

REVISED Draft Ballot Paper

This version of the draft ballot paper takes account of comments received from the Members of the Assembly and any further changes made to the original draft which was circulated to the Members on 31st October.

Any additions to the ballot paper have been marked in red. Any deletions have been shown by using strikethrough.

Introduction

Over the course of the last two weekends, the Members of the Assembly have considered a range of issues in relation to *How the State can make Ireland a leader in Tackling Climate Change*.

This draft Ballot Paper attempts to capture some of the key issues which have emerged during discussions.

The core business on Sunday 5th November 2017 will be discussions on the draft Ballot Paper. The Chairperson will introduce the complete draft 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 the 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 final 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. Putting Climate Change Considerations at the centre of policy making
- B. Energy Policy
- C. Transport Policy
- D. Agriculture and Land Use Policy

Under each section a number of draft questions are provided. Sections A and B have been developed based on the information provided at the first weekend, and specific feedback received from members through the reflective exercise and the Steering Group. As such these are more developed. Sections C and D are in a much earlier stage of development and are included in anticipation of the discussion at the second weekend.

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.

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.

Ancillary Recommendations

As was the case with the voting on the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution, the Members of the Assembly will be invited to write down any other issues which they feel should be included as Ancillary Recommendations of the Assembly. Any emerging consensus on themes or issues will be included as recommendations in the final report which will be prepared by the Chair of the Assembly. This will be done as a written exercise once voting has concluded on the Sunday.

A. Putting climate change considerations at the centre of policy-making

Question 1

Please Mark X in one box below.

	Mark X in one box	
Question 1	Yes	No
To ensure climate change is at the centre of policy-making in Ireland, a new or existing independent body should be resourced appropriately, operate in an open and transparent manner, and be given a broad range of new functions and powers in legislation to urgently address climate change. Such functions and powers should include, but not be limited to those outlined below.		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To examine any legislative proposals it considers relevant to its functions and to report publicly its views on any implications in relation to climate change; the relevant Minister must respond publicly to the views expressed in a report prior to the progress of the particular legislative proposal; 2. To propose ambitious 5 year national and sectoral targets for emissions reductions to be implemented by the State, with regular review and reporting cycles; 3. To pursue the State in legal proceedings to ensure that the State lives up to its legal obligations relating to climate change. 		

Question 2

Please Mark X in one box below.

	Mark X in one box	
Question 2	Yes	No
The State should take a leadership role in addressing climate change through mitigation measures, including, for example, retrofitting public buildings, electrification of public vehicles, renewable generation on public buildings and through adaptation measures including, for example, increasing the resilience of public land and infrastructure.		

Question 3

Question 3 Please choose one of the following options: Subject to the qualifications below:	Mark X in one box	
I would be willing to pay higher taxes on carbon intensive activities		
I would not be willing to pay higher taxes on carbon intensive activities		

Qualification 1: Any increase in revenue would be only spent on measures that directly aid the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient Ireland: including, for example, making solar panels more cheaply and easily available, retrofitting homes and businesses, flood defenses, developing infrastructure for electric vehicles.

Qualification 2: An increase in the taxation does not have to be paid by the poorest households (the 400,000 households currently in receipt of fuel allowance).

Qualification 3: It is envisaged that these taxes build year-on-year.

Question 4

Please Mark X in one box below.

	Mark X in one box	
Question 4	Yes	No
The State should undertake a comprehensive assessment of the vulnerability of all critical infrastructure (including energy, transport, built environment, water and communications) with a view to building resilience to ongoing climate change and extreme weather events. The outcome of this assessment should be implemented. Recognising the significant costs that the State would bear in the event of failure of critical infrastructure, spending on infrastructure should be prioritised to take account of this.		

B. Energy Policy

Question 5 - Micro-generation

Please Mark X in one box below.

	Mark X in one box	
Question 5	Yes	No
The State should enable, through legislation, the selling back into the grid of electricity from micro-generation by private citizens (for example energy from solar panels or wind turbines on people's homes or land) at a price which is at least equivalent to the wholesale price.		

Question 6 - Renewable Energy- Community Involvement

Please Mark X in one box below.

	Mark X in one box	
Question 6	Yes	No
The State should act to ensure the greatest possible levels of community ownership in all future renewable energy projects by encouraging communities to develop their own projects and by requiring that developer-led projects make share offers to communities to encourage greater local involvement and ownership.		

Question 7 – Peat Extraction

Please Mark X in one box below.

	Mark X in one box	
Question 7	Yes	No
The State should immediately end all subsidies for peat extraction and instead spend that money on peat bog restoration and retraining those workers impacted and providing new employment opportunities for them.		

C. Transport Policy

Question 8- Sustainable Travel

Please Mark X in one box below.

	Mark X in one box	
Question 8	Yes	No
The number of bus lanes, cycling lanes and park and ride facilities should be greatly increased in the next five years, and much greater priority should be given to these modes over private car use.		

Question 9- Electric Vehicles

Please Mark X in one box below.

	Mark X in one box	
Question 9	Yes	No
<p>The State should immediately take the following steps to support the transition to electric vehicles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an expanded national network of charging points; • Introduce a range of additional incentives, particularly aimed at rural communities, to encourage motorists towards electric vehicle ownership in the short term. Such measures should include, but not be limited to, targeted help-to-buy schemes, reductions in motor tax for electric vehicles and lower or free motorway tolls. • Measures should then be introduced to progressively disincentivise the purchase of new carbon intensive vehicles such as through year-on-year increases in taxes on petrol and diesel, motor tax and purchase taxes for petrol and diesel vehicles. 		

Question 10- Public Transport

Please Mark X in one box below.

	Mark X in one box	
Question 10	Yes	No
The State should prioritise the expansion of public transport spending over new road infrastructure spending at a ratio of no less than 2-to-1 to facilitate the broader availability and uptake of public transport options with particular attention to rural areas.		

D. Agriculture and Land Use Policy

Question 11- Taxation on agricultural emissions

Please Mark X in one box below.

	Mark X in one box	
Question 11	Yes	No
There should be a tax on green house gas (GHG) emissions from agriculture. There should be rewards for the farmer for land management that sequesters carbon. Any resulting revenue should be reinvested to support climate friendly agricultural practices.		

Question 12- Food Waste

Please Mark X in one box below.

	Mark X in one box	
Question 12	Yes	No
With the objective of introducing appropriate measures to reduce food waste in the future, the State should introduce a standard form of mandatory measurement and reporting of food waste at every level of the food distribution and supply chain.		

Question 13- Land Diversification

Please Mark X in one box below.

	Mark X in one box	
Question 13	Yes	No
The State should review and revise supports for land use diversification with particular attention to supports for planting forests and encouraging organic farming.		