



Subject:	Response from the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade re: extending the right to vote in elections for the President of Ireland
Date:	22nd August, 2025
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To note the correspondence received from the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Simon Harris TD.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the correspondence as set out in the report and agree to the closure of the motion.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Committee will recall that, at the Council meeting held on 2nd June, 2025, the following motion was passed:
3.2	Moved by Councillor Róis-Márie Donnelly, Seconded by Councillor Natasha Brennan:
3.3	<p>“That this Council notes that the 1998 Belfast/Good Friday Agreement recognises the birth right of all the people of the north to identify themselves and be accepted as Irish or British, or both; recalls that, in November 2013, the Fifth Report of the Convention on the Constitution recommended to give citizens residing outside the 26 counties the right to vote in presidential elections; further notes that Irish citizens living in the north can stand for, and be elected as, President of Ireland but cannot vote in presidential elections; and calls on this Council to write to the Irish Government and ask that they implement the recommendation of the Convention on the constitution with regards to voting rights in presidential elections, thereby extending the right to vote in elections for President of Ireland to all Irish citizens on the island of Ireland.”</p>
3.4	The Committee is advised that a response has been received from Mr Simon Harris TD, the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade.
3.5	In his response he advises that a Private Members Bill on Extending Voting Rights in Presidential Elections to citizens of Northern Ireland and the diaspora was debated in the Dáil Éireann on 24th May, 2025.

3.6	<p>He outlines that the Government did not oppose the motion and that extending voting rights to citizens outside of the jurisdiction of the Republic of Ireland would require a referendum and the Government would continue to reflect on the matter.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.7	<p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.8	<p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – Response from Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Simon Harris TD.</p>