

Application Guidelines for Conduct of Exit Poll in the 2019 Rural Ordinary Election

Any person or organisation intending to conduct an exit poll in the 2019 Rural Ordinary Election must complete the prescribed Application Form for Conduct of Exit Poll and submit it to the Home Affairs Department (“HAD”) before the deadline.

Application Procedures

Information to be provided in the Application Form

- (a) the name and address of the person or organisation intending to conduct an exit poll on the polling day;
- (b) the name and identity document ^(Note) number (alphabet and the first 3 digits) of the person responsible for the conduct of the exit poll together with his/her telephone number(s) for contact, especially during the polling hours;
- (c) a list showing the number of persons who will be deployed for the conduct of the exit poll at each polling station on the polling day together with the name and identity document ^(Note) number (alphabet and the first 3 digits) of each of the persons who will be so deployed (not more than 15 interviewers will be allowed to be deployed for the conduct of an exit poll in each polling station. If an applicant / applicant organisation submits more than 15 interviewers for any one of the polling stations, the HAD will only consider the information of the first 15 persons); and
- (d) the code and name of the Rural Area(s) and the polling station(s) at which the applicant / applicant organisation wishes to conduct an exit poll on the polling day.

Declaration

A person or organisation applying for the conduct of exit poll in the 2019 Rural Ordinary Election must make a statutory declaration by virtue of the Oaths and Declarations Ordinance (Cap. 11) as required in PART I of the Application Form. The statutory declaration must be made before a Commissioner for Oaths, a Justice of the Peace or a solicitor with a practising certificate. Before making the statutory declaration, the declarant should read its contents carefully. When an applicant organisation decides who is to make the statutory declaration, it should consider whether such a person satisfies the requirements stated in paragraph 1 of PART I of the Application Form.

(Note) According to section 2 of the Rural Representative Election Ordinance (Cap.576), “identity document” means -

- (a) an identity card, i.e. an identity card issued to a person under the Registration of Persons Ordinance (Cap. 177); or any other document issued to a person under that Ordinance certifying that the person is exempt from being required to register under that Ordinance; or
- (b) any other document issued to a person that is acceptable to the Electoral Registration Officer as proof of the person’s identity.

Submission of Application

The **original** of the completed Application Form must be submitted in person or by post to the Home Affairs Department (Address: 4th Floor, Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong (Attention: Team 2, Division I, Home Affairs Department)) not later than 10 days before the polling day. Please state on the envelope “Application Form for Conduct of Exit Poll”. If applicants / applicant organisations fail to provide accurate data as requested in this Application Form 10 days before the polling day, or applicants / applicant organisations fail to provide the additional information as requested by the HAD (if any) by the specified date, their applications to conduct an exit poll **may not be processed**.

Notification of Application Result

Applicants / Applicant organisations will be notified of the result of their applications before the polling day. If no reply is received from the HAD 7 days after the submission of the application, please call 2835 1806 to check the progress of the application.

Publication of Approved Applications

A notice showing the names of persons and organisations approved to conduct exit polls together with their contact telephone numbers will be released prior to the polling day for reference by the public and candidates. The notice will also be displayed at each of the relevant polling stations on the polling day respectively.

Requirements and Guidelines for Conduct of Exit Poll

The HAD will notify the persons and organisations approved to conduct exit polls to collect identification devices bearing the name of the relevant applicant / applicant organisation and the names of the respective interviewers. Each interviewer **must** display on his/ her body prominently the identification device during the conduct of an exit poll. He / She must also adopt the “Standard Script for Interviewers Conducting Exit Poll” at the **Annex** at the start of the interview in order to make known to the electors the name of the person or organisation conducting the exit poll, the exit poll is not commissioned by the Government and any response is entirely voluntary.

Any person not displaying on his / her body prominently the identification device will **not** be allowed to conduct an exit poll outside any polling station.

Unless the conduct of exit poll is on a pedestrian pavement that is not under any private management in the No Canvassing Zone, applicants / applicant organisations must also separately seek the **prior** approval from the owners / managers concerned **by themselves before the exit poll can be conducted**.

Applicants / Applicant organisations and the persons who will be deployed for the conduct of exit polls at the polling stations must comply with all the requirements and guidelines for the conduct of exit polls promulgated by the Electoral Affairs Commission and the HAD.

Enquiries

For enquiries relating to applications for the conduct of exit polls, please call the Rural Representative Election Hotline at 2152 1521 during office hours, or email to rre@had.gov.hk.

Home Affairs Department
November 2018