

**Submission
No 29**

INQUIRY INTO 2008 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Organisation: Liverpool City Council

Name: Ms Wendy Waller

Date Received: 13/05/2009

I write regarding my reported comments about the recent Local Government election conducted in the Liverpool Local Government area.

I was very disappointed with how the election was conducted and I have outlined the reasons below:

1. One candidate was afforded the opportunity to use an Anglo-Saxon version of his name, whilst another candidate was told this was not possible and was told he had to use the name as shown on the Electoral Roll.
2. There were insufficient ballot papers at several of the booths and inadequate organisation to obtain additional papers in an appropriate time frame.
3. It was reported to me that at one polling booth in the late afternoon, some potential voters were told there were no ballot papers and to just get their name marked off the roll and they wouldn't be fined.
4. Complaints raised by campaign workers handing out "How to Vote Brochures" which were directed to the Officer in Charge of the polling place were ignored. These complaints included behaviour of some of the workers, abusive behaviour, intimidation, etc.
5. The cost of the election was double the cost in comparison to previous years. While the cost was explained to Council staff, there was a deterioration in the organisation of the election.
6. Some traditional polling places were closed and this made it difficult for some voters, especially the elderly who find change more difficult to manage.
7. One polling location was opened and not advertised.

8. At the recent Local Government Conference held in Broken Hill there was unanimous support for a motion which highlighted the need for Councils to control future elections and numerous Councils aired their concerns relating to the running of the recent Local Government elections in September 2008.