



**Final Report**  
**March 23, 2013**



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## Executive Summary

On March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 92 percent of eligible Falkland Islands (FI) voters cast their ballot in a historic Referendum process that asked whether they wished to remain an overseas territory of the United Kingdom (UK). With a total of 1,517 “Yes” votes, Islanders voted overwhelmingly to remain a part of the UK.

A team of 8 independent, experienced international observers deployed to monitor the Falkland Islands Referendum. The independent Referendum International Observation Mission – Misión Internacional de Observación del Referendo (RIOM/MIOR) included current and retired legislators, civil society leaders, journalists and international observation experts from Brazil, Chile, Mexico, New Zealand, Uruguay and the United States of America. The team was led by Brad Smith and Juan Manuel Henao.

This Referendum report, prepared by RIOM/MIOR, presents the findings of the technical execution of the Referendum process and makes recommendations to the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) for future popular election or Referendum processes.

An advance team of RIOM/MIOR observers arrived in Port Stanley, FI a week before the Referendum to interview Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Chief Referendum Officer, the Attorney General and the Registrar General. These elected and non-elected government officials described the voting process and efforts taken by the FIG to administer and manage the Referendum process.

The RIOM/MIOR advance team also met with the Falkland Islands Chamber of Commerce and members of the local media to better understand public sentiment and society’s understanding of the voting process.

During the vote, RIOM/MIOR observers were deployed to both static and mobile polling stations, effectively covering all of the polling stations on the FI. Static stations visited included: Stanley, Goose Green, Fox Bay and Port Howard. Observers also trailed six mobile polling stations distributed across East and West Falkland, and one airborne polling station that traveled to eight remote locations, including four outer islands.

**It is the conclusion of this independent team of international election observers that the Falkland Islands Referendum process was free and fair, reflecting the democratic will of eligible Falkland Island voters. The international observation mission further concludes that the voting process was executed in accordance with international standards and local laws. The process was technically sound, with a systematic adherence to accepted voting procedures.**



## Background

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012 the Falkland Islands Legislative Assembly announced that there would be a Referendum held to consult Falkland Islanders on the political status of the Falkland Islands.

The Legislative Assembly indicated that the proposed Referendum would be held in the first part of 2013, and that international observers would be invited to observe the Referendum.

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the Legislative Assembly passed a Referendum Bill (The Falkland Islands Political Status Bill). During the legislative process, the Assembly noted that the Referendum would be “politically significant” and that it would be important to conduct the Referendum in a “fair” and “transparent” manner.

Following this legislative session, the Falkland Islands Government hired elections expert Konrad Olszewski on the recommendation of the Electoral Reform International Services (ERIS) provide advice on the Referendum, including on the formulation of the question and on the Referendum process. Based on the advice it received, the Falkland Islands Government decided to adopt a series of “Arrangements” to demonstrate the Government’s commitment to an open and transparent Referendum process. This included a provision to publicize all Referendum proceedings/decisions through a Referendum website: <http://www.falklands.gov.fk/home/referendum-2013/>.

After the FIG’s decision to hold the Referendum, it decided to hold a Public Consultation period between October 31 and November 16, 2012 to determine the wording of the Referendum question.

The text of the proposed Referendum question was disseminated to the local community by press release on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012. The text of the press release was also read on Falkland Islands Radio (FIRS) on news programs and as a recorded announcement throughout the afternoon and evening of October 31<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>. Last, the press release was made available in hard copy on the Penguin News, which went on sale on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. A prime-time television advertisement also ran throughout the consultation period on Falkland Islands Television (FITV) on the same date.

A dedicated email address went live for Islanders who wished to submit comments on the wording of the question.

The following public meetings took place to discuss the wording of the Referendum question with Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) present:

### Outside Port Stanley (“Camp”):

- Thursday November 1<sup>st</sup>. 1845, Southern Cross Social Club Fox Bay (MLA Edwards and MLA Hansen)
- Sunday November 4<sup>th</sup>. 1830 Port Howard Social Club (MLA Edwards)
- Monday November 5<sup>th</sup>. 1900 Hope Cottage (MLA Halford)
- Tuesday November 6<sup>th</sup>. 1900 Goose Green Hall (MLA Halford and MLA Edwards)



- Friday November 9<sup>th</sup>. 1700 North Arm Hall (MLA Halford)
- Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup>. 1400 Hill Cove Social Club (MLA Hansen)
- Tuesday November 13<sup>th</sup>. 1900 Green Patch (MLA Halford and MLA Edwards)

### **Port Stanley:**

- Tuesday November 6<sup>th</sup>. 1800 Court and Assembly Chambers, Town Hall
- Tuesday November 13<sup>th</sup>. 1800 Narrows Bar Stanley

The Stanley public meetings were recorded and rebroadcast by FIRS and FITV the following day; and a live radio phone-in program was held on FIRS at 19:30 on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Informed by this Public Consultation period, the FIG set out the following Referendum Ballot question:

*The current political status of the Falkland Islands is that they are an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom. The Islands are internally self-governing, with the United Kingdom being responsible for matters including defense and foreign affairs. Under the Falkland Islands Constitution the people of the Falkland Islands have the right to self-determination, which they can exercise at any time. Given that Argentina is calling for negotiations over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, this Referendum is being undertaken to consult the people regarding their views on the political status of the Falkland Islands. Should the majority of votes cast be against the current status, the Falkland Islands Government will undertake necessary consultation and preparatory work in order to conduct a further Referendum on alternative options.*

*Do you wish the Falkland Islands to retain their current political status as an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom?*

YES /NO



## Observation Mission

The Referendum International Observation Mission/Misión Internacional de Observación del Referendo (RIOM/MIOR) accepted the invitation of the Falkland Islands Chief Referendum Officer to observe the Referendum. The objective of the RIOM/MIOR mission in the Falkland Islands was to provide an impartial assessment as to whether the Referendum process was free and fair, reflecting the will of the voters. It deployed a team of 8 independent, expert election observers from Brazil, Chile, Mexico, New Zealand, Uruguay and the United States of America, to observe the Referendum vote which was held on March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

RIOM/MIOR sent an advance team of four members, which arrived in the Falkland Islands on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, one week before the rest of the delegation. The advance team conducted meetings with local officials and visited the anticipated polling sites in order to assess the level of preparedness for the voting process and to observe the campaign period in the immediate lead-up to the Referendum.

During the voting period, RIOM/MIOR observers were present at all of the static polling stations and followed all of the mobile polls. RIOM/MIOR effectively covered all of the polling stations in the Islands throughout both days of voting. Static stations observed on March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> included Stanley, Goose Green, Fox Bay and Port Howard. RIOM/MIOR observers also trailed the six mobile polling stations – one in Stanley, four in East Falkland Camp and one West Falkland Camp, as well as one airborne polling station that traveled to eight remote locations, including four outer islands. The eight remote stops were Bleaker Island, Sea Lion Island, Speedwell Island, Port Edgar, Albemarle Station, Port Stephens, Dunnose Head and Saunders Island.

The RIOM/MIOR findings are based on direct observations by the RIOM/MIOR observers; which were conducted in accordance with the *Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for Election Observers*. This Declaration was adopted by the United Nations in 2005 and has been endorsed by 35 election observation groups. The Declaration lays out guiding principles for the conduct of credible and professional election observation. The Declaration can be found online at: [http://www.idea.int/resources/analysis/observation\\_coc.cfm](http://www.idea.int/resources/analysis/observation_coc.cfm).



## Legal Framework of the Referendum

According to the Falkland Islands Constitution<sup>1</sup>, the Governor, an appointed representative from the United Kingdom, has legal oversight for the Falkland Islands Electoral Ordinance. In order to ensure that the Referendum was an act of self-determination without influence from the Government of the United Kingdom, the Governor delegated authority for the Referendum process to the Chief Referendum Officer (CRO) – the Chief Executive of the Falkland Islands Government – through the **Referendum (Falkland Islands Political Status) Ordinance 2012**. The Ordinance was passed and published November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012.

*This delegation of authority was evident in the meetings and interviews conducted by RIOM/MIOR's independent international observers. The RIOM/MIOR mission is satisfied that sufficient effort was made to provide a legal framework for this Referendum that demonstrated the independence and ability of the Falkland Islands Government to implement the Referendum free from external pressure*

The Falkland Islands Government, through the Chief Referendum Officer, issued 10 Arrangements and Rules for this Referendum. FIG posted these publicly on the aforementioned referendum website. When required, it provided clarifications and, in some instances, modified the Falkland Islands Electoral Ordinance, which was originally enacted in April 1989.

The 10 Arrangements and Rules are:

- No 1. Arrangements for the Appointment of Referendum Officers and Staff
- No 2. Arrangements for the Closed Period of the Referendum
- No 3. Arrangements for Referendum Observers
- No 4. Arrangements for Applications for Registration, and Applications for a Proxy, Postal and Postal Proxy Vote
- No 5. Polling Arrangements
- No 6. Arrangements for the Electoral Register
- No 7. Ballot Papers, Security of Referendum Materials
- No 8. Arrangements for the Count
- No 9. Arrangements for the Media and Polling
- No 10. Arrangements for voting at Stanley Prison

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.falklands.gov.fk/assets/The-Falkland-Islands-Constitution-Order-2008.pdf>



From these arrangements were two notable provisions. First, was to ensure the secrecy of the vote by removing the serial numbers from the ballot papers. This ensured that a vote could not be traced back to the voter. Secondly, was a provision to safeguard against individuals casting more than one ballot by assigning each voter a specific polling station and implementing a cross-check procedure to verify that no voter had previously voted in a different location. These efforts to ensure a greater guarantee for the secrecy of the vote and increased security of the voting process are in-line with existing international standards for the conduct of elections.

The Electoral Ordinance, supplemented by Arrangement No.5, provided eligible voters with numerous options for casting their ballot. This ensured that all voters had an equal opportunity to vote, regardless of their location at the time of the Referendum. For voters concerned that they would not be able to personally cast their ballot on March 10 and 11, voters had the option to apply for a postal vote, proxy vote or postal-proxy vote. Those voters wishing to personally cast their ballot at a polling station were provided with two full days to vote at one of four static polling stations (two in East Falkland and two in West Falkland), or at a planned stop of one of the six mobile polls, scheduled for March 10. In addition, provisions were included in Arrangement No.5, as a contingency plan, to ensure that poor weather conditions did not prevent the completion of the scheduled mobile polls.

RIOM/MIOR noted the importance of having voting over two days, as prescribed in Arrangement No.5, to avoid possible difficulties caused by poor weather conditions. Between March 2 and March 16, RIOM/MIOR observers witnessed directly the real risks of poor weather conditions on both land and air transportation. This included re-routed flights and difficult to travel roads due to fog and rain. Fortunately, weather conditions did not cause any delays for the conduct of the mobile polls on March 10 and weather conditions did not prevent eligible voters from traveling to a polling station. If weather conditions had prevented the mobile polls from completing their routes on March 10, a plan was in place to complete them on March 11. Observers were informed that two days of voting at static polls were also intended to make sure that no voter was prevented from voting because of poor weather stopping them from traveling to the nearest polling station.

*RIOM/MIOR is satisfied that the Legal Framework for the Referendum, including the Falkland Islands Constitution, and the applicable Executive Council Papers, Legislation, Orders, Arrangements and Rules – all publicly available on the FIG Referendum Website <http://www.falklands.gov.fk/home/referendum-2013/> – provided for an open and transparent electoral process in-line with international standards and ensured an equal opportunity for all eligible voters to cast their ballot in secret, free from external pressure and influence.*



## Referendum Management

### ***Referendum Administration***

The Chief Executive of the Falkland Islands was designated Chief Referendum Officer (CRO) and was empowered to make procedural and logistical preparations for the Referendum. The CRO worked closely with the Attorney General, the Registrar General and Members of the Legislative Assembly to develop legal norms and operating procedures for conducting the Referendum. During the vote count, it was the CRO, in consultation with the Attorney General, who made final decisions regarding spoilt and unclearly marked ballots.

The Registrar General was appointed Referendum Officer by the CRO and charged with managing all Referendum logistics, managing the electoral register (voter list), conducting the recruitment and training of all poll officials, and overseeing the voting process for March 10 and 11. In addition, the Attorney General and the Head of Legal Services for the Falkland Islands Government were appointed Referendum Officers by the CRO and charged with supervising the Registrar General's work and with providing legal advice throughout the Referendum. Together, the CRO and his three executive appointments were responsible for the Referendum.

On all accounts the RIOM/MIOR observers found the Referendum process was well organized. The logistics were extensive, involving:

- Postal and proxy votes;
- Multiple static polls, in urban, rural and very remote locations;
- An airborne polling station to remote settlements and outlying islands;
- Mobile polls with detailed and well publicized schedules for planned stops; and
- Well-equipped polls with all of the necessary materials for the voting process.

*The Referendum Administration was assessed by RIOM/MIOR as efficient, organized and prepared and as having carried out the voting process in a professional and thorough manner.*

### ***Public Information and Communication***

The CRO worked with Falkland Islands radio, television and newspaper outlets to disseminate, on an ongoing basis, important information, dates and deadlines for the referendum process. This ensured that all eligible voters were informed about their options for voting (postal-vote, proxy-vote, and static and mobile polling stations); the deadlines to verify and/or enroll on the electoral register; the deadlines to apply for a proxy or postal vote; and to educate voters about the locations and opening/closing times of polling stations.



Extensive measures were taken in the run-up to the vote to provide voters with all information necessary. RIOM/MIOR observers learned through interviews with Falkland Islands residents that the information campaign was sustained. During the two weeks that RIOM/MIOR observers were present in the Falkland Islands, it was observed that detailed information about the static and mobile polling station schedules were aired regularly on the local television station, the local radio station and published in the widely read Penguin News.

*RIOM/MIOR believes that the Chief Referendum Officer's public information campaign was a contributing factor to the very high voter turnout.*

## **Voter Registration**

As prescribed by the Electoral Ordinance, the register of electors is maintained on an annual basis through a formal canvass. This canvass each year is conducted by reference to residence on the 15th March in that year. In addition to this annual maintenance of the register of electors, Referendum Arrangement No. 4 was issued and made public on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013. It outlined in detail the process to apply for inclusion on the register of electors and how to apply for a postal, proxy or postal-proxy vote.

As noted above, Falkland Islands radio, television and newspaper outlets were utilized to inform eligible voters about registration methods and application deadlines. In an interview with RIOM/MIOR observers, the Registrar General estimated that approximately 99 percent of the eligible voters were registered. RIOM/MIOR observers, present at all polling stations on both days, reported that a total of four individuals were turned away from the polls without casting a ballot because they were not included on the register of electors. When asked by RIOM/MIOR observers, in three cases these individuals admitted to not having completed the registration process or annual census. The fourth case was of an individual who turned 18 a few days prior to the Referendum and therefore past the deadline for inclusion on the register of electors.

*RIOM/MIOR mission has assessed the registration process as thorough, open and transparent process in-line with international standards and local legislation. It further found that the registration process ensured equal access for all eligible voters to be included on the electoral register for the Referendum.*



## Eligibility

As stipulated in the Electoral Ordinance, all individuals over eighteen with Falkland Islands status and residing in the Falkland Islands for the 12 months preceding the Referendum were eligible for inclusion on the electoral register.

RIOM/MIOR noted that the eligibility requirements exclude all UK military personnel stationed at the Mount Pleasant military base and residents who have moved to the Falkland Islands, but have not gone through the naturalization process.

RIOM/MIOR observers learned from Chief Referendum Officer that there was some internal discussion to change the eligibility requirements for this Referendum to increase the number of eligible voters; however the decision was made to retain the same eligibility requirement for the Referendum that are used for all other elections to avoid any perception that FIG was attempting to manipulate the process.

## The Media and Campaigning

Falkland Islands radio, television and newspaper outlets carried a number of interviews with elected and non-elected officials regarding preparations for the vote. This media coverage repeatedly underscored the importance of voting. At no point did RIOM/MIOR witness government officials suggesting or indicating to eligible voters how they should vote.

*RIOM/MIOR believes that this public information campaign was a contributing factor to the very high level of voter turnout.*

Private citizens carried out a “Yes” campaign that received much media attention. RIOM/MIOR observers witnessed that this campaign consisted mainly of Falkland Islands residents adorning their vehicles in flags and “Yes” stickers. A “No” campaign also received coverage, but only took place via Facebook, which is widely used on the Falkland Islands. Both campaigns were allowed to make their respective points.

The Referendum Ordinance placed caps on campaign spending for the Referendum. Individuals and private organizations which exceeded £1,000 in campaign expenditures were compelled to register expenses with the CRO. These registered individuals or groups could spend a maximum of £10,000. During an interview with the CRO, RIOM/MIOR observers learned that no individual or group registered with the CRO for purposes of declaring campaign expenses related to the Referendum.

*RIOM/MIOR is satisfied that the media and campaign landscape was conducted in an open and transparent manner and permitted both “Yes” and “No” campaigns equal opportunity.*



## Referendum Period

### ***Preparations and Transportation of Materials***

On March 9<sup>th</sup> at 13:30, poll officials and RIOM/MIOR observers assigned to the West Falkland Islands arrived at the Registrar General's office in Port Stanley for the transportation of the Referendum materials to the West Island polling stations.

RIOM/MIOR observers reported that the Registrar General went through the materials with the polling officials. All sensitive materials – ballot papers, official seal, and the voter lists (Stanley, Camp and Proxy) – were secured in a sealed envelope for transport. These items were then placed inside the ballot box and closed with a seal to make sure the box remained closed during transport. This would ensure that no materials could be tampered with or lost. Materials were then transported via a chartered aircraft to the West Island under the constant supervision of the polling officials and a RIOM/MIOR observer. The RIOM/MIOR observers stationed on the West Island at both Fox Bay and Port Howard reported that all Referendum Materials were then securely stored upon arrival in a locked room at each location. The only key was in the possession of the designated poll official.

On March 10<sup>th</sup> at 07:00, poll officials and RIOM/MIOR observers – as well as other accredited international observers - arrived at the Registrar General's office in Port Stanley for the distribution of Referendum materials for the East Island polling stations and for the airborne mobile station.

RIOM/MIOR observers reported the Registrar General repeated the same process for the transportation of Referendum materials, as outlined above. In the presence of international observers, materials were reviewed with the polling officials, all sensitive materials were then secured for transport and polling officials traveled with the materials to their designated polling stations. In the case of the mobile polls, materials were transported to their first scheduled stop location in time for the scheduled opening of the poll. A RIOM/MIOR observer followed the distribution and movement of materials for each of the two static polls, the four land-based mobile polls and the one airborne mobile poll. All RIOM/MIOR observers reported that materials were transported securely to the designated stations.

On March 11<sup>th</sup> at 09:30, poll officials and a RIOM/MIOR observer arrived at the Registrar General's office in Port Stanley for the distribution of the Referendum materials for the institutional mobile poll in Stanley (i.e. the hospital, old age residence and prison). The RIOM/MIOR observer reported that the same procedures were followed for the distribution of materials as described above.

*The RIOM/MIOR mission found the distribution and transport of Referendum Materials was done in a logical, transparent and secure manner.*



## **Poll Opening**

RIOM/MIOR observers were present at the opening of all polls, both static and mobile, for both days of the Referendum period. A well conducted poll opening is an important indicator of how well an election or referendum has been organized and if the poll officials have received appropriate training. In this case, as the voting was conducted over a two day period, it was important for observers to be present at the poll opening on the second day of voting to observe that ballot box seals were still intact from the closing on the previous night.

RIOM/MIOR observers reported that opening procedures were conducted in an efficient and organized fashion, following the necessary procedures to ensure that ballot boxes were properly sealed. RIOM/MIOR observers reported that in all polling stations, for each ballot box, the first voter who cast their ballot into the box verified that the ballot box was empty and then the ballot box was sealed securely with the seal numbers properly recorded. This is an internationally recognized best practice for ensuring the integrity of the ballot box.

*The RIOM/MIOR mission found the opening process for polling stations was systematically conducted according to established procedures meeting international standards.*

## **Voting Process**

Voting was conducted over a two day period, March 10 and 11, in addition to the collection of postal votes.

Static polls were located in four locations, two on the East Island (Stanley and Goose Green) and two on the West Island (Port Howard and Fox Bay). These polls were open from 10:00 to 18:00 on March 10 and 11.

On March 10, four mobile polls were conducted on the East Island and one mobile poll was conducted on the West Island. In addition, one airborne poll made a total of eight scheduled stops to four remote locations on the West Island and four outlying islands. RIOM/MIOR observers reported that all of the mobile polls precisely followed their specified routes. Each mobile poll completed each stop as scheduled and for the specified duration. This ensured that voters were able to plan the exact time they needed to be present in order to vote.

On March 11, one mobile poll was conducted in Port Stanley which visited the hospital, the retirement residence and the prison. The RIOM/MIOR observer who followed this mobile poll reported that all procedures were consistently implemented. The observer also noted that the process for assisting disabled voters were conducted according to the rules laid out in the Electoral Ordinance and Referendum Arrangement No. 5 and that, on all accounts, the assistance was believed to have been conducted in a responsible manner and that the will of the voter was respected.



The voting process for this Referendum incorporated some new procedures that had not been previously used in a Falkland Islands election. Most notably, voters were designated a specific polling station. This measure was to prevent the possibility of a voter casting a ballot in multiple locations. The full voting process for the Referendum was clearly outlined in Referendum Arrangement No.5.

RIOM/MIOR observers followed all seven mobile polls and observed the voting at all four static polls over the two day period. RIOM/MIOR effectively observed the entire voting process from opening to close, as well as the secure storage and transportation of materials to the final count that was conducted in Port Stanley at 20:00 on March 11.

### **Static Polls**

The busiest of all polling stations was the Stanley poll in Port Stanley. Upwards of 90 percent of voters live within the catchment area of that poll. The line to vote at the Stanley poll was consistent for both days of the vote; averaging a 30 minute wait-time for voters until approximately 14:00 on March 11. RIOM/MIOR observers reported that Stanley poll officials were professional, efficient and consistent in following all procedures. At any given time, however, there was only one team of poll officials to manage the checking of the voter lists and distribution of ballots. This contributed to the long line-ups given the very high voter turn-out.

