

## Appendix 1

18 January 2024

# Mayor of London and London Assembly elections on Thursday 2 May 2024 Directions on the management of the elections, Part 1 (to be implemented alongside Part 2 or 3)

The Greater London Returning Officer's (GLRO's) directions to Constituency Returning Officers (CROs) under Rule 11 of the Greater London Authority Elections Rules 2007 (as amended).

**Should a CRO intend to deviate from any of these directions, they should provide written notice, with their reasons, to the GLRO as soon as this becomes apparent.**

**This first part of my directions deals with the general management of the elections. It is applicable to both 'standalone' GLA elections, and GLA elections combined with a general election. Part 2 presents my directions for the counting of standalone GLA elections; and Part 3, my directions for the counting of GLA elections combined with a general election.**

### PART 1: Directions regarding the general management of the GLA elections

1	Compliance with legislation, and Electoral Commission (EC) guidance and performance standards required	CROs to coordinate the poll in line with legislation and the EC guidance, and to the required EC performance standards.
2	Key plans and documents to be made available on request	In line with EC guidance and performance standards, CROs shall have in place not only detailed project plans, but also other required documents, including risk registers, integrity plans and security plans. These documents are to be made available to the GLRO on request.
3	Timely compliance with all requests for data by stakeholders or the GLRO	CROs and BROs shall ensure that all requests for data by the GLRO or the GLRO's stakeholders are met to comply with the deadlines required. In the process, CROs and BROs shall ensure compliance with all requests for data input into the London Elects portal.

4	Poll cards to include specified information about the mayoral election address booklet	CROs shall ensure that information about the mayoral election address booklet is included on all poll cards, using the exact wording supplied by the GLRO in this direction.
5	Delivery of poll cards (bulk run) to be completed <b>no later than Friday 5 April 2024</b>	CROs shall ensure the delivery of poll cards (bulk run) by <b>no later than Friday 5 April 2024</b> to allow any elector who cannot vote in person on polling day to apply for a postal or proxy vote.
6	Only postal vote packs pre-approved by GLRO to be used by CROs	CROs shall ensure that only postal vote packs as pre-approved by the GLRO directly with all postal vote pack printers are used.
7	Issue of postal votes to start <b>no earlier</b> than Friday <b>12 April 2024</b> , and as soon after that as reasonably practicable	CROs shall ensure the issue of postal votes <b>no earlier</b> than <b>Friday 12 April 2024</b> and as soon after that as reasonably practicable. This is to allow all postal voters to receive the mayoral election address booklet before casting their votes.
8	All polling station staff to complete the training programme provided by the GLRO	CROs shall ensure that all persons to be appointed as polling station staff undertake and complete a training programme provided by the GLRO.
9	Information boards provided by the GLRO to be displayed at every polling station	CROs shall ensure the display of a GLRO-provided information board in every polling station.
10	Each borough to include, in the count, postal votes from a Royal Mail sorting office 'sweep'	CROs shall ensure the count includes postal votes collected via a 'sweep' of mail sorting offices on the evening of <b>Thursday 2 May 2024</b> .
11	Each borough to follow EC and GLRO guidance in preparing and delivering the poll in a public health emergency, should one occur	CROs to coordinate the poll in line with EC and GLRO guidance, and to follow public health principles to mitigate risks, especially in managing polling station voting and at the count centres, should a public health emergency occur.

## Detail of above directions

1	Compliance with legislation, and EC guidance and performance standards required
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure: the delivery of the Mayor of London and London Assembly elections within the law; compliance with the EC's guidance and performance standards; and, as a result, consistency of experience for all voters, candidates and agents.

2	Key plans and documents to be made available on request
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- The purpose of this direction is to allow the GLRO to have access to CROs' and Borough Returning Officers' (BROs') plans and documents, as specified in the EC guidance, should it be necessary for the GLRO to assure themselves or stakeholders that each CRO and BRO has the necessary plans and resources in place.
- All integrity plans will need to be submitted, on request, to enable the GLRO to produce a timely, London-wide integrity plan as required by EC guidance.
- If there are integrity and security concerns that are London-wide, the GLRO will provide information on the London-wide concerns to be included in CROs' and BROs' plans.

