
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2016 No. 295

The Recall of MPs Act 2015 (Recall Petition) Regulations 2016

PART 4

ABSENT SIGNERS

CHAPTER 1

Entitlement to Absent Signing

Absent signing at any petition for a definite or an indefinite period: England and Wales and Scotland

51.—(1) Where a person applies to the registration officer to sign any petition by post (whether for an indefinite period or for a particular period specified in that person's application), the registration officer must grant the application if—

- (a) the officer is satisfied that the applicant is or will be entitled to sign a petition by virtue of section 10 of the Act;
- (b) the officer is satisfied that the applicant has not signed the petition at the petition signing place allotted to that person under regulation 16 (allotment of petition signing places); and
- (c) the application contains the applicant's signature and date of birth and meets the requirements of Chapter 2 of this Part.

(2) Where a person applies to the registration officer to sign any petition by proxy (whether for an indefinite period or for a particular period specified in their application), the registration officer must grant the application if—

- (a) the officer is satisfied that the applicant is eligible to sign the petition by proxy (in accordance with paragraph (3));
- (b) the officer is satisfied that the applicant has not signed the petition at the petition signing place allotted to that person under regulation 16;
- (c) the officer is satisfied that the applicant is or will be entitled to sign the petition by virtue of section 10 of the Act; and
- (d) the application contains the applicant's signature and date of birth and meets the requirements of Chapter 2 of this Part.

(3) For the purposes of this regulation a person is eligible to sign the petition by proxy if that person—

- (a) is or will be registered in the register of parliamentary electors as a service voter;
- (b) has an anonymous entry in the register of parliamentary electors;
- (c) cannot reasonably be expected—
 - (i) to go in person to the petition signing place allotted or likely to be allotted to that person under regulation 16 (allotment of petition signing place), or
 - (ii) to sign the petition unaided there,

- by reason of blindness or other disability;
- (d) cannot reasonably be expected to go in person to that petition signing place by reason of the general nature of that person's occupation, service or employment or that of their spouse or civil partner, or by reason of their attendance on a course provided by an educational institution or that of their spouse or civil partner;
 - (e) cannot go in person from their qualifying address to that petition signing place without making a journey by air or sea; or
 - (f) is or will be registered in the register of parliamentary electors in pursuance of an overseas electors declaration.
- (4) The registration officer must keep a record of those whose applications under this regulation have been granted showing—
- (a) whether the applications were to sign the petition by post or proxy for an indefinite or a particular period (specifying that period),
 - (b) in the case of those who may sign the petition by post, the addresses provided by them in their applications as the addresses to which their signing sheets are to be sent, and
 - (c) in the case of those who may sign the petition by proxy, the names and addresses of those appointed as their proxies.
- (5) The registration officer must remove a person from the record—
- (a) if that person applies to the registration officer to be removed;
 - (b) in the case of a person who is eligible to sign the petition by proxy by virtue of having an anonymous entry, if that person ceases to have an anonymous entry;
 - (c) in the case of any person in the register of parliamentary electors, if that person ceases to be so registered or registered at the same qualifying address;
 - (d) in the case of any person shown in the record as being eligible to sign the petition by proxy, if the registration officer gives notice that he or she has reason to believe there has been a material change of circumstances;
 - (e) in the case of a person who applied to sign the petition by post for a particular period, once that period has expired or, where paragraph (9) applies, at the end of the signing period;
 - (f) in the case of a person who applied to sign the petition by proxy for a particular period, once that period has expired.
- (6) A person shown in the record under kept under paragraph (4) as being entitled to sign the petition by post may subsequently alter their choice by applying to the registration officer to sign the petition by proxy instead (whether for an indefinite period or for a particular period specified in his application); and, if the registration officer would be required to grant that application if it were one made under paragraph (2), the registration officer must amend the record accordingly.
- (7) A person shown in the record as being entitled to sign the petition by proxy may subsequently alter his choice by applying to the registration officer to sign the petition by post instead (whether for an indefinite period or for a particular period specified in his application); and, if the application meets the requirements of Chapter 2 of this Part, the registration officer must amend the record accordingly.
- (8) The registration officer may dispense with the requirement under paragraph (1)(c) or (2)(d) for the applicant to provide a signature if he or she is satisfied that the applicant is unable—
- (a) to provide a signature because of any disability the applicant has,
 - (b) to provide a signature because the applicant is unable to read or write, or
 - (c) to sign in a consistent and distinctive way because of any such disability or inability.

(9) Where a person has been granted an application under paragraph (1) to sign the petition by post for a definite period and that period expires during the signing period for a particular petition, that definite period is deemed to continue until the end of the signing period for the purposes of enabling that person to sign the petition by post, unless that person applies to have their name removed from the record kept under paragraph (4).

