

Appendix S

THE 1953 REGISTER OF ELECTORS: INTRODUCTION

Scope

The *Register* contained the names, in street order, of all persons entitled to vote at Parliamentary and Local Government elections. The 1953 *Register* was a much simpler document than its 1935 or 1945 predecessors: the Representation of the People Acts of 1948 and 1949 had abolished plural voting; thus a single register was compiled for both Parliamentary and Local Government Elections. The Acts divided the United Kingdom into single-member Parliamentary constituencies; the term 'division' was no longer used.

The 1953 *Register* was issued by D.H. Pritchard, Electoral Registration Officer for Harrow Urban District, from his department at the Council Offices, Harrow Weald Lodge, 92 Uxbridge Road, Harrow Weald. Despite being an Urban District, for electoral purposes Harrow was considered to be a 'Parliamentary Borough' and its seats were designated 'borough' constituencies and not 'county' constituencies. (The differences between the two types of constituency were slight but determined election spending limits and the appointment of the Returning Officer.)

Dates

The qualification date to be included in the *Register* was 20 November 1952. It came into force on 16 March 1953 and was valid until 15 March 1954.

Qualifications

The principle requirement for inclusion in the *Register* was a simple one of residency on a certain date. There was also a 'Service' qualification for members of the armed forces and other persons outside the state on diplomatic or other Crown business.

The electorate for Local Elections was larger than that for Parliamentary Elections. Apart from those resident in the district, there was an additional non-resident qualification where an owner or tenant occupied rateable land or premises therein of the yearly value of not less than £10. Voters were not allowed to be registered more than once in a single local government district, even if they occupied multiple premises. There was no prohibition on voting in different local authority areas.

Marked Names

- S** Printed before the name indicated a Service voter.
- L** Printed before a name indicated the person was not entitled to vote in respect of that entry at a Parliamentary Election.
- LC** Printed before a name indicated the person was not entitled to vote in respect of that entry at Parliamentary nor at County Council Elections.
- Y** Printed before a name indicated the elector was only entitled to vote at elections held after 1 October 1953. [i.e. those who attained the age of 21 between 16 March and 1 October 1953.]
- J** Printed after an elector's name indicated liability for service as a juror.

Voters marked **L** or **LC** were relatively rare in the *Register*. Such marks were used to ensure that each voter was only allowed to vote once at any general election of Middlesex County Councillors and/or at any Parliamentary General Election.

An example of a voter marked **L** was Frank C. Reynolds, entry PB1855 in the Roxeth ward *Register*, for the address 240 Northolt Road. An example of an **LC** entry was Cyril L. Page, Roxeth ward entry PB1661, for 335 Northolt Road. It was noticed that these types of entry were often found in roads with shops or commercial premises.

Members of the House of Lords did not have a Parliamentary vote and were marked **L**.

The number of marked names in the *Register* of Pinner North and Hatch End ward are analysed below to exemplify the relative size of the numbers involved and their consequence on the total of valid electors at particular elections within the ward.

<u>Polling District</u>	<u>Total Entries</u>	<u>Service Voters</u>	<u>% Service Voters</u>	<u>'Y' Voters</u>	<u>% 'Y' Voters</u>
M	1,696	14	0.83	17	1.00
MA	954	11	1.15	9	0.94
MB	2,045	15	0.73	16	0.78
MC	2,003	26	1.30	32	1.60
MD	2,556	26	1.02	17	0.67
ME	1,281	13	1.01	8	0.62
MF	463	7	1.51	3	0.65
MG	999	9	0.90	12	1.20
Ward Totals	11,997	121	1.01	114	0.94

<u>Polling District</u>	<u>Total Entries</u>	<u>'L' Voters</u>	<u>% 'L' Voters</u>	<u>'LC' Voters</u>	<u>% 'LC' Voters</u>
M	1,696	0	-	0	-
MA	954	0	-	0	-
MB	2,045	1	0.05	10	0.49
MC	2,003	0	-	0	-
MD	2,556	12	0.47	13	0.51
ME	1,281	0	-	2	0.16
MF	463	1	0.22	0	-
MG	999	0	-	0	-
Ward Totals	11,997	14	0.12	25	0.21

Therefore, the 1953 electorates for various elections in Pinner North and Hatch End ward were as follows:

<u>Type of Election</u>	<u>Before 1 October 1953</u>	<u>After 1 October 1953</u>
Parliamentary	11,844	11,958
County Council	11,858	11,972
Urban District	11,883	11,997