



Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP
Paymaster General and Minister for the Cabinet Office
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS

To: Returning Officers

Our reference: MCO/00432

4 November 2019

Dear Returning Officers,

On behalf of the Government, I want to thank you in advance for the work you will be undertaking over the next six weeks to deliver a safe, secure and smooth running General Election.

I know that you will work hard to ensure the minimal possible disruption to the public in the run up to Christmas and deliver a successful General Election for the British people.

Venues are rightly selected by you and independently of the Government, and you are best placed to select the most appropriate locations for polling stations and counting centres. As is usually the case, the Government assures that all reasonable costs will be reimbursed.

However, reflecting the specific circumstances of this election, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and I have also agreed to reimburse the necessary costs where needed to support you in identifying alternative venues to avoid disrupting long planned and important events relating to this time of year in schools and other community spaces. I know that you will be thinking creatively about venues in your areas that can be utilised to minimise disruption and I hope this provides some assurance that the Government will support you as you make these choices. My Department, the Cabinet Office, will be issuing further guidance shortly.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP