

## SCHEDULES

### SCHEDULE 3

Rules for the conduct of PCC elections where poll not taken together with poll at another election

### PART 3

Contested PCC elections

COUNTING OF VOTES

*Verification of ballot paper accounts*

#### Attendance at verification

**48.**—(1) The local returning officer must make arrangements for the verification of the ballot paper accounts in the presence of the counting agents as soon as practicable after the close of the poll.

(2) The local returning officer must give the counting agents notice in writing of the time and place at which the verification of the ballot paper accounts will begin.

(3) A person may be present at the verification of the ballot paper accounts only if—

- (a) the person is within paragraph (4), or
- (b) the person is permitted by the local returning officer to attend.

(4) The persons within this paragraph are—

- (a) the police area returning officer and the local returning officer;
- (b) the clerks of either officer;
- (c) the candidates and one other person chosen by each of them;
- (d) the election agents;
- (e) the counting agents;
- (f) persons who are entitled to attend by virtue of any of sections 6A to 6D of the 2000 Act.

(5) The local returning officer may give a person permission under paragraph (3)(b) only if the local returning officer is satisfied that the person's attendance will not impede the efficient verification of the ballot paper accounts.

(6) The local returning officer must give the counting agents all such reasonable facilities for overseeing the proceedings, and all such information with respect to them, as the local returning officer can give them consistently with the orderly conduct of the proceedings and the discharge of the local returning officer's duties.

#### Procedure at verification of ballot paper accounts

**49.**—(1) The local returning officer must, in the presence of the counting agents—

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- (a) open the ballot boxes from each polling station and count and record the number of ballot papers in each box;
  - (b) verify each ballot paper account;
  - (c) count such of the postal ballot papers as have been duly returned and record the number counted.
- (2) A postal ballot paper is not to be taken to be duly returned unless—
- (a) it is returned in the manner specified in paragraph 43(1) or (2) of Schedule 2 and, before the close of the poll, it reached the local returning officer or a polling station in the voting area for which the officer acts,
  - (b) the postal voting statement, duly signed, is also returned in the manner specified in paragraph 43(1) or (2) of Schedule 2 and, before the close of the poll, it reached the local returning officer or a polling station in the voting area for which the officer acts,
  - (c) the postal voting statement also states the date of birth of the elector or proxy (as the case may be), and
  - (d) <sup>F1</sup>... the local returning officer verifies the date of birth and signature of the elector or proxy (as the case may be).
- [<sup>F2</sup>(2A) A postal ballot paper or postal voting statement that reaches the local returning officer or a polling station on or after the close of the poll is treated for the purposes of paragraph (2) as reaching that officer or polling station before the close of the poll if it is delivered by a person who, at the close of the poll, is in the polling station, or in a queue outside the polling station, for the purpose of returning it.]
- (3) The local returning officer, while counting and recording the number of ballot papers, must keep the ballot papers with their faces upwards and take all proper precautions for preventing anyone from seeing the numbers or other unique identifying marks printed on the back of the papers.
- (4) Unless otherwise directed by the police area returning officer, the local returning officer must determine the hours during which the procedure under this rule is to be carried out and must take proper precautions for the security of the ballot papers and documents.
- (5) The local returning officer must—
- (a) verify each ballot paper account by comparing it with the number of ballot papers recorded by the local returning officer, and the unused and spoilt ballot papers in the local returning officer's possession and the tendered votes list (opening and resealing the packets containing the unused and spoilt ballot papers and the tendered votes list);
  - (b) draw up a statement as to the result of the verification.
- (6) Once the statement is drawn up the local returning officer must inform the police area returning officer of the contents of the statement.
- (7) Any counting agent present at the verification may copy the statement.

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in Sch. 3 rule 49(2)(d) omitted (6.4.2014) by virtue of [The Police and Crime Commissioner Elections \(Amendment\) Order 2014 \(S.I. 2014/921\)](#), arts. 1(5), **37(1)** (with art. 1(5))
- F2** Sch. 3 rule 49(2A) inserted (6.4.2014) by [The Police and Crime Commissioner Elections \(Amendment\) Order 2014 \(S.I. 2014/921\)](#), arts. 1(5), **37(2)** (with art. 1(5))

**Additional steps: verification and count carried out at different places**

**50.**—(1) This rule applies where the votes at a PCC election are to be counted at a place other than that at which the procedures for the verification of the ballot paper accounts are carried out.

(2) The local returning officer must on completing the procedure under rule 49—

(a) make up into packets the ballot papers and the postal ballot papers for the PCC election and seal them up into containers endorsing on each the description of the voting area and the police area to which those ballot papers relate; and

(b) deliver or cause to be delivered to the place at which the counting of the votes is to be carried out—

(i) those containers together with a list of them and of the contents of each, and

(ii) the ballot paper accounts together with a copy of the statement as to the result of their verification.

(3) If the packets are not delivered by the local returning officer personally, their delivery must be in accordance with arrangements approved by the police area returning officer.

(4) The police area returning officer may give a local returning officer for any voting area wholly or partly comprised in the police area directions which, once the packets have been delivered to the place where the votes at the PCC election are to be counted, require the local returning officer to take specified steps for the carrying out of further specified verification procedures in relation to the ballot papers and other documents relating to the PCC election.

(5) In paragraph (4), “specified” means specified by the police area returning officer in directions given under that paragraph.

