



Electoral Commission – Public Consultation

An Electoral Commission for the Isle of Man has been appointed and tasked to report to Tynwald, no later than March 2024 by a Tynwald resolution which states;

“In addition to reviewing the number and boundaries of constituencies (which include the number of seats per constituency) the Electoral Commission must consider and report to Tynwald on the following matters;

- Accessibility of elections to voters
- Postal and Proxy voting procedures
- The ability to vote at any polling station across a constituency
- The feasibility of setting up one, or more, ‘All Island’ polling stations
- Candidate Campaign materials
- The organisation of pre-election meetings

In carrying out its review, the Electoral Commission must have due regard to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Benchmarks for Demographic Legislatures and to the potential costs of its recommendations.”

Part A - About You

Q1. It would be helpful to the Electoral Commission to have an awareness of the overarching demographic response to this consultation. Accordingly, it would be helpful to know something about you. Please complete if willing to do so. Are you?

Male Female Other Prefer not to say

Q2. What age range are you within?

16-20 21-30 31-40 41-50
 51-60 61-70 71-80 81 and above

Electoral Registration

Who is eligible to register to vote?

You are entitled to be on the electoral register if you have reached the age of 16, have had your usual place of abode in the Isle of Man for the preceding 12 months and are not subject to any legal incapacity to vote.

Registered Voter

This is a person that is eligible to register to vote, has satisfied the registration requirement and whose name has been entered in the electoral register for an electoral area.

Q3. Are you an eligible elector?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q4. Have you registered to vote?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Part B – Number and boundaries of constituencies

The Electoral Commission is required to review the number and boundaries of constituencies. These are presently fixed by Section 60 of the Elections (Keys and Local Authorities) Act 2020 as twelve constituencies, each with two seats for election to the House of Keys and established following an extensive consultation and report by the Boundary Review Committee (2011-2013). (Previous reports can be accessed via <https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/cabinet-office/information-archive/boundary-review-committee-2010-13/>)

In considering the CPA benchmarks, members of an elected house must be elected by direct and equal suffrage. Equal suffrage can be described as equal voting rights and equal voting power. That is, that each voter shall have the same number of votes and that seats must be evenly distributed between constituencies. Variation should not be more than 15% from the average whether it be population or other criteria, except in special circumstances. When variation levels are impacted in some way this would mean that the boundaries of constituencies would need to be considered and may possibly have to change.

The Electoral Commission has been asked to review constituency boundaries. In doing this it will take account of the following;

- Overall population
- Population of each constituency
- Number of eligible voters
- Number of registered voters

In addition, geographical and community boundaries will be considered.

The House of Keys is made up of 24 Members. It is not within the remit of the Commission to change the number of MHKs.

Please answer as many of the following questions as possible to help the Commission in its work. Enter a cross in the relevant response box below and add any additional comment where relevant or similar.

Number of Seats per constituency

Q1. Currently, the Isle of Man has 12 Keys constituencies with 2 members in each. Should this remain the same for the future?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

If your response above was NO, what would you change it to, and why?

Q2. Currently, each constituency's size is based on population number to meet the principle of equality of representation. Should the basis on which constituency size is established remain the same?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q3. If you feel that it should not be based upon population numbers, what should it be based one?

- Registered electors*
- Eligible voters*
- Don't know
- Other

If you answered "other" above, then what factor should it be based upon?

*See explanation of these terms in Part A of this document

Q4. Existing boundaries of constituencies have been established that meet the principle of equivalency of population size. Should other factors take priority when setting boundaries?

- Yes (see Q5.)
- No
- Don't know

Q5. If you answered yes to **Q4**, which of the following should take priority? (Tick one)

- Geographic area/size
- Community/local ties
- Local Authority Boundaries
- Other (please specify)

Q6. The size of the Island's constituencies are currently based on population. In order to ensure equal voting power a maximum of 15% variance is permitted from the average population size (or whatever other criteria is chosen instead). Would exceeding this level of variation ever be justified?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

If you answered YES to the above. What would the justification be and why?

Part C – Other matters

Accessibility of elections to voters

The Electoral Commission has considered the issue of accessibility widely and is looking at factors that may hinder or inhibit individuals in exercising their right to vote. These include:

- Those with physical disability or others unable to easily access a polling station
- Those with mental disability or neurological divergence
- Young people – who may not be engaged in the electoral system
- Ethnic minorities and/or new arrivals to the Island who may have cultural/language barriers or lack understanding of the Manx electoral system.
- Those who may be ‘time poor’ – working parents, carers, employees or those unable to access their polling station in time to vote.

Q1. If you feel that you may fall within one or more of the above categories, as a result, were you discouraged from or were unable to vote in the 2021 General Election?

Yes

No

If yes please indicate why this was so.

