



An Roinn Tithiochta, Pleáinála
agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing, Planning
and Local Government



Aire Stáit do Rialtas Áitiúil agus Athchóiriú Toghchán
Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform

26 October 2017

Mr. Gerry Molumby,
46 North Street,
Alfreton,
Derbyshire,
DE55 7FZ,
UK.

RE: REP70/JP/17

Dear Mr Molumby,

I have been asked by Mr. John Paul Phelan, T.D., Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform, to respond to your email to the Taoiseach regarding voting rights at presidential elections which was forwarded to him.

The Government announced on 26 September 2017 that it had agreed an indicative timetable for the holding of a number of referendums on proposals for amendments to the Constitution arising from the work of the Citizens' Assembly and the Convention on the Constitution. Included in the list is the proposed referendum on extending the franchise at presidential elections to Irish citizens resident outside the State which it is intended will be held on the date of the local and European elections in June 2019.

In this context, this Department will be responsible for the development of a Constitution Amendment Bill as well as providing for any changes that may be required to the Electoral Acts consequential upon the referendum being passed by the people. In light of the views expressed at the Global Irish Civic Forum in May this year, this Department and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade are currently in the process of further examining some of the details that could arise in respect of the various options with a view to bringing a report to Government that will assist in identifying a preferred option to be put to the people in a referendum. I have been assured that your views have been noted and will feed into the deliberations on this issue.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

AG
PP Aisling Glynn
Private Secretary

Please note: the Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015 (details available on www.lobbying.ie)

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