

  
Wednesday, 9 January 2019

Mr John Paul PHELAN, T.D.,  
Electoral Registration Project Consultation,  
Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government,  
Custom House,  
DUBLIN D01 W6X0

Received  
Minister for Local Government & Electoral Reform

11 JAN 2019

Dear Mr Phelan,

**1. Congratulations**

Well done on your initiative to Establish an Electoral Commission, whose overall stated purpose is admirable and long overdue!

**2. Fiction, abuse**

The present paper electoral register divided into its 40 registers and then sub-divided into a multiplicity of Electoral Areas county-wide is as antiquated as system as one can find. Not only that, it is one of the great works of Irish fiction and has been open to abuse since the foundation of the State.

**3. Size and timeline**

If a committee is to be established, my suggestion would be to keep it small at not more than 7 citizens, with a timeline of not more than 100 days to complete its job in establishing a new register of electors and improving the administration of the elections.

**4. Security**

Accept the best cyber-security system available to create the database of electors, which a self-nominating person could complete online for each household, or on a single paper form. When entered on the database, an automatic hardcopy should be sent to the household.

**5. Completeness**

Every property in the county has an Eircode. Make use of it. We the electors have paid for it, and it is complete in that each property is registered as having a potential household.

**6. Proof of identity**

On the online or paper form, use with the Eircode of the property, and then the Public Services Card number or tax number for each elector. Why the Public Services Card? Well, the Electoral Commission is offering a public service after all! This would automatically eliminate the possibility of duplications.

**7. Amendments**

Online amendments to be accepted only when given human, not electronic, approval.

My two eurocents! Keep up the good work!

Kind regards,  
