

THE ELECTORAL OFFICE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Chief Electoral Officer: D A Stanley

3rd Floor, St Anne's House, 15 Church Street, BELFAST BT1 1ER

☎ 028 9044 6660

☎ 028 9023 5612

✉ denis.stanley@eoni.gov.uk



3 May 2005

PRESS RELEASE

POLLING DAY: THURSDAY 5 MAY 2005

The Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland, Denis Stanley, reminded electors that the Polls will be open from 7.00 am to 10.00 pm on Thursday 5 May. He said:

“Every elector who casts their vote on Thursday at their Polling Station must produce one of the following four forms of photographic identity.

- (1) a current Passport issued by the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland. At the District Council Election a passport issued by a Member State of the European Union is also acceptable;
- (2) a current Northern Ireland or Great Britain full driving licence or a Northern Ireland provisional licence, all of which must bear the photograph of the holder;
- (3) a current Senior SmartPass issued under the Northern Ireland Concessionary fares Scheme;
- (4) a current Electoral Identity Card

“Although the Electoral Office has sent polling cards to every elector who will be voting at polling stations, the card is not mandatory. Consequently any elector without their polling card should still turn up at their polling station and, provided their name is on the Register and they have one of the four forms of photographic identification, they will be able to vote.

Mr Stanley reminded electors that by law the polls must close at 10.00 pm sharp. “Only where electors are in possession of a ballot paper at 10.00 pm will they be allowed to complete the voting process. Anyone who is in the polling station at 10.00 pm, but who has not at that stage been issued with a ballot paper, cannot vote. It is therefore important that electors do not leave visiting the polling station to the last minute and allow plenty of time for the whole process.”

“Postal votes must also be returned by 10.00 pm, but not to polling stations. Rather, they must be delivered to any of the Area Electoral Offices across Northern Ireland.

Mr Stanley concluded by saying that because there were two elections being run together on the one day, different coloured ballot papers would be used. “The Westminster Parliamentary ballot papers will be white and should be marked with an ‘X’ against the name of only one candidate. The District Council ballot papers will be buff and should be marked with a ‘1’ against the name of the candidate of first choice, a ‘2’ against the name of the candidate of second choice and so on for as many or as few names as the elector wishes”.