Q2. If you did vote, did you experience difficulties in exercising your right to vote on the day of the 2021 General Election?

Yes

No

If yes, please give details of what caused this to happen?

Q3. Was there a problem for you in respect of physical accessibility to the station or casting your vote within the polling station you attended?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe the problem? Was it resolved?

Q4. If you have additional needs that affect accessibility to vote, were you aware that you could contact the Deputy Returning Officer for your constituency in advance to make arrangements to vote?

- Yes
- No

Currently voting requires a person to vote in person, at a specified polling station within a set period of time on Election Day. If you are unable to vote in person, you can vote in advance by post or appoint a proxy to vote for you. The Commission is considering other ways that voting may be developed in the future and whether this would encourage more people to exercise their vote. These suggestions will not replace the current process but would be in addition to what happens now.

Q5. Would voting be made easier or would you have been more inclined to vote if the following options were also available to you? (Please tick all that apply)

- Someone visiting me to collect my vote at home.
- Registering for an advance online, as an alternative to applying by post
- A choice to vote at **ANY** of the polling stations in your constituency.
- A chance to vote at an 'all-island' voting station.
- A longer time for polls to remain open. (Currently open 8a.m – 8 p.m.)
- Electronic verification process at polling stations (e.g. QR code on polling card)
- The ability to cast your vote on-line by electronic device such as phone, PC or tablet
- Moving the Election Day to a Saturday.
- Convenient parking provision at the polling stations used.
- Any other option – please explain below

Postal and Proxy Voting Procedures

Postal votes

Postal Votes are available to those unable to visit their allocated polling station and to those who choose not to vote in person.

Q6. Did you know that you can choose to use a postal vote as an alternative to voting in person should you wish to do so?

- Yes
 No

Q7. Did you use a postal vote in the 2021 General Election?

- Yes (please see Q8)
 No

Q8. If the answer to Q7 was yes, did you find the postal voting process easy to understand and follow?

- Yes
 No

If you answered no, please briefly explain why not

Q9. Would you consider using a postal vote in the future?

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

Proxy Vote

If you are unable to vote in advance as a postal voter or cannot vote in person at your polling station you may be eligible to appoint someone to vote on your behalf. This is known as a proxy vote.

Q10. Did you appoint a proxy to vote in the 2021 General Election?

- Yes (see Q11)
 No

Q11. If so, did you find the process to appoint a proxy easy to understand and follow?

Yes

No

If no, please briefly explain why not

Q12. The final date and time for submitting an application to vote by proxy is 5p.m the day before poll. Do you think that this time should be extended to allow applications to appoint a proxy up until the close of the poll?

Yes

No

Ability to vote at any polling station

Currently those who choose to cast their vote in person must do this at their designated polling station.

Q13. Would you find it more convenient to vote at any of the polling stations within your constituency if this option was made available?

Yes

No

Q14. Would you find it convenient to vote at **any** polling station on the island if this option was made available?

Yes

No

Online voting

Online voting is remote, via the internet, where the voter submits their vote electronically to the election authorities, from any location

The Commission are looking as to whether there is support to move to online internet voting in addition to voting in person at a polling station, via postal vote or by proxy. This has been successfully introduced in a number of countries.

Q15. If the online security controls were implemented according to accepted, global standards, would you be willing to vote online via the internet?

Yes

No

Don't know

If no, what are your main concerns?

Q16. Do you think that the Isle of Man should aim to offer online internet voting in addition to the methods of voting currently available?

Yes

No

Don't know

Candidate Campaign Materials

Candidates receive funding from government to develop campaign materials such as campaign posters, leaflets and manifestos. There are rules that apply to these materials that candidates should follow. This can include requirements for set information to be shown on the material and where or how materials can be displayed.

Q17. How would you prefer to receive campaign materials in relation to candidates within your constituency?

Individually from each candidate

In a joint booklet or brochure for each constituency

Electronically

Via social media

Other (please specify)

Q18. Do you consider that there is consistent and effective enforcement of the rules that exist in relation to campaign materials? (E.g. in general and particularly with reference to the display of election posters and banners.)

Yes

No

Don't know

If no, please explain

The organisation of pre-election meetings

At the 2021 General Election, pre-election meetings were organised via or by Government to enable constituents to hear from, and question, candidates standing for election within that constituency. These meetings were in addition to the ability for residents to call requisition meetings via the Captains of the Parishes as well as any additional hustings that were arranged via local media.

Q19. Did you attend a pre-election meeting within the constituency in which you voted?

Yes

No

Q20. If yes did you find the meeting useful?

Yes

No

If no, please explain why not and how it may be improved in the future

General Commentary

Q21 If you have any other comment to make in respect of the organisation or running of the 2021 General Election or future elections on the Isle of Man please include them below