

**2016 No. 637**

**REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE**

**The Recall Petition (Petition Officers' Charges) Regulations  
2016**

*Made* - - - - *23rd May 2016*

*Coming into force in accordance with regulation 1(1)*

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, with the consent of the Treasury, makes these Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by section 21(3)(b) of, and paragraph 3(1) and (2) of Schedule 1 to, the Recall of MPs Act 2015<sup>(a)</sup> and now vested in him<sup>(b)</sup>.

**Citation, commencement, extent and interpretation**

**1.**—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Recall Petition (Petition Officers' Charges) Regulations 2016 and come into force on the day after the day on which they are made.

(2) These Regulations extend to Great Britain.

(3) In these Regulations—

“the Act” means the Recall of MPs Act 2015;

“Greater London area” means the area of—

(a) the City of London, and

(b) the London boroughs described in Schedule 1 to the London Government Act 1963<sup>(c)</sup>,

“official petition notice” means a notice sent in accordance with section 8 of the Act (notice of petition);

“petition signing sheet” means a signing sheet which is to be made available for signing the recall petition in accordance with section 9 of the Act (recall petition to be made available for signing);

“postal signing sheet” means a petition signing sheet issued to a person who is entitled to sign the recall petition by post.

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(a) 2015 c. 25.

(b) Powers under section 21(3)(b) of and paragraph 3(1) and (2) of Schedule 1 are vested in “the Minister”, which is defined under section 22(1) of the Recall of MPs Act 2015. By virtue of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/1376), article 3 and Schedule 1, sub-paragraph (t), powers under that Act exercisable by the Secretary of State concurrently with the Lord President of the Council are instead exercisable concurrently with the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. A consequential amendment to section 22(1) was accordingly made by article 10 of, and paragraph 19 of Schedule 2 to, that Order.

(c) 1963 c. 33.

**Petition officers: maximum recoverable amount for specified services.**

2.—(1) The maximum recoverable amount (for the purposes of paragraph 3 of Schedule 1 to the Act) in relation to a recall petition for a service specified in column 1 of the table in Schedule 1 is to be determined in accordance with this regulation.

(2) Except in a case described in paragraph (3) or (4), the maximum recoverable amount in relation to a specified service listed in column 1 is the amount listed in the corresponding entry in column 2 of that table.

(3) Where the constituency to which a recall petition relates is wholly or partly within the Greater London area, the maximum recoverable amount in relation to a specified service listed in column 1 is the amount listed in the corresponding entry in column 3 of that table.

(4) Where the constituency to which a recall petition relates is not wholly or partly within the Greater London area but borders a constituency that is, the maximum recoverable amount in relation to a specified service listed in column 1 is the amount listed in the corresponding entry in column 4 of that table.

**Petition officers: maximum recoverable amount for specified expenses**

3.—(1) The maximum recoverable amount (for the purposes of paragraph 3 of Schedule 1 to the Act) in relation to a recall petition for an expense specified in column 1 of the table in Schedule 2 is to be determined in accordance with this regulation.

(2) Except in a case described in paragraph (3) or (4), the maximum recoverable amount in relation to a specified expense listed in column 1 is the amount listed in the corresponding entry in column 2 of that table.

(3) Where the constituency to which a recall petition relates is wholly or partly within the Greater London area, the maximum recoverable amount in relation to a specified expense listed in column 1 is the amount listed in the corresponding entry in column 3 of that table.

(4) Where the constituency to which a recall petition relates is not wholly or partly within the Greater London area but borders a constituency that is, the maximum recoverable amount in relation to a specified expense listed in column 1 is the amount listed in the corresponding entry in column 4 of that table.

(5) The maximum recoverable amount in respect of the expenses specified in paragraph (6), taken together, is—

- (a) where the constituency to which a recall petition relates is wholly or partly within the Greater London area, £1,250;
- (b) where the constituency to which a recall petition relates is not wholly or partly within that area but borders a constituency that is, £1,200;
- (c) where the constituency to which a recall petition relates is not one falling within subparagraph (b) or (c), £1,000.

(6) Those specified expenses are—

- (a) travel and overnight subsistence for the petition officer and any person appointed to assist the petition officer;
- (b) printing or otherwise producing and, where appropriate, publishing notices and any other documents required by or under any enactment for or in connection with the recall petition;
- (c) adapting or restoring to normal use any room or building designated as a petition signing place, including transportation costs for temporary adaptations that cannot securely be stored in the building or room overnight;
- (d) providing and transporting ballot boxes, petition signing sheets and other materials and equipment needed for the administration of the recall petition;
- (e) providing stationery and meeting postage, telephone, printing, translation and banking costs and the costs of other miscellaneous items;

- (f) providing security, including secure storage of ballot boxes, petition signing sheets and other materials and equipment needed for the administration of the recall petition.

**Overall maximum recoverable amount**

4.—(1) The overall maximum recoverable amount (within the meaning of paragraph 3(1)(b) of Schedule 1 to the Act) in relation to a recall petition is to be determined in accordance with this regulation.

