

SCHEDULE 1  
FURTHER PROVISION ABOUT VOTING IN THE REFERENDUM

**PART 3**

POSTAL VOTING: ISSUE AND RECEIPT OF BALLOT PAPERS

*Opening of covering envelopes*

- 34 (1) When a postal voters box is opened, the counting officer must count and record the number of covering envelopes (including any envelope which is stated to include a postal vote and any envelope described in paragraph 32(2)).
- (2) The counting officer must open separately each covering envelope (including an envelope described in paragraph 32(2)).
- (3) The procedure in paragraph 36 applies where a covering envelope (including an envelope to which paragraph 32(2) applies) contains both—
- (a) a postal voting statement, and
  - (b) a ballot paper envelope, or if there is no ballot paper envelope, a ballot paper.
- (4) Where the covering envelope does not contain the postal voting statement separately, the counting officer must open the ballot paper envelope to ascertain whether the postal voting statement is inside.
- (5) Where a covering envelope does not contain both—
- (a) a postal voting statement (whether separately or not), and
  - (b) a ballot paper envelope or, if there is no ballot paper envelope, a ballot paper,
- the counting officer must mark the covering envelope “provisionally rejected”, attach its contents (if any) and place it in the receptacle for rejected votes.
- (6) In carrying out the procedures in this paragraph and paragraphs 36 to 40, the counting officer and the counting officer’s staff—
- (a) must keep the ballot papers face downwards and must take proper precautions for preventing any person from seeing the votes made on the ballot papers, and
  - (b) must not look at the corresponding number list used at the issue of postal ballot papers.
- (7) Where an envelope opened in accordance with sub-paragraph (2) contains a postal voting statement, the counting officer must place a mark in the marked copy of the postal voters list or proxy postal voters list in a place corresponding to the number of the voter to denote that a postal vote has been returned.
- (8) A mark made under sub-paragraph (7) must be distinguishable from and must not obscure the mark made under paragraph 22(2).
- (9) As soon as practicable after the last covering envelope has been opened, the counting officer must make up into a packet the copy of the marked postal voters list and proxy postal voters list that have been marked in accordance with sub-paragraph (7) and must seal that packet.