

APPENDIX 1

Elections Review – Questionnaire

This appendix supplements the analysis of the processes and events of the combined parliamentary and local election held in May 2015 including nominations, polling and the verification and count. This includes responses to questionnaires completed by polling and count staff and candidates and agents.

Candidates and Agents

Out of 325 candidates and agents, 28 responses were received representing 8%.

The following questions were asked:

Question 1

The pre-election briefing and information pack provided me with the information I needed.

4 (14%) strongly agreed
16 (57%) agreed
8 (28%) neither agreed or disagreed
0 disagreed
0 strongly disagreed

In response to question 1, comments were made to electronically circulate the guidance and simplify the guidance.

Question 2

The Elections Team were easily accessible and able to answer my queries.

10 (35%) strongly agreed
8 (28%) agreed
10 (35%) neither agreed or disagreed
0 disagreed
0 strongly disagreed

Question 3

Communications from the Council (eg the Statement of Persons Nominated, the Count Arrangements) were clear and timely.

8 (28%) strongly agreed
15 (53%) agreed
3 (10%) neither agreed or disagreed
2 (7%) disagreed

0 strongly disagreed

The following comments were made in relation to question 3:

UKIP reported not having received their tickets for the count and communicating electronically was preferred.

Question 4

I felt well supported throughout the nominations process.

8 (28%) strongly agreed
12 (42%) agreed
7 (25%) neither agreed or disagreed
1 (3%) disagreed
0 strongly disagreed

Question 5

Polling Station arrangements were appropriate and managed effectively.

5 (17%) strongly agreed
15 (53%) agreed
6 (21%)
2(7%) disagree
0 strongly disagree

In response to question 5, there were reports of confusion amongst electors over the number of votes they were entitled to and some confusion over which polling station to attend.

Question 6

The verification and count arrangements were effective.

4 (14%) strongly agree
16 (57%) agree
4 (14%) neither agree or disagree
2 (7%) disagree
2 (7%) strongly disagree

In response to question 6, it was suggested that the same staff are not used in both polling station duties and the count. Seven respondents also commented on the delay in reporting the results and 4 respondents commented that staff members were under used.

Presiding Officers

Out of 125 presiding officers, 64 responded, giving a response rate of 51.2%

Question 1

The training and supporting information prepared me well for my polling duties.

- 23 (35%) strongly agree
- 36 (56%) agree
- 3 (4%) neither agree or disagree
- 2 (3%) disagree
- 0 strongly disagree

In response to question 1, respondents reported that the training felt rushed and that there were too many attendees at the training events. Two respondents reported that the supporting information was helpful.

Question 2

The arrangements for the collection of equipment before polling day were effective.

- 13 (20%) strongly agreed
- 22 (34%) agreed
- 11 (17%) neither agreed or disagreed
- 15 (23%) disagreed
- 3 (4%) strongly disagreed

The overwhelming comment in response to question 2 related to the Corresponding Numbers List and Ballot papers not corresponding.

Question 3

On polling day I felt confident in carrying out my duties.

- 34 (53%) strongly agreed
- 25 (39%) agreed
- 4 (6%) neither agreed or disagreed
- 1 (1%) disagreed
- 0 strongly disagreed

Question 4

My poll clerk(s) was effective in carrying out their duties

- 42 (67%) strongly agreed
- 15 (24%) agreed
- 2 (3%) neither agreed or disagreed

3 (4%) disagreed
0 strongly disagreed

In response to question 4, 9 respondents commented that poll clerks were good whereas 5 commented that poll clerks were slow and had made mistakes.

Question 5

The polling station met the needs of voters and polling staff.

28 (44%) strongly agreed
22 (34%) agreed
7 (11%) neither agreed or disagreed
4 (6%) disagree
2 (3%) strongly disagree

11 respondents felt that polling stations were good

Question 6

I had sufficient equipment and supplies to help me carry out my duties effectively.

28 (44%) strongly agree
25 (39%) agree
3 (4%) neither agree or disagree
6 (9%) disagree
1 (1%) strongly disagree

In response, respondents commented that phone lines through to the Election Team was busy and 3 respondents commented that a map of other polling stations would have been useful.

Question 7

The instructions for bagging up at the end of polling were clear.

23 (35%) strongly agree
30 (46%) agree
10 (15%) neither agree or disagree
1 (1%) disagree
0 strongly disagree

Five respondents commented that the bagging up instructions were clear, whereas another 5 commented that the instructions were unclear.

Question 8

The checking in arrangements at the count were effective.

25 (39%) strongly agree
23 (35%) agree
8 (12%) neither agree or disagree
5 (7%) disagree
3 (4%) strongly disagree

9 respondents commented that the checking in procedure took a long time and 9 respondents commented that all of the items were difficult to carry.

Question 9

Would you work as a presiding officer again?

45 (70%) strongly agree
16 (25%) agree
1 (1%) neither agree or disagree
1 (1%) disagree
1 (1%) strongly disagree

DLROs and Supervisors

Out of 48, 27 DLROs and Supervisors responded, giving a response rate of 56%.

Question 1

The training and supporting information prepared me well for the count.

6 (22%) strongly agree
11 (40%) agree
5 (18%) neither agree or disagree
5 (18%) disagree
0 strongly disagree

Question 2

I felt confident in carrying out my duties at the count.

6 (22%) strongly agree
11 (40%) agree
5 (18%) neither agree or disagree
5 (18%) disagree
0 strongly disagree

Question 3

Instructions given at the count were clear and timely.

3 (11%) strongly agree
13 (50%) agree
7 (26%) neither agree or disagree
2 (7%) disagree
1 (3%) strongly disagree

Question 4

My Count Assistants worked efficiently and effectively.

14 (57%) strongly agree
9 (33%) agree
1 (3%) neither agree or disagree
2 (7%) disagree
1 (3%) strongly disagree

Question 5

Equipment and supplies were sufficient and appropriate.

3 (11%) strongly agree

10 (37%) agree
7 (25%) neither agree or disagree
5 (18%) disagree
2 (7%) strongly disagree

Question 6

Count paperwork was clear and easy to follow.

5 (18%) strongly agree
20 (74%) agree
1 (3%) neither agree or disagree
1 (3%) disagree
0 strongly disagree

Question 7

The Tennis Centre was an effective venue for the count.

21 (77%) strongly agree
6 (22%) agree
0 neither agree or disagree
0 disagree
0 strongly disagree

Count Assistants

Of the 310 count assistants employed by Nottingham City Council, 155 responded to the questionnaire giving a response rate of 50%.

Question 1

The training and supporting information prepared me well for the count.

38 (24%) strongly agree
91 (59%) agree
15 (9%) neither agree or disagree
8 (5%) disagree
1 (0.6%) strongly disagree

Question 2

I felt confident in carrying out my duties at the count.

68 (44%) strongly agree
76 (49%) agree
8 (5%) neither agree or disagree
2 (1%) disagree
0 strongly disagree

Question 3

Instructions given at the count were clear and timely.

53 (36%) strongly agree
78 (50%) agree
12 (7%) neither agree or disagree
7 (4%) disagree
3 (1%) strongly disagree

Question 4

The Count Supervisor/ Deputy Returning Officer I worked with gave clear guidance and ran the count effectively.

72 (46%) strongly agree
62 (40%) agree
13 (8%) neither agree or disagree
5 (3%) disagree
2 (1%) strongly disagree

Question 5

I had sufficient equipment and supplies to help me carry out my duties effectively.

67 (43%) strongly agree
74 (47%) agree
6 (3%) neither agree or disagree
8 (5%) disagree
0 strongly disagree

Question 6

The Tennis Centre was an effective venue for the count.

77 (51%) strongly agree
67 (44%) agree
4 (2%) neither agree or disagree
1 (0.6%) disagree
1 (0.6) strongly disagree

Poll Clerks

Out of 264 poll clerks employed by Nottingham City Council, 135 responded to the questionnaire, giving a response rate of 51%.

Question 1

The training and supporting information prepared me well for my polling duties.

38 (28%) strongly agree
77 (57%) agree
12 (8%) neither agree or disagree
8 (5%) disagree
0 strongly disagree

Question 2

On polling day I felt confident in carrying out my duties.

53 (39%) strongly agree
76 (57%) agree
4 (3%) neither agree or disagree
0 disagree
0 strongly disagree

Question 3

The polling station met the needs of voters.

50 (37%) strongly agree
65 (48%) agree
5 (3%) neither agree or disagree
14 (10%) disagree
0 strongly disagree

Question 4

The polling station met the needs of polling staff.

51 (37%) strongly agree
73 (54%) agree
3 (2%) neither agree or disagree
7 (5%) disagree
1 (1%) strongly disagree

Question 5

My Presiding Officer was effective in carrying out his/her duties.

78 (57%) strongly agree
40 (29%) agree
8 (5%) neither agree or disagree
5 (3%) disagree
4 (2%) strongly disagree

Question 6

I had sufficient equipment and supplies to help me carry out my duties effectively.

63 (46%) strongly agree
62 (45%) agree
5 (3%) neither agree or disagree
5 (3%) disagree
0 strongly disagree