

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Blackwall & Cubitt Town Ward Election Count, 3 July 2014 Code of Conduct for Candidates, Agents and Guests

All attendees at the Count are reminded that:-

- The Returning Officer is responsible in law for the conduct of the count and has authority to exclude anyone from the venue if their behaviour interferes with the effective conduct of the count.
- Candidates, their guests, appointed election agents and counting agents have important statutory roles at the count but these roles must be discharged in a manner that does not interfere with the effective conduct of the count.
- All persons present at the count must maintain the secrecy of voting in accordance with Section 66 of the Representation of the People Act 1983.
- Only appointed counting agents may occupy the chairs provided opposite the count assistants.

Please note that counting agents and other observers must not:-

- handle the ballot papers;
- interfere or converse with the counting assistants; or distract count staff by speaking loudly at them or amongst themselves;
- lean over or onto count tables;
- knowingly obstruct the count process; or
- breach or attempt to breach the secrecy of the ballot

In order to ensure the secrecy of votes on ballot papers during the count:-

- **No mobile phone or other portable electronic device may be used in the count room**
- No photography or filming is permitted in the count room except by accredited media representatives and under the supervision of communications staff.

No smoking is permitted anywhere in the count venue.

Refreshments may be consumed only in the section of the venue set aside for the purpose. No drinks may be brought to the count table.

Declaration:-

I will observe the above code of conduct. If instructed by the Returning Officer in relation to my conduct I will accept the Returning Officer's instructions.

I have been provided with a copy of section 66 of the Representation of the People Act 1983, I understand its provisions and I will aid in maintaining the secrecy of the ballot

I understand that any failure to observe the Returning Officer's instructions may lead to my exclusion from the count.

Signed Date

Print Name Designation