*RIOM/MIOR observers noted that voters were in good spirits and when interviewed indicated that they were not discouraged by the line-up. When asked about the wait, the Registrar General noted that this level of voter turn-out had never happened in previous elections and normally one team of poll officials was adequate to process the voters without long lines.*

The other static polls (Goose Green, Port Howard and Fox Bay) were reported as having no lines at any time, a result of having many fewer voters assigned to those polls. Over 99 percent of ballots were cast at these polling stations on the first day of the Referendum. RIOM/MIOR observers noted that all procedures were consistently followed. RIOM/MIOR observers reported that on a few occasions, most notably at the beginning of the first day, there was some confusion on the part of poll officials trying to locate voters on the various voter lists; as well as some uncertainty about the process for the newly established cross check procedure to make sure that a voter had not previously voted if they were listed under a different polling station. In all instances, RIOM/MIOR observers noted that the cross-checking process was ultimately correctly followed.

### **Mobile Polls**

Mobile polls can be more difficult to regulate securely without appropriate safeguards and therefore pose a greater risk of potential abuse. Given the extensive use of mobile polls for this Referendum, RIOM/MIOR observers were assigned to follow the mobile polls from start to finish to assess the extent to which the mobile poll voting process was regulated, secure, and transparent.



RIOM/MIOR observers reported that mobile polls followed all procedures and that the process was secure and transparent. All mobile polls were reported to have arrived on-time at each pre-determined locations and remained for the full allotment of time, as indicated on the published schedule.

RIOM/MIOR observers reported that, in most instances, voters were waiting at the designated location when the mobile teams arrived. In a few locations no voters appeared because they had opted to vote at a different polling station, via mail ballot or by proxy.

One of the mobile stops on the West Island, Hill Cove, was reported to have had a total of 38 voters, a significantly higher turn-out than all other mobile stops. Given the number of voters at this stop, the allotted time for the Hill Cove stop was insufficient. As this was the final stop for the mobile poll, it was able to remain in place longer so all registered voters could cast their ballot without having an impact on other scheduled stops.

The RIOM/MIOR mission noted that some mobile teams opted to carry all materials into a home or out-building for some of the scheduled locations while other mobile teams conducted the process in its entirety from the vehicle. Where the mobile teams opted to conduct the voting process from the vehicle, the poll officials created a concealed spot in the vehicle with screens to ensure the secrecy of the vote. The decision as to whether the mobile poll was conducted in a home or from the vehicle appeared to be at the discretion of the polling officials. RIOM/MIOR observers noted that when polling materials were moved into a home it was not always possible to arrange the materials in a way that provided the optimal amount of privacy for voters. In all such cases, RIOM/MIOR observers noted that the secrecy of the vote was maintained, but that this required all other people present in the home to physically turn their backs given the close proximity of people to the voting booths. Voting conducted in the poll official's vehicle was considered by observers to offer a better set-up. It allowed the voter to have the privacy of being on one side of the vehicle while all other people present stood at a distance on the other side of the vehicle.

A few RIOM/MIOR observers noted that there were a few occasions where it possible to see the voter's mark on the ballot paper when it was held up in front of natural sunlight to show poll officials the seal prior to the ballot being deposited in the ballot box.

*The RIOM/MIOR mission found the voting process was systematically conducted according to established procedures meeting international standards. In a few instances the location of mobile poll voting conducting in some homes and the effect of direct sunlight on the ballot paper were not always optimal in ensuring the secrecy of the vote. RIOM/MIOR observers were nevertheless satisfied that the secrecy of the vote was sufficiently protected to ensure the integrity of the voting process.*



## **Voter Identification**

No identification is necessary for Falkland Islands elections or for this Referendum process. As established in the Electoral Ordinance and described in Referendum Arrangement No. 5, voters were required to answer the following official question prior to voting:

“Are you the person registered in the electoral register now in force for the [Stanley / Camp] constituency as follows [voters name]?”

With a voting population of just under 1,700 people, it became clear that Falkland Islanders inherently know one another and enjoy close relationships. This allowed poll officials to identify virtually every voter by sight. RIOM/MIOR observers reported that even though poll officials very clearly recognized each individual who voted, they systematically asked the required question of every single voter. This ensured that the process was conducted consistent with local legislation.

*The RIOM/MIOR mission found the identification process was systematically conducted according to established procedures and that the identity of all voters was clearly established by polling officials, in keeping with international standards to ensure the integrity of the voting system.*

## **Official Pencil for Marking the Ballot**

Each polling station was issued an official pencil to be used for marking the ballot. This pencil is specifically designed to be permanent so that it safeguards the permanence of each individual vote. However RIOM/MIOR observers noted that a number of voters questioned the use of a pencil. These voters did not see the pencils as permanent and that they would have preferred to use a pen. In a couple of occasions, RIOM/MIOR observers reported that the presiding poll official was unsure as to why a pencil and not a pen was being used, unaware of this particular pencil’s permanent properties.

*While the RIOM/MIOR mission acknowledges that the use of the official pencil, which is designed specifically for the purpose of making a permanent mark was a safeguard measure in line with international standards; the information about the properties of this pencil could have been better explained to poll officials and voters.*



### ***Measures in place to ensure no double voting***

Referendum Arrangement No.5 introduced a new procedure for this Referendum to ensure that no voter could cast a ballot in multiple locations. Given the real risk that weather conditions could prevent an individual from getting to a specific location at any given time, Falkland Islanders are permitted to vote at any location. To prevent the possibility of double voting given the use of mobile polls and two day static polls, several measures were put in place for this Referendum:

- Voters were designated a specific polling station. Voters were notified of their designated polling station by mail in advance of the Referendum.
- If a voter determined that she/he would not be able to vote at their designated polling station, the voter had the opportunity to contact the Registrar General to be re-allocated to the polling station of their choice. If this information was received after the electoral register was closed on February 19, 2013, the voter re-allocation was included on what became the “Re-Allocation List.”
- During the voting process, poll officials were instructed to first check the re-allocation list to ensure that a voter had not been re-allocated to another polling station.
- If a voter decided to vote at a poll that was different than the poll she/he was listed under in the official Voters’ List, but that she/he was at the polling station identified on the re-allocation list, the voter was permitted to vote with no further cross-check.
- If a voter decided to vote at a poll that was different than the poll she/he was listed under in the official Voters List and she/he had not been included on the re-allocation list, the poll official was to call the polling station where the voter had been assigned to ensure that she/he had not voted at that location prior to issuing them a ballot.
- In all instances, voters were crossed of the official Voters List at the location where they voted using a black pen.
- If a polling station had received a call that a voter assigned to their polling station had voted elsewhere, the poll official crossed that voter off the official Voters List using a red pen to ensure that the voter in question could not be mistakenly issued a second ballot if she/he later showed up at the assigned polling station.

RIOM/MIOR observers reported that this cross-check measure was systematically followed by polling officials in all locations. RIOM/MIOR observers did note, however, that the multiple lists and cross-referencing caused some confusion on a few occasions for locating voters on the Voters List. RIOM/MIOR observers also noted that some poll officials felt uncertain about when to use the red pen versus the black pen for crossing names off the Voters List. Finally, some observers noted that occasionally the poll officials were unable to establish a phone connection in order to complete the cross-check prior to issuing the ballot – cell phone and even satellite phone coverage is sometimes inconsistent in some of the remote locations visited by the mobile polls. The observers noted that in these instances the poll officials always made the phone call as soon as they could get a connection and



at all times it was confirmed that the voter in question had not already voted at the other polling station and that all necessary cross-checks were completed.

*The RIOM/MIOR mission acknowledges the effort made for this Referendum to implement measures to minimize the risk that an individual could vote more than once during the Referendum. These measures provided a greater degree of security for the process. Given the logistics of travelling throughout the Falkland Islands, the cross-checking process developed worked for its intended purpose. RIOM/MIOR observers are satisfied that the cross-check measures were systematically followed.*

### **Poll closing**

RIOM/MIOR observers were present for the closing of each poll during both days of voting. RIOM/MIOR observers reported that all established procedures were systematically followed. Ballot boxes and sensitive materials were sealed and seal numbers were recorded.

