

# Recount policy

Date of effect: 21 April 2016

## Purpose

To provide guidance in addition to the recount clause in section 130 of the [Electoral Act](#).

This policy applies to an authorised officer for a division in the Legislative Assembly to recount any ballot papers placed in a parcel under this part of the Act.

### 1. Guidance on formality

The following guidance should be considered and applied in the training and conduct of ballot scrutinies.

- I. Ballot papers should be read and construed as a whole, with one or more poorly formed numbers to be deciphered in the context of a consecutive series of numbers rather than as single numbers in isolation.
- II. Poorly formed numbers must bear a reasonable resemblance to identifiable numbers.
- III. Unconventional but recognisable numbers such as 1s and 7s are accepted.
- IV. Initials annotated on a ballot paper will not usually identify a voter and therefore does not provide a basis for rejecting a ballot paper.

### 2. Recount Policy

- A. A request for a recount needs to identify specific ballot papers and associated significant counting process errors or irregularities that could change the result of an election within a division, unless the margin of votes on the initial count is 100 or less, in which case a recount will be undertaken at the Commission's initiative as stated in section 130 (2) (b).
- B. A recount may be undertaken, approved or directed at any time before the result of an election is declared. It should not be confused with the routine re-check (fresh scrutiny) of all votes.
- C. In the absence of specifically alleged errors it is unlikely that a recount would be required except where the vote margin is 100 or less.
- D. Consistent with the practise of identifying close seats to be followed during counting, senior officers will monitor progress in close seats, to ensure that additional experienced support and resources are readily available to address the inevitable and appropriate increase in expectations in regard to transparency and attention to detail that arises in close counts.

Approved by:

**IAIN LOGANATHAN**  
**ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER**

Date: 21 April 2016