
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2016 No. 295

The Recall of MPs Act 2015 (Recall Petition) Regulations 2016

PART 3

CONDUCT

CHAPTER 4

Counting Signing Sheets

The count

39.—(1) The petition officer must take reasonable steps to begin counting the signatures given on the signing sheets as soon as practicable after the end of the signing period and, in any event, no later than one day after the end of that period.

(2) The petition officer must in the presence of any person mentioned in regulation 38 (attendance at counting of signatures) who attends the count—

- (a) count and record the number of signing sheets received by virtue of regulation 33(2)(b) or (4) (daily verification) and regulation 37(3) (procedure on close of petition);
- (b) verify the final signing sheet account for each petition signing place;
- (c) count such of the postal signing sheets as have been duly returned and record the number counted.

(3) In relation to a petition in England and Wales or Scotland, a postal signing sheet must not be taken to be duly returned unless—

- (a) it is returned in accordance with regulation 99 (alternative means of returning postal signing sheets, postal petition statements and declarations of identity);
- (b) it is accompanied by the postal petition statement, duly signed, and reaches the petition officer or a petition signing place before the end of the signing period;
- (c) the postal petition statement states the date of birth of the elector or proxy (as the case may be); and
- (d) the petition officer has verified the date of birth and signature of the elector or proxy (as the case may be) in accordance with regulation 107 (procedure in relation to postal petition statements).

(4) A postal signing sheet or postal petition statement that reaches the petition officer or a petition signing place after the end of the signing period is to be treated for the purposes of paragraph (3) as reaching that officer or place before the end of the signing period if it is delivered by a person who, at the end of the signing period, is in the petition signing place, or in a queue outside the petition signing place, for the purpose of returning it.

(5) In relation to a petition in Northern Ireland, a postal signing sheet must not be taken to be duly returned unless—

- (a) it is returned in accordance with regulation 99;

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- (b) it is returned in the proper envelope so as to reach the petition officer before the end of the signing period and is accompanied by the declaration of identity duly signed, and
- (c) in the case of an elector, that declaration of identity states the date of birth of the elector, and the petition officer is satisfied that the date stated corresponds with the date supplied as the date of the elector's birth pursuant to section 10(4A)(b), 10A(1A)(b) or 13A(2A)(b) of the 1983 Act.

(6) In the case of an elector in Northern Ireland, unless section 10(4B), 10A(1B) or 13A(2B) of the 1983 Act applies, the declaration of identity referred to in paragraph (5) must be taken not to be duly signed unless the petition officer is satisfied that the signature on the declaration corresponds with the signature supplied as the elector's signature pursuant to section 10(4A)(a), 10A(1A)(a) or 13A(2A)(a) of that Act.

(7) The petition officer must not count any tendered signing sheets.

(8) The petition officer, while counting and recording the number of signing sheets and counting the signatures, must keep the signing sheets with their faces upwards and take all proper precautions for preventing any person from seeing the numbers or other unique identifying marks printed on the back of the sheets.

(9) The petition officer must verify the final signing sheet accounts for each petition signing place by comparing them with the number of signing sheets recorded by him or her, and the unused and spoilt signing sheets in his or her possession and the tendered signing list (opening and resealing the packets containing the unused and spoilt signing sheets and the tendered signing list) and must draw up a statement as to the result of the verification ("verification of signing sheet accounts").

Commencement Information

II Reg. 39 in force at 4.3.2016, see [reg. 1](#)

Changes to legislation:

There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Recall of MPs Act 2015 (Recall Petition) Regulations 2016. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- Regulations applied by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 11 para. 7\(3\)](#)
- [reg. 39\(3\)\(c\)](#) word omitted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10\(5\)\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- [reg. 39\(5\)\(b\)](#) word omitted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10\(5\)\(b\)\(i\)](#)
- [reg. 39\(6\)](#) words inserted by [S.I. 2018/699 reg. 8\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- [reg. 39\(6\)](#) words substituted by [S.I. 2018/699 reg. 8\(2\)\(b\)](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Instrument associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Instrument (including any effects on those provisions):

