

## Schedule of election and referendum-related crimes and penalties

### Representation of the People Act (RPA) 1983

Each election and referendum will have its own legislation but offences typically mirror those in the RPA 1983.

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
13D(1)	<b>False registration information</b> Providing, for any purpose connected with the registration of electors, false information to a registration officer A person does not commit an offence under section 13D(1) if they did not know, and had no reason to suspect, that the information was false	Any person		Up to six months' imprisonment and/or an unlimited fine  Note: when section 281(5) Criminal Justice Act 2003 comes into force the maximum period of imprisonment will be 51 weeks
13D(1A)	<b>False information in relation to postal/proxy voting</b> Providing false information in connection with an application to which any of the following apply: a. Where a person applies to the registration officer to vote by post at parliamentary elections, at local government elections or at both (whether for an indefinite period or for a particular period specified in their application), or Where a person applies to the registration officer to <b>vote by proxy</b> at parliamentary	Any person		Up to six months' imprisonment and/or an unlimited fine  Note: when section 281(5) Criminal Justice Act 2003 comes into force the maximum period of imprisonment will be 51 weeks

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
	<p>elections, at local government elections or at both (whether for an indefinite period or for a particular period specified in their application), paragraph 3(1) or (2), Schedule 4, RPA 2000</p> <p>b. Where a person applies to the registration officer to <b>vote by post</b> at a particular parliamentary or local government election or Where a person applies to the registration officer to <b>vote by proxy</b> at a particular parliamentary or local government election, paragraph 4(1) or (2), Schedule 4, RPA 2000</p> <p>c. Where a person applies to the registration officer to vote by post:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. as proxy at parliamentary elections, at local government elections or at both (whether for an indefinite period or for a particular period specified in their application), or</li> <li>ii. as proxy at a particular parliamentary or local government election, paragraph 7(4), Schedule 4 to the RPA 2000</li> </ul> <p>A person does not commit an offence under section 13D(1A) if they did not know, and had no reason to suspect, that the information was false</p>			

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
60	<b>Personation</b> Votes at a parliamentary or local government election in person or by post as some other person, or votes in person or by post as proxy for a person they know/have reasonable grounds to assume is dead/fictitious or their proxy is no longer in force	Any person (who commits, aids, abets, counsels or procures the commission of the offence of personation)	Corrupt practice	On summary conviction: an unlimited fine and/or up to six months' imprisonment. On indictment: fine and/or up to two years' imprisonment
61(1)	<b>Voting whilst under a legal incapacity</b> a. Voting in person or by post, whether as an elector or as proxy, or applying to vote by proxy or by post as an elector, knowing that they are subject to a legal incapacity b. Applying to appoint a proxy knowing that either the elector or proxy is subject to a legal incapacity c. Voting in person or by post as a proxy for a person they know is subject to a legal incapacity	Any person	Illegal practice	An unlimited fine
61(2)(a)	<b>Multiple voting</b> Voting as elector other than by proxy either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. more than once in the same constituency at any parliamentary election, or more than once in the same electoral area at any local government election, or</li> <li>ii. in more than one constituency at a parliamentary general election, or in more than one electoral area at an ordinary election of councillors for a</li> </ul>	Any person	Illegal practice	An unlimited fine

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
	<p>local government area which is not a single electoral area, or</p> <p>iii. in any constituency/electoral area (which is not a single electoral area) when there is in force an appointment of a person to vote as their proxy at the election in some other constituency/electoral area</p> <p>This does not apply at London Mayoral and London Assembly elections</p>			
61(2)(b)	<p><b>Multiple voting</b></p> <p>Voting as an elector in person at a parliamentary or local government election at which you are entitled to vote by post</p>	Any person	Illegal practice	An unlimited fine
61(2)(c)	<p><b>Multiple voting</b></p> <p>Voting as an elector in person at a parliamentary or local government election, knowing that a person appointed to vote as your proxy at the election either has already voted in person or is entitled to vote by post</p>	Any person	Illegal practice	An unlimited fine
61(2)(d)	<p><b>Multiple voting</b></p> <p>Applying for a person to be appointed as a proxy to vote for you at parliamentary elections without applying for the cancellation of a previous appointment of a third person then in force or without withdrawing a pending application for such an appointment</p>	Any person	Illegal practice	An unlimited fine
61(2A)	<p><b>Multiple voting</b></p>	Any person	Illegal practice	An unlimited fine

