

UK Parliamentary General Election Count 2024



Welcome



Welcome to our guide to the UK Parliamentary General Election count on Thursday 4 July 2024, which will get underway as soon as possible after polls close at 10:00pm.

I am Returning Officer for the Ayr, Carrick and

Cumnock, and Central Ayrshire constituencies and the count for these areas will take place at the Citadel Leisure Centre in Ayr.

This guide sets out all you need to know about the election and the count – who is standing for election, where the polling stations are, where the count's happening, when it's happening, how the count centre will be set up, and how the votes will be counted and the results declared.

My main aim is to deliver an efficient, secure and accurate count, so I won't speculate about timings for the declarations; however, I do expect this to be well into the early hours of the morning of Friday 5 July 2024.

I hope you find this guide useful and, if you need any further information, please don't hesitate to get in touch using the information in the contact details section.

Mike Newall, Chief Executive



Postal vote opening and checking

The opening and checking of postal votes will initially take place in County Hall, County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr KA7 1DR and can be observed by those with the appropriate accreditation only.

Postal vote opening involves opening the returned postal ballot packs and checking the Postal Vote Statement only to ensure the

authenticity of the voter and ballot. This is done by comparing the signature and date of birth against the details held on file from the original postal vote application.

The opening of postal votes and the checking of postal vote statements will get underway on Tuesday 25 June 2024, and the timetable is provided below:

Date	Time	Venue
Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock and Central Ayrshire		
Tuesday 25 June 2024	9:30am	County Buildings, Ayr
Wednesday 26 June 2024	9:30am	County Buildings, Ayr
Thursday 27 June 2024	9:30am	County Buildings, Ayr
Friday 28 June 2024	9:30am	County Buildings, Ayr
Monday 1 July 2024	9:30am	County Buildings, Ayr
Tuesday 2 July 2024	9:30am	County Buildings, Ayr
Wednesday 3 July 2024	9:30am	County Buildings, Ayr
Thursday 4 July 2024	From 7pm	The Citadel Leisure Centre, Ayr

First stage and Returning Officer adjudication, regarding the acceptance of postal vote statements, will take place during opening.

As the timetable indicates, the postal vote opening will relocate to the Conference Room at the Citadel Leisure Centre on Thursday 4

July 2024, with sessions from 7pm onwards for both constituencies.

This will allow all valid postal votes to be included in the count as quickly as possible.