The materials for all mobile polls were transported back to the Registrar General's office in Port Stanley on March 10<sup>th</sup>. RIOM/MIOR observers followed the transportation of all polling materials and reported that materials were then securely stored in the Registrar General's office.

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, for the static polls outside of Port-Stanley (Goose Green, Fox Bay and Port Howard), RIOM/MIOR observers reported that all materials were securely stored in a designated locked room at each location, with the only key remaining in the possession of the assigned poll official. For the static poll in Stanley, RIOM/MIOR observers reported that the materials were securely stored in the Registrar General's office, which was located in the same building as the polling station.

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, RIOM/MIOR members observed the sealing of the ballot boxes and sensitive materials and reported that the materials were securely transported back to Port-Stanley via plane for the final count. RIOM/MIOR members followed the materials on the plane and the transportation of the materials to the count in Port-Stanley.

*The RIOM/MIOR mission found the closing process was systematically conducted according to established procedures and meet international standards. This ensured the security of ballot boxes and other sensitive materials.*



## **Voters List**

As noted above, voters were designated a polling station on the official voters list as a newly adopted measure to ensure voters could not vote in multiple locations. Registered voters retained the legal right to vote anywhere in the Falkland Islands. As such, every static and mobile poll had an official copy of all of the Voters Lists (Stanley, Camp and Proxy), as well as a voter Reallocation List. The multiple lists caused some confusion for a few polling officials who on occasion were reported as having difficulty finding a voter on the list because they were unsure which list to look at first. However, as noted above, in all but four<sup>2</sup> instances, RIOM/MIOR observers reported that, after reviewing all of the lists, the voter was found on the correct list and permitted to vote.

*The RIOM/MIOR mission found the Voters List to be accurate and consistent with local legislation and international standards. This ensured that eligible voters had their democratic right to vote protected.*

## **Gender**

An election is not in compliance with international obligations and standards unless women as well as men are given the full and equal opportunity to participate. The participation of women — as election officials and voters — can protect the rights of women and help to enhance their participation in electoral processes. RIOM/MIOR observers noted throughout the two days of voting that both men and women were present as poll officials and all individuals, regardless of gender, had equal opportunity to cast their ballot.

*The RIOM/MIOR mission assessed that the voters of the Falkland Islands enjoy a free and open election process, where registered men and women voted without obstruction or prejudice. Women and men had equal opportunity to participate as poll officials and as voters*

## **Vote Count and Tabulation**

Observing the count provides an opportunity to assess whether ballots are counted accurately and whether they reflect the choice expressed by the voters. All 8 RIOM/MIOR observers were present at the vote count in Port-Stanley and reported that all procedures as detailed in Referendum Arrangement No. 8 were systematically followed.

RIOM/MIOR observers were satisfied that the count process was methodical, containing numerous cross-checks to ensure accuracy and transparency. Given the small number of ballots in some of the

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<sup>2</sup> As noted under the Voter Registration Section of this report, RIOM/MIOR observers reported that four individuals who presented themselves at a polling station were not permitted to vote because they had not been registered on the electoral register. Please see the Voter Registration Section for more details.



mobile poll ballot boxes, the policy to mix all of the ballots cast prior to counting was an appropriate safeguard to maintain the secrecy of all votes.

Arrangement No.8 provided a legal framework for the adjudication of ballots that were spoilt or unclearly marked, as well as instructions for recount procedures. The adjudication process for “doubtful” ballots (as described in Arrangement No. 8) was conducted by the CRO and was observed by RIOM/MIOR observers and other Referendum Officers. Through this process, one ballot was rejected. No disputes concerning the adjudication of ballots or the final count were observed.

In some instances, RIOM/MIOR observers noted that a small number of ballots placed in the adjudication box bore symbols other than a traditional “X” or “V”. According to the Electoral Ordinance [S. 2/Ord. 8/01/w.e.f. 13/6/01] so long as the intent of the voter is clear and the mark did not identify the voter, the ballot should not be rejected. RIOM/MIOR observers were satisfied that the adjudication process clearly followed this legal norm.

*The RIOM/MIOR mission found that the counting process was open and transparent, consistent with local legislation and international standards.*

### **Announcement of Results**

Results were announced immediately after the conclusion of the count by the CRO in front of international observers, international media and local citizens. A copy of the results was handed out to all individuals present. The results were then subsequently published on the Falkland Islands Government web-site: <http://www.falklands.gov.fk/results-of-the-referendum-on-the-political-status-of-the-falkland-islands/>

- The number of ballot papers issued was 1,522
- The number of votes cast at the referendum was 1,518
- The total number of rejected ballot papers was 1
- The total number of votes validly cast at the referendum was 1,517
- The percentage of turnout at the referendum was 92%
- The number of “Yes” votes cast was 1,513 (99.8%)
- The number of “No” votes cast was 3 (0.2%)
- 1 vote was unaccounted for

### **Additional Statistics**

- Total number of eligible voters according to the electoral register was 1,672
- Voter Turnout was 92%
- Proxy Votes: 120 proxy votes (106 in Stanley and 14 in Camp)
- Postal Votes: 41 votes were cast via mail (14 from Stanley and 27 from Camp)



## Recommendations

The RIOM/MIOR mission would like to make the following recommendations to the Falkland Island Government for use in future election or referendum processes. RIOM/MIOR believes the following recommendations will help streamline the voting process and further strengthen the electoral system.

### **Recommendation 1: Change Voting Pencil**

During the voting process, RIOM/MIOR observers witnessed confusion regarding the permanency of the pencil used for marking ballot papers. Some poll officials, as well as some voters, thought the official pencil's mark could be erased. In future electoral processes, voters and polling officials should be made aware of the pencil's non-erasable qualities and its lasting mark on ballot papers. Alternatively, a pen, marker or crayon (as used in other countries) could be used to mark ballots.

### **Recommendation 2: Change Ballot Paper**

During the voting process, RIOM/MIOR observers reported that in some instances they were able to view marks made on ballot papers when the ballot paper was held up to direct sunlight. An effort should be made to use thicker paper or different color paper to further ensure the privacy of the vote.

### **Recommendation 3: Provide More Privacy for Voters during Marking of Ballots**

Voters in both mobile and static polling stations should be provided more privacy while marking their respective ballots. In Stanley, RIOM/MIOR observers found voting booths facing out to the public allowed for the possibility that others present could view the manner in which voters marked their ballot. In mobile polling stations, voters often had to hunch over their ballot to ensure privacy given the close proximity of other individuals.

Many ballot booth models exist wherein curtains or plastic covers are available to afford voters complete privacy. Placing ballot booths so that the opening is towards a wall with no access for people to move behind the voter is another simple solution to increase the privacy of the vote.

### **Recommendation 4: Keep Mobile Polls in Vehicles (institutional mobile poll excepted)**

RIOM/MIOR observers noted that the mobile polls that were run directly out of their vehicles proved to be more efficient and offered a better degree of privacy for voters. Therefore the RIOM/MIOR mission recommends that mobile polls in Camp should be run out of the vehicles, with the voting booth placed on the far side of the vehicle, offering voters adequate space to ensure privacy.



#### **Recommendation 5: Require Picture Identification For Voters**

RIOM/MIOR observers respect the standards and customs of the Falkland Islands. In every polling station, RIOM/MIOR observers witnessed poll officials ask required questions to ascertain voter identity. While RIOM/MIOR understands this practice, it proposes that Falkland Islands electoral authorities consider requiring photo identification during voting periods.

We believe this standard will help avoid long waiting times like the ones witnessed in Stanley and also provide for a more secure identification of voters.

