

REQUIREMENT OF SECRECY: THE COUNT

Local government elections

Section 66 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended)

- (1) ...
- (2) Every person attending at the counting of the votes shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of voting and shall not:
 - (a) ascertain or attempt to ascertain at the counting of the votes the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of any ballot paper;
 - (b) communicate any information obtained at the counting of the votes as to the candidate for whom any vote is given on any particular ballot paper.
- (3) ...
- (4) ...
- (5) ...
- (6) If a person acts in contravention of this section he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale¹ or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.

¹ This means an unlimited fine.