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
	<p>At London Mayoral and London Assembly elections, voting as an elector otherwise than by proxy more than once:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. at the same election of the Mayor of London</li> <li>b. at the same election of London members of the London Assembly</li> <li>c. at the same election of a constituency member of the London Assembly (in the same constituency)</li> <li>d. in more than one Assembly constituency or in any Assembly constituency at an ordinary election, or election of the Mayor of London voting as an elector otherwise than by proxy when there is in force an appointment of a person to vote as their proxy at the election in some other Assembly constituency</li> </ul>			
61(3)	<p><b>Multiple voting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Voting as a proxy for the same elector either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. more than once in the same constituency at any parliamentary election, or more than once in the same electoral area at any local government election, or</li> <li>ii. in more than one constituency at a general election, or in more than one electoral area at an ordinary election of councillors for a local government area which is not a single electoral area, or</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Voting in person as a proxy for an elector at a parliamentary or local government</li> </ul>	Any person	Illegal practice	An unlimited fine

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
	<p>election at which they are entitled to vote as a proxy by post, or</p> <p>c. ... (repealed)</p> <p>d. Voting in person as a proxy for an elector at a parliamentary or local government election knowing that the elector has already voted in person at the election</p>			
61(3A)	<p><b>Multiple voting – Assembly elections</b></p> <p>A person shall be guilty of an offence if he votes as a proxy for the same elector:</p> <p>a. more than once at the same election of the Mayor of London</p> <p>b. more than once at the same election of the London members of the London Assembly at an ordinary election</p> <p>c. more than once in the same Assembly constituency at the same election of a constituency member of the London Assembly, or</p> <p>d. in more than one Assembly constituency at the same ordinary election.</p>	Any person	Illegal practice	An unlimited fine
61(4)	<p><b>Multiple voting</b></p> <p>Voting at a parliamentary election in any constituency (or local government election in any electoral area) as proxy for more than two persons of whom they are not the spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild</p>	Any person	Illegal practice	An unlimited fine

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
61(5)	<b>Multiple voting</b> Knowingly inducing or procuring some other person to do an act which is, or but for that other person's want of knowledge would be, an offence by that person under the relevant subsection of section 61	Any person	Illegal practice	An unlimited fine
62(1)	<b>Offences as to declarations</b> Making a declaration of local connection or a service declaration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. when a person is not authorised to do so by section 7B(1) or section 15(1)</li> <li>ii. except as permitted by this Act, when they know that they are subject to legal incapacity to vote, or</li> <li>iii. when they know that it contains a statement which is false, or</li> </ul> Attesting a service declaration when a person knows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. that they are not authorised to do so, or</li> <li>ii. that it contains a false statement as to any particulars required by regulations under section 16</li> </ul>	Any person		An unlimited fine
62A	<b>Offences relating to applications for postal and proxy votes</b> Engaging in one of the following acts with the intention, by doing so, to deprive another of an opportunity to vote or to make for themselves or another a gain of a vote, to which they or the other are not otherwise entitled, or a gain of money or property:	Any person (who commits, aids, abets, counsels or procures the commission of the offence)	Corrupt practice	On summary conviction: an unlimited fine and/or up to six months' imprisonment

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. applying for a postal or proxy vote as some other person (whether that other person is living or dead or is a fictitious person)</li> <li>b. otherwise making a false statement in, or in connection with, an application for a postal or proxy vote</li> <li>c. inducing the registration officer or returning officer to send a postal ballot paper or any communication relating to a postal or proxy vote to an address which has not been agreed to by the person entitled to the vote</li> <li>d. causing a communication relating to a postal or proxy vote or containing a postal ballot paper not to be delivered to the intended recipient</li> </ul>			On indictment: fine and/or up to two years' imprisonment
63(1)	<p><b>Breach of official duty</b></p> <p>Any person to whom this section applies, acting without reasonable cause, will be in breach of his official duty by any act or omission</p>	<p>This section applies to:</p> <p>Clerk of the Crown or their deputy, registration officer, returning officer or presiding officer, any person whose duty it is to be responsible after a parliamentary or local government election for used ballot papers and other documents</p>		An unlimited fine



RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
		(including return and declarations as to expenses), any official designated by the universal postal service provider or their deputy		
65(1)	<p><b>Tampering with nomination papers, ballot papers etc.</b></p> <p>At a parliamentary or local government election:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fraudulently defacing or fraudulently destroying any nomination papers, or</li> <li>fraudulently defacing or fraudulently destroying any ballot paper, or the official mark on any ballot paper, or any postal voting statement, or declaration of identity or official envelope used in connection with voting by post, or</li> <li>without due authority supplying any ballot paper to any person, or</li> <li>fraudulently putting any paper into any ballot box, other than the ballot paper authorised by law to be put in, or</li> <li>fraudulently taking out of the polling station any ballot paper, or</li> <li>without due authority destroying, taking, opening, or otherwise interfering with the ballot box or packet of ballot papers then in use for the purpose of the election, or</li> </ol>	<p>Any person</p> <p>Returning officer, presiding officer or a clerk appointed to assist in taking the poll</p>	Offence	<p>On summary conviction: an unlimited fine and/or up to six months' imprisonment</p> <p>On indictment: a fine and/or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years</p> <p>On summary conviction: an unlimited fine and/or up to six months' imprisonment</p>

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
	<p>g. fraudulently or without due authority attempting to do any of the previously mentioned acts</p> <p>Note: a declaration of identity does not apply in England and Wales where it has been replaced with the postal voting statement. A declaration of identity only applies to offences in Northern Ireland.</p>			
65A(1)	<p><b>False statements in nomination papers etc.</b></p> <p>At a parliamentary election, or any local government election in England or Wales, a person causing or permitting to be included in a document delivered or otherwise furnished to the returning officer for use in connection with the election:</p> <p>a. a statement of the name or home address of a candidate at the election which they know to be false in any particular, or</p> <p>aa. (where the election is a parliamentary election) a statement under rule 6(5)(b) of Schedule 1 to this Act which he knows to be false in any particular, or</p> <p>b. anything which purports to be the signature of an elector who proposes, seconds or assents to the nomination of such a candidate which they know:</p> <p>i. was not written by the elector</p> <p>ii. if written by the elector, was not written by them for the purpose of signifying that</p>	Any person	Corrupt practice	<p>On summary conviction: an unlimited fine and/or up to six months' imprisonment</p> <p>On indictment: a fine and/or up to one year's imprisonment</p>

