Verification | Electoral Commission Guidance for (Acting) Returning Officers administering a UK Parliamentary election in Great Britain You are in the Verification and Count section Home Guidance for (Acting) Returning Officers administering a UK Parliamentary election in Great Britain Verification and Count View the navigation tree Go to main guidance section: Guidance for (Acting) Returning Officers administering a UK Parliamentary election in Great Britain Returning Officer and (Acting) Returning Officer Planning for the election Voter Materials Starting the election timetable Nominations Agents Absent Voting Polling station voting Verification and Count Planning for the verification and count Attendance at the verification and count Verification Receipt of ballot boxes and other materials The verification process The count Resources for (Acting) Returning Officers - Verification and Count After the election Resources for (Acting) Returning Officers Verification The verification process has two main purposes which are: to ensure and demonstrate that all ballot papers issued at polling stations and all returned postal ballot papers have been brought to the count, and to provide the figure with which the count outcome must reconcile You should keep both of these purposes in mind when conducting the verification process. Ensuring accuracy at the verification stage is crucial to ensuring a timely count. If the verification figures are wrong there will be a variance against the count figures which will need to be resolved and which risks significantly slowing the overall process. Last updated: 30 March 2023 Book traversal links for Verification Communication during the verification and count Receipt of ballot boxes and other materials