(2) Where the constituency to which a recall petition relates is wholly or partly within the Greater London area, the overall maximum recoverable amount is the sum of the maximum recoverable amounts specified in, or determined in accordance with—

- (a) regulation 2(3) (specified services),
- (b) regulation 3(3) (specified expenses), and
- (c) regulation 3(5)(a) (further specified services).

(3) Where the constituency to which a recall petition relates is not wholly or partly within the Greater London area but borders a constituency that is, the overall maximum recoverable amount is the sum of the maximum recoverable amounts specified in, or determined in accordance with—

- (a) regulation 2(4) (specified services),
- (b) regulation 3(4) (specified expenses), and
- (c) regulation 3(5)(b).

(4) Where the constituency to which a recall petition relates is not one falling within paragraph (2) or (3), the overall maximum recoverable amount is the sum of the maximum recoverable amounts specified in, or determined in accordance with—

- (a) regulation 2(2) (specified services),
- (b) regulation 3(2) (specified expenses), and
- (c) regulation 3(5)(c) (further specified services).

*John Penrose*  
Minister for Constitutional Reform  
Cabinet Office

18th May 2016

We consent to these Regulations

*David Evennett*  
*Mel Stride*  
Two of the Lord Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury

23rd May 2016

**SCHEDULE 1**

Regulation 2

**Maximum recoverable amount for specified services**

<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Specified service</i>	<i>Maximum recoverable amount</i>	<i>Maximum recoverable amount: constituency</i>	<i>Maximum recoverable amount: constituency</i>

		<i>wholly or partly in the Greater London area</i>	<i>bordering the Greater London area</i>
Petition officer's services	£500.00	£625.00	£600.00
Persons employed in relation to the preparation, revision and issue of official petition notices	£1,496.80	£1,871.00	£1,796.16
Persons employed in relation to the count	£648.96	£811.20	£778.75
Persons employed in relation to clerical or other assistance (other than petition clerks or assistants of petition clerks)	£2,250.00	£2,812.50	£2,700.00
Persons employed in relation to the preparation, issue and receipt of postal signing sheets	£5,681.14	£7,101.43	£6,817.37
Persons employed as petition clerks to preside at designated signing places or assistants to those clerks	£16.22 per hour between the hours of 9am and 5pm on a Monday to Friday and £24.33 per hour at any other time	£20.28 per hour between the hours of 9am and 5pm on a Monday to Friday and £30.41 per hour at any other time	£19.46 per hour between the hours of 9am and 5pm on a Monday to Friday and £29.20 per hour at any other time

## SCHEDULE 2

Regulation 3

### Maximum recoverable amount for specified expenses

<i>1</i> <i>Specified expense</i>	<i>2</i> <i>Maximum recoverable amount</i>	<i>3</i> <i>Maximum recoverable amount: constituency wholly or partly in the Greater London area</i>	<i>4</i> <i>Maximum recoverable amount: constituency bordering the Greater London area</i>
Printing and producing the petition signing sheets	£3,602.75	£4,503.44	£4,323.30
Printing and producing the official petition notices and costs associated with their issue	£34,464.24	£43,080.30	£41,357.09
Printing / producing the postal signing sheets and costs associated with their issue and return	£23,215.98	£29,019.96	£27,859.18
Office equipment and software in relation to the count and verification	£200.00	£250.00	£240.00
Renting, heating, lighting and cleaning, any building or room	£5,669.94 per designated signing place	£7,087.43 per designated signing place	£6,803.93 per designated signing place
Delivery of training and associated costs	£180.00	£225.00	£216.00
The payment of persons employed as petition clerks, or assistants of such clerks, or persons employed in relation to the count, who attend training for those purposes	£20.00 per person	£25.00 per person	£24.00 per person

## **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

These Regulations prescribe the maximum amounts which a petition officer may recover in respect of services rendered, or expenses incurred, by that officer in accordance with their functions under, or by virtue of, the Recall of MPs Act 2015 (“the Act”) in respect of a recall petition.

Under paragraph 3(1) of Schedule 1 to the Act, a petition officer may recover their charges for services rendered, or expenses incurred, in respect of a recall petition, if the services were necessarily rendered, and expenses necessarily incurred, for the effective and efficient performance of that officer’s functions in respect of that petition; and those charges do not exceed the amount specified in, or determined in accordance with, Regulations made by the Minister. Paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 1 to the Act enables those Regulations to specify a maximum recoverable amount for services or expenses of any specified description.

Regulation 2 together with Schedule 1, specifies the maximum recoverable amounts for the kinds of specified services which a petition officer is entitled to recover. There are varying maximum amounts depending on the location of the constituency which is the subject of the recall petition process.

Regulation 3 together with Schedule 2, specifies the maximum recoverable amounts for the kinds of specified expenses which a petition officer is entitled to recover. Again, the maximum amounts differ depending on the location of the constituency which is the subject of the recall petition process.

Regulation 4 determines the overall maximum recoverable amount for the purposes of paragraph 3(1)(b) of Schedule 1 to the Act.

An impact assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as no impact on the private or voluntary sector is foreseen.

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