

Dear

FOI Request 2009/005680

Thank you for your email dated 8 June seeking information about absent votes, late registration and the decision not to conduct the count on a Sunday.

The statistics regarding absent votes and late registration are currently being collated and are intended for future publication hopefully by the end of June. They are accordingly exempt from disclosure at this time by virtue of Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. When available they will be published on the Electoral Office website.

In relation to the count informal soundings were taken from a number of persons following which the views of the leaders of the DUP, UUP, TUV, Alliance, Sinn Fein and SDLP were sought on the proposal to delay the count until 9am on Monday 9 June because "I do not believe that counting on a Sunday would be acceptable to a large section of our community." No written responses were received and a decision to count on the Monday was taken.

Yours faithfully,

Douglas Bain CBE TD Advocate
Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland



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