

THE ELECTORAL OFFICE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

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MEETING AT DERRY CITY COUNCIL OFFICES TO DISCUSS SMOOTH RUNNING OF ELECTIONS

A meeting took place today in the offices of Derry City Council to discuss the smooth running of the forthcoming elections on 5 May in the city. The meeting was the latest in a series and included the Clerk to the Council, Tony McGurk and the City Solicitor, Damian McMahon, as well as members of the clergy, the principals of schools being used as polling stations in the city, community representatives, senior police officials, the Chief Electoral Officer, Denis Stanley and his senior staff.

Commenting on the meeting, Denis Stanley said:

“I am particularly grateful for the very positive and helpful attitude of everyone involved in today’s meeting. There is a strong feeling across the city that the old ways of the past must be left behind and that peace, equality and democracy must be allowed to flourish in the best interests of everyone’s future. The whole community wants to contribute to a fair and open society in which everyone has their say through the ballot box, without fear of hurt or intimidation. The role of the Electoral Office is to facilitate that process, but we can only do so if everyone regards polling day as sacrosanct.

“I was delighted that so many people of good will want to contribute to a peaceful polling day on 5 May and there is no doubt that the community leaders who attended today’s meeting will do their best to mobilise their communities in such a way as to give everyone their say at the ballot box. I want to see a peaceful polling day as an endorsement of the city’s commitment to its own future”.