**Changes to legislation:**

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

- Order applied by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 11 para. 6\(3\)](#)

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

- Sch. A1 para. 4 applied by [S.I. 2023/1150 reg. 23](#)
- Sch. A1 inserted by [S.I. 2023/1150 Sch. 1](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 3(10) amendment to earlier affecting provision S.I. 2023/1147, reg. 17(5)(a)(iii) by [S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 19\(2\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 3(10) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 17\(5\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 4(6) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 17\(5\)\(b\)\(iii\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 10A inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 17\(5\)\(d\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 11(1)(aa) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 17\(5\)\(e\)\(i\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 11(5A)(5B) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 17\(5\)\(e\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 11(8)-(10) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 17\(5\)\(e\)\(iii\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 14(7A)(7B) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 17\(5\)\(f\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 16(2)(ab) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 17\(5\)\(h\)\(i\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 16(2E) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 17\(5\)\(h\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 16B-16D inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 17\(5\)\(i\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 17(4A)-(4E) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 17\(5\)\(j\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 9A inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 8\(6\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 29(1A) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 8\(6\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 43(3A) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 8\(6\)\(d\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 43A-43D inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 8\(6\)\(e\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 46A-46E inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 8\(6\)\(g\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 55(6)-(9) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 8\(6\)\(h\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 57(1)(g) and word inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 8\(6\)\(i\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 59A(1)(a)(ii)(iii) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 8\(6\)\(k\)\(iii\)\(bb\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 59A(1)(c)(ii) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 8\(6\)\(k\)\(iv\)\(bb\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 16C(7)(ca) inserted by [S.I. 2024/43 reg. 24\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 7(14) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147, reg. 17\(5\)\(ca\)\(iii\)](#) (as inserted) by [S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 19\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 16C(6) omitted by [S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 12\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 16C(5) substituted by [S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 12\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 6(5)-(7) substituted for Sch. 2 para. 6(5) by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 17\(5\)\(c\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 16C(7) word substituted by [S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 12\(c\)\(i\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 59A(1)(a)(i) words in Sch. 2 para. 59A(1)(a) renumbered as Sch. 2 para. 59A(1)(a)(i) by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 8\(6\)\(k\)\(iii\)\(aa\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 59A(1)(c)(i) words in Sch. 2 para. 59A(1)(c) renumbered as Sch. 2 para. 59A(1)(c)(i) by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 8\(6\)\(k\)\(iv\)\(aa\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 16C(7)(b) words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 12\(c\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 16C(7)(c) words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 12\(c\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 16C(7)(d) words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 12\(c\)\(iii\)](#)
- Sch. 3 rule 11(2)(c) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1141 reg. 4\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 3 rule 34(1)(ba) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 8\(7\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 3 rule 49(2)(e) and word inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 8\(7\)\(c\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 3 rule 37 Table modified (temp.) by [S.I. 2023/1147 Sch. 2 para. 21\(2\)\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 3 rule 70 Form 11 modified (temp.) by [S.I. 2023/1147 Sch. 2 para. 23\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 3 rule 70 Form 13 modified (temp.) by [S.I. 2023/1147 Sch. 2 para. 23\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 3 rule 70 Form 12 modified (temp.) by [S.I. 2023/1147 Sch. 2 para. 23\(3\)](#)

- Sch. 3 rule 70 Form 14 modified (temp.) by S.I. 2023/1147 Sch. 2 para. 23(3)
- Sch. 3 rule 5(3) substituted by S.I. 2023/1141 reg. 4(4)(a)(ii)
- Sch. 3 rule 70 Form 11 substituted by S.I. 2023/1147 Sch. 8 Pt. 2
- Sch. 3 rule 70 Form 13 substituted by S.I. 2023/1147 Sch. 8 Pt. 2
- Sch. 3 rule 70 Form 12 substituted by S.I. 2023/1225 Sch. 6 Pt. 2
- Sch. 3 rule 70 Form 14 substituted by S.I. 2023/1225 Sch. 6 Pt. 2
- Sch. 3 rule 49(2)(c) word omitted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 8(7)(c)(i)
- Sch. 3 rule 37(1)(b) words inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 17(7)(a)
- Sch. 3 rule 5(1) words omitted by S.I. 2023/1141 reg. 4(4)(a)(i)
- Sch. 3 rule 37 table words omitted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 17(7)(b)(ii)
- Sch. 3 rule 13(3) words substituted by S.I. 2023/1141 reg. 4(4)(c)(i)
- Sch. 3 rule 13(3) words substituted by S.I. 2023/1141 reg. 4(4)(c)(ii)
- Sch. 3 rule 37 table words substituted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 17(7)(b)(i)
- Sch. 3 rule 32(1)(a) words substituted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 8(7)(a)(i)
- Sch. 3 rule 32(1)(b) words substituted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 8(7)(a)(ii)
- Sch. 4 para. 27(1)(a) words substituted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 8(8)(a)(i)
- Sch. 4 para. 27(1)(b) words substituted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 8(8)(a)(ii)
- Sch. 4 para. 27(2) words substituted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 8(8)(b)
- Sch. 10 para. 3(1)(b)(v) inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 8(10)(b)
- art. 3A inserted by S.I. 2023/1150 reg. 36(3)
- art. 13(1)(ea) art. 13(1)(ee) renumbered as art. 13(1)(ea) by S.I. 2024/131 reg. 22(2)(a)
- art. 13(1)(ea) words inserted by S.I. 2024/131 reg. 22(2)(b)
- art. 18(1A) inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 17(3)(a)
- art. 18A inserted by S.I. 2023/1141 reg. 4(2)
- art. 22(5A)-(5F) inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 8(3)
- art. 87(5) inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 17(4)