Commencement Information

II Reg. 51 in force at 4.3.2016, see [reg. 1](#)

Changes to legislation:

There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Recall of MPs Act 2015 (Recall Petition) Regulations 2016. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- Regulations applied by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 11 para. 7\(3\)](#)
- reg. 51(1) words omitted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19\(6\)\(a\)](#)
- reg. 51(3)(f) word substituted by [S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 13\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 51(4)(a) substituted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19\(6\)\(c\)](#)
- reg. 51(7) words omitted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19\(6\)\(d\)](#)
- reg. 51(9) word omitted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19\(6\)\(f\)](#)

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

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

- Sch. 3 para. 1(1)(e)(ia) inserted by [S.I. 2020/581 reg. 13\(5\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 3 para. 3(1)(b)(v) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10\(22\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 3 para. 1(1)(e)(i) words omitted by [S.I. 2020/581 reg. 13\(5\)\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- reg. 2(2)(aa) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 69\(b\)](#)
- reg. 2(2)(ea) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 69\(c\)](#)
- reg. 2(2)(ia) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 69\(e\)](#)
- reg. 2(2)(ja) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 69\(f\)](#)
- reg. 2(2)(jb)-(je) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19\(2\)](#)
- reg. 2(2)(ma)-(mc) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10\(2\)\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- reg. 2(2)(za) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 69\(a\)](#)
- reg. 2(2)(za) omitted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 16\(2\)](#)
- reg. 2(5)(n) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 14\(6\)\(c\)](#)
- reg. 2(5)(ba)(bb) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 14\(6\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 2(5)(ma)(mb) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 2(5)(za) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 14\(6\)\(a\)](#)
- reg. 13A13B inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 14\(1\)](#)
- reg. 17(3)(c) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 71\(b\)](#)
- reg. 17(3)(c) words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 15](#)
- reg. 18(7)(fa) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 72\(a\)](#)
- reg. 19(3)(e) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 14\(2\)](#)
- reg. 19(3A) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 73\(a\)](#)
- reg. 19(4A) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1309 reg. 12\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 19(5A) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 73\(b\)](#)
- reg. 20A amendments by [S.I. 2022/1382](#), regs. 70-75, 77, 78, 80-82 extended to N.I. by [S.I. 2023/1382 reg. 13](#)
- reg. 20A inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 74](#)
- reg. 20A words omitted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 16\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- reg. 20A heading words omitted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 16\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 22(1)(ba) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10\(4\)](#)
- reg. 25(3A) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 75\(b\)](#)
- reg. 25(4A)-(4C) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 75\(d\)](#)
- reg. 25(4A) words omitted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 17\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- reg. 25(4A)(b) words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 17\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 25(6) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 75\(f\)](#)
- reg. 27(1A)-(1N) inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 76\(3\)](#)
- reg. 28(3A) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 18\(3\)](#)
- reg. 28(6A)-(6C) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 18\(7\)](#)