- [Sch. 3 para. 1\(1\)\(e\)\(ia\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2020/581 reg. 13\(5\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- [Sch. 3 para. 3\(1\)\(b\)\(v\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10\(22\)\(b\)](#)
- [Sch. 3 para. 1\(1\)\(e\)\(i\)](#) words omitted by [S.I. 2020/581 reg. 13\(5\)\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- [reg. 2\(2\)\(aa\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 69\(b\)](#)
- [reg. 2\(2\)\(ea\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 69\(c\)](#)
- [reg. 2\(2\)\(ia\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 69\(e\)](#)
- [reg. 2\(2\)\(ja\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 69\(f\)](#)
- [reg. 2\(2\)\(jb\)-\(je\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19\(2\)](#)
- [reg. 2\(2\)\(ma\)-\(mc\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10\(2\)\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- [reg. 2\(2\)\(za\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 69\(a\)](#)
- [reg. 2\(2\)\(za\)](#) omitted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 16\(2\)](#)
- [reg. 2\(5\)\(n\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 14\(6\)\(c\)](#)
- [reg. 2\(5\)\(ba\)\(bb\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 14\(6\)\(b\)](#)
- [reg. 2\(5\)\(ma\)\(mb\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- [reg. 2\(5\)\(za\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 14\(6\)\(a\)](#)
- [reg. 13A13B](#) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 14\(1\)](#)
- [reg. 17\(3\)\(c\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 71\(b\)](#)
- [reg. 17\(3\)\(c\)](#) words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 15](#)
- [reg. 18\(7\)\(fa\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 72\(a\)](#)
- [reg. 19\(3\)\(e\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 14\(2\)](#)
- [reg. 19\(3A\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 73\(a\)](#)
- [reg. 19\(4A\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1309 reg. 12\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- [reg. 19\(5A\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 73\(b\)](#)
- [reg. 20A amendments](#) by [S.I. 2022/1382](#), [regs. 70-75](#), [77](#), [78](#), [80-82](#) extended to N.I. by [S.I. 2023/1382 reg. 13](#)
- [reg. 20A](#) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 74](#)
- [reg. 20A](#) words omitted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 16\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- [reg. 20A](#) heading words omitted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 16\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- [reg. 22\(1\)\(ba\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10\(4\)](#)
- [reg. 25\(3A\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 75\(b\)](#)
- [reg. 25\(4A\)-\(4C\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 75\(d\)](#)
- [reg. 25\(4A\)](#) words omitted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 17\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- [reg. 25\(4A\)\(b\)](#) words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 17\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- [reg. 25\(6\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 75\(f\)](#)
- [reg. 27\(1A\)-\(1N\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 76\(3\)](#)
- [reg. 28\(3A\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 18\(3\)](#)
- [reg. 28\(6A\)-\(6C\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 18\(7\)](#)
- [reg. 28\(7A\)-\(7C\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 18\(9\)](#)

