COUNT REQUIREMENTS AND COMMENTARY ON COUNT RULES

<u>UPDATE NO. 3 DATED 1 OCTOBER, 2001</u> RECONCILIATION OF VOTER ACCOUNTS

Note

See Update No.1 dated 23 February 2001 and G O' Duffy e-mails dated 26 April and 14 May 2001 and J Janson's e-mails dated 27 April 14 May 2001.

1. Reconciliation of Voter Accounts

Now that the Functional Specification of the voting machine has been finalised, the Reconciliation of Voter Accounts table on page 7 (Section 2) of the Count Tender Specification should be amended as shown on pages 5 and 6 of this Update – the type of table to be used depends on whether the election concerned is taken on its own or along with other elections.

The <u>Notes on "Reconciliation of vote accounts" Table</u>, set out on pages 7 to 9 of the Count Tender Specification, should be revised as follows:

- □ The entries in the first column ("Polling Station No.") should display, in ascending order, the numbers of all polling stations set up for the poll. The last entry in the column should be "TOTAL" (i.e. a description of the entries in the row).
- □ The entries in the second column ("Polling Station Description") should display the name of each polling station opposite its number. The entry in the "TOTAL" row should read [(Total no. of polling stations at the election) No.].
- □ The entries in the third column ("Ballot Module No.") should display the unique number of the ballot module(s) assigned to the polling station concerned. The table shows the treatment of cases where there is more than one ballot module (i.e. voting machine) assigned to a polling station. The entry in the "TOTAL" row should read [(Total no. of ballot modules at the election) No.].
- □ The entries in the fourth column ("Electorate") should be populated by the system from data entered by election staff <u>for each polling station</u> at the preparation stage (the details of where this data is to be entered will be notified later)
- □ There should be a label over the next three columns entitled "Presiding Officer:"

- Election staff should be able, when ballot module data are read into the system, to enter data into the fourth column ("Voters permitted to use a voting machine") from the individual "Voters Account" prepared by each presiding officer at the close of poll. The entry in the "TOTAL" row should be updated automatically. It should be possible for the user to amend the data entered in this column and related entries in the table should be amended accordingly.
- □ Election staff should be able, when ballot module data are read into the system, to enter data into the fifth column ("Voters who did not press "Cast Vote" button") from the individual "Voters Account" prepared by each presiding officer. The entry in the "TOTAL" row should be updated according as data is entered in the column. It should be possible for the user to amend the data entered in this column and related entries in the table should be amended accordingly.
- The sixth column ("Voters who voted on machine") should be populated automatically with the product of column (4) minus column (5) when a figures is entered in either column (4) or (5) and a figure is already entered in the same row in the other column. Zero (0) should be shown where the product is zero. No entry should be made in this column until a figure is entered in the same row for both column (4) and (5). The entry in the "TOTAL" row should be updated automatically according as this column is populated.

If the election is held with one or more other elections:

- ☐ There should be a label over the next four columns entitled "Ballot Module:"
- The seventh column ("Module No.") should be populated according as the programming unit reads the data on each ballot module.
- □ The eighth column ("Votes cast") should be populated according as the programming unit reads the data on each ballot module. The entry in the "TOTAL" row should be updated automatically according as this column is populated.
- □ The ninth column (Null votes) should be populated according as the programming unit reads the data on each ballot module. The entry in the "TOTAL" row should be updated automatically according as this column is populated.
- The tenth column ("Voters who voted on machine") should be populated automatically with the sum of columns (8) plus (9) when a figures is entered in either column (8) or (9) and a figure is already entered in the same row in the other column. Zero (0) should be shown where the product is zero. No entry should be made in this column until a figure is entered in the same row for both column (8) and (9). The entry in the "TOTAL" row should be updated automatically according as this column is populated.

The eleventh column entitled "Discrepancy between manual etc.," should be populated automatically by the system with the product of column (6) minus column (10) when a figure is entered in either column (6) or (10) and a figure is already entered in the same row in the other column. Zero (0) should be shown where the product is zero. No entry should be made in this column until a figure is entered in the same row for both column (6) and (10). Where the number of voters who voted on machine as per the presiding officer's records (column (6)) exceeds the number of voters who voted on machine as recorded by the voting machine (column (10)), "+[No.]" should be entered in the "Discrepancy" column. Where the number of voters who voted on machine as recorded by the voting machine (column (10)), "-[No.]" should be entered. The entry in the "TOTAL" row should be updated automatically according as this column is populated.

The twelfth column entitled "Turnout as a percentage of electorate" should be populated automatically by the system when election staff enter a figure in column (4) (the system will automatically populate column 3 from data entered previously by election staff. Zero (0) should be shown in column 12 where the product is zero.

If the election is held on its own:

- There should be a label over the next four columns entitled "Ballot Module:"
- The seventh column ("Module No.") should be populated according as the programming unit reads the data on each ballot module.
- The eighth column ("Number of votes stored") should be populated according as the
 programming unit reads the data on each ballot module. The entry in the "TOTAL" row should
 be updated automatically according as this column is populated.
- The ninth column entitled "Discrepancy between manual, etc.," should be populated automatically by the system with the product of column (8) minus column (6) when a figure is entered in either column (6) or (8) and a figure is already entered in the same row in the other column. Zero (0) should be shown where the product is zero. No entry should be made in this column until a figure is entered in the same row for both column (6) and (8). Where the number of voters who voted on machine as per the presiding officer's records (column (6)) exceeds the number of voters who voted on machine as recorded by the voting machine (column (8)), "+[No.]" should be entered in the "Discrepancy" column. Where the number of voters who

voted on machine as per the presiding officer's records (column (6)) is less than the number of voters who voted on machine as recorded by the voting machine (column (8), "-[No.]" should be entered. The entry in the "TOTAL" row should be updated automatically according as this column is populated.

• The tenth column entitled "Turnout as a percentage of electorate" should be populated automatically by the system when election staff enter a figure in column (4) (the system will automatically populate column 3 from data entered previously by election staff. Zero (0) should be shown in column 10 where the product is zero.

2. Summary Reconciliation of Voter Accounts

Arising from the changes at 1. above, the Summary reconciliation of vote<u>r</u> accounts table on page 11 of the Count Tender Specification should be amended as shown on page 8 of this Update.

The <u>Notes on "Summary reconciliation of vote accounts" table</u>, set out on pages 10 and 11 of the Count Tender Specification, should be revised as follows:

- ☐ The data at row A should be displayed automatically by the system as the figure at the TOTALS row of column (6) of the revised "Reconciliation of voter accounts" table.
- □ The data at row B should be displayed automatically by the system as the figure at the TOTALS row of column (10 or 8) of the revised "Reconciliation of voter accounts" report.
- □ The data at row C should be displayed automatically by the system as the figure at the TOTALS row of column (11 or 9) of the revised "Reconciliation of voter accounts" report
- ☐ The data at row D should be displayed automatically by the system as the figure at the TOTALS row of column (3) of the revised "Reconciliation of voter accounts" table.
- □ The data at row E should be displayed automatically by the system as the figure at the TOTALS row of column (4) of the revised "Reconciliation of voter accounts" table.
- □ The data at row F should be displayed automatically by the system as the figure at the TOTALS row of column (12 or 10) of the revised "Reconciliation of voter accounts" table.

Identical changes should be made to the Table (page 162, Section 37) and Notes (page 163, section 37) of the Count Tender Specification relating to the Summary reconciliation of voter accounts.

[Type of election] held on [Date of Poll] in [Name of Constituency]

Election held with one or more other elections: Yes

				Presiding Officer:	Ballot Module:				Discrepancy	Turnout as	
			Voters	Voters who did	Voters who voted	Module no.	Votes	Null votes ¹	Voters who voted	between manual	percentage of
			permitted to use	not press "Cast	on machine		Cast		on machine	and electronic	electorate
Polling	Polling	Electorate	a voting	Vote" button						count of numbers	
Station	Station		machine		Col. 4 - col. 5				Col. 8 + col. 9		(Col. 4 / col.3)
No.	Description		(i.e. Turnout)							voting	*100
										Col. 6 –col. 10	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
1	Postal and	20	8	0	8	N7C00011	8	0	8	0	40%
	special										
	voters ²										
2	St. Kieran's	100	62	1	61	N7C00012	59	2	61	0	62%
	NS										
3	St. Colman's	80	43	3	40	N7C00013	16	0	16	0	54%
	NS					N7C00014	23	1	24		
Total	3 No.	200	113	5	108	4 No.	106	3	109	0	57%

¹ A null vote is a ballot module record that can arise in the case of multiple polls where, despite the display of a warning, a voter casts his/her vote(s) without recording a preference on one or more activated ballot papers. In this situation, a null vote is stored on the ballot module in respect of each poll for which no preference was recorded. The use of null votes enables the module to maintain an electronic record of voting and non-voting at each poll thus facilitating the reconciliation of voter accounts.

² In the case of postal and special voters, the figures entered at columns 4 and 6 are the number of such votes cast on a voting machine by election staff following the opening of return envelopes after the close of poll

Reconciliation of voter a | | unts

[Type of election] held on [Date of Poll] in [Name of Constituency]

Election held with one or more other elections: No

	Polling Station Description	Electorate		residing Office		Ballot Module:		Discrepancy between manual and electronic	Turnout as percentage of electorate
Polling Station No.			Voters permitted to use a voting machine (i.e. Turnout)	Voters who did not press "Cast Vote" button	on machine Col. 4 - col. 5	Module no.	Number of votes stored	count of numbers voting Col. 6 -col. 8	(Col. 4 / col.3) *100
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1	Postal and special voters ¹	20	8	0	8	N7C00011	8	0	40%
2	St. Kieran's NS	100	62	1	61	N7C00012	61	0	62%
3	St. Colman's NS	80	43	3	40	N7C00013	16	0	54%
						N7C00014	24		
Total	3 No.	200	113	4	109	4 No.	109	0	57%

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¹ In the case of postal and special voters, the figures entered at columns 4 and 6 are the number of such votes cast on a voting machine by election staff following the opening of return envelopes after the close of poll

2. Summary reconciliation of voter accounts

Reconciliation of voter accounts [Type of election] held on [Date of Poll] in[Name of Constituency]

Election held with one or more other elections: Yes/No

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Retu	rning Officer Date					
r	Turnout [Row L as a /0 of Row D]	/0				
F	Turnout [Row E as a % of Row D]	%				
E	Total number of electors turning out to vote					
D	Total Electorate					
С	Discrepancy between figures at A and B [Row A - Row B]					
a	and "null votes" 1), as stored in ballot modules					
В	Total number of votes cast on voting machines (including postal and special vote					
	who voted on voting machines at polling stations)					
	(viz. number of postal and special votes cast on machines, plus number of voters					
A	Total number of votes cast on voting machines, as recorded by presiding officers					

¹ A null vote is a ballot module record that can arise in the case of multiple polls where, despite the display of a warning, a voter casts his/her vote(s) without recording a preference on one or more activated ballot papers. In this situation, a null vote is stored on the ballot module in respect of each poll for which no preference was recorded. The use of null votes enables the module to maintain an electronic record of voting and non-voting at each poll thus facilitating the reconciliation of voter accounts.