

Counting of votes at the UK Parliamentary election: statement by (Acting) Returning Officer

Please complete and return this statement to [your](#) local Commission team if you did not start the UK Parliamentary election count within four hours of the close of poll. Please submit the statement within 30 days after the close of poll.

Constituency name:	North Northumberland
Date of election:	04 July 2024
(Acting) Returning Officer's name:	Dr Helen Paterson
Required information	
Time counting of votes began: (hh/mm)	03.15am
Describe the steps you took to start counting the votes before 2.00am:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 count teams of 12, each with a supervisor and 3x assistant supervisors operated a mini count system • Verification of the first Parliamentary Constituency began prompt at 10pm • Teams of Neighbourhood Services drivers were used to bring remote ballot boxes to the count venue • Adequate staffing and supervision levels were in place to ensure smooth running • Postal votes were processed in a timely manner including those handed in at the polling station on the day of poll
Explanation of why the counting of the votes did not start by 2.00am:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Northumberland was the last and fourth Parliamentary Constituency to be counted at the venue • This is the first poll with shared constituency boundaries with two neighbouring authorities that required additional scrutiny. • Due to the rural nature of Northumberland, there is an expectation that the last parliamentary constituency to be counted may possibly take longer. Ballot boxes in the North and West of the county are collected and electronically monitored at drop off points ahead of being delivered to the count location in the South East of the county.
Date of this statement:	04 August 2024