

# THE ELECTORAL OFFICE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

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## PRESS RELEASE

### OVER 40,000 NEW VOTERS ON LATEST ELECTORAL REGISTER

Douglas Bain, the Chief Electoral Officer, today announced that, as a result of rolling registration, 40,849 voters will be added to the electoral register in time to allow them to vote at the Assembly election on 7 March. The additional voters are those who have completed electoral registrations forms since 11 November which was the cut off date for the register published on 1 December.

The revised register, which will be the final version to be published ahead of the Assembly election, will contain the names and addresses of 1,115,965 people. The register also represents the return of the highest number of registration forms ever.

#### **Douglas Bain said:**

**“The addition of nearly 41,000 names to the electoral register is excellent news for everyone who cares about democracy in Northern Ireland. As a result the register, which was already by far the most accurate and comprehensive anywhere in these islands, is even better.**

**“The register is the result of an enormous programme of work over several months and I would thank everyone who returned a form and all those who have assisted with the registration process**

#### Notes to Editors

1. The new register contains the names and addresses of 1,115,965 individuals who completed and returned an electoral registration form by the closing dated of 11 January 2007. (Details by constituency are attached)

2. Compared with the register published on 1 December 2005 there is a reduction of 3.6% (41,807). That is because the December 2005 register contained the names of more than 95,000 individuals who had not returned a form but were “carried forward” from the December 2004 register. The legislation allowing for a “carry forward” is no longer in force.
3. Earlier this month the Electoral Office sent a letter to every person on the 2005 register who had not returned a form reminding them of their obligation to register.
4. An extensive media campaign in cooperation with the Electoral Commission and supported by local Political Parties and the Media helped achieve the positive response to the canvass and rolling registration programme.

## ELECTORAL REGISTERS DECEMBER 2005 – FEBRUARY 2007

Constituency	Register 1 12 05	Register 1 12 06	Revised Register Feb 07	% change Dec 05 – Jan 07	%change Dec 06 – Jan 07
Belfast East	53,076	48,570	50,053	-5.7	+3.1
Belfast North	52,742	47,369	49,629	-5.9	+4.8
Belfast South	52,523	47,190	49,177	-6.4	+4.2
Belfast West	54,268	45,923	51,057	-5.9	+11.2
East Antrim	58,921	55,658	57,025	-3.2	+2.5
East Londonderry	59,239	55,056	56,491	-4.6	+2.6
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	67,882	64,039	66,410	-2.2	+3.7
Foyle	68,937	62,521	65,430	-5.1	+4.7
Lagan Valley	72,135	68,430	70,654	-2.1	+3.3
Mid Ulster	63,242	59,358	61,783	-2.3	+4.1
Newry & Armagh	73,226	68,812	71,387	-2.5	+3.7
North Antrim	75,487	70,868	73,332	-2.9	+3.5
North Down	60,266	56,420	57,947	-3.9	+2.7
South Antrim	67,662	63,983	66,046	-2.4	+3.2
South Down	74,367	69,951	72,340	-2.7	+3.4
Strangford	69,712	65,504	67,158	-3.7	+2.5
Upper Bann	73,058	69,588	71,244	-2.5	+2.4
West Tyrone	60,309	55,876	58,802	-2.5	+5.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,157,052</b>	<b>1,075,116</b>	<b>1,115,965</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	<b>+3.8</b>