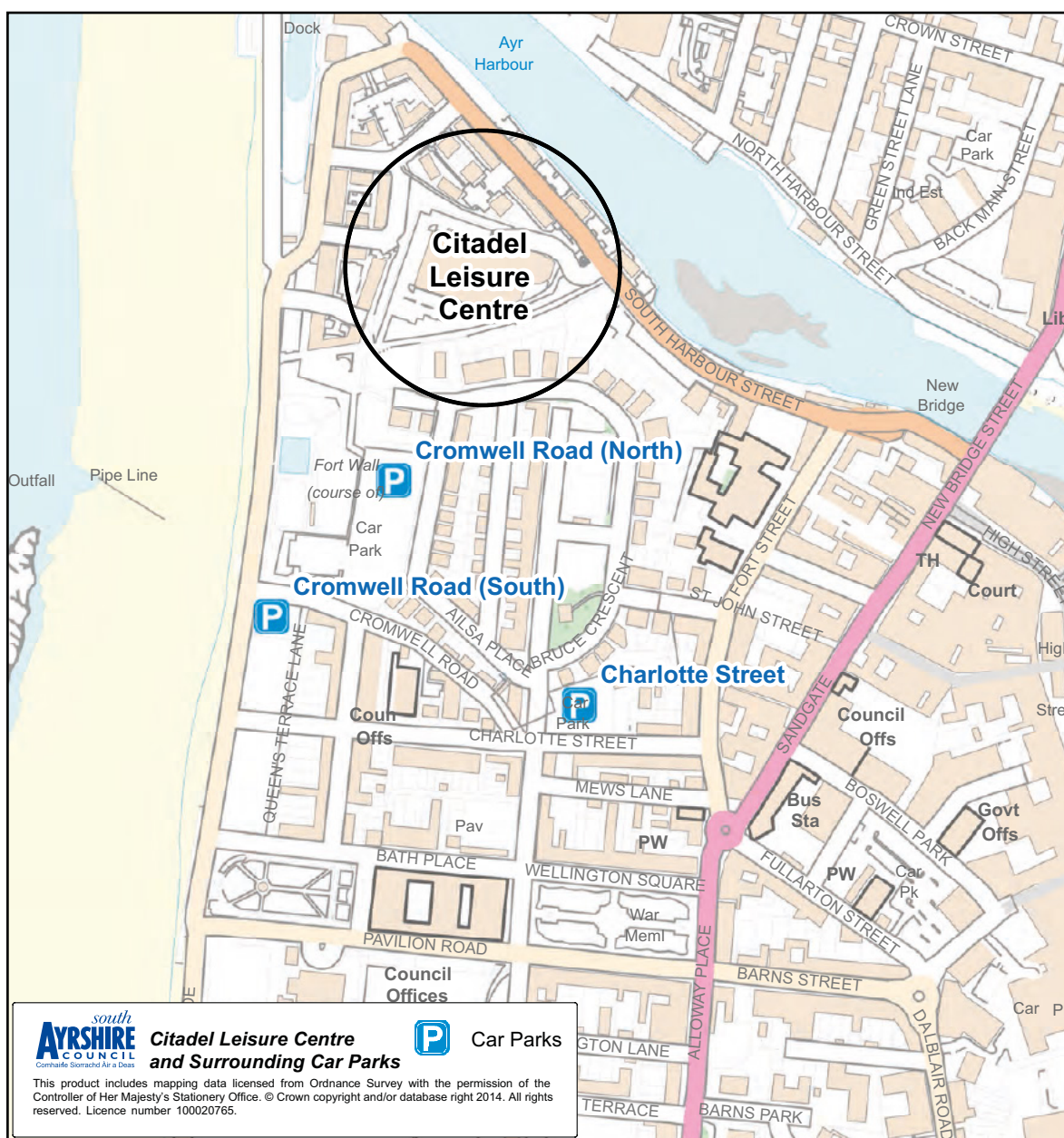
Count venue

The election count will take place in the main hall of the Citadel Leisure Centre, South Harbour Street, Ayr KA7 1JB from 10pm on Thursday 4 July 2024.

Parking in the Citadel Leisure Centre car park will be strictly limited and will only be available to those who have been allocated a parking space by the Returning Officer.

The count centre will open for candidates and agents from 9:30pm.

Alternative free car parking for those attending the count is available at the nearby Cromwell Road car park, which is shown on the map.



Count team

The election and count team is led by Mike Newall, Returning Officer.

Mike is supported by a number of colleagues to ensure the smooth running of the count.

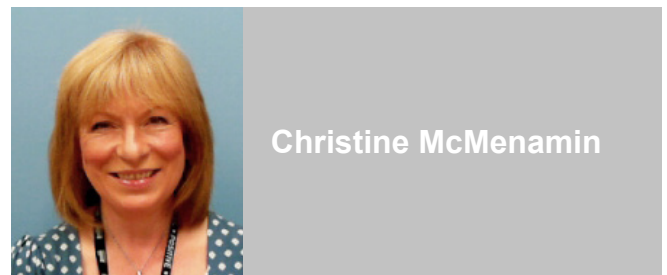
Key points of contact include:



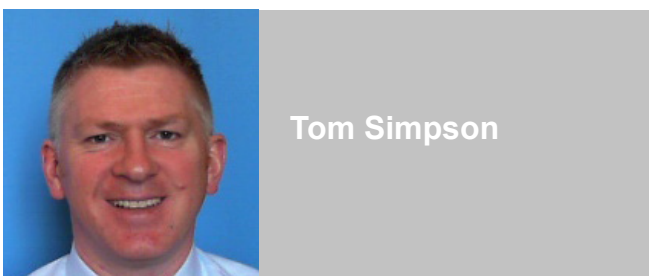
Depute Returning Officers (Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock)



Depute Returning Officers (Central Ayrshire)



Depute Returning Officer



Count access and accreditation

Access to the count centre - for those with the appropriate accreditation - will be available from 9:30pm on Thursday 4 July 2024.

