

LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

NOTIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT OF SECRECY

Your attention is drawn to the relevant provisions of paragraph 27(4) of Schedule 9 and Section 111(2A)(d) of the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962 which apply to this election, and in particular to the maximum penalty for anyone guilty of an electoral offence. Level 5 is currently set at £5,000. It is the policy of the Chief Electoral Officer to report to the police any person suspected of breaking any of these provisions.

Issue and receipt of postal ballot papers

Paragraph 27 (4) - Any person attending the proceedings in connection with the issue or receipt of ballot papers for persons voting by post shall be guilty of an electoral offence if he –

- (a) communicates, before the poll is closed, to any person any information obtained at those proceedings as to the official mark; or
- (b) except for some purpose authorised by law, communicates to any person at any time any information obtained at those proceedings as to the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of the ballot paper sent to any person; or
- (c) except for some purpose authorised by law, attempts to ascertain at the proceedings in connection with the receipt of ballot papers the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of any ballot paper; or
- (d) attempts to ascertain at the proceedings in connection with the receipt of the ballot papers the candidate for whom any vote is given in any particular ballot paper or communicates any information with respect thereto obtained at those proceedings.

Section 111 (2A) (d) - A person guilty of an electoral offence at a local election shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.