

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



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LOCAL CANCER CHARITY SET TO BENEFIT ON POLLING DAY

Anyone voting on polling day in the forthcoming General Election will not only have a chance to have their say on the formation of a new Government but could also help thousands of local people living with cancer.

Douglas Bain, the Chief Electoral Officer has announced that voters visiting any of the 1512 polling stations across Northern Ireland will have the opportunity to make a donation to Macmillan Cancer Support, the Electoral Office's chosen charity for this year.

He said: **“On election day I expect that well over 700,000 people will visit a polling station and I very much hope that many of them will make a contribution to our selected charity.**

“Every penny raised will help Macmillan Cancer Support carry out its vital work with all sections of the community”.

Lisa McGrogan, Area Fundraising Manager for Macmillan Cancer Support commented:

“We at Macmillan Cancer Support are delighted to have been chosen by the staff of the Electoral Office as their charity partner this year. This is a new initiative for both parties involved and we hope all the people of Northern Ireland will get behind it. 1 in 3 of us will receive a cancer diagnosis in our lifetime. Working together we can all make a difference”.

In what is thought to be the first initiative of this type, collection boxes will be discreetly placed in polling stations for anyone who wishes to make a donation. The amount collected in each constituency will be published after the election.

Notes for Editors

1. Absolutely no pressure will be put on any person to make a contribution.
2. Each year the staff of the Electoral Office select a charity to support by ballot. Macmillan Cancer Support is the chosen charity for 2010/11.



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