3	Timely compliance with all requests for data by stakeholders or the GLRO
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that all requests from stakeholders for critical data (such as to allow for the printing of the mayoral elections address booklet, or the printing of ballot papers) is supplied in a timely manner to comply with no-fail deadlines.
- All requests for data for the London Elects portal must be supplied to comply with no-fail deadlines.
- If any CRO/BRO expects to miss a deadline, they must inform the GLRO as soon as it becomes evident.

4	Poll cards to include specified information about the mayoral election address booklet
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that all poll cards include the same wording to inform electors where they can find information online about candidates and how to vote, as well as when to expect delivery of the printed mayoral election address booklet.
- This wording (in italics here to identify the text) must be included on all poll cards sent to electors voting in person, by proxy or by post: *"Additional information on candidates' details and on how to vote can be found in the elections booklet which will be online at [www.londonelects.org.uk/booklet](http://www.londonelects.org.uk/booklet) from **Friday 5 April 2024** and delivered to all electors during April."*

5	Delivery of poll cards (bulk run) to be completed <b>no later than Friday 5 April 2024</b>
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that poll cards dispatched in the first bulk run arrive on doorsteps **no later than Friday 5 April 2024**, so all electors receive them in sufficient time to apply for a postal or proxy vote.

6	Only postal vote packs pre-approved by GLRO to be used by CROs
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that all postal voters have the best opportunity to understand how to cast all three of their votes.
- The GLRO is working directly with all the printers of postal packs to ensure that all postal voters have the same information about their three votes and how to cast them.

7	Issue of postal votes to start <b>no earlier than Friday 12 April 2024</b> , and as soon after that as reasonably practicable
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that postal voters across London receive the mayoral election address booklet before they cast their votes; but that they do not receive their postal vote packs very much later after their election address booklet has arrived.
- The mayoral election address booklet cannot be printed or distributed until after close of nominations. The booklet should be delivered to all postal voters by **Friday 12 April 2024**.
- Coordinating the delivery of the mayoral election address booklet and postal votes mitigates the risk of postal voters casting their votes before seeing the booklet. This will in turn mitigate the risk of postal voters complaining that they did not have the information before voting, and/or asking to cancel their postal vote.

8	All polling station staff to complete the training programme provided by the GLRO
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that all polling station staff undertake and complete the polling station training programme provided by the GLRO. This ensures they are fully informed about the three ballot papers and three votes; and fully understand that they are to encourage every elector to take all three ballot papers and use all three votes.
- The GLRO's training package will be available by the end of February 2024.
- CROs and BROs can supplement the training with any local training they think will be required.
- It is acknowledged that if polling station staff need to be appointed at the last minute to cover for unexpected absences, substitute staff may not have the time to complete the training. However, our expectation is that best efforts will be made in those circumstances also.

9	Information boards provided by the GLRO to be displayed at every polling station.
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that clear information on the three ballot papers and three votes is on display at all polling stations.
- Each information board must be positioned in the polling station so it can be read by all voters.

10	Each borough to include, in the count, postal votes from a Royal Mail sorting office 'sweep'
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that there are no postal votes stuck in the mail system at **10pm on Thursday 2 May 2024**; and that any votes in the mail system before this time are retrieved, and included in the postal vote ballot boxes that make up the count, consistently across London.
- London Elects will organise and pay for a 'sweep' of every Royal Mail sorting office.
- CROs shall secure the inclusion of such postal votes in the postal vote ballot boxes delivered to the count, by ensuring that local arrangements are in place for the timely delivery of postal votes retrieved in the 'sweep' to be processed in the normal way.

11	Each borough to follow EC and GLRO guidance in preparing and delivering the poll in a public health emergency, should one occur
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure a consistent approach is taken in delivering the poll during a pandemic or other public health emergency.
- CROs must follow any updated EC and GLRO guidance to manage the challenges faced because of any public health situation.
- CROs must comply with any regulations or legal requirements in force under legislation.
- CROs must follow any updated EC guidance on the management and setup of polling stations. The GLRO will provide direction on the minimum standards for every polling station.
- The GLRO will provide updated guidance on the management of each count, to ensure the usual principles of consistent, accessible and secure counts are supplemented with measures to provide confidence around the public health elements of the count.

