

Application Guidelines for Conduct of Exit Poll in Rural By-election

Any person or organisation intending to conduct exit poll in Rural By-election must fill in the Application Form prepared by the Home Affairs Department (HAD) and return it to the HAD.

Application Procedures

Information to be provided in the Application Form

- (a) the name and address of the person or organisation intending to conduct exit poll on the polling day;
- (b) the name and identity document number^(Note) of the responsible person together with his/her contact telephone number(s), especially during the polling hours;
- (c) list(s) showing the number of interviewers to be assigned for the conduct of the exit poll at each polling station on the polling day, together with the name and identity document number^(Note) of each of the interviewers so assigned; and
- (d) the name(s) of Rural Area(s), number(s), name(s) and address(es) of the polling station(s) at which the applicant/applying organisation wishes to conduct exit poll on the polling day.

Signing of an Undertaking

A copy of the Undertaking for Conduct of Exit Poll in Rural By-election is at **Annex A**. The duly signed Undertaking should be submitted together with the Application Form.

Deadline

Any person or organisation intending to conduct exit poll should submit application to the HAD **not later than 10 calendar days before** the polling day.

Submission of Application

In order to facilitate this office to process the applications in a timely manner, the applicants/applying organisations should submit their applications as early as practicable.

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

- (a) an identity card issued to a person under the Registration of Persons Ordinance (Cap.177); or
- (b) 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
- (c) any other document issued to a person that is acceptable to the Electoral Registration Officer as proof of the person’s identity.

The completed Application Form together with the duly signed Undertaking can be submitted by email to rre@had.gov.hk; or by post to **Home Affairs Department, 30th Floor, Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong** (Attention: Team 2, Division I); or by fax at 2591 6392.

Notice of Application Result

Prior to the polling day, applicants/applying organisations will be advised of the outcome of their applications.

Publication of Approved Applications

A list of organisations or persons allowed to conduct exit poll together with their contact telephone numbers will be released prior to the polling day for reference of the public and candidates of the election. The list will also be displayed at respective polling stations on the polling day.

Requirements and Guidelines for Conduct of Exit Poll

The HAD will notify the persons or organisations concerned to collect identification devices bearing the name of the approved applicant/applying organisation and the names of the respective interviewers. Exit poll interviewers are required to display prominently these identification devices to make known to the electors the name of the person or organisation conducting the exit poll at the start of the interview, and to indicate to the electors that the exit poll is not commissioned by the Government.

Any person not displaying such a device prominently will not be allowed to conduct exit poll outside any polling stations.

Interviewers conducting the exit poll are required to adopt the “Standard Script for Interviewers Conducting Exit Poll” at **Annex B**.

The applicant/applying organisation should separately seek the **prior** approval of the owners/owners’ corporations concerned before conducting the exit poll at private places outside any polling stations.

Enquiries

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

Home Affairs Department
April 2015

Undertaking for Conduct of Exit Poll in Rural By-election

* I / We _____ (name of the applicant/the applying organisation) have applied for conducting exit poll on the polling day of **Rural By-election** for these Rural Area(s) at the polling station(s) as set out in the Application Form dated _____.

2. * I / We understand and agree to abide by the Guidelines on Election-related Activities in respect of the Rural Representative Election (the Guidelines) governing the conduct of exit poll issued by the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC).

3. * **I / We undertake to observe the secrecy of vote and respect the right of an elector to keep his/her vote secret and not to disclose his/her choice of candidates if he/she does not want to.**

4. * **I / We undertake not to announce the results of the exit poll or make specific remarks or predictions on the performance of any candidate before the close of poll.**

5. * **I / We undertake not to release, directly or indirectly, the results of the exit poll or make specific remarks or predictions on the performance of any candidate to any candidate contesting in the Rural Area covered by the exit poll, any person or organisation which has publicly expressed support for any candidate contesting in the Rural Area covered by the exit poll, or any organisation with member(s) contesting in the Rural Area covered by the exit poll, before the close of poll.**

6. * I / We undertake to conduct exit poll for the purpose as stated and in accordance with the details as listed in the Application Form, and in full compliance with the Guidelines governing the conduct of exit poll, including but not limited to the following –

- display prominently the identification device issued by the Home Affairs Department (HAD);
- respect the electors' right and wish not to be disturbed;

- prior to conduct of exit poll, using the standard script provided by the HAD, inform the electors being interviewed that their participation in the exit poll is purely voluntary;
- make known to the electors the name of the person or organisation conducting exit poll at the start of the interview and that the exit poll is not commissioned by the Government;
- should not collect and maintain any personal data (such as name and Hong Kong Identity Card number) relating to the identity of the electors; and
- not to stay or loiter or accost electors in the areas designated as the no staying zone.

7. * I / We undertake to ensure that all interviewers assigned to conduct exit poll are given necessary training and supervision, understand and strictly comply with the Guidelines and the clauses in this Undertaking governing the conduct of exit poll, and conduct exit poll for the purpose as stated and in accordance with the details set out in the Application Form.

8. * I / We agree to disclose the name of the responsible person and his/her contact telephone number (as provided in the application) for reference by the public and candidates of the relevant election.

9. * I / We understand that failure to comply with the terms of this Undertaking and the attached Guidelines issued by the EAC on exit poll may result in revocation of the approval to conduct exit poll on the polling day or during the polling hours. The EAC may also make a reprimand or censure in a public statement which will include the name of the person or organisation who / which fails to comply with the Undertaking/Guidelines.

** Please delete as appropriate*

Note: In this Undertaking (other than in paragraphs 1 and 7), “I” or “We” includes but is not limited to the applicant/the applying organisation, the person who signs the Application Forms and this Undertaking, and the persons and/or agents assigned by the applicant/the applying organisation as listed in the Application Form for conducting exit poll.

I have been authorised to sign this Undertaking for and on behalf of the applicant/the applying organisation, and also the persons and/or agents assigned by the applicant/the applying organisation as listed in the Application Form for conducting exit poll.

*(To be completed for application made by **person**)*

Signature of applicant: _____

Name of applicant (in BLOCK LETTERS): _____

Identity document (please specify) number #
of the applicant: _____

Date: _____

*(To be completed for application made by **organisation**)*

Name of applying organisation
(in BLOCK LETTERS): _____

Name of signatory (in BLOCK LETTERS): _____

Official capacity of signatory: _____

Identity document (please specify) number #
of signatory: _____

Signature: _____

Chop of the applying organisation: _____

Date: _____

- # According to section 2 of the Rural Representative Election Ordinance (Cap. 576), “identity document” means -
- (a) an identity card issued to a person under the Registration of Persons Ordinance (Cap.177); or
 - (b) 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
 - (c) any other document issued to a person that is acceptable to the Electoral Registration Officer as proof of the person’s identity.

票站調查員進行調查時的標準對話稿

Standard Script for Interviewers Conducting Exit Poll

你是不是(鄉郊地區名稱)原居民代表選舉/居民代表選舉/街坊代表選舉的已登記選民?

Are you a registered elector for Indigenous Representative Election/Resident Representative Election/Kaifong Representative Election for (*Name of the Rural Area*)?

我們現正代表(申請進行票站調查的人/機構名稱)進行票站調查，目的是(票站調查申請表第二部分所述的目的)。此票站調查並非由政府委託進行，回應與否純屬自願。你是否願意接受提問?

We are conducting an exit poll on behalf of (*name of applicant/organisation conducting exit polls*) for the purpose of (purpose as stated in Part II of the *Application Form for Conduct of Exit Poll*). This Exit Poll is **not** commissioned by the Government and any response is **entirely voluntary**. Do you wish to be interviewed?