



Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board

Report to: Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board

Meeting on: 19 August 2016

Subject: Response to matters raised regarding Scottish Parliamentary Election in May 2016

Author: Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer

1.0 Response

These related to events that occurred around the Scottish Parliamentary Election. Both relate to the duties of the Returning Officer and the following information has been provided.

Councillor Rebecchi referred to an elderly constituent who contacted him at 6 pm on the day of the election to advise that she hadn't received her postal vote and asked when it would be delivered to her.

Any elector who has a Postal Vote facility will be issued with a Poll Card which will advise such voters when the postal votes will be issued. The Poll Card will also state that if the elector had not received his or her postal vote by a given date then they should contact the election office. There may have been two different dates depending on when the elector applied for a postal vote. The Scottish Parliamentary Elections were unusual in that the Returning Officer could issue replacements for lost Ballot Papers much earlier than at other elections, rather than the usual Friday before the election.

If the voter did not contact the Returning Officer to advise that they hadn't received their postal vote, there is nothing that can be done to remedy that on the day of the election.

Councillor Hood made comment on the slips provided at the Polling Station to Electors who found that their names were not shown on the appropriate Register. The slips detail the phone numbers of my office and the Election Office as the elector would need to contact the ERO to ascertain why the name was missing. If it was a clerical error on the part of the ERO, a Certificate will be issued but, if the elector's name had been removed through his or her own fault, there is nothing that can be done on the day of the Election.

These information slips are an improvement that was introduced for the Scottish Independence Referendum. The training for Polling Staff has always been that if a person did not appear on the register then they should be advised to call the Electoral Registration Office. They are provided only as an aid memoir. Both the staff and the public seemed to find these slips useful and they continue to be used.

Following Cllr Hood's comments, training for election staff now makes it clear that they must advise voters of the number verbally as well as providing the slips.

2. Recommendation

The Board notes this report.

Alasdair MacTaggart

Assessor & ERO

12 August 2016

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