

Electoral Policy Division

11 September 2006

NEWSFLASH

Electoral Administration Act 2006 Commencement Key Provisions 11 September

The following key provisions in the Electoral Administration Act 2006 will come into force today, 11 September 2006:

- New rules for transparency and permissibility of loans,
- New duty on Electoral Registration Officers and new registration offence to apply to the 2006 annual canvass process,
- A package of offences in relation to postal voting applications and conduct of elections,
- Provisions in relation to the regulation of political parties; and
- The power for the Electoral Commission to set performance standards.

A table setting out the relevant sections in the Act that come into force on 11 September is attached to this newsflash. A copy of the commencement order (No 1972) can also be found from The Office of Public Sector Information website at <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si200619.htm>.

All other provisions in the Act have not yet come into force. Different sections of the Act will be brought into force and become law on different dates. This is because an Act doesn't automatically become law when it gets Royal Assent and requires sections to be commenced by a "commencement order" which states the exact date that relevant sections will come into force and become law.

We aim for the remaining provisions in the Act to come into force from early January 2007 and not apply to by-elections in between then and the May 2007 elections. This date is indicative at the moment, as many of these provisions will require secondary legislation to be made before they can come into force.

We aim to make a further commencement order when Parliament returns in October to commence the remaining provisions in the Act once the relevant secondary legislation has been made. We will keep you updated on the commencement of the remaining provisions in the Electoral Administration Act through these newsflashes. You can also find further information on commencement of the Act on our web page at <http://www.dca.gov.uk/legist/electadmin.htm>.

Contact

If you have any queries about any of the above then please feel free to contact us:

Queries on the Act;

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