

REQUIREMENT OF SECRECY: THE POLL

Local government elections

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

- (1) The following persons:
- (a) every returning officer and every presiding officer or clerk attending at a polling station,
 - (b) every candidate or election agent or polling agent so attending
 - (c) every person so attending by virtue of any of sections 6A to 6D of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000
- shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of voting and shall not, except for some purpose authorised by law, communicate to any person before the poll is closed any information as to:
- (i) the name of any elector or proxy for an elector who has or has not applied for a ballot paper or voted at a polling station;
 - (ii) the number on the register of electors of any elector who, or whose proxy, has or has not applied for a ballot paper or voted at a polling station; or
 - (iii) the official mark.
- (2) ...
- (3) No person shall:
- (a) interfere with or attempt to interfere with a voter when recording his vote; otherwise obtain or attempt to obtain in a polling station information as to the candidate for whom a voter in that station is about to vote or has voted;
 - (b) communicate at any time to any person any information obtained in a polling station as to the candidate for whom a voter in that station is about to vote or has voted, or as to the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of the ballot paper given to a voter at that station;
 - (c) directly or indirectly induce a voter to display his ballot paper after he has marked it so as to make known to any person the name of the candidate for whom he has or has not voted.
- (4) ...
- (5) No person having undertaken to assist a blind voter to vote shall communicate at any time to any person any information as to the candidate for whom that voter intends to vote or has voted, or as to the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of the ballot paper given for the use of that voter.
- (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.

PLEASE SEE OVERLEAF FOR REQUIREMENT OF SECRECY – THE POLL FOR POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS

¹ This means an unlimited fine.

REQUIREMENT OF SECRECY: THE POLL

Police and Crime Commissioner elections

The Police and Crime Commissioner Elections Order 2012

Article 22 (1), (2), (5), (7) and (8)

- (1) The persons listed in paragraph (2) must maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of voting and must not, except for some purpose authorised by law, communicate to any person before the poll is closed any information as to:
- (a) the name of any elector or proxy for an elector who has or has not applied for a ballot paper or voted at a polling station,
 - (b) the number on the register of electors of any elector who, or whose proxy, has or has not applied for a ballot paper or voted at a polling station, or
 - (c) the official mark on any ballot paper.
- (2) The listed persons are:
- (a) every police area returning officer or local returning officer attending at a polling station,
 - (b) every deputy of such an officer so attending,
 - (c) every presiding officer or clerk so attending,
 - (d) every candidate or election agent or polling agent so attending, and
 - (e) every person so attending by virtue of any of sections 6A to 6D of the 2000 Act (which makes provision about the attendance at certain elections of Commission representatives and accredited observers).
- (3) ...
- (4) ...
- (5) No person may:
- (a) interfere with or attempt to interfere with a voter when recording his vote;
 - (b) otherwise obtain or attempt to obtain in a polling station information as to the candidate for whom a voter in that station is about to vote or has voted;
 - (c) communicate at any time to any person any information obtained in a polling station as to the candidate for whom a voter in that station is about to vote or has voted, or as to the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of the ballot paper given to a voter at that station;
 - (d) directly or indirectly induce a voter to display the ballot paper after the voter has marked it so as to make known to any person the name of the candidate for whom the voter has or has not voted.
- (6) ...
- (7) No person having undertaken to assist a voter with disabilities (within the meaning of rule 41(10) of the PCC elections rules) to vote may communicate at any time to any person any information as to the candidate for whom that voter intends to vote or has voted, or as to the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of the ballot paper given for the use of that voter.
- (8) A person who acts in contravention of this article is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale² or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.

PLEASE SEE OVERLEAF FOR REQUIREMENT OF SECRECY – THE POLL

² This means an unlimited fine.

FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS