

- "3A Grant and supervision of exemptions from political restriction:  
England 30
- (1) The standards committee of a local authority in England which is a relevant authority—
- (a) must consider any application for exemption from political restriction which is made to the committee, in respect of any post under the relevant authority, by the holder for the time being of that post; and 35
- (b) may, on the application of any person or otherwise, give directions to the relevant authority requiring it to include a post in the list maintained by the authority under section 2(2).
- (2) An application may not be made under subsection (1)(a) unless— 40
- (a) the relevant authority have specified or are proposing to specify the post in the list maintained by them under section 2(2); and
- (b) in the case of a post within section 2(2)(a) or (b), the relevant authority have certified whether or not, in their opinion, the duties of the post fall within section 2(3);  
and the relevant authority must give a certificate for the purposes of paragraph (b) above in relation to any post if requested to do so by the holder of that post. 5
- (3) If, on an application under subsection (1)(a) in respect of any post, the standards committee is satisfied that the duties of the post do not fall within section 2(3), the committee must direct—
- (a) that, for so long as the direction has effect in accordance with its terms, the post is not to be regarded as a politically restricted post; and 10
- (b) that accordingly the post is not to be specified in the list maintained by the relevant authority under section 2(2) or (as the case may be) is to be removed from that list. 15
- (4) A standards committee may not give a direction under subsection (1)(b) in respect of any post unless the committee is satisfied that—
- (a) the duties of the post fall within section 2(3); and
- (b) the post is neither— 20
- (i) in any list maintained by the relevant authority in accordance with section 2(2) above or section 100G(2) of the Local Government Act 1972; nor
- (ii) of a description specified in any regulations under section 2(2) above.
- (5) Every local authority in England which is a relevant authority must— 25
- (a) give its standards committee all such information as the committee may reasonably require for the purpose of carrying out its functions under this section;
- (b) comply with any direction under this section with respect to the list maintained by the authority; and 30
- (c) on being given a direction under subsection (1)(b), notify the terms of the direction to the person who holds the post to which the direction relates.
- (6) In carrying out its functions under this section a standards committee must give priority, according to the time available before the election, to any application under subsection (1)(a) from a person who certifies that the application is made for the purpose of enabling him to be a candidate in a forthcoming election. 35