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30th August, 2006.

Local Government and Public Services Committee (Electoral arrangements),
National Assembly for Wales,
Assembly Offices,
Cardiff Bay,
CF99 1NA.

Dear Sir,

Electoral Arrangements in Wales.

I have been instructed by my Council to forward the following comments in respect of the Discussion Document received from you:-

- Question 1 - More importance should be given to applying penalties as these could make people more aware of the importance of voting. Wider use of the media could also help raise awareness of this issue.
- Question 2 - At the present time registering comes because of family communication and discussion. Perhaps young people could receive education on the importance of voting.
- Question 3 - This could help but would require a significant amount of campaigning by Government and Local Authority involvement.

If personal identification had to be produced then it should make voting more secure.
- Question 4 - We do not think that it should be necessary but it could possibly help.
- Question 5 - Education should be broadened for Black and Ethnic Minority groups to encourage them to understand and debate political policies.
- Question 6 - There was not overall support for this because:
 - i. Experience of the recent past has shown that the process

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is insecure.

- ii. Although postal voting may increase the percentage of people voting this possible advantage could be lost by the inefficiency of the voting system, lack of security and the process being open to fraudulent activity.

- Question 7 - The public would see risks in all three methods so it would require a lot of convincing that the system could be secure and reliable.
- Question 8 - Alternative venues could be used provided there was privacy and they gave an importance to the voting process.
- Question 9 -
- i. Probably because of the lack of political debate in the home.
 - ii. Politics is not seen as “cool” or “exciting” to young adults who usually have broader interests both inside and outside the home.
- Question 10 - Schools should play a larger role in the understanding and importance of political debate and possibly world wide political issues.
- Politics needs to be an integral part of the school curriculum and should be debated by the ‘more mature’ section of the school community.
- Question 11 - Yes – see question 10 above.
- Question 12 - No obvious support for this as Members believe that young people should be informed through the education system, the home and the media.
- Question 13. - No examples could be offered.
- Question 14 - Yes.
- Question 15 - Yes.
- Question 17 - Security of the process would be open to question. There would be difficulty in establishing what these needs may be. Also, would it be cost effective?
- Question 18 - Yes, but on a trial basis. It could be of use to highlight possible improvements and changes for the efficiency and security of the

voting system.

- Question 19 - Inclusion into a community is the prime issue.
- Question 21 - Registration should not be a problem for the majority of the population, providing you have a command of the language being employed. Voting could be more problematic, particularly with the system used for the elections to the Welsh Assembly.

Yours faithfully,



Clerk.