All visitors must enter the Citadel via the main entrance and report to the security desk at the entrance to the main hall.

Only those with valid accreditation will be allowed access. If you are collecting your passes at the Citadel, you will also need to

have a suitable form of photographic ID, such as driving licence, passport, or press card. Accreditation passes can only be used by the named holder and must be worn at all times. Our accreditation passes are colour-coded, so we can see who is who and ensure that people have access to the relevant permitted areas.

Category	Colour
Candidate/ Election Agent	White
Counting Agent	Lilac
Returning Officer Staff	Gold
Count Assistant	Gold
Returning Officer Guest	Blue
Press and Media	Pink

Any queries or requests regarding accreditation for candidates and agents should be directed to the Election Office on 01292 612300 or email election@south-ayrshire.gov.uk.

Any queries or requests for access or accreditation from the media should be directed to the Communications Team on 0300 123 0900 or email communications@south-ayrshire.gov.uk.

Count centre

The count centre is expected to be set up as shown overleaf in our layout plan, although this is subject to change based on operational demands on equipment and resources.

The count centre will have two identical count areas – one for each constituency. Each constituency will be overseen by Depute Returning Officers:

- Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock: Lyndsay McRoberts and Wynne Carlaw
- Central Ayrshire: Catriona Caves and Christine McMenamin

Some tables and chairs will be provided in the main hall, as well as access to power points and wifi – this is primarily for election candidates and agents.

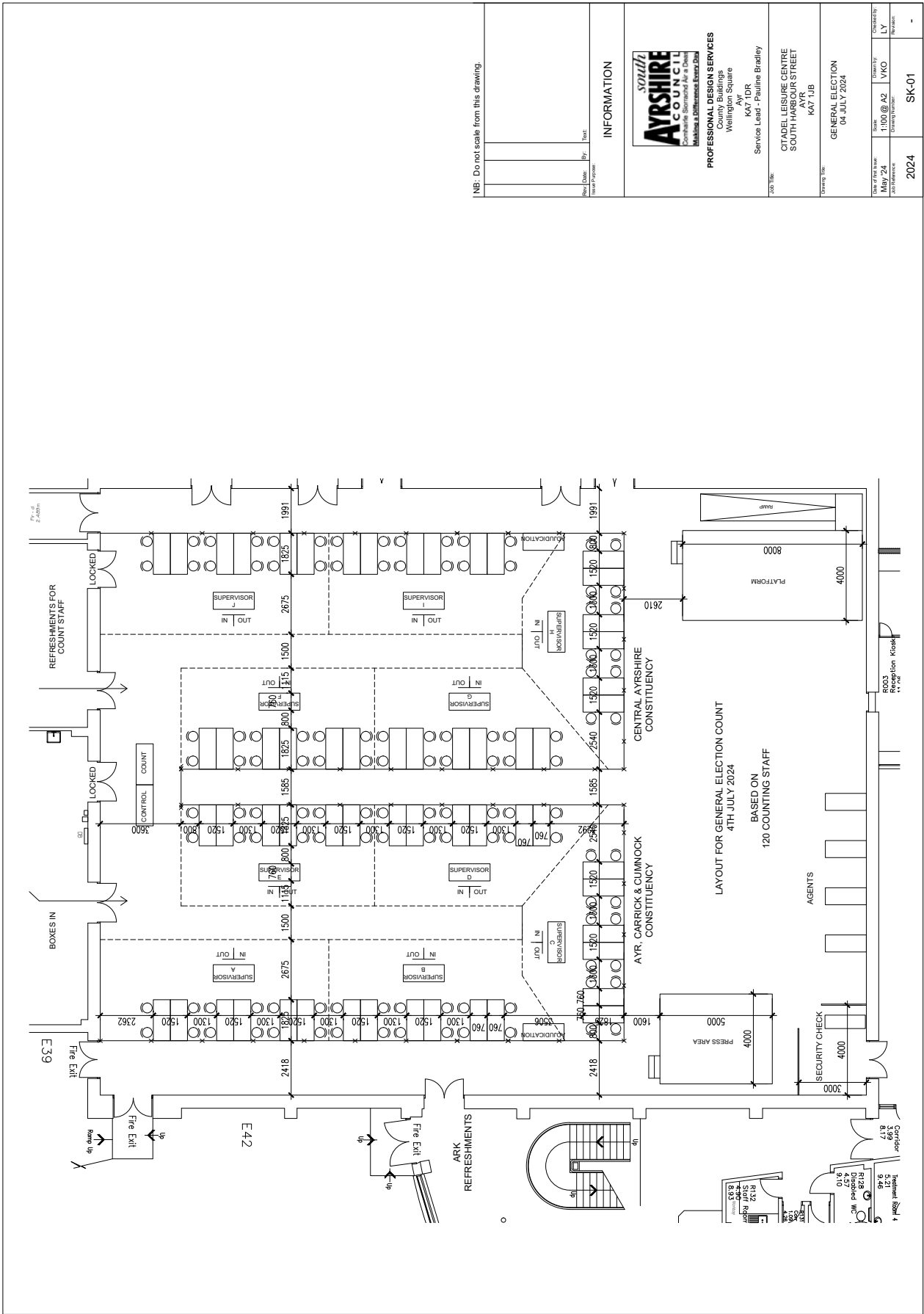
The main guest area will be within the Ark, which is located directly off the main hall where the count is taking place.

