

European Parliament Elections 2019
Campaigning, Tellers and Rosettes/Badges
For Polling Staff and Campaigners

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Campaigners are an essential element of a healthy democracy, but their activities should not bring into question the integrity of the electoral process.

2 Candidates and agents

- 2.1 Candidates and agents should:-

- ensure tellers and campaigners understand the law and follow the Electoral Commission Code of Conduct and Guidance
- comply with requests by polling station staff and Local Returning Officers about campaigning near polling stations
- ensure agents attending polling stations, postal vote opening sessions or the count understand the rules about the secrecy of the ballot

- 2.2 Candidates and agents should not:-

- campaign in a way that could be seen as aggressive or intimidating
- breach the requirements on secrecy of the ballot
- when attending postal vote opening sessions, seek to identify and publicise how votes have been marked on individual ballot papers
- publish exit polls before 10 pm on 26 May

- 2.3 Candidates, agents and polling agents may wear a rosette or badge inside a polling station. It should be plain but may display the name of a candidate, party and/or emblem.

3 Campaigners

- 3.1 Campaigners should:-

- be allowed, in a proportionate and non-intimidating and non-obstructive way, to put their messages to voters on polling day, including outside polling places
- keep access to polling places and the access to polling places clear
- comply with requests by polling station staff and Local Returning Officers about campaigning near polling places

- 3.2 Campaigners must not:-

- enter a polling station unless they are voting (in person or as proxy); the companion of a voter with a disability; or are a candidate, election agent or

polling agent

- enter a polling station when another polling agent is already there

4 Tellers

- 4.1 Tellers are usually volunteers who stand outside polling places to record who has voted by their electoral numbers, and so identify those who have not voted and relay that information to candidates and agents. They have no legal status and voters have the right to refuse to give them any information.
- 4.2 In this area, the instruction to polling staff is that tellers should approach voters only as they leave the polling place, so as to avoid any risk of voters being intimidated before they have voted.
- 4.3 Tellers should wear coloured rosettes of a reasonable size, as this assists by making it clear they are activists and not electoral officials. The rosette may display the name of a candidate and/or an emblem or description.
- 4.4 Tellers must not:-
- impede or obstruct the access of voters
 - wear, carry or display any headwear, footwear or other apparel that carries any writing, picture or sign relating to any candidate or party, apart from a rosette
 - enter a polling station under any circumstances in their capacity as tellers
 - enter a polling station unless they are voting (in person or as proxy); they are the companion of a voter with a disability; or they are also a candidate, election agent or polling agent
 - attend at a polling station where there another teller is already there (although one for each entrance to a polling station is acceptable)
 - attempt to influence an elector how or whether to vote or promote a particular candidates or party or policy position
 - display or distribute election material on walls or around the polling place

5 Publicity on council premises

- 5.1 Campaigners (and the Local Returning Officer and his staff) must comply with the council's rules which prohibit the display of election posters on council property, including lamp posts.
- 5.2 The use of A-boards adjacent to polling places on polling days is permitted when authorised following an application made on or before 20 May 2019 to Operational Services (address below). It is subject to conditions which include:-
- Only one A-board per polling place with a maximum display area of A1 size (594 mm x 840 mm) per party or independent candidate

- A-boards must not obstruct the entrance to and exit from the polling place, and must not obstruct vehicular traffic

6 Complaints

- 6.1 Complaints about a polling place (condition, conduct or campaign signs) should be referred to the Election Office. Complaints about campaign posters on lamp posts or in public roads in West Lothian should be referred to Graeme Malcolm, Transportation Manager, West Lothian Council, Whitehill Service Centre, Bathgate EH48 2EP, or by telephone on 01506 282351.
- 6.2 Complaints about potentially criminal conduct should be made direct to Scottish Police if urgent, or through the Election Office. Any contact with the police should be communicated to the Election Office as well.
- 6.3 Local Returning Officers are ultimately responsible for the conduct of elections and their decisions on anything affecting the conduct of the poll are final.