

Request for Greater London Returning Officer (GLRO) Decision – GLRO24-10

GLRO Directions relating to the Mayor of London, Constituency Assembly Members, and London-wide Assembly Members elections on Thursday 2 May 2024

Executive summary:

This decision sets out the proposed Directions to be given by the Greater London Returning Officer to Constituency Returning Officers to discharge functions set out in the Greater London Authority Elections Rules 2007 (as amended).

Decision:

That the Greater London Returning Officer (GLRO) approves the GLRO’s directions to Constituency Returning Officers, attached at Appendix 1, under Rule 11 of the Greater London Authority Election Rules 2007 (as amended).

Greater London Returning Officer:

The above request has my approval.

Signature:



Date:

25/01/2024

PART I – NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. The proposed Directions are attached at Appendix 1. They were discussed in advance with the Electoral Commission, Constituency Returning Officers (CROs), Borough Returning Officers (BROs) and Electoral Services Managers (ESMs).
- 1.2. The purpose of the Directions is to ensure that the delivery of the Mayor of London and London Assembly elections complies with the law, and with Electoral Commission guidance and performance standards; and to ensure a consistency of experience for voters, candidates and agents.
- 1.3. The Directions thus provide the Greater London Returning Officer (GLRO) with confidence that CROs are working to an agreed consistent standard; and reduce the risk of a challenge to the conduct of the election.
- 1.4. The Directions are similar to those developed for the postponed 2020 elections and rescheduled 2021 elections. But there are new and modified directions around verification and count processes further to the decision to count votes manually, rather than electronically, as set out in decision [GLRO24-01](#) (the Greater London Authority Election Rules 2007 (the 2007 Rules) modify the verification and count rules where there is to be a manual count). Directions that would pertain to Mayoral and Assembly elections if a UK parliamentary election is also held on Thursday 2 May 2024 have also been drafted.

2. Objective and expected outcomes

- 2.1. All key stakeholders have been consulted and agreement reached that the Directions allow each CRO to discharge their functions in accordance with relevant legislation.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. There are no equality considerations arising from this decision.

4. Financial comments

- 4.1. There are no financial considerations arising from this decision.

5. Legal comments

- 5.1. The directions are consistent with the GLRO's functions as detailed in the 2007 Rules. Under Rule 11 the GLRO may give to any CRO a direction either: as to the manner in which s/he must discharge any of his/her functions set out in these Rules; or requiring him/her to provide the GLRO with any information which the CRO has, or is entitled to have, in accordance with these rules.
- 5.2. It is the duty of each CRO to whom a direction is given to discharge his/her functions in accordance with that direction.

Appendices and supporting papers:

Appendix 1 – GLRO Directions 2024

Public access to information

Although the GLRO is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act), the information in this form will be published on the GLA website within one working day of approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it will be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods will be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.

Note: This form (Part 1) will be published either within one working day after approval or on the defer date.

Part 1 Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO

Part 2 Confidentiality: Only the facts or advice whose publication may be prejudicial or commercially sensitive should be in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form? NO

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Drafting officer to confirm the following (✓)

Drafting officer:

Eleanor Killin has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms that the Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal as required, and this decision reflects their comments.

✓

The **Deputy GLRO** has reviewed the request and is satisfied that it is correct and can be referred to the GLRO for approval

✓

INTERIM CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER:

I confirm that financial and legal implications have been appropriately considered in the preparation of this report.

Signature:



Date:

29/01/2024