

It Shouldn't Happen to an Electoral Administrator

Sandra Matthews, Powys County Council

POWYS

- covers quarter of Wales' landmass
- population of only 1 person for every 10 acres
- 2 Constituencies:
Montgomeryshire in north and Brecon & Radnorshire in south
- Electorate of approx. 106,000



Chris Davies, Conservative MP for Brecon & Radnorshire

- Bought and submitted expenses claim for pictures in his constituency office, to the value of £700
- Charged with two counts of making a false instruction; and one count of false misleading information for purposes of allowance claim.
- ‘Created’ 2 new invoices for £250 and £450
- Due to appear in Southwark Magistrates court – 22 March 2019
- Pleaded guilty, meeting third Recall Petition condition

Recall Petition Conditions

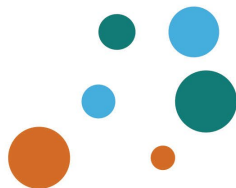
1. the MP has, after becoming an MP, been convicted in the United Kingdom of an offence and sentenced or ordered to be imprisoned or detained, and any appeal period has passed without the conviction being overturned.
2. Following on from a report from the Committee on Standards in relation to an MP, the House of Commons orders the suspension of the MP from the service of the House for a specified period (at least 10 sitting days, or at least 14 days if sitting days are not specified).
3. **The MP has, after becoming an MP, been convicted of an offence under section 10 of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009 (if they provide information which they know to be false or misleading in a material respect in support of a claim for allowances).**

Advice

- Set up the petition on test/beta software system
- Appoint same petition staff for the full 6 weeks

Petition Arrangements

- Election level
- Election timetable
- Petition Districts
- Petition Stations
- Petition Scheme



Petition Notice



Speaker's House Westminster London SW1A 0AA

24 April 2019

Dear Dr. Turner,

I am writing to inform you in accordance with section 5 of the Recall of MPs Act 2015 that Chris Davies MP has been convicted of providing false/misleading information for a parliamentary allowances claim and also of a second offence of attempting to provide such information.

This conviction fulfils the third recall condition of the Recall of MPs Act 2015. There is no appeal against conviction because he pleaded guilty. He is therefore subject to a recall petition process. This notice is given on Wednesday 24 April 2019.

Yours sincerely
John Bercow

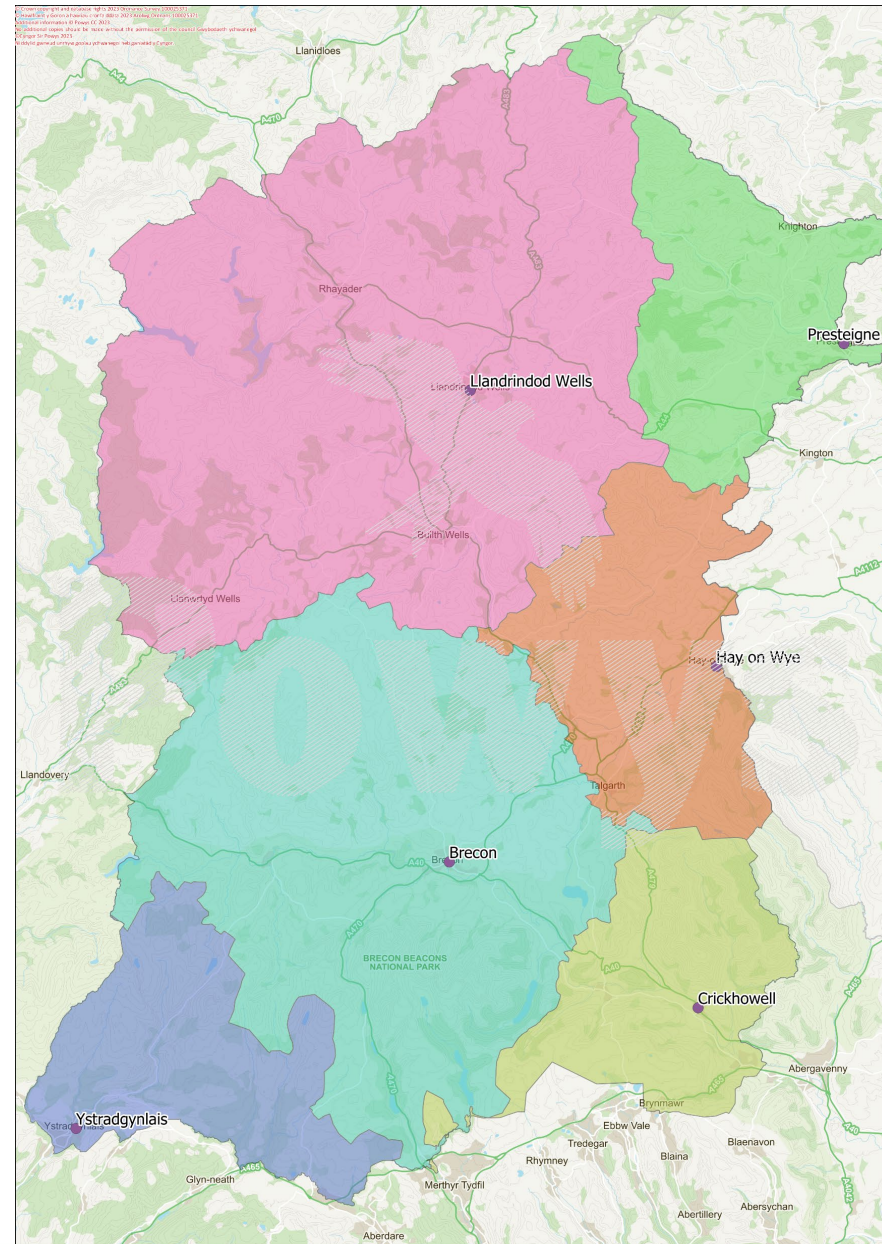
Rt. Hon John Bercow MP
Speaker

Timetable

24, April 2019	Speakers Notice of MP Recall Petition to Petition Officer
	10 days
Day 1	Petition Open – Thursday, 9 May
	Monday, 9am to 5pm Tuesday, 8am to 5pm Wednesday, 9am to 8pm Thursday, 9am to 5pm Friday, 9am to 5pm
Day 30	Petition Closed – Thursday, 20 June

Petition Districts

- Llandrindod Wells (Pink) – 13,461
- Brecon (Mint) – 10,048
- Ystradgynlais (Blue) – 6,585
- Presteigne (Green) -5,845
- Hay on Wye (Orange) -4665
- Crickhowell (Lime) – 3,975



We are merely the groundsman,
not the referee.

Petition Result

- Recall Threshold was 5,303 (10% of electorate)
- Number who signed 10,005 (19% of those eligible)
- 6,215 signed in person
- 3790 signed via postal petition

Recall petition is the process that keeps on giving...

- Parliamentary by-election – 1 August 2019
- The first of Boris Johnson's new premiership

Parliamentary By-Election

- Calculating Timetable
- Media attention
- Political Party Tellers
- Democracy Volunteers
- National Agents
- European Dignitaries

Parliamentary By-Election

- Chris Davies lost the seat
- Jane Dodds, Liberal Democrat candidate was elected
- Jane Dodds served as MP for 97 days
- Conservatives re-took seat in December 2019

MP Recall Petitions not initiated

- Leicester East (Keith Vaz, then MP)
- Delyn
- North Shropshire
- Leicester East (Claudia Webbe, then MP)