



Polling Stations and Count Centres

Applications for Polling Clerk positions can be made to the Returning Officer for your local area. A list of contacts including the areas which have an on-line application form are included at the end of this information. An email address is also included where an on-line application form was unavailable (on the 21st January). Phone numbers for Returning Officers or their office are also included where applicable.

Do not hesitate to contact the INOU's Welfare Rights Information Service on 01 - 856 0088 or welfare@inou.ie should you have any queries in relation to how or if such work may affect your current payments.

- **Work Opportunities**

When people in Ireland are asked to vote, be it in referenda or elections, the INOU has on many occasions raised with the relevant Minister the question of unemployed people having access to the opportunity available to work in Polling Stations and Count Centres. Returning Officers are required to provide for a recruitment process which positively encourages and welcomes applications from unemployed people. Over a number of referenda and elections, different Ministers have called on Returning Officers to consider unemployed people for these positions. This is having an effect. From feedback, we know that some unemployed people have secured this work. Unfortunately, we also note that others have not secured work and, in some cases have not even received a response to their application.

- **Useful information**

One of our INOU members – who had previously worked as a polling clerk – advises to contact the Returning Officer the day before or close to the date of the referendum to say that you will be available at short notice to undertake this work. They also advised that if you will be able to take-up with the option of more than one polling station, it is useful to inform the Returning Officer: this is important as being reliably available to work and travel some distance increases your chances of being selected if someone doesn't show up on the day.

Applications for positions can be made to the Returning Officer for your local area for the day (from 6 am to 11 pm). References may be required to be submitted with applications though this should be confirmed with

the relevant Returning Officer. At the end of the article please see the website links and contact details for Returning Officers.

- **Impact of work on a Jobseekers payment**

We asked our Welfare Rights Section to calculate the impact of securing this type of work and they gave the following examples:

Jobseekers Allowance (means tested payment)

Earnings = €350 (1 days work Polling Station / Count Centre)

Assessable Income from work = €350.00

Jobseeker's Allowance Daily disregard = €20 (maximum of 3 / €60)

Adjusted Assessable Income = €330 (€350 - €20)

Means Assessed = €330 assessed at 60% = €198

Jobseeker's Allowance reduced by = €198

New single person JA rate = €5 (€203 - €198)

Jobseekers Benefit (non-means tested payment)

Earnings = €350 (1 days work Polling Station / Count Centre)

Jobseeker's Benefit = 5 days

Revised Jobseeker's Benefit = 1 days work = 4 days JB payable

Jobseekers Daily Rate = €203 divided by 5 = €40.60 per day

Revised Jobseeker's Benefit = 4 days / €40.60 x 4 = €162.40

- **Impact of Work on Other Areas**

Local Authority Rent / HAP /

If you are a Local Authority Tenant, or you are in receipt of a Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), the portion of the rent you pay is calculated using the 'Differential Rent' system.

Under the Differential Rent system the amount of rent you pay depends on the amount of your total household income, this includes your earnings and your spouse / partners earnings.

You are obliged, under the terms of your tenancy, to inform the local authority of any change of circumstances relating to household income as it applies to the assessment of your rent.

If your household income increases because of earnings from working in a polling station or count centre, your rent can increase by a percentage of your additional income, usually at an amount of between 15% to 18%, for the period of those earnings only and should not be a longer-term or permanent change to the amount of rent you pay.

As each local authority operates its own rent scheme you should contact your local authority to review the rent scheme it operates.

Rent Supplement

If you are receiving a Rent Supplement payment from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP), under the Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA) system, your Rent Supplement payment may be affected by income received from working in a polling station or count centre.

You are obliged, under the terms for receipt of a Rent Supplement payment to inform the DEASP of any change of circumstances relating to household income as it applies to the assessment of your eligibility to receive Rent Supplement.

