

THE ELECTORAL OFFICE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Chief Electoral Officer: Douglas Bain CBE TD Advocate

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EMBARGOED UNTIL 12.00 NOON THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER 2009

ANNUAL REPORT REFLECTS INCREASE IN ELECTORAL REGISTER

The number of people on the Electoral Register has increased by over 31,000 during 2008/09 while the number of cases of suspected postal voting fraud reported to the PSNI has also risen.

The figures along with performance indicators are contained in the Electoral Office Annual report for 2008/09 which was published today.

Douglas Bain, Chief Electoral Officer said:

“The Report announces another successful year for the Electoral Office which saw the number of people on the Electoral Register rise by almost 3%.

“Preparatory work carried out during the year resulted in a smooth and efficient election to the European Parliament in June. However, it was disappointing that, despite the very clear warnings given about the action that would be taken to identify postal voting fraud, I have had to refer 49 cases to the PSNI for investigation.”

The law requires the Chief Electoral Officer to submit a Report to the Secretary of State each year and it can be viewed in full at www.eoni.org.uk.



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Notes for Editors

1. The Secretary of State must present the EONI Annual Report to Parliament.
2. In February 2009 the Chief Electoral Officer gave information on the additional checks that were being put in place to identify postal and proxy voting fraud at the European Parliamentary Elections.
3. Forty-nine cases of suspected postal and proxy voting fraud at the European Parliamentary Elections have been passed to the police for investigation.



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