to consider.

i) Jury summons and the electoral register

The draft instrument notes that 'The upper age limit to serve as a juror will change from 70 to 75 in early 2016.' The Network has drawn attention to that fact that the electoral register will be next published on 1st December this year and will show over 70s. It won't be until after we have done a full canvass in 2016 that we will have information about over 75s.

Secondly, as a point of clarification to the language used in Regulation 2(a): regulation 26(1)(e) of the 2001 Regulations should be amended to read "76 years old or over".

ii) Marriage, birth and death records and EROs

The draft instrument notes that 'Regulation 2(c) will give authorisation for EROs in England and Wales to inspect the records of any superintendent registrar, registrar of births and deaths or registrar of marriages.'

We also think that access to DVLA and HM Passport Office records (as listed in the Automatic Electoral Registration Bill) would be a huge benefit too.

Regards

Dave Smith
Chair, SOLACE Elections and Democracy Network Board