## PART 2: Directions regarding the counting of standalone GLA elections

1	EC verification and count guidance	CROs/BROs shall follow the verification and count processes set out in EC guidance to the GLRO and CROs on the EC's webpage, <a href="#">Verification and Count</a> .
2	GLA verification and count progress reporting	CROs/BROs shall follow the process detailed in the <a href="#">GLA count reporting and results protocol</a> .
3	Staffing levels for verification and counting	CROs/BROs shall appoint sufficient staff to ensure that the verification and count are completed on time and in line with the directed deadlines.
4	Storage of ballot boxes after close of poll	Ballot boxes are to be stored in a secure manner, to a minimum standard set by the CRO/BRO. CROs/BROs are to provide the GLRO with a statement detailing the security arrangements for the transport and storage of their ballot boxes between the close of poll and the count. The responsibility for storage of the ballot boxes and ballot papers will rest with the CRO.
5	EC verification procedure	CROs/BROs shall follow the EC verification guidance to the GLRO and CROs on the EC's webpage, <a href="#">Verification and Count</a> .
6	Verification start time	CROs shall secure the start of verification at <b>9am prompt on Friday 3 May 2024</b> . No ballot boxes are to be opened before that time.
7	Tolerance for variance at the verification	At the verification stage, CROs/BROs shall look to arrive at zero tolerance for variance between the verification total, and the aggregate total of all ballot paper accounts, for each borough.
8	Verification end times	CROs/BROs shall resource their counts to achieve a target time for submission of the provisional verification figures to the GLRO of <b>6pm on Friday 3 May 2024</b> .
9	EC count guidance	CROs shall follow the count process detailed in the EC guidance to the GLRO and CROs on the EC's webpage, <a href="#">Verification and Count</a> .

10	Count start times	CROs shall secure the start of counting at <b>9am prompt on Saturday 4 May 2024</b> . No ballot boxes with the verified papers are to be opened before that time.
11	Tolerance for variance at the count	At the count stage CROs/BROs shall look to apply zero tolerance for variance between the verification total, and the aggregate of all votes cast and rejected ballot papers.
12	Count order	All three counts must be completed promptly by a reasonable time on <b>Saturday 4 May 2024</b> . CROs shall resource their counts and prioritise the submission of provisional count results to the GLRO in the following order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor of London</li> <li>• London Assembly Constituency Member</li> <li>• London Assembly London-wide Member</li> </ul>
13	GLRO to be consulted on any intention to grant a request for a recount	CROs shall consult the GLRO on any request for a recount that they are minded to grant, before exercising their power to do so.
14	GLA results process	CROs shall follow the process detailed in the <a href="#">GLA count reporting and results protocol</a> .
15	By-elections and other counts	CROs/BROs shall follow a process to ensure that any local by-elections or other election counts do not impact on the resource available to the CRO for the timely conduct of the verification and count of the GLA elections as the primary set of elections.

## Detail of above directions

1	EC verification and count guidance
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- CROs/BROs must follow the verification and count guidance to the GLRO and CROs on the EC's webpage, [Verification and Count](#).

2	GLA verification and count progress reporting
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that CROs/BROs follow the verification and count-reporting process, as detailed in the [GLA count reporting and results protocol](#).
- It will be necessary for the GLRO to have confidence that all verification and counts are progressing in a timely manner and are on course to meet agreed deadlines.
- This will allow the GLRO to provide stakeholders with regular updates on the progress of the verification on the Friday, and of the count on the Saturday.

3	Staffing levels for verification and counting
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that CROs/BROs appoint sufficient staff to ensure that the verification and count are completed in line with the timetable as directed, and as detailed in the [GLA count reporting and results protocol](#).
- It will be necessary for the GLRO to have confidence that all verification and counts are progressing in a timely manner and are on course to meet agreed deadlines.

4	Storage of ballot boxes after close of poll
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- The purpose of this direction is to allow the GLRO to have access to CROs' and BROs' plans and documents, for the transport and storage of the ballot boxes from close of poll until the commencement of the verification at **9am on Friday 3 May 2024**.
- This will be necessary for the GLRO to assure themselves or stakeholders that each CRO and BRO has the necessary plans and resources in place.
- There will be integrity and security concerns that are London-wide. The GLRO will provide information on the London-wide concerns, to be included in CROs' and BROs' plans.
- The responsibility for storage of the ballot boxes and ballot papers will rest with the CRO.

