

**STATUTORY PROVISIONS RE USE OF
SCHOOLS AND ROOMS FOR ELECTION
MEETINGS**

Schedule 5 and Sections 95 & 96 of the Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended

**Schools and
Rooms for
local election
meetings**

96. (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a candidate at a local government election is entitled for the purpose of holding public meetings to promote or procure the giving of votes at that election –

- (i) for himself, or
- (ii)

to the use free of charge at reasonable times between the last day on which notice of the election may be published in accordance with rules made under section 36 or, in Scotland section 42 above and the day preceding the day of election of –

- (a) a suitable room in the premises of a school to which this section applies; or
- (b) a meeting room to which this section applies.

(2) This section applies–

- (a) in England and Wales
- (b) in Scotland, to any school (not being an independent school within the meaning of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980) situated in the electoral area for which the candidate is standing (or if there is no such school in the area, in any such school in an adjacent electoral area).

(3) This section applies –

- (a) in England and Wales
- (b) in Scotland to any meeting room the expense of maintaining which is payable by a local authority.

(4) Subsections (4), (5) and (7) of section 95 (see below) and paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 5 to this Act shall apply for the purpose of this section as they apply for the purposes of that section, and any person stating himself to be, or to be authorised by, a candidate at a local government election in respect of an electoral area which falls (or party falls) within a constituency, or his election agent, shall be entitled to inspect the lists prepared under Schedule 5 to this Act in relation to the constituency or a copy of them at all reasonable hours during the period beginning with the day on which notice of the election is published and ending with the day preceding the day of the election.

95.(4)/

95.(4) Where a room is used for a meeting in pursuance of the rights conferred by this section, the person by whom or on whose behalf the meeting is convened -

- (a) shall defray any expenses incurred in preparing, warming, lighting and cleaning the room and providing attendance for the meeting and restoring the room to its usual condition after the meeting; and
- (b) shall defray any damage done to the room or the premises in which it is situated, or to the furniture, fittings or apparatus in the room or premises.

(5) A candidate is not entitled to exercise the rights conferred by this section except on reasonable notice; and this section does not authorise any interference with the hours during which a room in school premises is used for educational purposes, or any interference with the use of a meeting room either for the purposes of the person maintaining it or under a prior agreement for its letting for any purpose.

(7) For the purposes of this section (except those of paragraph (b)) of subsection (4) above), the premises of a school shall not be taken to include any private dwelling, and in this section -

- (a) the expression meeting room means any room which it is the practice to let for public meetings; and
- (b) the expression "room" includes a hall, gallery or gymnasium.

Schedule 5
Paragraph 1(1)

Any arrangements for the use of a room in school premises shall be made with the local authority, maintaining the school or, in the case of a room in the premises of a foundation or voluntary aided school, with the governing body of the school.