#### **Recommendation 6: Voters Should Sign Next To Their Name on Voters List Before Issuance of Ballot**

RIOM/MIOR observers recommend having voters sign next to their name on the Voters List before being issued a ballot. RIOM/MIOR believes this measure would provide an additional safeguard against double voting and provide additional evidence for authorities should double voting occur.

#### **Recommendation 7: Provide “Emergency Vote” Option**

RIOM/MIOR observers were pleased to witness the many ways in which Falkland Islanders can cast a ballot. However there is no measure in place to allow a person who becomes sick and unable to present themselves to a polling station on the day of the vote to cast their ballot. RIOM/MIOR therefore recommends that the Falkland Islands Government develop a provision for an Emergency Vote. Given the small size of the voting population, this type of measure should be able to be implemented with the appropriate safeguards to ensure the integrity of the voting process.

#### **Recommendation 8: Additional Training for Polling Officials**

The RIOM/MIOR mission applauds the talent acquired by the Registrar General’s office to administer the voting process. RIOM/MIOR believes, however, that polling officials should undergo more technical training before vote day to ensure full understanding of all processes, particularly the different voting lists.

#### **Recommendation 9: Educate Voters on Marking “X” or “V” on Ballots**

In some instances, RIOM/MIOR observers witnessed confusion on which mark to make on ballots. RIOM/MIOR recommends having a standard mark for the vote process and educating voters on the proper use of the mark to vote. In future processes, this may avoid confusion and provide for faster vote-count.



### **Recommendation 10: Have Additional Staff in Stanley to Reduce Wait Times**

RIOM/MIOR observers noted that having only one team to check-off the Voters List and issue ballots to the large voting population in Stanley resulted in wait times that could possibly have dissuade voters from casting their ballot. RIOM/MIOR recommends that Falkland Islands officials explore options for increasing the poll-staff to voter ratio for Stanley.

### **Recommendation 11: Consolidate the Voters Lists**

RIOM/MIOR observers recommend that Falkland Islands officials consider consolidating the various Voter Lists (Stanley, Camp, etc.) into one document to simplify the process of locating the voters name without having to shuffle through multiple documents.

### **Recommendation 12: Formally Adopt Some of the New Measures Included in Arrangement No.5**

RIOM/MIOR recommends that the Falkland Islands formally adopt the measure to remove serial numbers from ballot papers and the measure to assign voters to polling stations for all future elections and Referendums.

## **Acknowledgements**

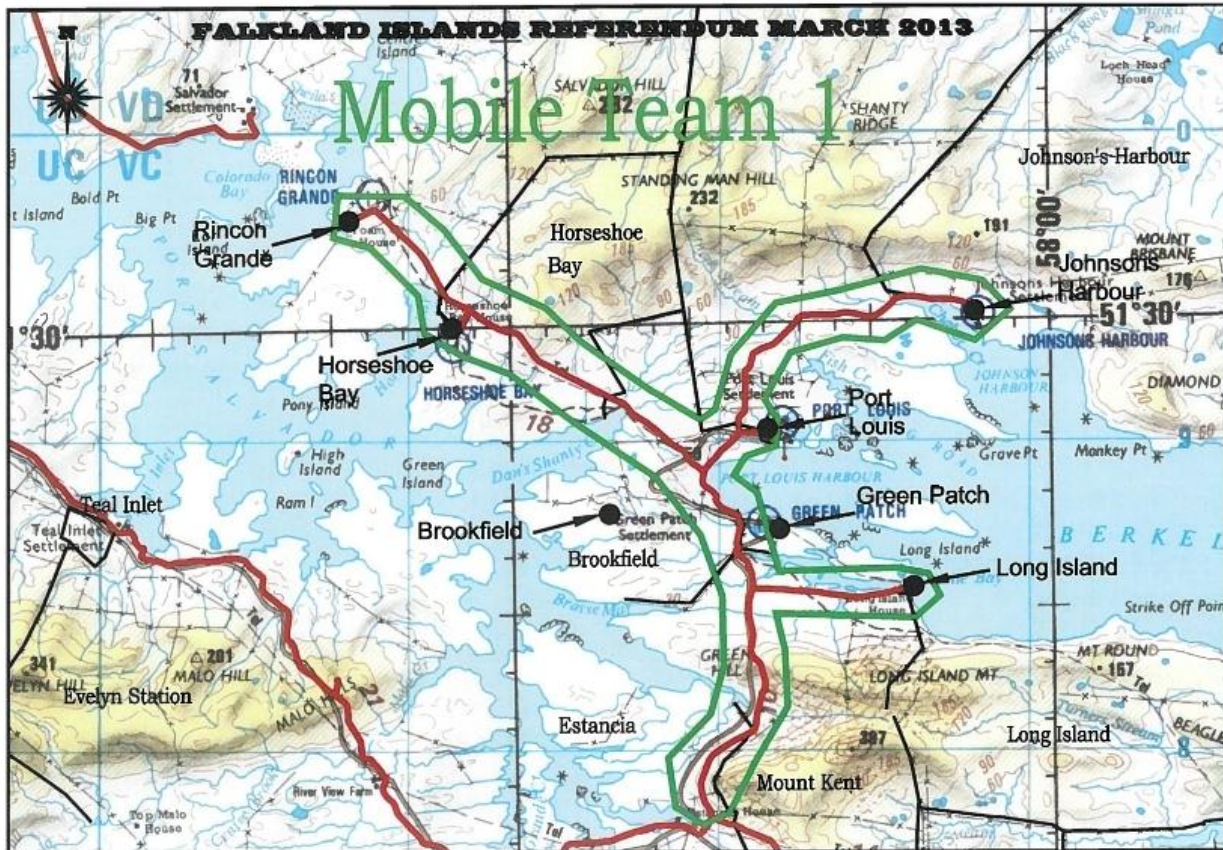
RIOM/MIOR would like to thank the people of the Falkland Islands for the opportunity to observe the Referendum. A special note of thanks is extended to the Registrar General's office, to the Falkland Island Government Air Service (FIGAS) and to Falkland Islands 4X4. Together, they fielded numerous written and one-on-one petitions to strengthen our understanding of the electoral process; and permitted us to travel safely throughout the Falkland Islands.

