

PRESS RELEASE

Keep Andrew Turner for the Island

Andrew Turner - Conservative Candidate for the Isle of Wight

18th April 2005

Tory's warning on Postal Votes

Islanders contemplating foreign holidays, and other postal voters, have been given two reminders about postal votes in the 5th May elections.

Andrew Turner, who is seeking re-election as the Island's Member of Parliament, has called for more publicity on the dates on which postal votes will be sent out, and what to do if your postal vote doesn't arrive.

Mr Turner said,

“Many people have applied for postal votes because they are going to be on holiday on the day of the election. But no-one seems to have pointed out that these may be useless if their holiday begins before 26th April. If you are going on holiday before 26th April and will not be back by 5th May then you either need to put your holiday address on the application form – a bit risky if you are holidaying overseas – or appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf at home. Application forms for a postal or proxy vote can be obtained from Electoral Services at County Hall.

He also pointed to concern following national publicity about postal votes being stolen, saying:

“Large scale abuse of postal votes, about which we have seen so much publicity in recent weeks, is unlikely on the Island. But it is quite possible that one or two electors won't receive their postal votes. I understand that they will be posted from County Hall on 26th April, so they should arrive

within a couple of days. If you do not receive your postal vote you should contact Electoral Services and ask for them to issue a new one.

“And if when you get to the polling station you find that your vote has been used, you should ask for what is called a tendered ballot paper. You then cast your vote and have it placed in an envelope so that the Courts can consider whether it should be counted if the result is tight. That would give them the opportunity, for instance, to check the signature on the ballot paper which is received through the post. The tendered ballot paper procedure was designed for use in cases of alleged impersonation of voters, and I do not see why it shouldn't be used for postal impersonation.”

END

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