
Special Category Electors

15 Years or more?

A short exercise to test your grey matter!

To register as an overseas elector, Section 1 of the RPA 1985 (as amended) requires that the applicant's last entry as a parliamentary elector "... was in force at any time falling within the period of 15 years ending immediately before the relevant date ..."

All you need to do is to calculate the last possible date Mr. Sydney London could be included in the register as an overseas elector from the following information:

- Sydney left the UK on 11th October 1990, having completed and sent in his Form A to Hammerfield Borough Council two weeks previously.
- As Sydney was in the UK on the qualifying date of 10th October 1990, his name was correctly included on the 1990/1991 Register of Electors as resident at 23 Acacia Gardens, Tumbletown.
- The 1991/1992 Register of Electors ceased to have effect on **15th February 1992**.

From this basic information, answer the following question:

- What is the last possible date Sydney's name could be included in Hammerfield Borough Council's register of electors as an overseas elector?

Tip – don't forget that the relevant date is the date the declaration is made!

Further tip – a copy of the 2007 alterations timetable is copied below to assist you!

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Applications	11/12	10/01	07/02	09/03	05/04	10/05	08/06	10/07	10/08
Revised Register	02/01	01/02	01/03	02/04	26/04	01/06	02/07	01/08	03/09

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The Answer!

Prior to 2001, the Register of Electors was based on a qualifying date of 10th October – in this case, Sydney was resident in the Hammerfield Borough Council area on the 10th October 1990 (he did not leave until 11th October), which means that his name was included on the 1991/1992 Register of Electors.

The 1991/1992 Register was published on 16th February 1991, and ceased to have effect on 15th February 1992.

Sec 1(3) RPA 1985 requires that an individual must have been “included in a register of electors as resident at an address in the UK within the last fifteen years” – in Sydney’s case, that was the 1991/1992 Register which ceased to have effect on 15th February 1992, which means that his period of 15 years commences from the date he was last included in a UK Register, i.e. 15th February 1992 (not 10th October 1990, even though that was the qualifying date).

The last time Sydney could make an application would be 15th February 2007, i.e. that is the date he would have to enter on his application – 15 years after his name was last included on the Register.

However, don’t forget that as long as the declaration is received within 3 months of it being made (i.e. dated), it must be accepted. The declaration is in this case valid if it is received by 15th May 2007 – 3 months after it was dated.

Rolling registration then has an effect. On the basis that the declaration was received on 15th May 2007, it needs to be included as an addition to the Register at the next possible monthly update. As 15th May falls after the closing date for the June additions (that date being 10th May), it will be included on the 2nd July amendments list.

(**** in the meantime, Sydney’s name should have been removed from the Register on the 1st February amendments list as no renewal form had been received).

The declaration then runs for a maximum 12 months, which means that Sydney’s name would then be deleted for the last time on the 1st July 2008 amendments list.

Hope this makes sense!