5	EC verification procedure
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that that CROs and BROs follow the verification process in the EC guidance to the GLRO and CROs on the EC's webpage, [Verification and Count](#).



6	Verification start time
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that verification will commence at **9am prompt on Friday 3 May 2024**. No ballot boxes are to be opened before 9am.

7	Tolerance for variance at the verification
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that that CROs and BROs follow the verification process as directed by the GLRO and detailed in EC guidance to the GLRO and CROs, as found on the EC's webpage, [Verification and Count](#).
- CROs/BROs will contact the GLRO to confirm verification figures, to ensure there has been no transposition or other errors.
- The GLRO will be informed of any variation between the ballot papers issued and the numbers verified; and of the process taken to ensure these reconcile.
- If the variation is outside the GLRO's tolerance direction, CROs/BROs will be directed as per guidance from the GLRO and the EC.
- When the verification figure is accepted by the GLRO, CROs/BROs will be contacted with confirmation of acceptance of the Verification Statement, and authorisation to proceed with their count.

8	Verification end times
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that verification be completed, and provisional figures submitted to the GLRO by **6pm on Friday 3 May 2024**.
- If any CRO/BRO expects to miss the deadline, they must inform the GLRO as soon as it becomes evident.

9	EC count guidance
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that that CROs follow the count guidance to the GLRO and CROs on the EC's webpage, [Verification and Count](#).

10	Count start times
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that all three counts will begin at **9am prompt on Saturday 4 May 2024**. No ballot boxes with the verified papers to be opened before 9am.

11	Tolerance for variance at the count
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that that CROs and BROs follow the verification process as directed by the GLRO and detailed in EC guidance to the GLRO and CROs, on the EC's webpage, [Verification and Count](#).
- CROs will contact the GLRO to confirm that count totals reconcile with the verification total, to ensure there has been no transposition or other errors.  
If the variation is outside the GLRO's tolerance direction, CROs will be directed as per guidance from the GLRO and the EC.

12	Count order
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that all three counts are completed promptly and in the following order on **Saturday 4 May 2024**:
  - **Mayor of London**
  - **London Assembly Constituency Member**
  - **London Assembly London-wide Member**
- If any CRO expects to encounter delays, they must inform the GLRO as soon as it becomes evident.

13	GLRO to be consulted on any intention to grant a request for a recount
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure a consistent approach is taken to requests for recounts.
- Requests for a recount can only be made after provisional results have been shared with agents locally after the constituency count.
- CROs shall inform the GLRO of the circumstances of any request for a recount of the votes that they are minded to grant, before exercising their power under the following rules:
  - rule 52 of the Constituency Member Elections rules
  - rule 53 of the London Member Election rules
  - rule 52 of the Mayoral Election rules.

14	GLA results process
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure a consistent approach is taken in reporting the provisional and final results for each of the three elections.
- Each CRO must follow the results communication process as detailed in the [GLA count reporting and results protocol](#).
- If any CRO expects to miss the set deadlines, they must inform the GLRO as soon as it becomes evident.

15	By-elections and other counts
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure an understanding of the approach to be taken regarding the timings of local counts, such as by-elections or neighbourhood referendum counts.
- Each CRO and BRO must prioritise the GLA counts as the primary set of elections to ensure compliance with the deadlines, as detailed in these directions.
- Each CRO and BRO must make informed decisions as to when to undertake their local counts to ensure no impact on/delay to the GLA counts.
- Each CRO and BRO shall ensure sufficient count staff are available for local counts to ensure there is no call on staff appointed to work on the GLA counts.