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
	<p>they were proposing, seconding or assenting to the nomination; or</p> <p>c. a certificate authorising for the purposes of rule 6A of the parliamentary elections rules the use by a candidate of a description if they know the candidate is standing at an election in another constituency in which the poll is to be held on the same day as the poll at the election to which the certificate relates</p>			
65A(1A)	<p><b>False statements by candidates on nomination papers</b></p> <p>In any parliamentary election, or any local government election in England or Wales, a candidate makes a false statement in any document in which their consent is given for nomination, regarding:</p> <p>a. their date of birth</p> <p>b. their qualification (that they are or will be qualified for being elected, and to the best of their knowledge or belief, they are not disqualified from being elected), or</p> <p>c. that they are not a candidate at an election for any other constituency where the poll is to be held on the same day as the poll at the election to which the consent relates</p>	Any candidate	Corrupt practice	<p>On summary conviction: an unlimited fine and/or up to six months' imprisonment</p> <p>On indictment: a fine and/or up to one year's imprisonment</p>
66(1)	<p><b>Requirement of secrecy</b></p> <p>Every returning officer and presiding officer or clerk and every candidate, election agent or polling agent attending a polling station shall</p>	Returning officers, presiding officers, every candidate and election agent and		An unlimited fine, or a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
	<p>maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of voting and unless authorised by law shall not communicate to any person before the poll is closed information as to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the name of any elector or proxy who has or has not applied for a ballot paper or voted at the polling station</li> <li>ii. the number on the register of electors of any electors who or whose proxy has or has not applied for a ballot paper or voted at the polling station, or</li> <li>iii. the official mark</li> </ul>	every person attending by virtue of section 6A to 6D of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000		
66(2)	<p><b>Requirement of secrecy</b> Every person attending a polling station at the counting of the votes shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of voting and shall not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. ascertain or attempt to ascertain at the counting of the votes the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of any ballot paper</li> <li>b. communicate any information obtained at the counting of the votes as to the candidate for whom any vote is given on a particular ballot paper</li> </ul>	Any person		An unlimited fine, or a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months
66(3)	<p><b>Requirement of secrecy</b> No person shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. interfere with or attempt to interfere with a voter when recording their vote</li> <li>b. otherwise obtain or attempt to obtain in a polling station information as to the</li> </ul>	Any person		An unlimited fine, or a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
	<p>candidate for whom a voter in that station is about to vote or has voted</p> <p>c. communicate at any time to any person any information obtained in a polling station as to the candidate for whom the voter is about to vote or has voted, or as to the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of the ballot paper given to that voter at that station</p> <p>d. directly or indirectly induce a voter to display their ballot paper after they have marked it so as to make known to any person the name of the candidate for whom they have or have not voted</p>			
66(4)	<p><b>Requirement of secrecy</b></p> <p>Every person attending the proceedings in connection with the issue or the receipt of ballot papers for persons voting by post shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting and shall not:</p> <p>a. unless authorised by law, communicate, before the poll is closed, to any person any information obtained at those proceedings as to the official mark, or</p> <p>b. unless authorised by law, communicate to any person at any time any information obtained at those proceedings as to the number or other unique identifying mark on</p>	Any person		An unlimited fine, or a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
	<p>the back of the ballot paper sent to any person</p> <p>c. unless authorised by law, attempt to ascertain at the proceedings in connection with the receipt of ballot papers the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of any ballot paper, or</p> <p>d. attempt to ascertain at the proceedings in connection with the receipt of ballot papers the candidate for whom any vote is given in any particular ballot paper or communicate any information with respect thereto obtained at those proceedings</p>			
66(5)	<p><b>Requirement of secrecy</b></p> <p>No person having undertaken to assist a blind voter to vote shall communicate at any time to any person any information as to the candidate for whom that voter intends to vote or has voted, or as to the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of the ballot paper</p>	Any person		An unlimited fine, or a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months
66A(1)	<p><b>Prohibition on publication of exit polls</b></p> <p>At a parliamentary election, or any local government election in England or Wales, no person shall publish before the poll is closed:</p> <p>a. any statement relating to the way in which voters have voted at the election where that statement is (or might reasonably be taken to be) based on the information given by voters after they have voted, or</p>	Any person		An unlimited fine, or a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
	b. any forecast as to the result of the election which is (or might reasonably be taken to be) based on information so given			
66B	<p><b>Failure to comply with conditions relating to supply etc. of certain documents</b></p> <p>Failure to comply with election document retention conditions under Rule 57 of the parliamentary elections rules (hold all election documents for one year and then have them destroyed) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. any person, (unless they have an appropriate supervisor and have complied with the requirements set by their supervisor), or</li> <li>b. an appropriate supervisor who has failed to take appropriate steps</li> </ul> <p>Any other person is not guilty of an offence if they take all reasonable steps to comply with the conditions</p>	Electoral registration officer or supervisor	Offence	On summary conviction: an unlimited fine
73(6)	<p><b>Payment of election expenses</b></p> <p>The making of payments towards a candidate's election expenses by any person which are not made through the election agent is an offence. Some exceptions are set out in s74:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidate personal expenses (subject to the limit set out in the Act)</li> <li>• Expenses paid by the candidate prior to appointing an election agent</li> </ul> <p>A person authorised by the election agent may pay petty expenses to an agreed limit</p>	Any person	Illegal practice	An unlimited fine

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
75(5)(a)	<p><b>Incurring of election expenses by unauthorised person</b></p> <p>No expenses may be incurred with a view to promoting or procuring the election of a candidate at an election by any person other than the candidate, election agent and persons authorised in writing by the election agent.</p> <p>This does not restrict publication relating to the election in a newspaper, periodical, or public service broadcast. It also excludes expenses incurred in travelling or living away which do not exceed the permitted sum and are not incurred as part of a concerted plan of action.</p> <p>It is an offence for a person to incur, or aid, abet counsel or procure any other person to incur, any expenses in contravention of this rule.</p>	Any person (other than those specified)	Corrupt practice	<p>On summary conviction: an unlimited fine and/or up to six months' imprisonment.</p> <p>On indictment: an unlimited fine and/or up to twelve months' imprisonment</p>
75(5)(b)	<p><b>Making a false statement in declaration of expenses incurred by a person authorised by the agent</b></p> <p>A person (other than a person engaged or employed for payment or promise of payment by the candidate or his election agent) authorised to incur expenditure by the agent must deliver a return of the amount of those expenses to the appropriate office, accompanied by a declaration verifying the return and giving particulars of the matters for which the expenses were incurred.</p>	Any person, authorised by the election agent, who is not engaged or employed for payment or promise of payment by the candidate or the election agent	Corrupt practice	<p>On summary conviction: an unlimited fine and/or up to six months' imprisonment.</p> <p>On indictment: an unlimited fine and/or up to twelve months' imprisonment</p>



RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
	It is an offence to knowingly make the declaration falsely.			
75(5)	<p><b>Failure to make declaration of expenses incurred by a person and authorised by the agent</b></p> <p>A person (other than a person engaged or employed for payment or promise of payment by the candidate or his election agent) authorised to incur expenditure by the agent must deliver a return of the amount of those expenses to the appropriate officer, stating the election at which and the candidate in whose support they were incurred. This must be done within 21 days after the day on which the result of the election is declared.</p> <p>It is an offence to fail to deliver a direction as required.</p>	A person, authorised to incur expenses by the election agent, who is not engaged or employed for payment or promise of payment by the candidate or the election agent	Illegal practice	An unlimited fine
76(1B)	<p><b>Exceeding limit on candidate expenses</b></p> <p>Any candidate or election agent who incurs, or authorises the incurring of, election expenses in excess of the permitted amount and knew or ought reasonably to have known that the expenses would be incurred in excess of that amount (excluding personal expenses) commits an offence.</p>	Candidate or election agent	Illegal practice	An unlimited fine

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
	The candidate's personal expenses are excluded at a parliamentary, Authority or local government (in England and Wales) election.			
76ZA(5)	<p><b>Exceeding spending limit for pre-candidacy expenses</b></p> <p>Any candidate or election agent who incurs, or authorises the incurring of, election expenses in excess of the permitted amount and knew or ought reasonably to have known that the expenses would be incurred in excess of that amount (excluding personal expenses) commits an offence.</p> <p>This offence only applies in specific circumstances - where</p> <p>a) a Parliament is not dissolved until after the period of 55 months beginning with the day on which that Parliament first met ("the 55-month period"),</p> <p>(b) election expenses are incurred by or on behalf of a candidate at the parliamentary general election which follows the dissolution, and</p> <p>(c) the expenses are incurred in respect of a matter which is used during the period beginning immediately after the 55-month period and ending with the day on which the person becomes a candidate at that election.</p>	Candidate or election agent	Illegal practice	An unlimited fine

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
78(3)	<p><b>Paying claims received late or after payment deadline</b></p> <p>Every claim for payment against a candidate or his election agent in respect of election expenses must be sent no longer than 21 days after the day on which the result of the election is declared.</p> <p>All election expenses shall be paid not later than 28 days after the day on which the result of the election is declared.</p> <p>An election agent may not pay a claim received after the 21 day period, or make a payment later than the 28 day period (except where the claim period is extended by leave of court)</p>	Election agent (including candidate where they act as their own agent)	Illegal practice	An unlimited fine
82(6) making false declaration accompanying expenses return	<p><b>Making a false declaration with the expenses return</b></p> <p>A candidate must deliver a return containing a statement of all election expenses and all payments made by the election agent, supported by bills and invoices, as well as donations accepted to the Returning Officer within 35 days after the election result is declared (70 days for a Mayoral election and 70 days after the last declaration for London Assembly elections).</p> <p>The return must be accompanied by a declaration from the election agent that the return is complete and accurate. Within 7 days the candidate must make a similar declaration</p>	Candidate or election agent	Corrupt practice	<p>On summary conviction: an unlimited fine and/or up to six months' imprisonment.</p> <p>On indictment: an unlimited fine and/or up to twelve months' imprisonment</p>

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
	(or 14 days if outside the UK). The form for the declaration is prescribed by the Act.  It is an offence for either the candidate or the agent to make a false declaration			
84	<b>Failing to make a return</b> Failing to deliver a candidate return or declaration which is compliant with the requirements. Where a candidate or election agent has apply to court for relief where the failure is due to illness, death, absence, the misconduct of another (election agent, previous election agent, sub-agent, clerk or office), or there is a reasonable excuse, the court may make an order allowing an authorised excuse.	Candidate or agent	Illegal practice	An unlimited fine
94(1)	<b>Imitation poll cards</b> No person shall for the purposes of promoting or procuring the election of a candidate at a parliamentary election or a local government election to which this section applies by virtue of section 36 issue any poll card or document so closely resembling an official poll card as to be calculated to deceive	Any person	Illegal practice	An unlimited fine
97(1)	<b>Disturbances at election meetings</b> Acting or inciting others to act in a disorderly manner for the purpose of preventing the	Any person	Illegal practice	If a constable reasonably suspects any person of committing an offence,

