

Dear

Your Electoral Registration

Your unsigned letter dated 11 January, which was received by my Ballymena Office only on 11 March has been passed to me for attention. I have also received your letter of 28 March.

I must apologise for any distress caused to you by the letter of 12 December. Unfortunately a standard letter was sent to you which did not really fit the circumstances. The letters were sent because a person of a different name from yours had applied to be registered at your address and it was assumed, wrongly, that you had moved away. This assumption was confirmed when you did not respond to these letters. Thereafter you were removed from the electoral register.

In your letter you assert that you were not given an opportunity to refute the allegations that you had moved from the address. I cannot agree – paragraph 2 of the letter of 26 November gave you such an opportunity which you chose not to take.

I have reviewed all the circumstances of your case and that of your son. Whilst the form of letter sent to you was in some respects inappropriate I am quite satisfied that everything that was done regarding your removal from the register was in accordance with the law. However, as I am satisfied that you and your son are properly registered at your current address I have directed that both your names be returned to the register. This will take effect on 1 May and you will both, therefore, be able to vote at the election on 4 June.

Turning to your FOI request I confirm that there is no such document as referred to in paragraph 1 of the letter of 26 November. The letter was, as I have explained, sent because of another person applying to be registered at your address. Accordingly, you need not be concerned about anyone taking an unhealthy interest in your personal affairs and I very much regret that the inexact terminology in that letter was, quite understandably, distressing.



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Thank you for drawing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

Douglas Bain CBE TD Advocate
Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland



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