### PART 3: Directions for the counting of GLA elections combined with a general election

1	GLA elections – EC verification and count guidance	For the GLA elections, CROs/BROs shall follow the verification and count process set out in the EC guidance to the GLRO and CROs on the EC's webpage, <a href="#">Verification and Count</a> .
2	GLA elections – GLA verification and count progress reporting	For the GLA elections, CROs/BROs shall follow the process detailed in the <a href="#">GLA count reporting and results protocol</a> .
3	GLA elections – Staffing levels for verification and counting	For the GLA elections, CROs/BROs shall appoint sufficient staff to ensure that the verification and each count are completed on time and in line with the directed deadlines.
4	GLA elections – verification start times	The verification for all contests will begin at the close of poll on <b>Thursday 2 May 2024</b> , with the receipt of the ballot boxes containing the postal votes and those from the polling stations.
5	GLA elections – EC verification procedure	For the GLA elections, CROs/BROs shall follow the verification guidance to the GLRO and CROs on the EC's webpage, <a href="#">Verification and Count</a> .
6	GLA elections – tolerance for variance at the verification	For the GLA elections, at the verification stage, CROs/BROs shall look to arrive at zero tolerance for variance between the verification total, and the aggregate total of all ballot paper accounts, for each borough.
7	GLA elections – verification end times	CROs shall target submission of their provisional verification figures to the GLRO by <b>1pm on Friday 3 May 2024</b> .
8	GLA elections – storage of GLA ballot boxes after verification	Following verification, the GLA ballot boxes are to be transported and stored in a secure manner, to a minimum standard set by the CRO. CROs are to give the GLRO a statement detailing the security arrangements for the transport and storage of their ballot boxes between verification and the count. The responsibility for storage of the ballot boxes and ballot papers will rest with the CRO.

9	GLA elections – EC count guidance	For the GLA elections, CROs shall follow the count process detailed in the EC guidance to the GLRO and CROs, on the EC’s webpage, <a href="#">Verification and Count</a> .
10	GLA elections – count start times	CROs shall ensure the count commences at <b>9am prompt on Sunday 5 May 2024</b> . No ballot boxes with the verified papers are to be opened before that time.
11	GLA elections – tolerance for variance at the count	For the GLA elections, at the count stage CROs/BROs shall look to apply zero tolerance for variance between the verification total, and the aggregate of all votes cast and rejected ballot papers.
12	GLA elections – count order	All three counts must be completed promptly by a reasonable time on <b>Sunday 5 May 2024</b> , CROs shall resource their counts and prioritise the submission of provisional count results to the GLRO in the following order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor of London</li> <li>• London Assembly Constituency Member</li> <li>• London Assembly London-wide</li> </ul>
13	GLA elections – GLRO to be consulted on any intention to grant a request for a recount	CROs shall consult the GLRO on any request for a recount that they are minded to grant, before exercising their power to do so.
14	GLA elections – GLA results process	CROs shall follow the results protocol as detailed in the <a href="#">GLA count reporting and results protocol</a> .
15	GLA elections – by-elections and other counts	CROs/BROs shall follow a process to ensure that any local by-elections or other election counts do not impact on the resource available to the CRO for the timely conduct of the verification and count of the GLA elections as the primary set of elections.

## Detail of above directions

1	GLA elections – EC verification and count guidance
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- For the GLA elections CROs/BROs must follow the verification and count guidance the GLRO and CROs on the EC's webpage, [Verification and Count](#).

2	GLA elections – GLA verification and count progress reporting
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- For the GLA elections, this direction is to ensure that CROs/BROs follow the processes detailed in the [GLA count reporting and results protocol](#).
- It will be necessary for the GLRO to have confidence that all verification and counts are progressing in a timely manner and are on course to meet agreed deadlines.
- This will allow the GLRO to provide stakeholders with regular updates on the progress of the verification on the Friday and the count on the Sunday.

3	GLA elections – Staffing levels for verification and counting
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that CROs/BROs appoint sufficient staff to ensure, without fail, that the verification and count are completed in line with the timetable as directed and as detailed in the [GLA count reporting and results protocol](#).
- It will be necessary for the GLRO to have confidence that all verification and counts are progressing in a timely manner and are on course to meet agreed deadlines.

4	GLA elections – verification start times
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- The purpose of this direction, with the agreement of CROs/BROs, is to ensure the verification for all contests will commence at the close of poll on **Thursday 2 May 2024**.

5	GLA elections – EC verification procedure
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that that CROs/BROs follow the verification process in the EC guidance to the GLRO and CROs on the EC's webpage, [Verification and Count](#).