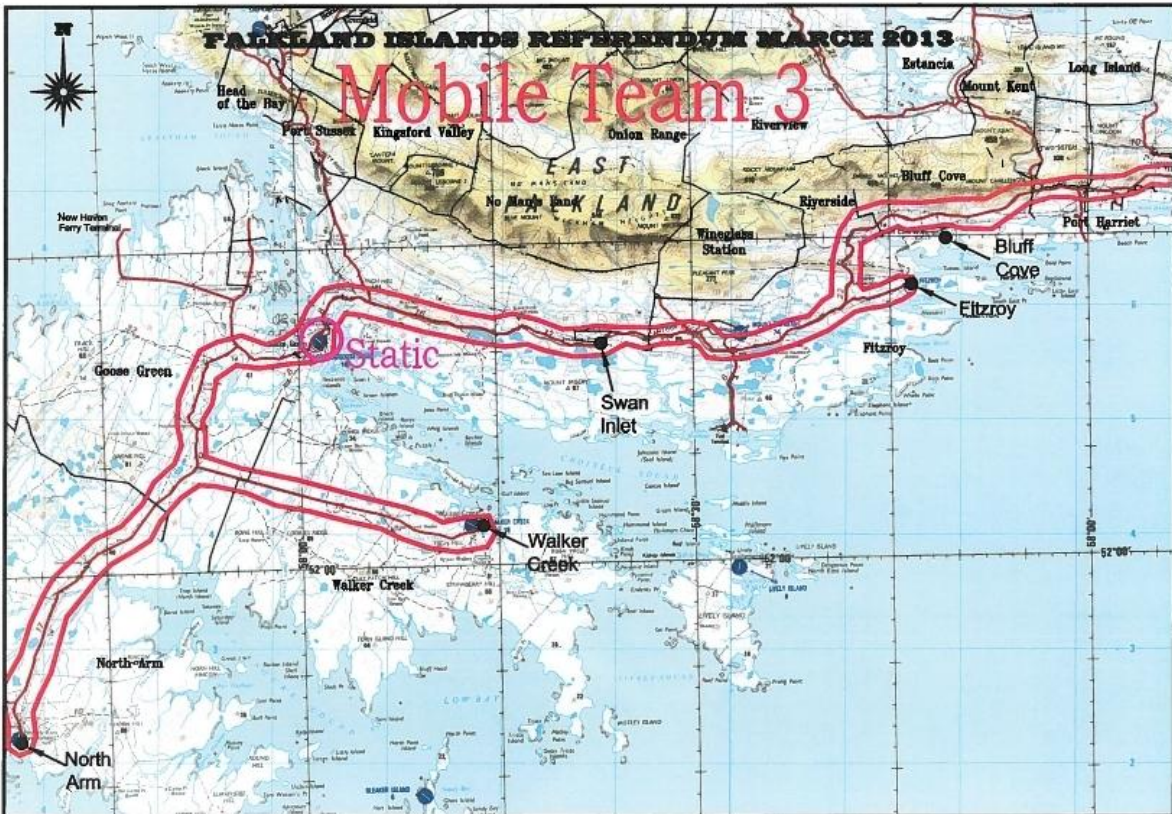


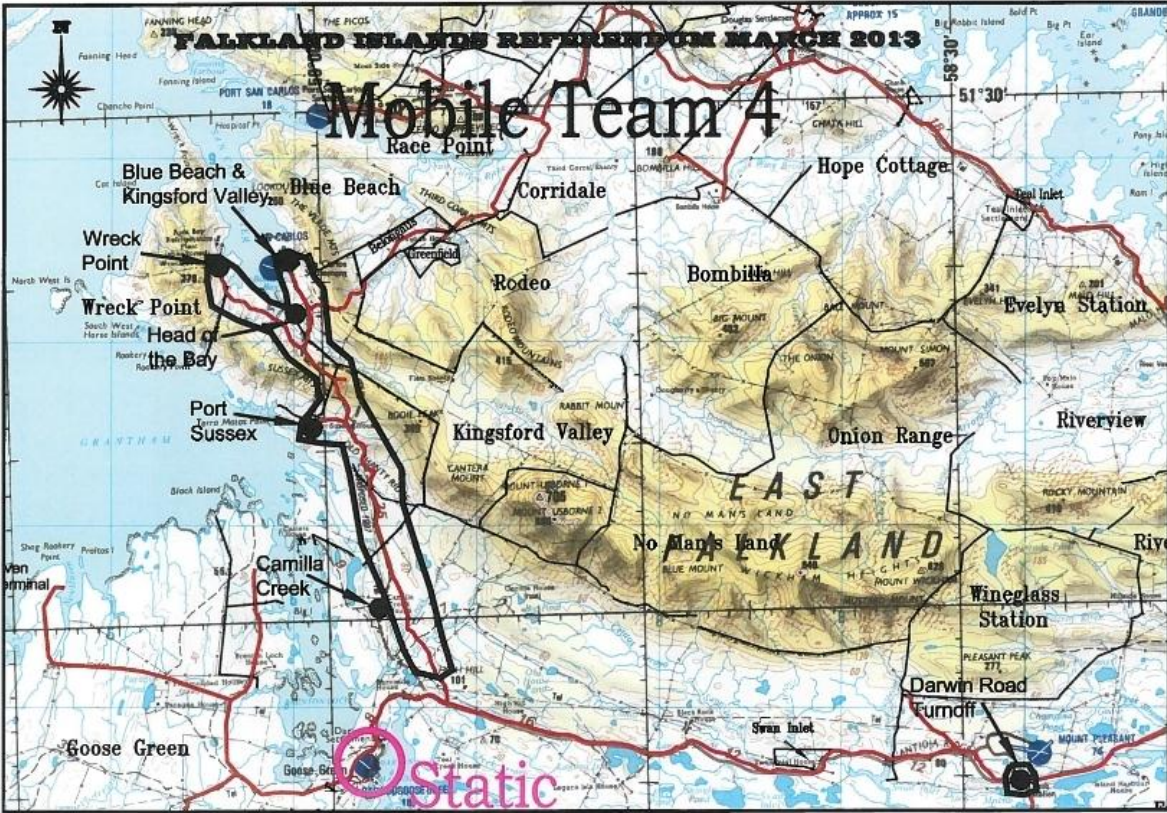
## **ANNEX 1: RIOM/MIOR International Observers**

1. **Mr. Brad Smith**, United States of America - **Head of Mission**
2. **Mr. Juan Manuel Henao**, United States of America - **Deputy Head of Mission and Media Liaison**
3. **Ms. Elaine Souza de Oliveira**, Brazil
4. **Mr. Samuel Valenzuela**, Chile
5. **Ms. Laura Elena Herrejon**, Mexico
6. **National Deputy Jaime Mario Trobo**, Uruguay
7. **Mr. Wyatt Creech**, New Zealand
8. **Mr. Richard Barker**, New Zealand

## ANNEX 2: Examples of Mobile Polling Routes









## ANNEX 3: RIOM/MIOR Observation Check-List

**The Opening Form is to be completed:**

1. For the opening of the poll on March 10
2. For the opening of the poll on March 11

**A. Time and Polling Station (PS)**

**A1**  March 10  March 11

**A2** Time that Poll Opened (use 24-hour clock) :

**A3** How many polling officials are present for the opening of the poll?

**A4** Were any voters waiting to vote at the time of the poll opening? Y  N

**A5** If YES to A4, was a voter asked to witness the sealing of the ballot box? Y  N

**B. Accessibility and Set-up of the Polling Station**

**Y      N**

**B1** PS easy to identify .....

**B2** PS accessible for people who have mobility difficulties.....

**B3** PS large enough for voting .....

**B4** All Referendum Material present.....

**B5.** Check which Material was present:

Voters List (VL)    Proxy List    Ballot box(es)    Voting booths    Ballots

Official Mark    Seals    Black Pen    Red Pen    Official Pencil    Secure envelope

**C. Opening Procedures    (March 10)**

**Y      N**

**C1** Polling Officials verified that the ballot box was empty.....

**C2** Ballot box closed and sealed with official seals.....

**C3** Seal numbers were recorded.....

**C4** Total number of ballot papers is verified .....

**C5** Number of ballots is recorded on the ballot paper account form.....

**D. Opening Procedures    (March 11)**

**Y      N**

**D1** Polling Officials verified that ballot box and envelope seals are intact .....

**D2** Polling Officials verified seal numbers against the seal record.....

**D3** Was there any evidence of tampering of seals .....

**D4** If Yes to **D3**, Did Polling Officials contact the Chief Referendum Officer?.....





**A new form is to be completed:**

3. For each new Polling Station Visited
4. For each stop along a mobile poll route
5. Every two hours for observers in the same static poll

**Ballot Boxes are completely sealed with no evidence of tampering:** YES  NO

**Voters were provided a private place to mark the ballot (i.e. voting booth):** YES  NO

Track Stats to Complete Section E	
Male Voters	<input type="text"/>
Female Voters	<input type="text"/>
Proxy Votes	<input type="text"/>
Mail Votes	<input type="text"/>

