

From: Julia Jessop
Sent: Monday, 22 February 2016 9:45 PM
To: Committee, EM (REPS)

Dear Sirs

Thank you for emailing me a copy of the draft Amendments, I appreciate that you allow an ordinary citizen like myself to comment upon the proposals.

With reference to below the line voting, I did make the point in my original submission that it is very hard to number all (or most of) the boxes below the line without making mistakes, and in a meaningful way. I can see that the tolerance for mistakes has been increased slightly from 3 to 5, but I still do not see the need for the voter to mark such a large percentage of the boxes below the line.

If votes can be exhausted above the line, why can this not apply below the line too, without having to complete the majority of the section?

Many voters simply do not know the policies of the micro-parties and are unable to express a meaningful choice between them, but you are forced to express a preference when you get to the higher numbers you have to enter below the line.

My submission is that this bill should be amended to:

whether they vote above or below the line, voters should be encouraged to number at least 6 boxes, up to a total number of their choice. Votes below the line exhaust once the sequence of numbers is used up and not because they have not entered enough numbers for the vote to be formal.

In time, once voters have got used to the new system and allowance does not have to be made for those who just enter a 1 above the line out of habit, it would probably be easier just to drop the below the line section, this would make the ballot paper smaller.

Thank you for reading my submission

Yours sincerely
Julia Jessop Ms.