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Following that referendum in 2016, we called on the UK Government to establish a clear standard legal framework for the conduct and regulation of future referendums. This should include making necessary amendments to PPERA, together with a generic Order for the conduct of referendums. Whilst a number of changes and improvements were made to the regulatory controls in advance of the referendum, these were included in the specific referendum legislation and associated Regulations, rather than by an updating of the standard PPERA rules. Introducing a standard legal framework would remove any ambiguity over the detailed rules for the conduct of referendums, be they in Northern Ireland or across the UK. You will know of course that the Referendums (Scotland) Act 2020 represents a welcome

