

Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill 2014 Public Consultation – Comments Feedback Form

How does this feedback form work?

This form provides an opportunity for you to comment on the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill 2014 and it should be read **in conjunction with the accompanying consultation document**.

Please use the comments boxes in this document to provide your feedback. There is a box for any general comments that you may have and then boxes for questions on key areas of reform or amendment in the Bill where specific feedback is sought.

You can save this document to your computer and fill in your comments at a time that is convenient to you.

Once completed, please click on submit at the end of the document or email it to: carlos.phillips@cso.gov.im

Providing your details

To ensure that the process is open, transparent, and in line with the Government's Code of Practice on consultations, submissions will only be considered where the name of the individual(s) or organisation responding is provided.

Unless you specifically request otherwise, any responses received may be published either in part or in their entirety, including your name.

Please mark your response clearly if you wish your response and name to be kept confidential.

Any anonymous, abusive, or offensive responses will be discounted.

Name:

Email:

Address:

General comments on the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill 2014

Do you have any general comments about the Bill?

Comments on specific questions

Additional provisions for offences which disqualify a person from standing for election

The draft Bill includes additional provisions which disqualify a person from standing. Do you support the inclusion of additional provisions that will disqualify a person from standing for election? If no, please explain why.

New provisions for the registration of political parties

The draft Bill includes new provisions to require political parties to be registered.

- Do you support the introduction of requirements for political parties to be registered? If no, please explain why.

- Do you think the provisions detailing the registration process are fair and proportionate? If no, please explain why.

Requirements for candidates to declare donations received

The draft Bill includes new provisions that require candidates to declare donations received and states that a candidate must not keep an anonymous donation.

Do you support the introduction of requirements for candidates to declare donations? If no, please state why.

Limits on election spending

The draft Bill includes new provisions which set a maximum amount on the money a candidate can spend in the 12 months prior to an election. Expenses must be declared to the Chief Registrar, who has the authority to investigate any complaints.

- Do you support the introduction of restrictions on election expenses? If no, please state why.

- Do you think the maximum amount set out is fair and reasonable? If no, please state why.

New offences in relation to offences in connection with political parties and offences in connection with funding

As the draft Bill introduces new provisions for the registration of political parties and funding new offences are required to allow effective enforcement.

Do you think the proposed new offences are fair and proportionate? If no, please state why.

A change in terminology from "absent voting" to "advance voting"

The terminology in the new legislation has been changed from "absent voting" to "advance voting" to provide clarity.

Does the change in terminology from "absent voting" to "advance voting" provide greater clarity?

Changes to “proxy” voting

The draft Bill sets out clear requirements for allowing a person to exercise a proxy vote on behalf of a voter which are restricted so that only those persons who cannot vote either in person or by the advance voting system will qualify.

Do you agree with restricting proxy voting so that only those persons who cannot vote in person or by advance voting would qualify? If no, please state why.

Greater use of electronic communication to give effect to public notices and to allow candidates to have their manifestos displayed on the Government’s election website

The draft Bill contains new provisions including the arrangements for providing election manifestos online, and the display of public notices.

Do you agree with the included provisions in relation to electronic communications? If no, please state why.

A new provision to allow accredited election observers to attend specified election proceedings

The draft Bill includes provisions to allow representatives of named bodies to apply to the Governor to be an accredited observer at an election. The Bill also details conditions for attendance and conduct of any observers at elections.

- Do you support including provisions to allow accredited election observers to attend certain election proceedings? If no, please state why.

- Do you agree with the requirements that must be met by any election observer? If no, please state why.

Comments on the Representation of the People Regulations 2014

Do you have any general comments about the Regulations?

Place and time for early delivery of nomination papers (Regulation 11)

This new provision allows nomination papers to be delivered to the returning officer, at a time and place agreed with the returning officer, any time in the week before nomination day.

Do you support the introduction of the ability to deliver nomination papers to the returning officer during the week before nomination day? If no, please state why.

Distribution of election manifestos (Regulation 23)

A change to Isle of Man Post Office operating procedures, whereby size in addition to weight determines the cost of postage, has required a change to current Regulations.

The amended Regulation provides for the minimum charge for a standard letter (under whatever conditions may be specified by the Isle of Man Post Office as to the size and weight which qualifies for the minimum charge) to be payable.

Do you support the changes relating to the distribution of manifestos? If no, please state why.

Purchase of copies of marked registers, etc (Regulation 56)

A new provision has been inserted into the Regulations to allow for the purchase of marked copies of the electoral register and marked copies of the list of advance voters.

Do you agree that marked copies of the registers should be available for purchase? If no, please state why.

Thank you for taking the time to provide your comments