

CONSULTATION ON MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE  
OPERATION OF THE NI ASSEMBLY

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

Question 1  
What should the future size of the Northern Ireland Assembly be?  
30 MLAs.

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?

A COMBINATION.

### Question 3

Do you think the term of the current Northern Ireland Assembly should be extended from 2015 to 2016? NO.

### Question 4

Should the Northern Ireland Assembly move to a fixed 5-year term permanently? YES. TO ENABLE FUTURE COMBINED

ELECTIONS AND ALSO TO PROVIDE SOME

IMPETUS TO MOVE FORWARD ASSEMBLY BUSINESS.

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? PRIMARY

LEGISLATION AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

so, how can this system best be achieved?

YES, I BELIEVE THAT AN EFFECTIVE  
OPPOSITION WOULD IMPROVE EFFECTIVE OPERATION  
AND ACCOUNTABILITY. HOWEVER, I DON'T  
KNOW HOW THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED WHILST  
STILL MAINTAINING PROPER SHARING. IF  
ANY SINGLE PARTY WAS IN GOVERNMENT,  
OPPOSING PARTIES WOULD BLOCK ANY  
PROGRESS