

Tellers do's and don'ts

Tellers are usually volunteers for campaigners, election agents or 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 campaigner, agent or candidate, tellers play an important role in elections and referendums. Campaigners 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 campaigner, agent or candidate at any 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 campaigners, agent or 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/place
- (b) Only enter the polling station to cast their own vote, to vote as a proxy or to assist a voter with disabilities
- (c) Always comply with the instructions of the Counting Officer or Returning Officer and Presiding Officer

Tellers must not:

- (a) Be able to see or hear what is happening inside the polling station
- (b) Impede, obstruct or intimidate voters on their way in or out of the polling station/place
- (c) **Demand** any 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, party affiliations or campaigns)
- (f) Display any campaign material in support of or against any particular referendum campaigner, party or candidate other than a rosette

Tellers may:

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