

Statement by the Electoral Commission on timing of election counts

Commenting on the recent speculation on the timing of the count at the next UK Parliamentary general election, Chief Executive of the Electoral Commission, Peter Wardle said:

“The most important thing is that the count is accurate and that voters have confidence in the election result. We all enjoy the excitement of election night. But Returning Officers have a responsibility to make sure the results are accurate and accepted. Nothing is more important than that.

“Managing an election count is a complicated task. Returning Officers will take into account a range of local factors when making their decision on when the count should take place. At this General Election, for example, there will be new security checks on postal votes, which will introduce an additional stage in the process.

“It is entirely appropriate for Returning Officers to decide to hold the count on Friday if they are clear that this is necessary to ensure an accurate result.”