

## Application for accreditation as an electoral observation organisation

This form is an application for an organisation to become an accredited electoral observation organisation. The Commission is empowered to accredit electoral observers under Section 6D of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

Any organisation can apply to become an accredited observer organisation. Accredited organisations can then nominate anyone over the age of 16 to be an observer.

### Requirements for accreditation and nomination

Each organisation must complete an application form. The organisation must also nominate its proposed observers on the attached form, 'Nomination of observers by an accredited observer organisation'.

The application must be signed on behalf of the organisation. The organisation must supply the name and date of birth of each Nominated Observer. Each Nominated Observer must also sign and date the Declaration by a Nominated Observer. Additional forms are available from the Commission if required.

Organisations cannot include on their list of Nominated Observers anyone who has been found guilty of a corrupt or illegal electoral practice anywhere in the United Kingdom, in the five years previous to the date of application, or who, to the knowledge of the organisation, has been found guilty of an electoral offence anywhere in the world, in the five years previous to the date of application. In addition, the application can be refused if the organisation includes on its list of nominated individuals anyone whose status in the United Kingdom, as an accredited observer or nominated individual of an accredited organisation, was revoked by the Commission.

The list of Nominated Observers must be accompanied by a digital photograph of each observer for use on an identification badge, or the Nominated Observer must attend a designated Commission office to have such a photograph taken. The list must also be accompanied by photographic identification for each Nominated Observer, which confirms their name and

age. This should be issued by a suitable government authority and the Commission can advise on what forms of identification are suitable. Alternatively, this identification can be produced at a designated Commission office for verification.

## Processing

The Commission will receive applications at its offices in Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh and London during normal business hours, or by post. Applicants will be notified in writing of the Commission's decision to accept or reject their application, and reasons will be given for any decision to reject an application. Accreditation will not come into effect until three days after issue and the inclusion of the observer on the register of accredited observers.

## Representation of the People Act 1983

The requirements in Section 66 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 help to maintain the secrecy of the ballot. They apply to all accredited observers at polling stations, the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers and the count. Section 66 is reproduced below in full, for use by observers.

### Requirement of secrecy

66. – (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) 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) No person shall –

- (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 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) Every person attending the proceedings in connection with the issue or the receipt of ballot papers for persons voting by post shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting and shall not –

- (a) except for some purpose authorised by law, communicate, 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, communicate to any person at any time 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, attempt 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) attempt 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 communicate any information with respect thereto obtained at those proceedings.

(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 scale or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.

(7) In their application in relation to an election of the London members of the London Assembly at an ordinary election, the preceding provisions of this section shall have effect with the insertion, after the words 'the candidate for whom', in each place where they occur, of ', or the registered political party towards the return of whose candidates,'.

(8) In relation to an election of the London members of the London Assembly at an ordinary election, any reference in this section to the return of a registered political party's candidates is a reference to the return of candidates included in the list of candidates submitted by the registered political party for the purposes of the election.

## Application

Name	
Address	
UK address if different from above	
Telephone number (including country code if applicable)	
Mobile telephone number (international applicants without a UK contact number must supply a reachable overseas mobile number)	
Email address	

Second contact name	
Address (if different from that of primary contact)	
UK address (if different from above)	
Telephone number (incl. country code if applicable)	
Mobile telephone number	
Email address	
Period of accreditation	From ...../...../..... to ...../...../.....

Declaration by organisation

**This declaration must be signed and dated by an authorised signatory of the organisation.**

As far as I know, the details on this form are true and correct. I consent to the Commission including the name of the organisation and the names of our Nominated Observers on the Commission’s register of accredited observers.

I have read and understood the Commission’s ‘Code of conduct for electoral observation organisations’ and .....agrees to abide by the Code.

I will provide each Nominated Observer with a copy of Section 66 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 or its corresponding provision, ensure that they understand its provisions and instruct them to aid in maintaining the secrecy of the ballot at UK elections.

As far as I know, no observer nominated by this organisation has been found guilty of an electoral offence anywhere in the world in the five years previous to the date of application. No observer nominated by this organisation has been reported or found guilty of a corrupt or illegal electoral practice anywhere in the United Kingdom, in the five years previous to the date of this application.

Signed .....

Date .....



## Declaration by a Nominated Observer

### **This declaration must be signed and dated by each Nominated Observer**

I have read and understood the Commission's 'Code of conduct for electoral observation organisations' and agree to abide by the Code.

I declare that I have been provided with a copy of Section 66 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 or its corresponding provision, I understand its provisions and I will aid in maintaining the secrecy of the ballot at UK elections.

I have not been reported or found guilty of a corrupt or illegal electoral practice anywhere in the United Kingdom in the five years previous to the date of this nomination. I have not been found guilty of an electoral offence anywhere in the world in the five years previous to the date of nomination.

Signed .....

Date .....

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I have read and understood the Commission's 'Code of conduct for electoral observation organisations' and agree to abide by the Code.

I declare that I have been provided with a copy of Section 66 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 or its corresponding provision, I understand its provisions and I will aid in maintaining the secrecy of the ballot at UK elections.

I have not been reported or found guilty of a corrupt or illegal electoral practice anywhere in the United Kingdom in the five years previous to the date of this nomination. I have not been found guilty of an electoral offence anywhere in the world in the five years previous to the date of nomination.

Signed .....

Date .....

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### **This declaration must be signed and dated by each Nominated Observer**

I have read and understood the Commission's 'Code of conduct for electoral observation organisations' and agree to abide by the Code.

I declare that I have been provided with a copy of Section 66 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 or its corresponding provision, I understand its provisions and I will aid in maintaining the secrecy of the ballot at UK elections.

I have not been reported or found guilty of a corrupt or illegal electoral practice anywhere in the United Kingdom in the five years previous to the date of this nomination. I have not been found guilty of an electoral offence anywhere in the world in the five years previous to the date of nomination.

Signed .....

Date .....

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### **This declaration must be signed and dated by each Nominated Observer**

I have read and understood the Commission's 'Code of conduct for electoral observation organisations' and agree to abide by the Code.

I declare that I have been provided with a copy of Section 66 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 or its corresponding provision, I understand its provisions and I will aid in maintaining the secrecy of the ballot at UK elections.

I have not been reported or found guilty of a corrupt or illegal electoral practice anywhere in the United Kingdom in the five years previous to the date of this nomination. I have not been found guilty of an electoral offence anywhere in the world in the five years previous to the date of nomination.

Signed .....

Date .....

