

Dear Mr Phelan,

I wish to add my experience to the consultation process on the proposal for modernisation of the electoral register.

Background and context: I recently turned 18 years [REDACTED] and was motivated, as an Irish Citizen, to include my name on the live voting register in order to be ready to vote in the next local, or general election, or referendum. I Googled re what document I needed to fill and download two confusing variables. On reading, I noted the first one was not correct and the other was titled 'Application for inclusion in the Supplement to the 2018/2019 Register of Electors'. I was not sure if this was the correct form either as I wished to be included on the proper register and is a 'supplement' the same thing? Anyway, I filled it, got my local Garda to stamp it and asked advice re its validity - the advice was - submit it to the local council and see what they say and come back if not. To do that during the working week I'd have to get off school but with leaving cert Christmas exams that's not feasible. When I do have the time it will be Christmas with reduced County Council office hours etc so I will probably have to wait to early January '19 to hand deliver the completed form to the local county council 20 miles away and see if I am on the correct track or not. If not, I will have to fill another form that I hope they give me, then go back to the Garda station again. All this tracking will just delay things further. (Bearing in mind this process started on 9.12.18 and I may not get to confirm my name on the live register until late December or early January'19).

My point: This was a laborious and lengthy process and is still not over. Perhaps there were easier ways to get the correct blank paperwork but I am where I am with my paper trail method. Would'nt it be easier to click a plain English icon on the proposed modernisation revamp of Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government website to accommodate an online application process, fill the appropriate form and email it back. If something was incorrect a reply email would then guide me in the correct direction. The job would be done in 5 working days or less I reckon in a 'one-stop shop' manner.

So, I fully support the development of an online registration system to streamline this process for me an 18 year old adult. I appreciate that paper and post is still the option for others but I am comfortable with shopping online, downloading music online, so why not register online. I attained my Public Services Card on reaching 18 and am happy to reference that as proof of my identity on the proposed secure online system.

In conclusion: I wish to state that I fully support the proposed modernisation of the Electoral Registration process to an online model which suits my needs as a young adult.

Yours sincerely,

Andrea Conway, 2nd level student