The Ark includes ample seating and large-screen TVs where you can keep up with election news and developments during the count.

There is a separate secure wifi connection within the Ark - the password for access will be available to those in attendance.

There will also be a speaker feed into the Ark, so any announcements from the main count centre can be picked up.





NB: Do not scale from this drawing.

Drawn Date: By: Text:
Issue Purpose:

INFORMATION



PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES
County Buildings
Westgate Square
Ayr
KA7 1DR
Service Lead - Pauline Braffley

CITADEL LEISURE CENTRE
SOUTH HARBOUR STREET
AYR
KA7 1JB

Drawing Title: GENERAL ELECTION
04 JULY 2024

Date of this Issue	Scale	Drawn by	Checked by
May '24	1:100 @ A2	VKO	LY
Reference	Drawing number		
2024	SK-01		

Count process

The counting of votes for the UK Parliamentary General Election will get underway from 10pm on Thursday 4 July 2024.

This will include postal votes that have been opened and processed in advance of polling day. Postal votes opened and checked on polling day will be added in as soon as they have been processed.

The count will be conducted using a 'mini count' model – this breaks down the count for each constituency into sections, with each section working to an identical detailed procedure.

There will be five sections in operation for each constituency: A-E for Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock and F-J for Central Ayrshire. Each section will have 12 count assistants and a section supervisor, who will be responsible for overseeing the section allocated to them.

Ballot box arrival

Postal votes and ballot boxes from each polling station will be brought to the Citadel and checked in on arrival.

Ballot boxes will be allocated to each of the sections (with allocations based on expected time of ballot box arrival and maximum number of ballot papers). Details of the ballot box allocations will be available at the count.

Ballot boxes are opened and emptied on to tables, with ballot papers handled face up at all times.

There are two stages to the election count – counting the number of ballot papers (known

as verification) and counting the votes on the ballot papers (the actual count).

Verification: counting the number of ballot papers

Verification involves the staff counting the number of papers within each ballot box and checking this against the number of ballot papers issued, taking account of both the unused and any spoiled ballot papers.

