

Tellers do's and don'ts

Tellers volunteer for referendum campaigners. They stand outside polling stations or polling places and record the elector number of voters who have voted. By identifying electors who have not voted and relaying this information to the campaigners or their supporters, tellers play a vital and important role in referendums. Campaigners or their supporters may then contact the voters who have not yet been to vote during polling day and encourage them to vote.

There should be no more than one teller at a polling station at any time for each registered campaigner. 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 registered campaigner at each entrance.

Tellers have no legal status and voters have the right to refuse to give them any information. The Counting Officer or their staff may provide further guidance on the activities of tellers.

Tellers must:

- always remain outside the polling station
- only enter the polling station to cast their own vote, to vote as a proxy or to accompany a disabled voter
- always comply with the instructions of the Counting Officer and Presiding Officer

Tellers must not:

- be able to see or hear what is happening inside the polling station
- impede, obstruct or intimidate voters on their way in or out of the polling station
- demand any information relating to a voter's elector number, name or address
- ask voters to re-enter the polling station to ascertain their elector number
- have discussions with voters that may give rise to allegations of undue influence (e.g. voting intentions or referendum campaigns)
- display any campaign material in support of or against any referendum campaigner or answer to the referendum question other than a rosette or badge

Tellers may:

- approach voters for information as they enter or leave the polling station
- display a coloured rosette or badge displaying the name of the referendum campaigner or answer to the referendum question; the rosette/badge should not bear a slogan and must not be oversized