6	GLA elections – tolerance for variance at the verification
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that that CROs and BROs follow the verification process as directed by the GLRO and detailed in EC guidance to the GLRO and CROs, as found on the EC's webpage, [Verification and Count](#).

- CROs/BROs will contact the GLRO to confirm verification figures to ensure there has been no transposition or other errors.
- The GLRO will be informed of any variation between the ballot papers issued and the numbers verified, and of the process taken to ensure these reconcile.
- If the variation is outside the GLRO's tolerance direction, CROs/BROs will be directed as per guidance from the GLRO and the EC.
- When the verification figure is accepted by the GLRO, CROs/BROs will be contacted with confirmation of acceptance of the Verification Statement and authorisation to proceed with their count.

7	GLA elections – verification end times
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that verification should target completion and submission of provisional verification figures **by 1pm on Friday 3 May 2024**.
- If any CRO/BRO expects to miss the deadline, they must inform the GLRO as soon as it becomes evident.

8	GLA elections – storage of GLA ballot boxes after verification
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- The purpose of this direction is to allow the GLRO to have access to CROs' plans and documents, for storage of the ballot boxes from close of verification until commencement of the count at **9am on Sunday 5 May 2024**.
- This will be necessary for the GLRO to assure herself or stakeholders that each CRO has the necessary plans and resources in place.
- There will be integrity and security concerns that are London-wide. The GLRO will provide information on these, to be included in CROs plans.
- The responsibility for storage of the ballot boxes and ballot papers will rest with the CRO.

9	GLA elections – EC count guidance
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The purpose of this direction is to ensure that, for the GLA election counts, CROs follow the EC count guidance to the GLRO and CROs on the EC's webpage, [Verification and Count](#).

10	GLA elections – count start times
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The purpose of this direction is to ensure that all three GLA counts commence at **9am prompt on Sunday 5 May 2024**. No ballot boxes with the verified ballot papers to be opened before 9am.

11	GLA elections – tolerance for variance at the count
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that that CROs follow the verification process as directed by the GLRO and detailed in EC guidance to the GLRO and CROs, as found on the EC’s webpage, [Verification and Count](#).
- CROs will contact the GLRO to confirm count totals reconcile with the verification total, to ensure there has been no transposition or other errors.
- If the variation is outside the GLRO’s tolerance direction, CROs will be directed as per guidance from the GLRO and the EC.

12	GLA elections – count order
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure that all three counts are completed promptly and in the following priority order on **Sunday 5 May 2024**:
  - **Mayor of London**
  - **London Assembly Constituency Member**
  - **London Assembly London-wide**
- If any CRO expects to encounter delays, they must inform the GLRO as soon as it becomes evident.

13	GLA elections – GLRO to be consulted on any intention to grant a request for a recount
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure a consistent approach is taken to requests for recounts.
- Requests for a recount can only be made after provisional results have been shared with agents locally after the constituency count.
- CROs shall inform the GLRO of the circumstances of any request for a recount of the votes that they are minded to grant, before exercising their power under the following rules:
  - rule 52 of the Constituency Member Elections rules
  - rule 53 of the London Member Election rules
  - rule 52 of the Mayoral Election rules.

14	GLA elections – GLA results process
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure a consistent approach is taken in reporting the provisional and final results for each of the three elections.
- Each CRO must follow the results communication process for a combined election, as detailed in the [GLA count reporting and results protocol](#).
- If any CRO expects to miss the set deadlines, they must inform the GLRO as soon as it becomes evident.



15	GLA elections – by-elections and other counts
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- The purpose of this direction is to ensure an understanding of the approach to be taken regarding the timings of local counts, such as by-elections or neighbourhood referendum counts.
  - Following the Parliamentary counts, each CRO/BRO must prioritise the GLA counts as the primary set of elections, to ensure compliance with the deadlines as detailed in these directions.
  - Each CRO/BRO must make informed decisions as to when to undertake their local counts to ensure no impact/delay to the GLA counts.
  - Each CRO/BRO shall ensure sufficient count staff is available for local counts to ensure there is no call on staff appointed to work on the GLA counts.
-