This ensures that all ballot papers issued at the polling stations and all postal votes received are included in the count.

If the number of ballot papers does not match the number of ballot papers expected from that ballot box, the papers will be recounted until the numbers match or until the same number of ballot papers is arrived at twice in a row.

Any discrepancies between the numbers on the ballot paper account – the form completed by the Presiding Officer at the polling station to account for how many ballot papers have been issued – and the number of ballot papers are recorded.

The Returning Officer will prepare a statement showing how many ballot papers were received in each ballot box against how many ballot papers were expected. A copy of this statement will be given to candidates and agents.

Once the verification process is complete for a constituency, the Returning Officer will be able to confirm turnout – the percentage poll – for that constituency.

The counting of the votes

Once verification is complete for a constituency, the actual count will then get underway.

Ballot papers will remain within the sections they were allocated to, so will be counted where they were verified.

The enumerators will sort the ballot papers by candidate – any doubtful ballot papers (where the ballot paper doesn't have one 'X' only next to a candidate's name) will be passed to the Depute Returning Officer for adjudication. Please note, a 'tick' (✓) will be accepted in place of the 'X'.

As long as the voter's intention is clear from the ballot paper, the Depute Returning Officer will accept the ballot paper as a valid vote and it will be included in the count.

If the intention is not clear, the vote is rejected and not included in the count.

Adjudication determinations will be based on the official 'placemat' and any supporting guidance provided by the Electoral Commission. Copies of these will be available at the count.

Candidates and agents will be invited to the adjudication table for their constituency to view the adjudication process.

The sections will then count the number of votes cast for each candidate, with a central team calculating the totals for the constituency.

Once all the valid votes and any rejected votes have been added together and checked against the total number of ballot papers from verification, the Returning Officer will share the provisional result with candidates and their agents.

Candidates and agents can ask for a recount of votes; however, the Returning Officer can refuse the request if they think it is unreasonable.

Declaration

Results for the Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock and Central Ayrshire constituencies will be declared as soon the results are confirmed - this means we could have a result for one constituency while the other is still being counted.

After consulting the candidates and agents, the Returning Officer will announce the votes cast for all candidates and declare the candidate with the most votes as the candidate elected to be the MP for the constituency.

The candidate elected will have a brief opportunity to speak, followed by the other candidates in alphabetical order (the same order as the ballot paper).

If two or more candidates have the same number of votes, and a further vote would see one of those candidates elected, the Returning Officer must decide between them by drawing lots.

The Constituencies

Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock



Eligible electorate for the UK Parliamentary General Election for the Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock Constituency (as at 27 June 2024): 70,340

Includes 19,958 postal voters.

Candidates

- Allan Dorans - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- Martin Dowey - Scottish Conservative and Unionist
- Paul Kennedy - Scottish Liberal Democrats
- Andrew Russell - Reform UK
- Elaine Stewart - Scottish Labour Party
- Korin Matthew Vallance - Scottish Greens
- Corri Wilson - Alba Party

Ayr Carrick and Cumnock – situation of polling stations

South Ayrshire			
Heathfield Community Centre	West Sanquhar Road	Ayr	KA8 9HP
Whitletts Activity Centre	Glenmuir Place	Ayr	KA8 9RW
Lochside Community Education Centre	Lochside Road	Ayr	KA8 9LH
Carnegie Library	Main Street	Ayr	KA8 8EF
Dalmling Primary School	Dalmling Drive	Ayr	KA8 0PD
Ayr Academy	University Avenue	Ayr	KA8 0SZ
Heathfield Primary School	Heathfield Road	Ayr	KA8 9DR
Castlehill Church Hall	1 Old Hillfoot Road	Ayr	KA7 3LW
Kyle Academy	Overmills Road	Ayr	KA7 3LR
Belmont Academy	Nursery Road	Ayr	KA7 3SN
Kincaidston and Belmont Bowling Club	18 Bracken Park	Ayr	KA7 3XB
St Margarets RC Cathedral Church Hall	John Street	Ayr	KA8 0BS
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall	Fullarton Street	Ayr	KA7 1UB
Doonfoot Primary School - Nursery	Abbot's Way	Ayr	KA7 4HJ
Alloway Primary School	Doonholm Road	Ayr	KA7 4QQ
Ayr St Columbas Church Hall	Midton Road	Ayr	KA7 2SE
Coylton Activity Centre	Hole Road	Coylton	KA6 6JL
Minishant Primary School IFE Wing	Merrick Crescent	Minishant	KA19 8ET

