

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

In the Matter of the Representation of the People Act, 1983

And in the Matter of a Local Government Election for the Appleby Ward of North West Leicestershire District Council held on the 5th day of May, 2011

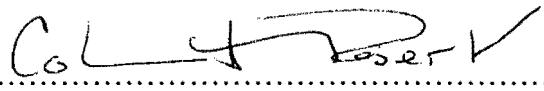
The Petition of Colin Arthur Roberts of Tempe House, Main Street, Swepstone, Leicestershire, LE67 2SG shows:-

1. That the Petitioner Colin Arthur Roberts, was a candidate at the above election.
2. That the election was held on 5th day of May 2011 when Richard Blunt, Colin Arthur Roberts and Gordon Tacey were candidates, and on the 6th day of May, 2011, the Returning Officer declared Richard Blunt to be duly elected.
3. The date from which the time for lodging the petition is calculated is 6th May 2011.
4. The Respondent to this Petition is Richard Blunt.
5. The Petitioner believes that the Respondent was not qualified to be a candidate at a local election in North West Leicestershire District.
6. The Respondent, Richard Blunt completed Form 1b: Local Government Election, Candidates Consent to Nomination declaring that: I have during the whole of the 12 months preceding that day or those days occupied as owner or tenant the following land or premises in that area (Description and address of land or premises): 1 Upper Church Street, Ashby de la Zouch
7. Land Registry in respect of these premises shows that they are owned by Mr Blunt and that the property is divided in to two flats.
8. It is clear that the flats at 1 Church Street have been sub-let. The current Electoral Register shows the following entries: Flat 1: Kelly J North & Flat 2: David M Stewart.
9. The Electoral Commission guidelines state in respect of the question of "occupation" that "If you have sub-let your land or premises to another person, this will point against you having 'occupied' it yourself".
10. The Electoral Commission also give a highlighted warning that "If you have any doubt about whether you meet this qualification, you should consider taking independent legal advice".
- 11: A person is guilty of a corrupt practice if, in the case of any relevant election, he causes or permits to be included in a document delivered or otherwise furnished to a returning officer for use in connection with the election - (a) a statement of the name or home address of a candidate at the election which he knows to be false in any particular.

The Petitioner therefore prays:-

- (1) That it may be determined that the said Richard Blunt was not duly elected and that the election was void.
- (2) That the Petitioner have the costs of this Petition.
- (3) That the Petitioner may have such further or other relief as may be just.

Dated this 11th day of May, 2011.

Signed.....
PETITIONER

This petition was presented by Colin Arthur Roberts whose address for service is Tempe House, Main Street, Swepstone, Leicestershire, LE67 2SG

It is proposed to serve a copy of this petition on:

Richard Blunt of Clifton Hall, Clifton Campville, Tamworth, B79 0BE

Director of Public Prosecutions, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4 7EX