



## Election Count: Media Accreditation

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Local Government Election Count  
Newry Leisure Centre, 60 Cecil Street, Newry, BT35 6AU  
Friday 3 May 2019 and Saturday 4 May 2019

### Media Accreditation

Attendance at the count is open to news media with prior accreditation.

Accreditation is open from: Tuesday 26 March 2019 to Tuesday 30 April 2019 at 4pm.

No accreditation will be given after this date and time.

To become accredited, individuals must register with the designated media liaison officers (details below) and produce:

- A current NUJ card, or
- Photographic identity pass from a news media organisation, or
- An original letter of authority from a news media organisation supported by a second form of photographic identification.

### Count Centre Arrangements

The count centre will open at 7.15am.

A media room will be provided on the first floor of the count centre.

Members of the media must not intrude on the count staff's work area.

Taking photos or video on any device where the contents of any ballot could be identified is not permitted. This is to ensure the secrecy and integrity of the election.

Cameras will not be allowed to approach the counting tables or to focus on the tables in close-up. There will be access to an area on the first floor from which to film which will allow a clear visual of the count proceedings.

Interviews with candidates are not permitted in the count area.

Count information will be displayed on screens within the count area and updates on progress at the count will be posted from the Council's Twitter account @nmdcouncil. Results will also be made available on the Council's website at: [www.newrymournedown.org](http://www.newrymournedown.org)

Media Liaison Officer: Veronica Keegan, Mob: 0780 3832511, [marketing@nmandd.org](mailto:marketing@nmandd.org)

Please note: during the count staff at the information point (in the reception area of the count centre) will be available to assist you in contacting a media liaison officer.

### Conduct in the Count Centre

Members of the media must abide by any direction given by the Deputy Returning Officer, the Senior Count Manager or any person acting on their behalf. **Cameras or recording equipment (including phone cameras) will not be permitted to film close-ups of ballot papers or interfere with the count process as this breaches the secrecy of the ballot.**

Interviews with candidates are not permitted within the count arena. However, every assistance will be provided by the Media Liaison Officer to ensure that candidates are informed of interview requests for outside the count arena.

Everyone present must observe safety briefs and comply with reasonable requests from the Media Liaison Officer and/or centre managers. The decision of the Deputy Returning Officer is final and they are not obliged to allow any member of the media into the count unless they have been accredited and produced the correct form of identification as detailed above.