

The answers to the four questions posed in your request dated 6th July 2009 are as follows –

I would like to know were representations made by any individual, group or political party before the European parliamentary election on June 4th, 2009, requesting that a number of electors who were to vote in the Millenium Centre on the Springfield Road in Belfast be moved to the polling station located in the Ballygomartin Presbyterian Lecture Hall?

Yes

If yes, I would like to know who made representations to move those electors, who were to vote in the Millenium Centre on the Springfield Road, to the polling station located in the Ballygomartin Presbyterian Lecture Hall?

Diane Dodds

I would also like to know why previous representations made by Sinn Fein, on behalf of a number of electors living on the Springfield Road who did not want to vote in Ballygomartin Presbyterian Lecture Hall, were not taken into account when this extremely late decision was taken?

Due regard was had to the previous representations made by Sinn Fein but in view of the timescale it was not considered practicable to take a decision on whether or not effect should be given to them.

Who did the Electoral Office consult before they moved electors from the Millenium Centre polling station to the Ballygomartin Presbyterian Lecture Hall polling station?

Consultation was not practicable due to the shortage of time. As you may be aware shortly after the election I wrote to all the parties inviting their views on the suitability of all polling stations so that any appropriate changes can be made well in advance of the forthcoming general election. It would be helpful if you could ensure that any representations your party wishes to make regarding either Ballygomartin Presbyterian Hall or the Millennium Centre are included in your parties response.