

Local agreement on activities outside polling stations

This guidance seeks to deal with what is commonly referred to in Birmingham, as party activists who stand outside a polling station which may be intimidating for voters. Such allegations have formed parts of election petitions in which the result of an election has been challenged.

This guidance note does **not** apply to Tellers who help political parties on polling day by standing outside polling stations attempting to record the electoral numbers of voters so that parties may then contact their supporters who have not yet been to vote.

There is separate guidance, produced by Electoral Commission on what Tellers and cannot do. This guidance is called "*Tellers in and around polling places*".

However main party Chief Agents/Organisers have signed up to the following local agreement on party activists who may stand outside a polling station, and the Police are fully supportive of this:

- Up to 2 activists to be in the vicinity of each entrance to land/property containing polling stations (i.e. at each gate leading from the public foot path to say a school yard). Also accepting that, on occasions when said activists are being replaced, for a very brief period this number would increase.
- No other activities within an area approximating to 20 metres to polling stations (common sense prevailing on distance). Where possible this will be identified by appropriate markings.
- Candidates, election agents and polling agents are excluded from the above (as they have a legal right to be present).

All parties and candidates are asked to support this initiative and pass this information on to their activists.

Robert Connelly
(Acting) Returning Officer