

## Electoral Registration Process Consultation.

I am delighted to see the published consultation paper regarding the updating and streamlining of the electoral registration process.

- Individual registration is a good step forward and clearly places responsibility on each individual to ensure that their details are correct and up to date.
- Individual identity verification through the use of PPS numbers is also a positive proposal and would reduce the possibility of the same person making multiple entries within a council area or in a number of different counties.  
Most people living in Ireland already have a PPS number through interaction with state services.  
Some secure alternative security system would have to be provided for individuals who, for some reason, do not have a PPS number.  
Perhaps, as an alternative, applying for a PPS number would become a mandatory part of electoral registration.
- All registrations should be clearly linked to an Eircode Address.  
This should be a mandatory field in the registration process and will eliminate any doubt about which individuals being registered for a particular premises.  
(Postal addresses can often be unclear or duplicated – but Eircode addresses are unique))
- Sharing the registration data nationally to prevent duplicate entries in different counties is essential.

I suggest that the register should be rigorously challenged regularly to ensure that details on file continue to be correct – either by email contact, by postal contact or by household visitation. This can be done by random auditing of a certain percentage of records on an annual basis. If people fail to validate their details during this audit process, their names can be removed from the electoral register.

Regards

Patrick Byrne