

2 April 2007

Circular: F.09/07

Electoral (Amendment) Act 2006 (No. 33 of 2006)
Postal Voting Facilities for Prisoners

A Chara,

I am directed by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to refer to the Electoral (Amendment) Act 2006 (No. 33 of 2006), which was signed into law by the President on 11 December 2006. The Act provides primarily for postal voting facilities for prisoners along with other miscellaneous amendments to electoral law.

Circular F.1/07, which issued to registration authorities on 11 January 2007 also refers. As indicated therein, detailed guidance on all aspects of the new procedures is now set out in the Memorandum enclosed. It incorporates the guidance enclosed with Circular F.1/07 and is therefore comprehensive guidance to assist registration authorities in processing applications from prisoners for entry onto the postal voters list and the supplement to the postal voters list.

The Appendices to the Memorandum, which are relevant **only** to this new category of postal voters (i.e. prisoners), includes:

- Form RFG - the application form to be used for entry in the postal voters list by prisoners; [Revised in 2015 – copy attached]
- Form RFG1 -the application form to be used for entry in the supplement to the postal voters list by prisoners; [Revised in 2015 – copy attached]
- Form RFA4 - the application form to be used for entry in the supplement to the register of electors by prisoners; [Revised in 2015 – copy attached]
- Public Notice - a copy of the public notice to be given to publicise this new category of postal voter; and
- Prisons - List of prisons in the State

Please note that some of the notes to the forms appended to the Memorandum for Guidance have been amended from those which issued with Circular F.1/07; therefore the forms

appended to this guidance should be used for all future applications and previous versions destroyed.

Applications for entry onto supplement to the postal voters list 2007/2008

All necessary procedures and practical arrangements should be in place to facilitate prisoners in exercising their franchise at the forthcoming General Election. Application forms received after 14th February 2007 which were retained with a view to inclusion in the supplement to the postal voters list (as set out in paragraph 4 of Appendix 2 to Circular F.1/07, *Guidance in relation to Applications from Prisoners for Entry onto the 2007/2008 Postal Voters List*) should now be processed for inclusion in the supplement. From now on, applications for inclusion on the 2007/2008 postal voters list should be made on Form RFG1 - Application for entry in the Supplement to the Postal Voters List by electors unable to vote at their polling station due to circumstances of their detention in a prison pursuant to an order of a court.

Registration authorities with responsibility for providing public notices and forms to prisons

A list of prisons in the State and their bed capacity is set out in Appendix 2 attached. The registration authority with responsibility for providing public notices and forms to each prison is listed in this Appendix. Registration authorities should take particular note of the prisons in their area and the need to:

- (i) give public notice in these prisons, and
- (ii) ensure an adequate supply of appropriate forms is made available in these prisons.

You are advised that an adequate supply of all forms that may be used by prisoners (RFA, RFG, RFA4 and RFG1) should be available in prisons at all times, having particular regard to the registration cycle.

Appropriate publicity should also be arranged advising of the facility for entry onto the supplement to the postal voters list 2007/2008 and where the application form (RFG1) may be obtained.

