

## CHAPTER 1 SUMMARY - NUMBER OF SEATS IN THE NI ASSEMBLY

Question 1

What should the future size of the Northern Ireland Assembly be?

18 Constituencies. (AT PRESENT)  
 $\therefore$  3 Per constituency. (or 4.)  
 = 54 MLA'S. (72 MLA'S)

As it stands 6 seats is just too many and gives credence of "jobs for the boys" i.e. w. Belfast

There are also far too many Depts. and as a result too many ministers. Some Depts could easily be merged. We are only  $1\frac{1}{2}$ M people.

less constituencies would improve the situation. (14-16)

Westminster and move to 5-year terms on a permanent basis. It could be argued that 5-year terms allow incumbent administrations time to deliver more. Others may feel that 4-year terms are adequate. The Government does not believe that there needs to be uniformity across the Parliaments and Assemblies of the UK on this matter. We seek views on what would be the best approach for the Northern Ireland Assembly.

#### CHAPTER 2 SUMMARY – LENGTH OF ASSEMBLY TERMS

##### Question 2

Do you believe that there should be combination of Parliamentary and Assembly elections in 2015 or should these be decoupled? *SEPERATE*

##### Question 3

Do you think the term of the current Northern Ireland Assembly should be extended from 2015 to 2016? *DEFINITELY NOT.*

##### Question 4

Should the Northern Ireland Assembly move to a fixed 5-year term permanently? *YES.*

*MLAs and Peers*

3.8 We also seek views on whether any legislation to ban 'double-jobbing' between MPs and MLAs should also extend to MLAs and members of the House of Lords. Many, if not all, of the above considerations relating to holding both MP and MLA offices will also apply.

**CHAPTER 3 SUMMARY - MULTIPLE MANDATES**

**Question 5**

Do you believe that representatives should be prohibited from holding the offices of MP and MLA at the same time? YES.

**Question 6**

Should MLAs also be prohibited from being members of the House of Lords? YES

**Question 7**

is it better to use primary legislation to ban such practices outright at the earliest opportunity or to take a power to do so at a later date to allow space for agreement to be reached?

LEGISLATE A.S.A.P.

NO DOUBUNG AS COUNCILLORS

EITHER

so, how can this system best be achieved? YES.

TOP UNIONIST & NATIONALIST PARTIES  
ONLY IN COALITION.

ALL OTHERS IN OPPOSITION.  
GOVERNMENT BENCHES SIT  
TOGETHER.

NO ONE AT THE MOMENT IS HELD  
TO ACCOUNT FOR THEIR STEWARDSHIP.

DIFFERENT UNIONIST AND NATIONALIST  
PARTIES CAN THEREFORE ADOPT LEFT/  
RIGHT POLICIES AND GIVE SCOPE FOR  
LEFT OR RIGHT OF CENTRE PARTIES  
FROM U. & N. BACKGROUNDS TO WORK  
TOGETHER ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC  
ISSUES, POTENTIALLY LEADING TO MORE  
UNDERSTANDING AND A LESSENING  
OF SECTARIANISM (the real problem)