

Dear

Your FOI Request – Special Poll Clerks

Further to your email of 25 May 2009 I would advise you that the Electoral Office did not recruit any special poll clerks for duty on election day. A number of additional poll clerks were provided by an agency. Accordingly a number of the questions you have posed are not applicable.

Q. At what point did you decided (sic) to deploy special polling clerks?

The decision to deploy additional poll clerks was taken on or about 4 March 2009.

Q. Who exactly was involved in the decision making process?

The decision was taken by the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland in his role as the Returning Officer for the European Parliamentary elections 2009. Prior to taking his decision he discussed the matter with a number of senior colleagues.

Q. Was (sic) the Political Party's (sic) informed of the decision to deploy these special polling clerks, if so when, and if not why not?

Political parties were not informed of the decision which was an operational matter for the Returning Officer. The number of staff allocated to individual polling stations is a matter solely for the Returning Officer.

Q. Was the decision to deploy these special polling clerks subject to an equality impact assessment?

No – this was an operational matter.

Q. How were these special polling clerks recruited?

The additional poll clerks were provided by an agency.

Q. Was there advertising used in the recruitment process?

Not applicable – see answers above.

Q. Was it open for people to apply?

Not applicable – see answers above.

Q. Was this process of recruitment subject to an equality impact assessment?

Not applicable – see answers above.

Q. How were these special polling clerks trained and briefed?



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

This was the responsibility of the agency.

Q. Who recruited, trained and briefed these special poll clerks?

The additional poll clerks were recruited, trained and briefed by the agency.

Q. Was this process of (sic) subject to an equality impact assessment?

Not applicable – see answers above.

Q. How were these special polling clerks deployed?

The additional poll clerks were deployed in polling stations in the Foyle and Belfast West constituencies.

Q. Where exactly will they be deployed?

See answer above.

Q. Who made the decision as to where these special polling clerks would be deployed and who was consulted in this decision making process?

The decision was taken by the Chief Electoral Officer as detailed above.

Q. Was this process of deployment subject to an equality impact assessment?

No – see answers above.

Q. How many are there going to be?

A total of 110 additional poll clerks were used.

Q. Which constituencies, DEA's, Wards and Boxs (sic) are they going to be deployed at?

They were deployed at each polling station in the two named constituencies.

Q. What is their Gender, Religious, Ethnic and Age breakdown?

This information is not held by the Chief Electoral Officer.

Q. Was this whole process subject to an equality impact assessment?

Except as answered above, this information is not held by the Chief Electoral Officer.

Yours faithfully,

Douglas Bain CBE TD Advocate
Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE