

THE ELECTORAL OFFICE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND



Chief Electoral Officer: Douglas Bain CBE TD Advocate

3rd Floor, St Anne's House, 15 Church Street, Belfast BT1 1ER Telephone: 0800 4320 712
Fax: 028 9023 5612
Textphone: 0800 3284 502
Email: info@eoni.org.uk
Website: www.eoni.org.uk

22 January 2010

DECLARATION OF RETURN OF NEW MLA

I, Douglas Bain, Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland declare that in accordance with Article 6B(6) of the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001 Jonathan Fergus Bell of 21 Beechfield Crescent, Bangor has been returned to serve as a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly for the Strangford constituency.

Douglas Bain CBE TD Advocate
Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland

22 January 2010

Explanatory Notes

1. Mr Bell has been returned as a MLA to fill the vacancy arising from the resignation of Iris Robinson.
2. He is the fourth MLA to be returned under the new arrangements for filling vacancies introduced by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) (Amendment) Order 2009.
3. Under these new arrangements, where a vacancy arises due to the death or resignation of a MLA who was a member of a political party, no by-election is required. Instead the nominating officer of that party nominates a person to fill the vacancy. Once the Chief Electoral Office has obtained confirmation from that person that he/she is willing and able to serve as a MLA he declares the person returned to fill the vacancy.



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