



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

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Luke Hall MP

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Dear Councillor Ali,

I am writing to let you know that I have today laid the Local Government and Police and Crime Commissioner (Coronavirus) (Postponement of Elections and Referendums) (England and Wales) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2021 before Parliament.

These Regulations relax the restrictions on governance referendum petitions that were imposed by the Local Government and Police and Crime Commissioner (Coronavirus) (Postponement of Elections and Referendums) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (the '2020 regulations'). Specifically, the Regulations enable a governance petition presented to a council between 16 March 2020 and 8 February 2021 to be treated as having been presented on 9 February 2021.

This means that your authority will be able to validate, by 12 February, the petition which it has received and issue the required notice, allowing the referendum to be held on 6 May 2021, alongside the elections to the Greater London Authority and London Mayor also being held on that date.

This will avoid the referendum being held as a free-standing poll at a later date with the additional costs that would arise for your council and with the risk of a low turnout. I would expect Croydon to take this opportunity to hold the referendum on the 6 May, if the petition is valid, with the cost savings that will have for your authority. I have attached a copy of the draft Regulations.

With my best wishes,

LUKE HALL MP