

TELLERS DO'S AND DON'TS

Tellers are usually volunteers for candidates. They stand outside polling places and record the electoral number of electors who have voted. By identifying electors who have not voted and relaying this information to the candidate or their supporters, tellers play an important role in elections and referendums. The candidates or their supporters may then contact the voters who have not yet been to vote during polling day and persuade them to vote, which may help to increase turnout.

There should be no more than ONE teller at a polling station for each candidate at any one time. Where a polling place contains more than one polling station with separate entrances, it may be appropriate for there to be tellers at each entrance, but no more than one per candidate.

Tellers have no legal status and voters have the right to refuse to give them any information.

Tellers MUST

- (a) Always remain outside the polling station/polling place *
- (b) Only enter the polling station to cast their own vote, to vote as a proxy or to accompany a voter with disabilities
- (c) Always comply with the instruction of the Returning Officer and Presiding Officer at the Polling Station

Tellers MUST

- (a) Be able to see or hear what is happening inside the polling station

NOT

- (b) Impede, obstruct or intimidate voters on their way in or out of the polling station
- (c) Demand any other information relating to a voter's elector number, name or address
- (d) Ask voters to re-enter the polling station to ascertain their elector number
- (e) Have discussions with voters that may give rise to allegations of undue influence (e.g. voting intentions or party affiliations)
- (f) Display any campaign material in support of or against any particular political party or candidate other than a rosette
- (g) Collect or take any personal information from electors, including polling cards, even if they are offered them. Any elector wishing to not take their polling card with them should be asked to give this to the Presiding Officer

Tellers MAY

- (a) Approach voters for information as they enter/leave the polling station
- (b) Display a coloured rosette displaying the name of the candidate or party. While the rosette must not be oversized, it may carry a description or emblem

The Presiding Officer will determine where tellers can stand/sit outside the polling station/polling place.

Candidates, agents and tellers are requested not to park vehicles displaying party notices immediately outside the polling station for any length of time. Cars which are being used to transport voters to and from the polling station and are therefore waiting for a short period are not subject to these restrictions, provided they do not unduly prolong their wait outside the polling station.

For further assistance or guidance, please contact me on Tel: 01903 737580 or 01903 737615 – my view is final in relation to any dispute. On the day of an election, please speak to the Presiding Officer who also has the power of decision in my absence.



Nigel Lynn
Returning Officer