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
	transaction of business for which the meeting was called			they may if requested to do so by the chairman of the meeting, require that person to declare to them immediately, their name and address and if that person refuses or fails to declare their name and address or gives a false name and address, they will be liable to summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 1 on the standard scale (currently £200)
99(1)	<b>Officials not to act for candidates</b> Acting as a candidate's agent in the conduct or management of an election	Returning officers at a parliamentary or local government election, an officer or clerk appointed under the parliamentary elections rules, or the rule under section 36, or the partner or clerk of any such person	An offence	A fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale (currently £2,500)

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
100(1)	<b>Illegal canvassing by police officers</b> No member of the police force shall by word, message in writing or in any other manner endeavour to persuade any person to give or dissuade any person from giving their vote by proxy or as an elector at any parliamentary election for a constituency or local government election for any electoral area wholly or partly within the police area	Members of the police force		A fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (£1,000)
106(1)	<b>False statements of fact as to candidates</b> Making or publishing false statements of fact in relation to the candidate's personal character or conduct, unless there are reasonable grounds for believing, and the person making the statement did believe, the statement to be true	Any person	Illegal practice	An unlimited fine
107	<b>Corrupt withdrawal from candidature</b> Corruptly inducing or procuring any other person to withdraw from being a candidate at an election, in consideration of any payment or promise of payment, and any person in pursuance of the inducement or procurement	Any person	Illegal payment	An unlimited fine
109	<b>Payments for exhibition of election notices</b> No payment or contract for payment shall for the purposes of promoting or procuring the election of a candidate at an election be made to an elector or their proxy on account of the use of any house, land, building or premises for the exhibition of any address, bill or notice unless:	Any person	Illegal practice	An unlimited fine

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. it is the ordinary business of the elector or proxy as an advertising agent to exhibit for payment bills and advertisements, and</li> <li>b. the payment is made in the ordinary course of that business</li> </ul>			
110	<p><b>Details to appear on election publications ('the imprint')</b></p> <p>The failure to put the name and address of the printer, the promoter of the material and any other person on behalf of whom the material is being published on to the material which can reasonably be regarded as intended to promote the election of a candidate at an election.</p> <p>Note: where the material relates to one or more parties, or to multiple candidates on the basis of particular opinions or policies, see the alternative imprint offence under section 143 PPERA below.</p>	The promoter of the material, any other person by whom the material is so published, the printer of the document	Illegal practice	An unlimited fine
111	<p><b>Prohibition of paid canvassers</b></p> <p>If a person is, either before, during or after an election, engaged or employed for payment or promise of payment as a canvasser for the purpose of promoting or procuring a candidate's election:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the person so engaging or employing him, and</li> <li>b. the person so engaged or employed shall be guilty of illegal employment</li> </ul>	The canvasser who is employed/engaged and the person employing or engaging the canvasser	Illegal employment	An unlimited fine

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
112	<b>Providing money for illegal purposes</b> Knowingly providing money: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>for any payment which is contrary to the provisions of the Act, or</li> <li>for any expenses incurred in excess of the maximum amount allowed by this Act, or</li> <li>for replacing any money expended in such payment or expenses</li> </ol> unless the payment or incurring of expenses may have been previously allowed in pursuance of section 167 as an exception	Any person	Illegal payment	An unlimited fine
113(2)	<b>Bribery</b> Directly or indirectly, by themselves or by any other person on their behalf: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>gives any money or procures any office to or for any voter or to or for any other person on behalf of any voter or to or for any other person in order to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting, or</li> <li>corruptly does any such act as mentioned above on account of any voter having voted or refrained from voting, or</li> <li>makes any such gift or procurement as mentioned above to or for any person in order to induce that person to procure, or endeavour to procure, the return of any person at an election or the vote of any voter,</li> </ol> or if upon or in consequence of any such gift or procurement they procure or engage, promise	Any person	Corrupt practice	On summary conviction: an unlimited fine and/or up to six months' imprisonment  On indictment: a fine and/or up to one year's imprisonment



RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
	or endeavour to procure the return of any person at an election or the vote of any voter			
113(3)	<b>Bribery</b> If they advance or pay or cause to be paid any money to or for the use of any other person with the intent that that money or any part of it shall be expended in bribery at any election, or knowingly pay or cause to be paid any money to any person in discharge or repayment of any money wholly or in part expended in bribery at any election	Any person	Corrupt practice	On summary conviction: an unlimited fine and/or up to six months' imprisonment On indictment: a fine and/or up to one year's imprisonment
113(5)	<b>Bribery</b> If before or during an election they directly or indirectly by themselves or by any other person on their behalf receive, agree, or contract for any money, gift or loan of valuable consideration, office, place or employment for themselves or for any other person for voting or agreeing to vote or for refraining or agreeing to refrain from voting	Any voter	Corrupt practice	On summary conviction: an unlimited fine and/or up to six months' imprisonment On indictment: a fine and/or up to one year's imprisonment
113(6)	<b>Bribery</b> If after an election they directly or indirectly by themselves or by any other person on their behalf receive any money or valuable consideration on account of any person having voted or refrained from voting or having induced any other person to vote or refrain from voting	Any person	Corrupt practice	On summary conviction: an unlimited fine and/or up to six months' imprisonment On indictment: a fine and/or up to one year's imprisonment
113(7)	<b>Bribery</b>	Any person	Corrupt practice	On summary conviction: an

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
	A person's ineligibility to vote does not necessarily prevent an act being bribery			unlimited fine and/or up to six months' imprisonment On indictment: a fine and/or up to one year's imprisonment
202(1)	<b>Bribery</b> The RPA defines 'voter' as a person voting at an election and includes a person voting by proxy. This means the definition of bribery extends to proxy voting			
Case law R v Vaughan (1769) 4 Burr 2494	<b>Bribery</b> A common law offence of bribery as extends to attempt to bribe at an election	Any person	Corrupt practice	
114(2)	<b>Treating</b> If they corruptly, by themselves or by any other person, either before, during or after an election, directly or indirectly give or provide, or pay wholly or in part the expense of giving or providing, any meat, drink, entertainment or provision to or for any person: a. for the purpose of corruptly influencing that person or any other person to vote or refrain from voting, or b. on account of that person or any other person having voted or refrained from voting, or being about to vote or refrain from voting	Any person	Corrupt practice	On summary conviction: an unlimited fine and/or up to six months' imprisonment On indictment: a fine and/or up to one year's imprisonment

RPA 1983 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
114(3)	<b>Treating</b> Every elector who corruptly accepts or takes any meat, drink, entertainment or provision	Any elector or their proxy	Corrupt practice	On summary conviction: an unlimited fine and/or up to six months' imprisonment On indictment: a fine and/or up to one year's imprisonment
115	<b>Undue influence</b> Where a person, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, directly or indirectly makes use of or threatens to make use of force, violence or restraint, or inflicts or threatens to inflict any temporal or spiritual injury, damage or harm in order to induce or compel any voter to vote or refrain from voting Where, by abduction, duress or any fraudulent device or contrivance, a person impedes or prevents, or intends to impede or prevent the free exercise of the franchise of an elector or proxy for an elector, or so compels, induces or prevails upon, or intends so to compel, induce or prevail upon, an elector or proxy for an elector either to vote or to refrain from voting. Interfering with a voter when they are recording their vote	Any person	Corrupt practice	On summary conviction: an unlimited fine and/or up to six months' imprisonment On indictment: a fine and/or up to one year's imprisonment

## Representation of the People Act (RPA) 2000

RPA 2000 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
Schedule 4 para 8	<b>Absent voting – offences</b> a. making a false statement within any relevant declaration or form, or b. attesting an application (under paragraph 3 or 4, Schedule 4) when they know they are not authorised to do so or that it contains a statement which is false	Any person		An unlimited fine

## Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act (PPERA) 2000

PPERA 2000 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
143	<b>Details to appear on election material</b> The failure to put the name and address of the printer, the promoter of the material, and any other person on behalf of whom the material is being published on material which can reasonably	The promoter of the material, any other person by whom the material is so published, and the printer of the document		An unlimited fine

PPERA 2000 section	Summary of offence	Person or persons liable	Category of offence	Penalty
	<p>be regarded as intended to promote or procure electoral success at any relevant election for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. one or more particular registered parties,</li> <li>b. one or more registered parties who advocate (or do not advocate) particular policies or who otherwise fall within a particular category of such parties, or</li> <li>c. candidates who hold (or do not hold) particular opinions or who advocate (or do not advocate) particular policies or who otherwise fall within a particular category of candidates</li> </ul> <p>Note: where the material promotes one candidate only, see the section 110 RPA 1983 imprint offence</p>			