
From:
Sent: 15 August 2012 14:23
To: CPG Mailbox
Subject: Consultation on measures to improve the operation of the NI Assembly
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Question 1. The future size of the Assembly should be 64 - 4 MLAs for each Westminster constituency if 16 is the agreed new figure. This would seem to be proportionate to the population of NI and closer to the Scottish and Welsh assemblies.

Question 2. Both elections should be on the same day to save costs.

Question 3. No, the term should not be extended, the present MLAs were voted in by the public until 2015.

Question 4. If the Westminster parliament has moved to a fixed 5 year term then yes.

Question 5. Yes, there should be no "double-jobbing". If they were doing the job properly they would not have time to do more than one job.

Question 6. Yes, as Q5 above, they could not do both jobs properly.

Question 7. Primary legislation should be used as agreement on this is practically impossible in NI - turkeys will not vote for Christmas!!

Question 8. Yes, the Assembly would work more effectively if there was a government and an effective opposition. At present nothing really important gets approval as it is always seen as being to the benefit of one side. MLAs should be elected on a first past the post system as happens in England. If the UK Parliament decide to move to PR then NI should also. The largest party after the election should be given the chance of forming either a minority or coalition government if no clear majority is achieved.