- reg. 28(7A)-(7C) inserted by S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 18(9)
- reg. 29(1)(1A) substituted for reg. 29(1) by S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 19(2)
- reg. 29(2A) amendments by S.I. 2022/1382, regs. 70-75, 77, 78, 80-82 extended to N.I. by S.I. 2023/1382 reg. 13
- reg. 29(2A) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 77
- reg. 30(7A) amendments by S.I. 2022/1382, regs. 70-75, 77, 78, 80-82 extended to N.I. by S.I. 2023/1382 reg. 13
- reg. 30(7A) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 78
- reg. 30A inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 79
- reg. 33(5)(ea) amendments by S.I. 2022/1382, regs. 70-75, 77, 78, 80-82 extended to N.I. by S.I. 2023/1382 reg. 13
- reg. 33(5)(ea) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 80
- reg. 37(1)(ea) amendments by S.I. 2022/1382, regs. 70-75, 77, 78, 80-82 extended to N.I. by S.I. 2023/1382 reg. 13
- reg. 37(1)(ea) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 81
- reg. 37(1)(eb) inserted by S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 22
- reg. 39(3)(e) and word inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(5)(a)(ii)
- reg. 39(5)(d) and word inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(5)(b)(ii)
- reg. 43(2)(ba) amendments by S.I. 2022/1382, regs. 70-75, 77, 78, 80-82 extended to N.I. by S.I. 2023/1382 reg. 13
- reg. 43(2)(ba) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 82
- reg. 44(1)(da) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 83
- reg. 45(1A) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 84
- reg. 45A inserted by S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 14(3)
- reg. 46(1) reg. 46 renumbered as reg. 46(1) by S.I. 2020/581 reg. 13(2)(b)
- reg. 46(2) inserted by S.I. 2020/581 reg. 13(2)(c)
- reg. 46(2) words inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(6)
- reg. 46A inserted by S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 14(4)
- reg. 51(1A)(1B) inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19(6)(b)
- reg. 51(1B)(a) words substituted by S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 13(3)(a)
- reg. 51(7A) inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19(6)(e)
- reg. 52(1)(da) inserted by S.I. 2018/699 reg. 8(3)(a)(iii)
- reg. 52(1A) inserted by S.I. 2018/699 reg. 8(3)(b)
- reg. 52(9)(10) inserted by S.I. 2018/699 reg. 8(3)(c)
- reg. 52(9)-(9B) substituted for reg. 52(9) by S.I. 2020/581 reg. 13(3)(a)
- reg. 52(10) words substituted by S.I. 2020/581 reg. 13(3)(b)
- reg. 54(1)(da) inserted by S.I. 2018/699 reg. 8(4)(a)(ii)
- reg. 54(1A) inserted by S.I. 2018/699 reg. 8(4)(b)
- reg. 54(6)(7) inserted by S.I. 2018/699 reg. 8(4)(c)
- reg. 54(6)-(6B) substituted for reg. 54(6) by S.I. 2020/581 reg. 13(4)(a)
- reg. 54(7) words substituted by S.I. 2020/581 reg. 13(4)(b)
- reg. 57(3)(za) inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19(7)(a)
- reg. 57(5)(5A) substituted for reg. 57(5) by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19(7)(b)
- reg. 58(6A) inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19(8)(a)
- reg. 60(1)(aa) inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19(9)(a)
- reg. 60(6A)-(6E) inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19(9)(b)
- reg. 63(1A) inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19(10)(b)
- reg. 63A inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 86
- reg. 64(5)(b)(v) and word inserted by S.I. 2022/332 art. 9(2)(b)
- reg. 64(5)(b)(iv) inserted by S.I. 2021/1188 art. 9(3)(c)
- reg. 65(4)(b)(v) and word inserted by S.I. 2022/332 art. 9(3)(b)
- reg. 65(4)(b)(iv) inserted by S.I. 2021/1188 art. 9(4)(c)
- reg. 68(6A) inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19(11)
- reg. 69A inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 88
- reg. 71(2A) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 89(3)
- reg. 71(4A)(4B) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 89(6)
- reg. 71(4A) words inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19(12)(a)
- reg. 71(4C) inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19(12)(b)

- reg. 71(8) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 89(7)
- reg. 71A inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 90
- reg. 72A-72C inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19(13)
- reg. 72B(5A) inserted by S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 13(5)(a)
- reg. 72B(6) words inserted by S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 13(5)(b)(i)
- reg. 72B(6)(d)(i) words inserted by S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 13(5)(b)(ii)
- reg. 72B(7)(c)(ii)(aa) word inserted by S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 13(5)(c)
- reg. 72B(8) words substituted by S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 13(5)(d)(i)
- reg. 72B(8)(a) words substituted by S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 13(5)(d)(ii)
- reg. 72B(8)(b) words substituted by S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 13(5)(d)(iii)
- reg. 72B(8)(c) words substituted by S.I. 2023/1406 reg. 13(5)(d)(iii)
- reg. 72B(8)(ca) inserted by S.I. 2024/43 reg. 25(2)
- reg. 73(9)-(13) inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19(14)(b)
- reg. 73A inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19(15)
- reg. 99(2A) inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(7)(c)
- reg. 99A-99D inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(8)
- reg. 102A-102E inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(10)
- reg. 110(6)-(9) inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(12)(c)
- reg. 110A inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(13)
- reg. 112(1)(f) inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(15)(a)
- reg. 112(2)(d) inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(15)(b)
- reg. 115(1)(a)(i) words in reg. 115(1)(a) renumbered as reg. 115(1)(a)(i) by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(17)(b)(ii)(aa)
- reg. 115(1)(a)(ii)(iii) inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(17)(b)(ii)(bb)
- reg. 115(1)(c)(i) words in reg. 115(1)(c) renumbered as reg. 115(1)(c)(i) by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(17)(b)(iii)(aa)
- reg. 115(1)(c)(ii) inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(17)(b)(iii)(bb)
- reg. 115A inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(18)
- reg. 117(ba) inserted by S.I. 2023/1141 reg. 8(2)
- reg. 119(1A) inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 19(16)(a)
- reg. 122A inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(19)
- reg. 123(4A)-(4F) inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 10(20)(a)
- reg. 123A inserted by S.I. 2023/1141 reg. 8(3)
- reg. 124A inserted by S.I. 2023/1116 reg. 14(5)
- reg. 144(2A) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 91(b)