

ELECTORAL SERVICES CASUAL ELECTION STAFF

JOB DESCRIPTION - COUNT ASSISTANT

Job Purpose:

The purpose of the Verification/Count Team is to open ballot boxes, ensure the contents agree with the Ballot Paper Accounts and then count the votes for each candidate in the election.

The Count Assistant Role

The role of the Count Assistant is not difficult, but duties are undertaken in a pressurised environment and the greatest of care has to be taken to ensure that mistakes are not made.

They must:

- Have read and agree to the terms of the Requirement of Secrecy.
- Act impartially at all times and respect confidentiality of material handled.
- Refrain from engaging in conversations with candidates, agents, councillors or guests.

Duties:

Count Assistants will work in teams of varying sizes as designated by the Returning Officer. As directed by a supervisor (Ward Senior and/or Count Manager), they will:

Verification

Count the number of ballot papers in a ballot box in accordance with instructions from the Ward Senior/Count Manager/ Deputy Returning Officer or Returning Officer. Re-count if required.

Count

Divide ballot papers into votes for individual candidates and count them using the method designated by the Returning Officer.

Re-count if required.

The length of time a Count takes will depend on the size and nature of the election and whether re-counts are required. You must be prepared to stay as long as it takes. If the Count takes place immediately after the close of poll, you will start working late into the evening and into the early hours of the morning. You will be given adequate breaks – please bring your own refreshments.

The Returning Officer is not permitted to employ anyone who is/or has carried out duties on behalf of any political party or candidate at the election. All staff will be required to sign their agreement to maintain the secrecy of the poll.

PERSON SPECIFICATION - COUNT ASSISTANT

EXPERIENCE	
Essential	Desirable
None	Previous Count experience.

SKILLS/PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES	
Essential	Desirable
Numerate Accuracy and attention to detail Ability to follow instruction Punctual and reliable Calm under pressure	

OTHER	
Essential	Desirable
<p>Must not have worked in support of a political party/candidate at the election, whether paid or unpaid.</p> <p>Be willing to attend training/briefing sessions, as required.</p> <p>Must not have been convicted of an offence under Electoral Legislation.</p> <p>Acceptance and adherence to the terms of Requirement of Secrecy.</p>	