If your Rent Supplement is reduced or stopped because of your earnings, this should only apply to the period of your work in a polling station or count centre, and should not be a longer-term or permanent change to the amount of Rent Supplement you may be eligible to receive.

Medical Card

In general, if you currently hold a medical card, your income from working in a polling station or count centre should not affect your underlying entitlement to retain a medical card.

You should however keep any documents you receive in relation to the monies you earn while working in a polling station or count centre in the event the HSE request information on earnings as part of any periodic review or as part of any renewal process related to your medical card.

Given the nature of individual circumstances in relation to continued eligibility and retention of the medical, it is strongly advised that you confirm your individual circumstances with the HSE on 1890 252 919.

- **On-line application forms and phone numbers**

CLICK BLUE LINK to follow each County.

Carlow: <https://carlowkilkennyreturningofficer.com/index.php/work-in-carlow>

Phone: 085-1273191/085-1273187

Cavan: <https://cavanmonaghanreturningofficer.com/index.php/work-in-cavan>

Phone: (049) 437 8300 (General County Council Number)

Cork City: <https://corkcityreturningofficer.com/index.php/work-applications>

Phone: 021-4271-787

Cork County: <https://corkcountyreturningofficer.com/index.php/work-application>

Phone: 021 4272220

Donegal: <https://donegalreturningofficer.com/index.php/work-application>

Phone: Between **16:30 - 17:30** Monday - Friday 074-9206005 / 074-9206016

Dublin City:
<https://www.dublincityreturningofficer.com/index.php/apply-for-work>

Phone: (01) 6759003 / 6759004 / 6759005
(Monday to Friday from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm)

Kerry: <https://kerryro.com/index.php/apply-for-work>

Phone: 066-7118021

Kilkenny: <https://carlowkilkennyreturningofficer.com/index.php/work-in-kilkenny>

Phone: 087-654 4737

Laois: <https://laoisreturningofficer.com/index.php/work-applications>

Phone: 087 1681323 and 087 6281725

Leitrim: customerservices@leitrimcoco.ie

Phone: 071 9620005 (General County Council Number)

Longford:
<https://longfordwestmeathreturningofficer.com/index.php/work-in-longford>

Phone: 083 0620512/044 9335256

Louth: <https://louthreturningofficer.com/index.php/work-application>

Phone: 087-7109390

Mayo: https://11579a43-8e9a-463a-8cb4-fd49a3b6648f.filesusr.com/ugd/a80e26_1ffce530b27b409f914dcea55548a71b.pdf

Phone: 0872733996

Meath: <https://meathreturningofficer.com/index.php/work-application>

Phone: 046-9481227

Monaghan:

<https://cavanmonaghanreturningofficer.com/index.php/work-in-monaghan>

Phone: 047 30500

Offaly: <https://laoisreturningofficer.com/index.php/work-applications>

Phone: 085 8007543

Westmeath:

<https://longfordwestmeathreturningofficer.com/index.php/work-in-longford>

Phone: 083 0620512/044 9335256

Wexford: <https://wexfordreturningofficer.com/index.php/apply-for-work>

Phone: 085-1273187 or 085-1273191
(Monday to Friday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm)

- **Contact Email Address**

Clare: <http://clarereturningofficer.com/index.php/contact-us>

Phone: 065-6867556

Galway: customerservices@galwaycoco.ie

Phone: 091 509000

Limerick: <http://limerickreturningofficer.com/index.php/home/contact-us>

Phone: 061-446410 and 414655
(Monday to Friday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm)

Roscommon: info@roscommoncoco.ie

Phone: 090 6637100

Sligo: info@sligococo.ie

Phone: 071 9111 111

Tipperary: <https://tipperaryreturningofficer.com/index.php/contact-us>

Phone: 052-6125258

Waterford: <http://waterfordreturningofficer.com/>

Phone: 0761 10 20 20 (General County Council Number)

Wicklow: <http://wicklowreturningofficer.com/index.php/contact-us>

Phone: 01 2761630