

**UK Parliamentary Election  
Midlothian County Constituency**

**Thursday 4 July 2024**

**Notice to candidates/election agents of openings of postal ballot boxes and envelopes**

**I HEREBY GIVE YOU NOTICE**

- (1) that, in terms of paragraph 80 of the Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001 I shall, in connection with the above Election, begin the opening of the Postal Ballot Boxes and the Envelopes contained therein in the Committee Room, Midlothian Council, Third Floor, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith at 10.00am on Friday 21 June 2024 and thereafter daily at the same time and place, (including, if necessary, Saturday 29 June 2024 and Sunday 30 June 2024) until and including Wednesday 3 July 2024.
- (2) On Thursday 4 July 2024 (Polling Day) I will commence a first opening of the Postal Ballot Boxes and the Envelopes contained therein at Lasswade Centre, Eskdale Drive, Bonnyrigg, EH19 2LA at 10.00am and at 8.00pm commence a second opening. This second opening will proceed as and when necessary until all the postal ballot envelopes received timeously for the election have been processed.

(Please note that if for any reason it is not practical to open the postal votes and process the postal voting statements therein at the Lasswade Centre (eg power failure) such openings will revert to the Committee Room in Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith.)

- (3) If any postal vote statement adjudication is required to be done by the Returning Officer, or her Depute appointed for that purpose, it will take place at 4.00pm each postal opening day other than Friday 21 June 2024 and Friday 28 June 2024 when it will take place at 3pm (**except** on Saturday 29 June 2024 and Sunday 30 June 2024 when it will be done as the openings proceed).

On Thursday 4 July 2024 (Polling Day), any postal vote statement adjudication will also take place as the openings proceed.

- (4)
  - (a) that, in terms of Paragraphs 68 and 69 of the Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001, each Candidate or a person appointed by him/her to attend in his/her place and each Election Agent or a person appointed by the Candidate to attend in the Election Agent's place will be entitled to be present at the Opening of Postal Ballot Boxes and the Envelopes contained therein. I will also allow the Candidate or the Election Agent if he/she so wishes to appoint one agent in addition to the aforementioned.
  - (b) that, notice in writing of the appointments (made in terms of paragraph 3(a) above) stating the name(s) and address(es) of the person(s) appointed shall be given by the Candidate or as appropriate the Election Agent to me. **This must be done before the time fixed for the relevant opening of the postal voters' ballot boxes.**

I shall issue to every person attending the proceedings for the issue or receipt of postal ballot papers a copy of Section 66 of the Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended, in regard to the requirement of secrecy.

**NOTE** – Where in Part V of the Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001, as amended, (relating to the receipt of postal ballot papers) any act or thing is required or authorised to be done in the presence of the candidates or their agents, the non-attendance of any such persons or person at the time and place appointed for the purpose shall not, if the act or thing is otherwise duly done, invalidate the act or thing done.

Accordingly in the absence of such persons the Opening of Postal Ballot Boxes and the Envelopes contained therein will proceed at the times stipulated.

In regards to the timings of the various adjudications for processing the incoming postal ballot papers and postal vote statements please refer to the 'Administrative Notes' contained in the Nomination Pack.

***Dr Grace Vickers***  
***Returning Officer***  
***Date 31/05/2024***