

Media guidelines for the General Election count at St Mary's University, Twickenham

The counting of votes for Richmond Park and Twickenham will take place in the Sports Hall, St Mary's University, Waldegrave Road, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, TW1 4SX from 10pm on Thursday 4 July 2024.

Every effort will be made to provide maximum access and best facilities to members of the media. Attending journalists however, are asked to observe the following rules and, furthermore, to respect the requests of the Returning Officer or his Deputies at all times.

Admission to the count is at the discretion of the Returning Officer. Anybody deemed to be impeding the efficient counting of votes may be asked to leave the centre and not readmitted for the duration of the count.

Registration and general media facilities

- Admission to the count on the night will require pre-registration and an accredited pass obtainable at the media check-in desk.
- Photo ID and proof of journalistic credentials and organisation represented may be required in order to obtain the pass.
- A dedicated room for the media adjoining the count will be provided. This will have tables and chairs.
- The venue does not have the capability of an ISDN line and wifi will only be available on prior request.
- There will also be televisions for the media to be able to watch coverage on national channels. It is advised that media bring their own snacks / food etc. There may not be a shop within easy walking distance (TBC).

Inside the count

- The use of mobile phones inside the count centre for phone calls is strictly prohibited. We accept that some will use their phones for social media however. If you wish to take photographs – please inform Council media staff before doing so – otherwise you may be asked to leave.
- Members of the media must not approach the tables where counts are in progress and the counting teams must not be interrupted. Interviews with count assistants and their supervisors will not be permitted.
- A dedicated media area will be available in the count hall.
- Inside the count, all filming / photography must be kept to inside dedicated media areas. There is to be no filming / photography outside the media area, unless escorted by the Council's media team.

- Media will be given warning when a declaration is expected and will be escorted to the area in front of the declaration stage. At this point, filming and photography will be permitted.
- Media organisations are reminded that filming close-ups of ballot papers is strictly prohibited.

Interviews

- No interviews or broadcasts may be carried out from the floor of the main hall.
- Interviews can take place outside the count hall.

Electoral Law

- Those attending the count must read the attached Statement as to Secrecy at Elections, Section 66, Representation of the People Act 1983 and are asked not to give information on the progress of the count to parties outside.

**For further information please contact:
Richmond Council press office
Press-pr@richmond.gov.uk
0208 487 5182**