

electoral administration bulletin

The
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Electoral Commission report on North Antrim recall petition

On Monday 5 November we [published our statutory report](#) on the recall petition which took place in North Antrim earlier this year.

The petition was the first to take place since the Recall of MPs Act was introduced in 2015, and therefore the first time the legislation has been tested.

Overall we found that the recall petition was well-run with no significant problems affecting voters or campaigners.

However we did identify a number of practical issues which the UK Government should consider addressing so as to help voters, campaigners and administrators at any future petition. These include:

- Looking at whether a signing period of six weeks is appropriate.
- How electors can get more information on recall petitions and how they can take part.
- Requiring campaigner spending returns to be published online in the interests of transparency.
- Clarification as to who is able to observe recall petitions.

It's important to note that these recommendations are of course based on the experience of running one recall petition, and different issues could arise if a recall petition were to take place in any other constituency in the UK. Nevertheless, the experience has provided useful insight about potential changes which could improve the framework for future recall petitions.

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