

THE ELECTORAL OFFICE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

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1 December 2006

NEW ELECTORAL REGISTER PUBLISHED

Douglas Bain, the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland, today published the latest electoral register which lists the names of 1,075,116 people who have secured their entitlement to vote.

The register is the result of over 3 months work during what was the final annual canvass. Under the new arrangements, the register will be updated on a continuous basis.

Anyone who missed last month's registration deadline has until 11 January to return a registration form to enable them to vote in the March election.

Speaking at the launch, Douglas Bain said:

“I would like to thank everyone who returned their registration form and helped us complete this enormous task on time. Today in Northern Ireland we have, by far, the most accurate and comprehensive register of electors anywhere in the United Kingdom.”

For help with registration call the Electoral Office Freephone Advice Line 0800 4320217

Electoral registration forms are also available on www.electorlofficeni.gov.uk

Notes to Editors

The Electoral Register published today contains the names and addresses of 1,075,116 individuals who completed and returned registration forms during the annual canvass.

The oldest person on the register is 107 and comes from County Antrim and a number of 17 year olds have registered, but they cannot vote until they become 18.

The number of people on the new register is almost 82,000 (7%) lower than on the register published on 1 December 2005, however, the 2005 register contained more than 95,000 individuals who had not returned a form but whose registration was "carried forward" from the previous register (The law no longer allows for such a carry forward).

Comparing the December 2006 register with the December 2005 register, the largest fall in the numbers of individuals registered was in the West Belfast constituency, down by (15.4%). The lowest fall was in Upper Bann, down by (4.8%).

The figures for all 18 constituencies are as follows:

Annual Canvass 2006

Constituency	Registration 1/12/05 including 'carry forward' of (x)		Total Published Electorate on 1 Dec 06	% Change
BELFAST EAST	53076	(4,622)	48570	-8.5
BELFAST NORTH	52742	(5,444)	47369	-10.2
BELFAST SOUTH	52523	(5,135)	47190	-10.2
BELFAST WEST	54268	(7,155)	45923	-15.4
EAST ANTRIM	58921	(4,273)	55658	-5.5
EAST LONDONDERRY	59239	(4,457)	55056	-7.1
FERMANAGH AND SOUTH TYRONE	67882	(4,604)	64039	-5.7
FOYLE	68937	(9,089)	62521	-9.3
LAGAN VALLEY	72135	(5,169)	68430	-5.1
MID ULSTER	63242	(4,651)	59358	-6.1
NEWRY AND ARMAGH	73226	(5,304)	68812	-6.0
NORTH ANTRIM	75487	(4,890)	70868	-6.1
NORTH DOWN	60266	(4,331)	56420	-6.4
SOUTH ANTRIM	67662	(5,006)	63983	-5.4
SOUTH DOWN	74367	(5,980)	69951	-5.9
STRANGFORD	69712	(4,786)	65504	-6.0
UPPER BANN	73058	(5,199)	69588	-4.8
WEST TYRONE	60309	(5,025)	55876	-7.4
TOTAL:	1157052	(95,120)	1075116	-7.1