



Ballot Secrecy Act 2023

2023 CHAPTER 12

1 Amendment of the Representation of the People Act 1983

In the Representation of the People Act 1983, before section 63 insert—

“62C Influencing voters at polling booths

- (1) A person who—
 - (a) is with another person at a polling booth, and
 - (b) intends to influence that other person to vote in a particular way or to refrain from voting,commits an offence.
- (2) A person who—
 - (a) is near a polling booth when another person is at that booth, and
 - (b) intends to influence that other person to vote in a particular way or to refrain from voting,commits an offence.
- (3) For the purposes of this section—
 - (a) a “polling booth” is a compartment in a polling station in which voters can mark votes screened from observation;
 - (b) assisting a person with voting, in accordance with rule 39 of Schedule 1 or any other legislation, is not influencing that person to vote in a particular way or to refrain from voting;
 - (c) a person may be near one polling booth while at a different polling booth.
- (4) A person who commits an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction—
 - (a) in England and Wales, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, to a fine or to both;

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (b) in Scotland or Northern Ireland, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale or to both.
- (5) This section does not have effect in relation to an election in Scotland or Wales under the local government Act.”