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NORTHERN IRELAND Information Service

16 March 1989

LOCAL ELECTIONS (VARIATION OF LIMITS OF CANDIDATES' ELECTION EXPENSES) (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1989

The Local Elections (Variation of Limits of Candidates' Election Expenses)
(Northern Ireland) Order 1989 comes into force today, Thursday 16 March 1989.

The effect of the Order is to increase the limit on the expenses of a candidate at a local election in Northern Ireland from £135 plus 2.8 pence per elector, to £162 plus 3.2 pence per elector. This is in line with the limits proposed for candidates at local elections in Great Britain in a draft Order laid before Parliament by the Home Secretary on 16 February 1989.

Notes for Editors

The Local Elections (Variation of Limits of Candidates' Election Expenses) Order 1989 is an Order in Council made under Section 38(1)(a) of the Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973 and amends Section 42(1) of the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962.

The Order is available, price 45p, from HMSO. The ISBN is 0 11 098524 9.



NORTHERN IRELAND Information Service

16 March 1989

ROYAL ASSENT GIVEN TO ELECTED AUTHORITIES (NORTHERN IRELAND) BILL

The Elected Authorities (Northern Ireland) Bill received Royal Assent yesterday - 15 March 1989.

Its provisions include:-

- a change in the district council franchise, so as to bring it broadly into line with that for Parliamentary elections;
- a new requirement on candidates for district council (and Assembly) elections to declare that, if elected, they will not express support for, or approval of, proscribed organisations or acts of terrorism; and
- a strengthening of the rules on disqualification for council office.

The bulk of the Bill comes into force immediately; those provisions dealing with Assembly elections will be brought into force at a later date.

Notes for Editors

1. Having passed all its parliamentary stages, the Elected Authorities Bill will be in effect for the district council elections on 17 May.
2. The Bill:
 - (1) brings the Northern Ireland district council franchise broadly into line with that for Parliament, thus abolishing

Stormont Castle, Belfast BT4 3ST. Telephone (0237) 63011. Telex 74163/74280/74272.
Whitehall, London SW1A 2AZ. Telephone 01-219-4611/2/3. Telex 918889

the so-called "I voter" category. This category at present comprises about 11,000 people who are entitled to vote in Parliamentary, but not district council, elections. All will be able to vote on 17 May as a result of the Bill's becoming law;

- (ii) requires candidates at district council elections (or those wishing to be co-opted to councils) to declare that, if elected, they will not express support for, or approval of, proscribed organisations or acts of terrorism; and provides for such declarations to be enforced by means of a civil action brought in the High Court by the district council, ^(c) councillor(s) or elector(s) of the district council area concerned. (Broadly similar provisions are made in respect of Assembly elections and Assembly members.);
- (iii) reforms the law on disqualification for council office following a criminal conviction. At present, persons convicted and sentenced to a period of imprisonment of 3 months or more are disqualified for being elected as, or for being, councillors for 5 years from the date of conviction. Under the new Act, such persons will, as from 15 March, be disqualified whilst imprisoned and for 5 years after any release from prison on or after that date.