- reg. 29(1)(1A) substituted for reg. 29(1) by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 19\(2\)](#)
- reg. 29(2A) amendments by [S.I. 2022/1382](#), regs. 70-75, 77, 78, 80-82 extended to N.I. by [S.I. 2023/1382 reg. 13](#)
- reg. 29(2A) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 77](#)
- reg. 30(7A) amendments by [S.I. 2022/1382](#), regs. 70-75, 77, 78, 80-82 extended to N.I. by [S.I. 2023/1382 reg. 13](#)
- reg. 30(7A) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 78](#)
- reg. 30A inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 79](#)
- reg. 33(5)(ea) amendments by [S.I. 2022/1382](#), regs. 70-75, 77, 78, 80-82 extended to N.I. by [S.I. 2023/1382 reg. 13](#)
- reg. 33(5)(ea) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 80](#)
- reg. 37(1)(ea) amendments by [S.I. 2022/1382](#), regs. 70-75, 77, 78, 80-82 extended to N.I. by [S.I. 2023/1382 reg. 13](#)
- reg. 37(1)(ea) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 81](#)
- reg. 37(1)(eb) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 22](#)
- reg. 39(3)(e) and word inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10\(5\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- reg. 39(5)(d) and word inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10\(5\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- reg. 43(2)(ba) amendments by [S.I. 2022/1382](#), regs. 70-75, 77, 78, 80-82 extended to N.I. by [S.I. 2023/1382 reg. 13](#)
- reg. 43(2)(ba) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 82](#)
- reg. 44(1)(da) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 83](#)
- reg. 45(1A) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 84](#)
- reg. 45A inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 14\(3\)](#)
- reg. 46(1) reg. 46 renumbered as reg. 46(1) by [S.I. 2020/581 reg. 13\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 46(2) inserted by [S.I. 2020/581 reg. 13\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- reg. 46(2) words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10\(6\)](#)
- reg. 46A inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 14\(4\)](#)
- reg. 51(1A)(1B) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19\(6\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 51(1B)(a) words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 13\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- reg. 51(7A) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19\(6\)\(e\)](#)
- reg. 52(1)(da) inserted by [S.I. 2018/699 reg. 8\(3\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#)
- reg. 52(1A) inserted by [S.I. 2018/699 reg. 8\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 52(9)(10) inserted by [S.I. 2018/699 reg. 8\(3\)\(c\)](#)
- reg. 52(9)-(9B) substituted for reg. 52(9) by [S.I. 2020/581 reg. 13\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- reg. 52(10) words substituted by [S.I. 2020/581 reg. 13\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 54(1)(da) inserted by [S.I. 2018/699 reg. 8\(4\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- reg. 54(1A) inserted by [S.I. 2018/699 reg. 8\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 54(6)(7) inserted by [S.I. 2018/699 reg. 8\(4\)\(c\)](#)
- reg. 54(6)-(6B) substituted for reg. 54(6) by [S.I. 2020/581 reg. 13\(4\)\(a\)](#)
- reg. 54(7) words substituted by [S.I. 2020/581 reg. 13\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 57(3)(za) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19\(7\)\(a\)](#)
- reg. 57(5)(5A) substituted for reg. 57(5) by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19\(7\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 58(6A) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19\(8\)\(a\)](#)
- reg. 60(1)(aa) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19\(9\)\(a\)](#)
- reg. 60(6A)-(6E) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19\(9\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 63(1A) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19\(10\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 63A inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 86](#)
- reg. 64(5)(b)(v) and word inserted by [S.I. 2022/332 art. 9\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 64(5)(b)(iv) inserted by [S.I. 2021/1188 art. 9\(3\)\(c\)](#)
- reg. 65(4)(b)(v) and word inserted by [S.I. 2022/332 art. 9\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 65(4)(b)(iv) inserted by [S.I. 2021/1188 art. 9\(4\)\(c\)](#)
- reg. 68(6A) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19\(11\)](#)
- reg. 69A inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 88](#)
- reg. 71(2A) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 89\(3\)](#)
- reg. 71(4A)(4B) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 89\(6\)](#)
- reg. 71(4A) words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19\(12\)\(a\)](#)
- reg. 71(4C) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19\(12\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 71(8) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 89\(7\)](#)

- reg. 71A inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 90
- reg. 72A-72C inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19(13)
- reg. 72B(5A) inserted by S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 13(5)(a)
- reg. 72B(6) words inserted by S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 13(5)(b)(i)
- reg. 72B(6)(d)(i) words inserted by S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 13(5)(b)(ii)
- reg. 72B(7)(c)(ii)(aa) word inserted by S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 13(5)(c)
- reg. 72B(8) words substituted by S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 13(5)(d)(i)
- reg. 72B(8)(a) words substituted by S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 13(5)(d)(ii)
- reg. 72B(8)(b) words substituted by S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 13(5)(d)(iii)
- reg. 72B(8)(c) words substituted by S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 13(5)(d)(iii)
- reg. 72B(8)(ca) inserted by S.I. 2024/43 reg. 25(2)
- reg. 73(9)-(13) inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19(14)(b)
- reg. 73A inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19(15)
- reg. 99(2A) inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(7)(c)
- reg. 99A-99D inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(8)
- reg. 102A-102E inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(10)
- reg. 110(6)-(9) inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(12)(c)
- reg. 110A inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(13)
- reg. 112(1)(f) inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(15)(a)
- reg. 112(2)(d) inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(15)(b)
- reg. 115(1)(a)(i) words in reg. 115(1)(a) renumbered as reg. 115(1)(a)(i) by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(17)(b)(ii)(aa)
- reg. 115(1)(a)(ii)(iii) inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(17)(b)(ii)(bb)
- reg. 115(1)(c)(i) words in reg. 115(1)(c) renumbered as reg. 115(1)(c)(i) by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(17)(b)(iii)(aa)
- reg. 115(1)(c)(ii) inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(17)(b)(iii)(bb)
- reg. 115A inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(18)
- reg. 117(ba) inserted by S.I. 2023/1141 reg. 8(2)
- reg. 119(1A) inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19(16)(a)
- reg. 122A inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(19)
- reg. 123(4A)-(4F) inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(20)(a)
- reg. 123A inserted by S.I. 2023/1141 reg. 8(3)
- reg. 124A inserted by S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 14(5)
- reg. 144(2A) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 91(b)