

Electoral Commission

Tynwald Resolution – possible areas for ‘in-person’ discussions

The Resolution

A resolution of Tynwald requires that in addition to reviewing the number and boundaries of constituencies (which will include the number of seats per constituency) the Electoral Commission must consider and produce a report to Tynwald on the following matters:

1. Accessibility of elections to voters;
2. The organisation of Pre-Election Meetings;
3. Postal voting procedures;
4. Proxy voting procedures;
5. Ability to vote at any polling station across a constituency;
6. The feasibility of setting up one or more "All Island" Polling stations;
7. Candidate campaign materials;

and in doing so shall have due regard to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures and to the potential costs of its recommendations.

Points for consideration

As approved by a Resolution of Tynwald, the Electoral Commission will produce a report for Tynwald, no later than 18 months after appointment, detailing their findings as a result of the following considerations, which should not be considered to be exhaustive.

| Tynwald Resolution Focus area | Suggestions / areas for in-person discussion | Notes / Comments |
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| Constituency Boundaries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are boundaries based on population or electors the most equitable way to set boundaries? • Do current constituency boundaries work – if not, why? • Are the number of allocated seats per constituency still appropriate? • Are the size of constituencies still relevant? If not, how best should they be adjusted? | |

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| <p>Accessibility</p> <p>Broadening representation</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues identified with accessibility to voting – both in advance and at polling stations. • Barriers found and for which groups/individuals? • Examples of poor physical accessibility to polling stations. • How might accessibility be improved? • Accessibility issues around candidature. • Comments as to groups that may not be participating in voting process – e.g., low levels of registration within minority or youth groups. How to improve this engagement? • Do elections engage a sufficiently broad representation of the Island community? • Views on how more groups might be encouraged to vote | |
| <p>Pre-election</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectiveness of pre-election and requisition meetings • Awareness of meetings held/attendance levels | |
| <p>Alternatives to in-person voting</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postal voting / proxy voting systems • Understanding of electorate as to ability to access alternative vote? • Views on the need for verification of postal votes • When postal votes should be counted prior to/after close of poll? • Potential for fraud. Current/future risks? • Non availability of advance voting – impact? | |

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| <p>Polling</p> <p>'The ability to vote at any station across a constituency</p> <p>Feasibility of 'all island' polling stations</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are polling districts required? Should voters be able to vote at any polling station within their constituency? • Experience or feedback in connection with the pilot on electronic register for Douglas South. Did it work? • Should there be an all-Island polling stations for any voter to access? • Digital accessibility issues and inclusivity? • Benefit of options to those with accessibility needs • Other ways to vote? | |
| <p>Campaign Materials</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problems? • Candidate manifestos • Application of rules for campaign materials | |
| <p>Any other issues?</p> | | |

| | <p style="text-align: center;">Appendices / Terms of Reference questions</p> | |
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| <p>Review the number and boundaries of constituencies including the number of members per constituency</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should there be a change to the number of constituencies? • Size and population of constituencies – are current boundaries appropriate? Is representation fair and equitable? • Should population be the sole guide to constituencies and boundaries? • Are two seat constituencies working • Would single seat constituencies work better than constituencies having two or more seats • Could duplication of work be avoided in constituencies having two or more seats? | |
| <p>Accessibility of elections to voters, including but not limited to:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the 2021 General Election and how well it complied with the Equality Act? • Should there be any mandatory venue attributes identified for future voting locations? • Are there any additional accessibility measures which should be incorporated into future election planning and administration? | |

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| <p>The organisation of Pre-Election Meetings, including but not limited to:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should Government be involved with/lead pre-election meetings? • Optimum number, frequency and timing of pre-election meetings? • Who should chair these meetings? • Where should these meetings take place (links with above to be considered) | |
| <p>Postal Voting procedure</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was postal voting successful during 2021 General Election? • Is this facility necessary? • Could this process be improved? • Should postal votes be permitted to be counted prior to election date? | |
| <p>Proxy Voting procedure:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was proxy voting successful during 2021 General Election? • Is this facility necessary? • Should there be any change to the deadline to apply for proxy voting? | |

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| <p>Ability to vote at any polling station across a constituency</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was the pilot scheme in Douglas South successful? • Should the scheme be rolled out across all the constituencies? • Could the scheme be improved? • Should live activity data be made public so voters could view how busy each polling station is? | |
| <p>Feasibility of All-Island voting stations, including but not limited to:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should there be a facility for votes to be cast for any constituency in various locations around the island? • Would transferring ballot boxes around the island pose any significant risk to the integrity of the electoral process? • Would any of the other options considered above (points 5, 6 and 7) be preferable to all-island voting facilities? | |
| <p>Candidate Campaign Materials:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could the authority to display campaign materials be streamlined? • Is there clear and appropriate guidance on campaign materials and their display on public land? • Is there consistent and effective enforcement of campaign material rules? | |