

THE ELECTORAL OFFICE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Chief Electoral Officer: D A Stanley

3rd Floor, St Anne's House, 15 Church Street, BELFAST BT1 1ER

☎ 028 9044 6660

☎ 028 9023 5612

✉ denis.stanley@eoni.gov.uk



11 April 2005

APPLICATIONS FOR “ONE-OFF” ABSENT (POSTAL AND PROXY) VOTES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland, Denis Stanley, reminded electors in Northern Ireland that applications for “one off” absent (postal and proxy) votes in respect of the Parliamentary and District Council elections which are to be held together on 5 May must be received by 5.00 pm on Thursday 14 April.

Commenting, Denis Stanley said, “Unlike other parts of the United Kingdom where postal votes are available on demand, electoral law in Northern Ireland requires that a valid reason be given as to why the elector cannot attend his or her designated polling station in person. Only where it is clear that the person is genuinely unable to vote in person, for example due to sudden illness, or being out of the country on business or holiday, can a postal or proxy vote be granted. Application forms can be obtained from any of the Area Electoral Offices or by calling the Electoral Office central number – 028 9044 6688.

Mr Stanley went on to say,

“There are, of course, some electors who, usually for serious medical reasons, have been granted a postal or proxy vote on a permanent basis and clearly there is no need for such people to apply for a “one-off” absent vote.”

D A STANLEY
Chief Electoral Officer