

LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

NOTIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT OF SECRECY

Your attention is drawn to the relevant provisions of paragraph 27(2) of Schedule 9 and Section 111 (2A) (d) of the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962 which apply to this election, and in particular to the maximum penalty for anyone guilty of an electoral offence. Level 5 is currently set at £5,000. It is the policy of the Chief Electoral Officer to report to the police any person suspected of breaking any of these provisions.

27 (2) Any person attending in any capacity at the count at any election shall be guilty of an electoral offence if he -

(a) ascertains or attempts to ascertain at the count the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of any ballot paper; or

(b) at any time communicates any information obtained at the count as to the candidate for whom any vote is given on any particular ballot paper.

111 (2A) (d) A person guilty of an electoral offence at a local election shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.