

Secretariat Re-Election Policy

July 2017

Ratified at October Plenary 2017



1. Introduction

This policy is provided to outline the process and procedure for re-electing Secretariat members to Wexford PPN

2. Secretariat Membership

As per the PPN User Guide, the membership of the Secretariat is designed to be as broad as possible, and reflective of the diversity of the membership. It must include at least one representative from each of the Municipal Districts in a county, and equal numbers (but at least two people) from each of the three electoral colleges (Environmental, Social Inclusion, Community and Voluntary). Where vacancies occur, they should be filled as soon as possible.

Wexford PPN in its current structure has 10 Members as follows:

- Wexford MD Representative
- Enniscorthy MD Representative
- New Ross MD Representative
- Gorey MD Representative
- 2 X Social Inclusion Representatives
- 2 X Community & Voluntary Representatives
- 2 X Environment Representatives

People elected to the Secretariat must be nominated by a member organisation in their geographical community or college. The electorate for that position is comprised of the members of that geographical community or college. For example, candidates for a Social Inclusion vacancy must be nominated by a Social Inclusion organisation, and it is only the Social Inclusion organisations which have a vote for this position. The college system ensures that all three distinct voices (Environment, Social Inclusion, Community and Voluntary) within PPN can be equally represented and clearly articulated.

3. Refreshing the Secretariat & Process for Re-Election

The User Guide states that no volunteer or group of volunteers should be able to / left to administer the PPN on a long term basis. A truly participative PPN requires a regular refreshing of different roles. To ensure this process, while maintaining an experienced Secretariat at all time, Wexford PPN will adopt an annual election process where one third of the Secretariat are replaced each year, with the term per elected member to be maximum three years.

The re-election process will begin in March 2018, with elections to take place in March each year. This will provide for three election rotations with 3-4 seats replaced each year.

For example:

Election Rotation	Election Schedule	Term of Office	No of seats
1	March 2018	April 2018 – March 2021	4
2	March 2019	April 2019 – March 2022	3
3	March 2020	April 2020 – March 2023	3

At each election rotation a panel will be created for the relevant seat, which will remain in place for the three year term of the election rotation. If a person resigns from the Secretariat during the term of the election rotation period, they will be replaced by the next person on the panel from the relevant election and the replacements term will be until the next election rotation date for that Election Rotation.

For example, if a Social Inclusion Rep from Election Rotation 1 resigns in June 2019, the next person on the panel will take this seat until March 2021 – the end of the three year term.

Wexford PPN have decided that there will be no set limit to the number of terms a person serve on the Secretariat and current Secretariat members can seek immediate re-election.

Secretariat members must sign up to the Rep Charter and Non-Attendance & Non-Participation will be dealt with in the same manner as other PPN Reps.

Existing Secretariat members can decide to run for election for an alternative seat on the Secretariat at the time of election. For example, should a College Rep decide to run in election as a Municipal District Rep they can do so without giving up their current seat. Should they be successful they must decide which seat to retain – but they can only hold one seat.

4. Beginning the Process

As there is an existing Secretariat in place the initial procedure of election rotation and which seats are replaced in March 2018, March 2019, & March 2020 need to be agreed.

The vacant Environment seat will be filled in the March 2018 ‘Election Rotation 1’.

Voluntary resignation from three current Secretariat members will be sought in Feb 2018. These three seats plus the vacant Environment seat will then form ‘Election Rotation 1’. In agreeing this rotation the Secretariat must be mindful of the mix of seats to be replaced. For example, where possible, replacement of the two Community & Voluntary seats or Social Inclusion seats should not be done in the one rotation.

In Feb 2019, voluntary resignation will be sought from the six remaining current Secretariat members – i.e. those who did not resign in 2018. These will form ‘Election Rotation 2’.

In Feb 2020, the final three remaining current Secretariat members will automatically form ‘Election Rotation 3’.

To allow for the possibility of resignation of current Secretariat members a process of intermediate replacement election will apply – to provide an intermediate Rep until March 2018. This intermediate seat then becomes an automatic seat for Rotation 1. This process will continue for each year of the current Secretariat, until the rotation process and panels for each seat are in place.

5. Ratification

As with all policies and procedures which are developed for the Secretariat, this Secretariat Re-Election will need to be ratified by the Plenary.