

Doubtful ballot papers - allowed votes

Suggested examples of allowed votes are provided here. These examples are based on previous case law or taken from the specific rules for this referendum. Ultimately the decision on any particular ballot paper rests with the Counting Officer and his/her own interpretation of case law and legislation. References are to the Scottish Independence Referendum Conduct Rules, which are contained in Schedule 3 of the Scottish Independence Referendum Act 2013.

BALLOT PAPER
VOTE (X) ONLY ONCE

Should Scotland be an independent country?

YES

NO

Allow for YES
Rule 31(3)(b) - marked otherwise than by means of a cross

BALLOT PAPER
VOTE (X) ONLY ONCE

Should Scotland be an independent country?

YES

NO

Allow for YES
Berwick-upon-Tweed case and Rule 31(3)(a) - elsewhere than in the proper place

BALLOT PAPER
VOTE (X) ONLY ONCE

Should Scotland be an independent country?

YES

NO

Allow for YES
Rule 31(3)(b) - marked otherwise than by means of a cross

BALLOT PAPER
VOTE (X) ONLY ONCE

Should Scotland be an independent country?

YES

NO

Allow for YES
Rule 31(3)(a) - elsewhere than in the proper place

BALLOT PAPER
VOTE (X) ONLY ONCE

Should Scotland be an independent country?

YES

NO

Allow for NO
Rule 31(3)(c) - by more than one mark

BALLOT PAPER
VOTE (X) ONLY ONCE

Should Scotland be an independent country?

YES

NO

Allow for NO
Rule 31(3)(b) and (c) - marked otherwise than by means of a cross and by more than one mark

BALLOT PAPER
VOTE (X) ONLY ONCE

Should Scotland be an independent country?

YES

NO

Allow for NO
Woodward v Sarsons and Rule 31(3)(c) - by more than one mark

BALLOT PAPER
VOTE (X) ONLY ONCE

Should Scotland be an independent country?

YES

NO

Allow for NO
Rule 31(3)(a) and (b) - elsewhere than in the proper place and marked otherwise than by means of a cross