

## Supporting CIR Bill 2013

**Firstly**, it should be noted that I **wholeheartedly support this Bill**.

**Secondly**, I consider that one day every four years is ridiculous. It means that if the deadline is missed by one day, it could be eight years from the start of the process until the matter is put to referendum. I suggest that it would be more appropriate **if four days every year** could be designated as possible days on which referendums could be held (as is the case in Switzerland).

**Thirdly**, I suggest that 1% of voters is too large a hurdle. Currently, that would be approximately 145,000 voters. That is many more than the total membership of any political party that currently has all the say on what legislation is tabled in our Parliament.

**Fourthly**, I suggest that 13 months to collect signatures to a Petition is insufficient and propose that two years would be more appropriate.

**Fifthly**, I suggest that any “application fee”, if it is necessary at all, should be prescribed in the legislation, that it should be expressed as a multiple of Total Male Average Weekly Earnings (TMAWE) (so that it remains appropriate over time), and that it be **refunded** if the referendum is successful on the basis that the proposer has obviously performed a public service.

Charles Mollison