

## Scottish Independence Referendum Act 2013 Schedule 7 Para 7

### Requirement of Secrecy

**All persons attending at the counting of votes and at any opening of postal votes conducted at the count must read and understand the secrecy provisions below**

- 7(4) Every person attending at the counting of the votes in the referendum must maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of voting in the referendum and must not—
- (a) ascertain or attempt to ascertain at the counting of the votes the unique identifying number on the back of any ballot paper,
  - (b) communicate any information obtained at the counting of the votes as to the outcome for which any vote is given on any particular ballot paper.
- (5) *(refers to the polling station)*
- (6) *(refers to the polling station)*
- (7) Every person attending the proceedings in connection with the issue or the receipt of ballot papers for persons voting by post in the referendum must maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of voting in the referendum and must not—
- (a) except for a purpose authorised by law, communicate, before the poll is closed, to any person any information obtained at those proceedings as to the official mark,
  - (b) except for a purpose authorised by law, communicate to any person at any time any information obtained at those proceedings as to the unique identifying number on the back of any ballot paper sent to any person,
  - (c) except for a purpose authorised by law, attempt to ascertain at the proceedings in connection with the receipt of ballot papers the unique identifying number on the back of any ballot paper, or
  - (d) attempt to ascertain at the proceedings in connection with the receipt of the ballot papers the outcome for which any vote is given in any particular ballot paper or communicate any information with respect thereto obtained at those proceedings.
- (8) *(refers to the polling station)*
- (9) If a person acts in contravention of this paragraph the person commits an offence.
- (10) A person who commits an offence under sub-paragraph (9) is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale (or both).