

COMMITTEE ROOM POSTER

To be displayed in every committee room and HQ

BRIBERY

A person shall be guilty of bribery if he, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf:-

- a. gives any money or procures any office to or for any voter or to or for any other person on behalf of any voter or to or for any other person in order to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting; or
- b. corruptly does any such act as aforesaid on account of any voter giving voted or refrained from voting; or
- c. makes any such gift or procurement as aforesaid to or for any person in order to induce that person to procure, or endeavour to procure, the return of any person at an election or the vote of any voter

or if upon or in consequence of any gift or procurement as aforesaid he procures or engages, promises or endeavours to procure the return of any person at an election or the vote of any voter.

A person shall be guilty of bribery if he advances or pays or causes to be paid any money to or to the use of any person with the intent that that money or any part thereof shall be expended in bribery at any election or knowingly pays or causes to be paid any money to any person in discharge or repayment of any money wholly or in part expended in bribery at any election.

A voter shall be guilty of bribery if before or during an election he directly or indirectly by himself or by any other person on his behalf receives, agrees, or contracts for any money, gift, loan or valuable consideration, office, place or employment for himself or for any other person for voting or agreeing to vote or for refraining or agreeing to refrain from voting.

A person shall be guilty of bribery if after an election he directly or indirectly by himself or by any other person on his behalf receives any money or valuable consideration on account of any person having voted or refrained from voting or having induced any other person to vote or refrain from voting.

TREATING

A person shall be guilty of treating if he corruptly, by himself or by any other person, either before, during or after an election, directly or indirectly gives or provides, or pays wholly or in part the expense of giving or providing, any meat drink or entertainment or provision to or for any person:-

- a. for the purpose of corruptly influencing that person or any other person to refrain from voting; or
- b. on account of that person or any other person having voted or refrained from voting, or being about to vote or refrain from voting.

Every elector or proxy for an elector who corruptly accepts or takes any such meat, drink, entertainment or provision shall also be guilty of treating.

UNDUE INFLUENCE

A person shall be guilty of undue influence:-

- a. if he, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf makes use or threatens to make use of any force, violence or restraint, or inflicts or threatens to inflict, by himself or by any other person, any temporal or spiritual injury, damage, harm or loss upon or against any person in order to induce or compel that person to vote or refrain from voting, or on account of that person having voted or refrained from voting; or
- b. if, by abduction, duress or any fraudulent device or contrivance, he impedes or prevents the free exercise of the franchise of an elector or proxy for an elector, or thereby compels, induces or prevails upon an elector or proxy for an elector either to vote or refrain from voting.

PERSONATION

A person shall, for all purposes of the laws relating to elections be deemed to be guilty of the offence of personation at a local government election if he:

- a. votes in person or by post as some other person, whether as an elector or as a proxy and whether that person is living or dead, or is a fictitious person, or
- b. votes in person or by post or proxy
 - i. for a person whom he knows or has reasonable grounds for supposing to be dead or to be a fictitious person, or
 - ii. when he knows or has reasonable grounds for supposing that his appointment as proxy is longer in force.

ILLEGAL PRACTICES

ADVERTISING - Paying money to an elector for exhibiting bills or posters other than one whose ordinary business is that of an advertising agent. The receiver is also guilty.

UNAUTHORISED EXPENDITURE - The incurring or paying by the Candidate or Election Agent of any election expense in excess of the maximum amount allowed.

FALSE STATEMENT - Knowingly publishing a false statement of the withdrawal of a Candidate for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of another Candidate or a false statement of fact relating to the candidate's character or conduct for the purpose of effecting the return of any candidate.

IMPRINT - Printing or publishing any printed document disturbed for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of a candidate which does not bear the name and address of the printer and publisher, if committed by the candidate or agent.

DISORDERLY BEHAVIOUR - Acting or inciting others to act in a disorderly manner at a political meeting for the purpose of preventing the transaction of the business for which the meeting was called where such a meeting is a political meeting held in a Constituency between the date of the issue of the writ and of the return of the writ.

OPINION POLLS - Publishing, before the poll is closed, any statement as to the way in which voters have voted or any forecast as to the result of the election, based on the information given by voters after they have voted.

POLL CARDS - Issuing at any parliamentary or local government election any poll card or document resembling an official poll card.

ILLEGAL PAYMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

ILLEGAL PAYMENT - Knowingly providing money, for any payment contrary to the provisions of the Act or for any expenses incurred in excess of the legal maximum, or for replacing any money expended in such payment.

Corruptly withdrawing or corruptly inducing or procuring the withdrawing of any person from being a candidate in consideration of any payment or promise of payment.

ILLEGAL EMPLOYMENT - The employment for payment or promise of payment as a canvasser, for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of any candidate.

FORGERY

If a person prints or otherwise produces a false ballot paper and marks on it a vote for a Candidate with the intention of inducing the returning officer to accept it as valid he or she commits an offence under the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 sections 1 and 3.

PUNISHMENT

Any person convicted on indictment of personation or aiding, abetting, counselling, procuring, or commissioning the offence of personation is liable to imprisonment for up to two years or to a fine or both. Any person convicted of bribery, treating and undue influence is liable to imprisonment of up to one year or to a fine or both. Any person convicted summarily is liable to imprisonment of up to six months or to a fine or both.

Persons convicted of a corrupt practice are for five years incapable of being registered as voters for the purpose of voting at any election. They are also rendered incapable of being elected to the House of Commons, or holding any public or judicial office for the same period.

Persons guilty of an illegal practice are liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale (currently £5,000) and is incapable for five years of being registered as an elector or voting at any election.