South Ayrshire

Kennedy Hall	Seaview	Dunure	KA7 4LX
Maybole Town Hall	High Street	Maybole	KA19 7BZ
Crosshill Community Education Centre	Kirkmichael Road	Crosshill	KA19 7ND
McCosh Hall	Patna Road	Kirkmichael	KA19 7PJ
McCandlish Hall	Main Street	Straiton	KA19 7NF
Dailly Community Hall	Main Street	Dailly	KA26 9NR
Girvan Academy	62 The Avenue	Girvan	KA26 9DW
Lendalfoot Hall	Lendalfoot		KA26 0JW
Barr Community Education Centre	Stinchar Road	Barr	KA26 9TW
Barrhill Memorial Hall	Main Street	Barrhill	KA26 0QP
Colmonell Community Education Centre	Main Street	Colmonell	KA26 0RY
Ballantrae Community Education Centre		Ballantrae	KA26 0NH
Maidens Church Hall	Kirkoswald Road	Maidens	KA26 9NJ
Kirkoswald Church	Kirk Road	Kirkoswald	KA19 8HZ

East Ayrshire

Ochiltree Primary School	Main Street	Ochiltree	KA18 2PE
Netherthird Community Centre	Ryderston Drive	Cumnock	KA18 3AR
Cumnock Town Hall	62 Glaisnock Street	Cumnock	KA18 1BY
New Cumnock Primary School	The Castle	New Cumnock	KA18 4AH
Stair Community Centre	Stair	Mauchline	KA5 5HT
Community Wing Drongan Primary School	Millmannoch Avenue	Drongan	KA6 7BY
Rankinston Community Centre	Littlemill Place	Rankinston, Ayr	KA6 7HB
Community Wing Dalrymple Primary School	Hill View	Dalrymple	KA6 6PZ
Patna Community Centre	Doonside Avenue	Patna	KA6 7LX
Dalmellington Community Centre	Ayr Road	Dalmellington	KA6 7SJ
Bellsbank Primary School	Craiglea Crescent	Dalmellington	KA6 7UA