**A. Time and Polling Station (PS)**

- A1 Location being observed \_\_\_\_\_ (for mobile poll – note which stop)
- A2 Observation Start Time (use 24-hour clock) :
- A3 Observation Finish Time (use 24-hour clock) :
- A4 Did the mobile poll stay for the full amount of allocated time? Yes  No
- A5 Is there any evidence of campaign activity outside the PS? Yes  No

**B. Outside the Polling Station**

<i>Did you <u>observe</u> any of the following problems/irregularities <b>OUTSIDE</b> of the PS?</i>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>B1</b> Tension or unrest in the vicinity of the PS (if YES describe separately).....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>B2</b> PS difficult to locate or poorly marked.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>B3</b> Police presence outside the PS.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>B4</b> Military presence outside the PS.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>B5</b> Police or military interfering with voters outside the PS (YES describe separately)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>B6</b> Media presence outside the PS.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>B7</b> Media interfering with voters outside the PS (if YES describe separately).....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>B8</b> Other problems in the vicinity of the PS (if YES describe separately).....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____		
_____		
_____		
_____		
_____		



**C. Inside the Polling Station**

Did you observe any of the following problems/irregularities **INSIDE** of the PS?      **Y**    **N**    **D/K**

- C1 Long lines waiting to vote.....
- C2 Campaign material or campaign activity.....
- C3 Police presence inside the PS.....
- C4 Military presence inside the PS.....
- C5 Media presence inside the PS.....
- C6 Police, Military and/or Media interfering with voters, poll officials, or observers...
- C7 Tension/Unrest.....
- C8 Other **problems** in the PS.....

If **YES** to C1 to C8, please describe

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**D. Officials and (un)Authorized Persons**

**Y**    **N**    **D/K**

- D1 How many polling officials (PO) are present?
- D2 Did the polling officials receive any training/formal instruction?.....
- D3 Do the polling officials respond to questions, concerns, and complaints?.....
- D4 How many polling officials are Men  how many are Women
- D5 Are **other accredited observers** present in the PS?.....
- 
- D5-1 If **YES** to D5, from which organization? \_\_\_\_\_
- D5-2 Were they given full access to observe the PS environment?.....
- D6 Is there accredited media in the PS?.....
- 
- D6-1 If **YES** to D6, from which country/media outlet? \_\_\_\_\_



**E. Voters and Turnout** – by interview with the polling officer D/K

E1 Number of voters registered on the <b>voters list (VL)</b> for the poll.....		<input type="checkbox"/>
E2 Number of <b>ballots received</b> by the polling official.....		<input type="checkbox"/>

**Following information is specific to the observation period**

E3 Number of voters crossed off the VL in <b>red ink</b> .....		<input type="checkbox"/>
E4 Number of voters crossed off the VL <b>from other polls</b> .....		<input type="checkbox"/>
E5 Number of <b>ballots cast</b> during period observed .....		<input type="checkbox"/>
E6 How many voters were <b>men</b> ? <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 50px; height: 15px; vertical-align: middle;"></span> How many were <b>women</b> ?...		<input type="checkbox"/>
E6 Number of <b>ballots cast by proxy</b> during period observed.....		<input type="checkbox"/>
E7 Number of <b>mail-in ballots cast</b> during period observed.....		<input type="checkbox"/>

**F. Voting Procedures** *3 =always, 2 = mostly, 1 = sometimes, 0 = never*

*Were procedures followed?*

	3	2	1	0	D/K
F1 PO asked the voter full name and address.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F2 PO consulted the voter re-allocation sheet.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F3 PO consulted the Voters list .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F4 Voter answered two official questions: identity and no previous vote cast...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F5 PO crossed the Voter name off the Voters list in <b>black ink</b> .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F6 PO places seal on the ballot.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F7 Voter uses voting booth to mark and fold ballots.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F8 PO checks the completed ballot for the seal (voter holding the ballot).....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*If any question F1 to F8 is marked as other than '3: always' please describe separately*

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Were procedures for voters outside of registered polling station followed? **Y N D/K**

**F9** Did any Voters not registered or re-allocated to the polling station vote?.....

**F9-1** If Yes in **F9**, was a call made to verify that the Voter was removed from the VL where the Voter was registered?.....

**F10** Did Polling Officials receive a call from another PS to remove a Voter from the VL because the Voter had voted at a different PS?.....

**F10-1** If Yes in **F10**, was the Voter’s name crossed off the VL in **red ink**?.....

Were procedures for proxy voting followed? **Y N D/K**

**F11** Did any Voters cast a proxy ballot?.....

**F11-1** If Yes in **F11**, was the Voter casting the proxy verified against the proxy list?..

**F11-1f** If Yes in **F11**, was the Voter having their ballot cast by proxy crossed of the VL?.....

**F11-3** If Yes in **F11**, did voter answer two official proxy questions?.....

*Did you observe any of the following problems or irregularities?* **Y N D/K**

**F12** Persons **unable** to vote because they are not on the VL.....

**F13** Polling Officers having **difficulty locating** the names of voters on the VL.....

**F14** Voters required to wait a long time to vote .....

**F15** Were any voters turned away (not allowed to vote) .....

**F16** **More than one person voting** in a booth at a time.....

**F17-1** If Yes in **F12**, were the individuals related (Family Voting)?.....

**F18** Same **person “assisting” numerous** (more than two) voters.....

**F19** Anyone voting, or attempting to vote, **more than once** (multiple voting).....

**F20** Anyone **attempting to influence** voters for whom to vote.....

**F21** Indications of **ballot box stuffing** (e.g. ballots in stacks/clumps inside box).....

**F22** Polling Officials assisting a voter to mark the ballot.....

**F22-1** If **Yes** in **F22**, was the voter disabled?.....

**F22-2** If **Yes** in **F22-1**, did the Polling Officials complete the designated form.....

**F23** Was any one Voter allowed to cast **more than 2 Proxy ballots**?.....

**F24** Any voter with **PRX (Proxy)** or **M (Mail)** designation on the VL given ballot....





**The Closing Form is to be completed:**

6. For the closing of the poll on March 10

7. For the closing of the poll on March 11

**A. Poll Close**

**A1**  March 10  March 11

**A2** Time that Poll Closed (use 24-hour clock) :

**A3** Location where closing procedures are being conducted \_\_\_\_\_

**A4** How many polling officials are present for the closing of the poll?

**A5** Were any voters in line at the time of the poll closing? Y  N

**A6** If YES to A5, were they permitted to vote? Y  N  (If NO describe separately)

**Location where the Ballot Box was sealed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Closing Procedures**

	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>B1</b> Polling Officer secures official seal over the ballot box opening.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>B2</b> Seal numbers are recorded .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>B3</b> Ballot paper account is completed.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>B4</b> Voting materials (unused ballots, Voter List, spoilt ballots) secured in envelope..	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>B5</b> Seal numbers for envelope are recorded.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**C. Ballot Paper Account – by interview with the PO**

	<b>D/K</b>
<b>C1</b> Number of ballots received by the polling official.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>C2</b> Number of <b>ballots issued to voters</b> (by reference to counterfoils) .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>C3</b> Number of <b>spoilt or cancelled</b> ballots.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>C4</b> Number of <b>postal ballot papers</b> in the box.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>C5</b> Number of <b>ordinary ballot papers</b> in the box .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>C6</b> Total number of ballot papers in the box (postal + ordinary).....	<input type="checkbox"/>

**D. Securing / Transport of Materials**

	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>D1</b> Was referendum material transported back to the Registrar’s Office?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>D2</b> If NO to D1, was referendum material stored in a locked room?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>D3</b> If YES to D1, did you follow the transport of the material?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>D4</b> If YES to D3, did you witness the delivery of the material to the Registrar Office?.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

