

Revised 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 revised draft ballot paper attempts to capture some of the key issues which have emerged during discussions on Saturday 8th July and in Member feedback in advance of, and during the meeting. Additional questions and any amendments to existing questions are marked in red. In some cases questions from the earlier draft have been removed, as they are no longer relevant or are now covered by elsewhere. .

The Chairperson will introduce the complete revised 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 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 revised draft Ballot paper has an introductory question dealing with implementation of existing policies followed three sections as follows:

- A. Long-Term Care
- B. Pensions
- C. Member Generated Additional Questions

Under each section a number of draft questions are provided. In some cases the question includes some further background and context setting information.

Revised Draft Ballot Paper

The Challenges and Opportunities of an Ageing Population

Citizens' Assembly 9th July 2017

| | Mark X in one box | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------|
| Question 1 | Yes | No |
| <p>The Government should urgently prioritise and implement existing policies and strategies in relation to older people including for example the National Positive Ageing Strategy, the Carers' Strategy and the National Dementia Strategy.</p> | | |

A. Questions on Long-Term Care

Question 2

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 2: In general, who should be principally responsible for 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 3: | Mark X in one box | |
|---|-------------------|----|
| | Yes | No |
| <p>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.</p> | | |

| Question 4: Where do you believe <u>additional</u> funding for care of older people 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 5:

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 5: Where do you believe <u>additional</u> funding for care of older people should <u>primarily</u> 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 6 | 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 | |
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| Question 7 | Yes | No |
| Do you think that regulation, such as that currently in place for residential centres , should be extended to afford better protection to older and dependent people in receipt of other health and care services | | |

Question 8: 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 9 | Yes | No |
| Do you think that Government should introduce some form of mandatory pension scheme to supplement the State pension? | | |

| | Mark X in one box | |
|---|-------------------|----|
| Question 10 | Yes | No |
| Do you think that the current anomaly, which arises when a person who must retire at 65 is not entitled to the State pension until 66, should be removed? | | |

| | Mark X in one box | |
|--|-------------------|----|
| Question 11 | Yes | No |
| Do you think that mandatory retirement on the basis of age should be abolished? | | |

| | Mark X in one box | |
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| Question 12 | Yes | No |
| Do you think that the State pension should be benchmarked by reference to national average income? | | |

| | Mark X in one box | |
|---|-------------------|----|
| Question 13 | Yes | No |
| Do you think the Government should take steps to rationalise private pension schemes to include greater transparency in relation to fees? | | |

| | Mark X in one box | |
|---|-------------------|----|
| Question 14 | Yes | No |
| Should the Government backdate the Homemakers Scheme to 1973? | | |

| | Mark X in one box | |
|--|-------------------|----|
| Question 15 | Yes | No |
| Do you think State support for carers, including access to education, retraining and pension arrangements, should be enhanced? | | |

C. 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 16: 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...) |
| The responsibility for older people should be formally devolved to the relevant Minister of State. | |
| 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 | |