UK Parliamentary General Election - 12 December 2019

Result Statement

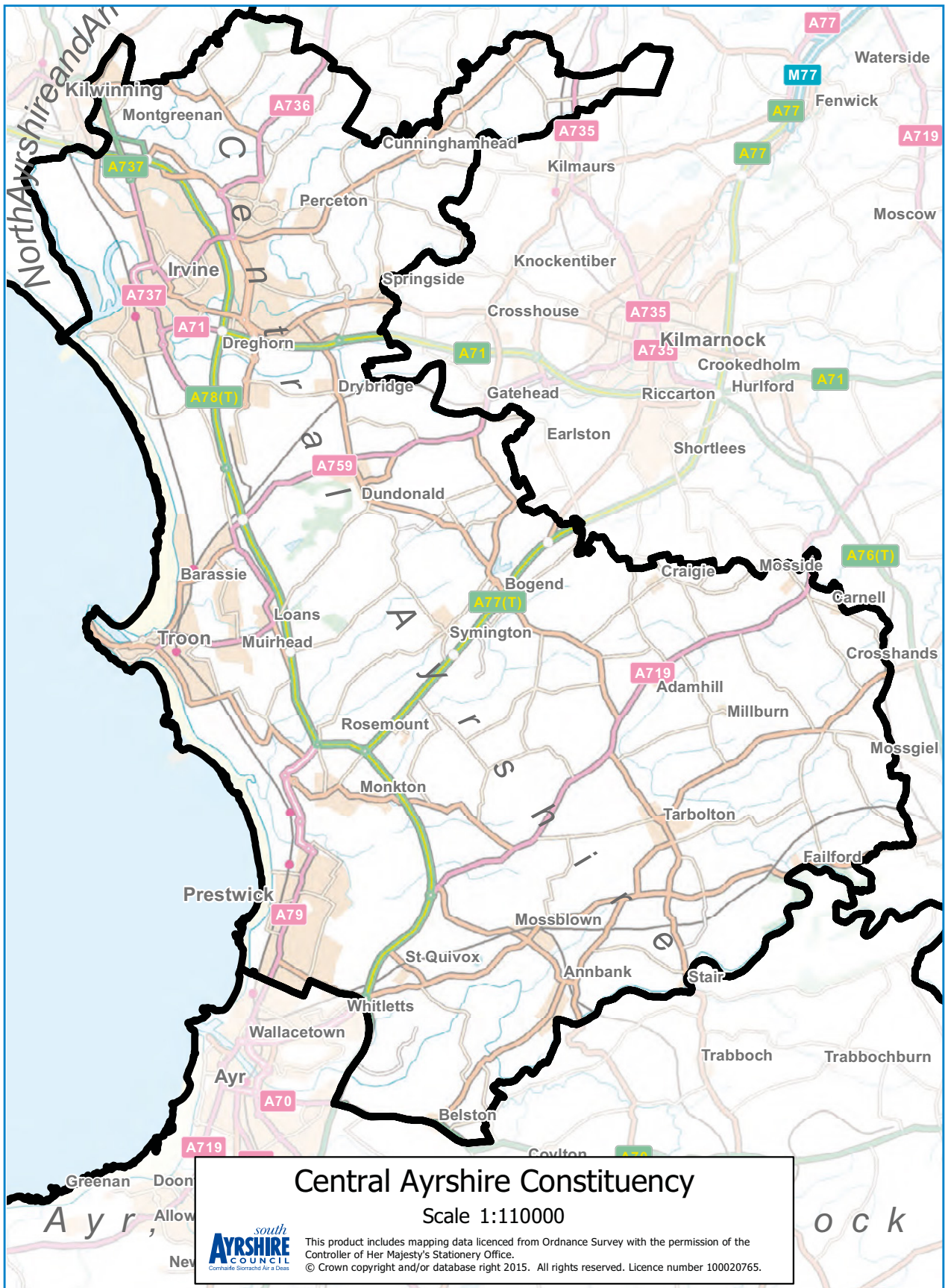
Electorate:	71,970
Total Votes Cast:	46,730
Percentage Poll:	64.93%

Constituency **Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock**

Candidate	Total
BONGARD, Helena Ivy - (Scottish Liberal Democrats)	2,158
DORANS, Allan Hopkins - (Scottish National Party)	20,272
DOWEY, Martin - (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)	17,943
TOWNSON, Duncan Christopher - (Scottish Labour Party)	6,219
Rejected*	138
Total	46,730

Rejected	Total
Want of official mark	0
Voting for more than one candidate	28
Writing or mark by which the voter could be identified	2
Unmarked or void for uncertainty	108
Total	138

Central Ayrshire constituency



Central Ayrshire – situation of polling stations

Eligible Electorate for the UK Parliamentary General Election for the Central Ayrshire Constituency (as at 27 June 2024): 69,413

Includes 17,862 postal voters.

