

Draft Ballot Paper

Introduction

Over the course of the last two weekends, the Members of the Assembly have considered a range of issues in relation to *the Challenges and Opportunities of an Ageing Population*. This draft ballot paper attempts to capture some of the key issues which have emerged during discussions.

Sunday 9th July will be dedicated to discussions on the Ballot paper. The Chairperson will introduce the complete Ballot Paper and the members will then have an opportunity to discuss it in their groups.

The relevant members of the Expert Advisory Group, together with the Chair and Secretariat will then be available to answer any questions on the draft. Time has been included on the agenda to allow any amendment agreed by the members to be included on the Ballot Paper.

The results of the final Ballot will form the basis of the recommendations to be made to the Houses of the Oireachtas.

The draft Ballot paper is broken down into four sections as follows:

- A. Long-Term Care
- B. Pensions
- C. Opportunities in Retirement
- D. Member Generated Additional Questions

Under each section a number of draft questions are provided.

Members are asked to note that, relative to the time that was available to discuss the Ballot paper on the Eighth Amendment, the time available on Sunday is short.

The draft Ballot Paper is being circulated to Members in advance of the weekend to allow them to consider it in advance and also to feed back any suggestions or comments to the Secretariat before the weekend. Members are asked in particular for any further suggestions for inclusion in the "Member Generated Additional Questions" as soon as possible.

Please note that in order to ensure that the timings for voting on the Sunday are adhered to; it will be necessary to strictly follow the agenda. This may mean that not every point of view will be heard in the feedback and questions and answers session.

Draft Ballot Paper

The Challenges and Opportunities of an Ageing Population

Citizens' Assembly 9th July 2017

A. Questions on Long-Term Care

The Citizens considered Long-Term Care on weekend of 10th and 11th June 2017. The questions below have been developed based on the key issues raised by the experts in those sessions, Member feedback and advice from the Expert Advisory Group.

Question 1

This question is posed to establish the views of the Citizens' Assembly about who should be responsible for organising or providing care; in other words, where, in society, responsibility should lie. This question is not about who should fund care- this is dealt with in subsequent questions.

Question 1: In general, who should be principally responsible for organising or providing required care for older people?	
	Mark X in one box
Option 1. Family/ older person should be <u>totally</u> responsible	
Option 2. It is <u>mainly</u> the family/ older person which should be responsible, but the State should have at least <u>some</u> responsibility	
Option 3. It is <u>mainly</u> the State that should be responsible, but the family/ older person should have at least <u>some</u> responsibility	
Option 4. The State should be <u>totally</u> responsible	

Question 2:	Mark X in one box	
	Yes	No
Do you think there should be an increase in public resources allocated for the care of older people? Remember that any additional public resources allocated will mean less money is available for other areas of need and/or new forms of funding will be required to pay for any increase. Some possible options for these areas of funding are provided in question 3 below.		

Question 3: If more resources for care of older people became available, where do you believe this funding should come from?

	Mark X in one box
Option 1: Reallocation of existing tax-based resources	
Option 2: Increase in general taxation (income tax, VAT, Indirect taxes, property taxes etc)	
Option 3: Compulsory social insurance payment – an <u>earmarked</u> tax for all workers linked to labour market participation –not unlike the current PRSI mechanism to fund long-term/ social care for older people.	
Option 4: Long-term/ social care private insurance (privately funded by the insured)	
Option 5: Cost sharing arrangements for users of all services (including for example home care) – e.g. co-payments, a charge on assets (similar to the fair deal scheme)	

Question 4:

This question is posed to establish where the Members of the Assembly believe additional funding should be mainly spent. For the purposes of clarity, Option 3 relates to supported independent living arrangements, such as those detailed in the presentation by Prof. Anthea Tinker.

Question 4: If more resources for the care for older people became available, where do you believe this additional funding should primarily be spent?

	Rank in order of your preference (1,2,3...)
Option 1. Residential care services	
Option 2. Home care services and supports	
Option 3. Community-based integrated housing models	

	Mark X in one box	
Question 5	Yes	No
Do you think that the government should expedite the current commitment to place home care for older persons on a statutory footing?		

	Mark X in one box	
Question 6	Yes	No
Do you think that regulation, such as that currently in place for residential services, should be extended to afford better protection to older and dependent people in receipt of other health and care services		

Question 7: If the Government were to decide to extend regulation to other health and care services for older people, what other services do you believe should be regulated?	
	Mark X for each service you wish to see regulated
Option 1: Respite services	
Option 2: Day care services	
Option 3: Care and support services in a person's own home	
Option 4: Care and support services provided through a supported housing scheme	

B. Questions on Pensions

	Mark X in one box	
Question 8	Yes	No
Do you think that the State should introduce an auto enrolment scheme for all workers?		

	Mark X in one box	
Question 9	Yes	No
Do you think that mandatory retirement should be abolished?		

	Mark X in one box	
Question 10	Yes	No
Should the current gap between the age of retirement and the age at which a person can access the State pension be abolished?		

C. Opportunities in Retirement

	Mark X in one box	
Question 11	Yes	No
Do you agree that the skills and experience of older people are not being adequately utilised in social and economic life in Ireland?		

Question 12: How can the Government create an environment to better utilise the skills and experience of older people?	Rank in order of your preference (1,2,3...)
Option 1: By incentivising older people (for example through tax credits) to volunteer and become involved in the community	
Option 2: Other options to follow upon receipt of expert papers/ suggestions from Members	

D. Member Generated Additional Question

Over the course of the two weekends when the Assembly discussed the topic *the Challenges and opportunities of an ageing population* a number of further issues emerged in the discussions, which were not directly related to the topic of 'long-term care' or 'pensions, income and retirement'.

As the Citizens' Assembly is an exercise in deliberative democracy, it is important that the input of the Members is expressed on the Ballot paper.

Members are therefore invited in this question to express, in order of preference which of these issues they consider to be the most important. This mechanism is favoured over individual questions on each item as it is the view of the Chairperson that it would not be appropriate to include a wide range of distinct questions given the Members did not receive expert briefings on the matters included.

Question 13: When considering how we respond to the challenges and opportunities of an ageing population, which of these suggestions do you believe are the most important to implement?	
	Rank in order of your preference (1,2,3...)
Establish a Department of Ageing/ older people	
Have a dedicated one-stop shop for older people to access information about their entitlements and run an education campaign to support it.	
Take steps to ensure that older people have a stronger voice in determining their own care needs	
Ensure stronger governmental leadership in relation to the prioritisation of the health and social care needs of older people	