

## SCHEDULE 4

### ISSUE AND RECEIPT OF POSTAL BALLOT PAPERS

#### **Receipt of covering envelope and collection of postal votes**

**18.**—(1) The CRO shall, immediately on receipt (whether by hand or by post) of a covering envelope (or an envelope which is stated to include a postal vote) before the close of the poll, place it unopened in a postal voters' ballot box.

(2) Where an envelope, other than a covering envelope issued by the CRO—

(a) has been opened; and

(b) contains a ballot paper envelope, postal voting statement or ballot papers,

the first-mentioned envelope, together with its contents, shall be placed in a postal voters' ballot box.

(3) The CRO may collect, or cause to be collected, any postal ballot paper or postal voting statement which by virtue of rule 53(2)(g) (procedure on close of poll) of the Scottish Parliamentary Election Rules the presiding officer of a polling station would otherwise be required to deliver or cause to be delivered to the CRO.

(4) Where the CRO collects, or causes to be collected, any postal ballot paper or postal voting statement in accordance with sub-paragraph (3) the presiding officer shall first make it (or them) up into a packet (or packets) sealed with the presiding officer's own seal and the seals of such polling agents as are present and desire to affix their seals.