Candidates

- Kevin Thomas Blades - Reform UK
- Elaine Ford - Scottish Liberal Democrats
- Alan Gemmell - Scottish Labour Party
- Tom Kerr - Scottish Greens
- Allan Macmillan - Social Democratic Party
- Louise McDaid - Socialist Labour Party
- Annie McIndoe - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- David Rocks - Scottish Conservative and Unionist

South Ayrshire			
Barassie Primary School	Burnfoot Avenue	Barassie	KA10 6UQ
Muirhead Activity Centre	Central Avenue	Muirhead, Troon	KA10 7AZ
Walker Hall	South Beach	Troon	KA10 6EF
Our Lady of the Assumption RC Church Hall	Morven Drive	Troon	KA10 6NH
Prestwick Community Centre	Caerlaverock Road	Prestwick	KA9 2LD
Prestwick North Education Campus	Sherwood Road	Prestwick	KA9 1EY
Kingcase Parish Church Hall	Waterloo Road	Prestwick	KA9 2AA
Heathfield Primary School - Nursery	Heathfield Road	Ayr	KA8 9DR
Montgomerie Hall	60 Main Street	Dundonald	KA2 9HG
Loans Village Hall	Hall Lane	Loans	KA10 7HG
Symington Community Hall	Main Street	Symington	KA1 5QE
Craigie Village Hall	Craigie		KA1 5LY
Monkton Primary School	Station Road	Monkton	KA6 2RH
Tarbolton Community Campus	Montgomerie Street	Tarbolton	KA5 5PY
Mossblown Activity Centre	Mauchline Road	Mossblown	KA6 5BA
Annbank Village Hall	Weston Avenue	Annbank	KA6 5EE
Coylton Activity Centre	Hole Road	Coylton	KA6 6JL

North Ayrshire

Castlepark Community Centre	4 Castlepark Road	Irvine	KA12 9LQ
Redburn Centre	Dickson Drive	Irvine	KA12 9EW
Vineburgh Centre	Quarry Road	Irvine	KA12 0PY
St Mark's Primary School	Clark Drive	Irvine	KA12 0NS
Volunteer Rooms	19 High Street	Irvine	KA12 0BA
Annick Primary School	Benslie Rise	Irvine	KA11 1BQ
Littlestane Community Centre	Littlestane Road	Irvine	KA11 2EX
Towerlands Community Centre	Towerlands Farm Road	Irvine	KA11 1PY
Lanfine Community Centre	Lanfine Terrace, Girdle Toll	Irvine	KA11 1BT
Dirrans Centre	Dirrans Terrace	Kilwinning	KA13 7PH
William Love Memorial Hall - Polling Station 1 within North Ayrshire and Arran Constituency	Moncur Road	Kilwinning	KA13 7LD
William Love Memorial Hall	Moncur Road	Kilwinning	KA13 7LD
Fullarton Hub	Ayr Road	Irvine	KA12 8DF
Drybridge Community Centre	4 Main Street	Drybridge	KA11 5BY
Townend Community Centre	15 Townfoot, Dreghorn	Irvine	KA11 4EQ
Elderbank Primary School	St Kilda Bank, Broomlands	Irvine	KA11 1LA
Springside Community Centre	Overtoun Road, Springside	Irvine	KA11 3BG



UK Parliamentary General Election - 12 December 2019

Result Statement

Electorate:	69,742
Total Votes Cast:	46,639
Percentage Poll:	66.87%

Constituency Central Ayrshire

Candidate	Total
FARTHING, Emma Florence (Scottish Liberal Democrats)	2,283
McPHATER, Louise (Scottish Labour)	6,583
STILLIE, Derek Daniel (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)	16,182
WHITFORD, Philippa	21,486
Rejected*	105
Total	46,639

Rejected	Total
Want of official mark	0
Voting for more than one candidate	22
Writing or mark by which the voter could be identified	0
Unmarked or void for uncertainty	83
Total	105

Contact details

www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/general-election-2024

Electoral Registration Office
avjb@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
www.ayrshire-vjb.gov.uk

Election Office
01292 612300
election@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

The Electoral Commission
0131 225 0200
infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk

South Ayrshire Council Communications Team
Communications@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

south-ayrshire.gov.uk



south
AYRSHIRE
COUNCIL
Comhairle Storrachd Àir a Deas
Making a Difference Every Day