

Request for Greater London Returning Officer (GLRO) Decision – GLRO 21-09

Title: GLRO Directions to Constituency Returning Officers

Executive Summary:

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

Decision:

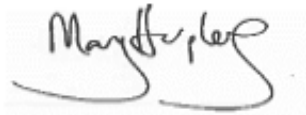
That the GLRO approves:

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

Greater London Returning Officer

The above request has my approval.

Signature



Date

1 April 2021

Part I – NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE GLRO

Decision required

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. The proposed Directions are attached at Appendix 1. They were discussed and agreed in advance with the Electoral Commission, legal advisers, 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 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 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 2020, prior to the 2020 election's postponement. They also now include a Direction relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Issues for consideration

- 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. Financial Comments

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

4. Equalities Comments

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

5. Legal Comments

- 5.1. The directions are consistent with the GLRO's functions as detailed in the Greater London Authority Election Rules 2007. Under Rule 11 the GLRO may give to any CRO a direction—
 - (a) as to the manner in which s/he must discharge any of his functions set out in these Rules;
 - or
 - (b) 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 under paragraph (1) to discharge his/her functions in accordance with that direction.

Public access to information**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

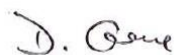
OFFICER DECLARATION:

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION	<i>Drafting officer to confirm the following (✓)</i>
Drafting officer; Lea Goddard 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 is correct can be referred to the GLRO for approval	✓

Executive Director, Resources

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

Signature



Date

1 April 2021