

Tomás M. Creamer

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To "seanadreformwg@taoiseach.gov  
.ie"  
<seanadreformwg@taoiseach.gov

cc

Subject Some Ideas to Reform the  
Seanad

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Thomas Creamer - an 18 year old student from Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim. I am currently studying in NUI Galway, and I write for the student paper, *SIN*, under "Tomás M. Creamer".

Whatever you think of my pedigree, I did grow up all of my life here in Ireland, so I would like to give a list of some ideas of mine to reform the Seanad, which - to my knowledge - is within the bounds of the current Constitution structure.

- \* Extend the electorate for the six University Senators to all those with a Third-Level degree from an Irish institution - which is already allowed for in the Constitution, via the Seventh Amendment.

- \* Reduce the number of Senators elected via vocational patterns to the absolute minimum allowed in the Constitution, AKA 5 Senators for each of the 5 named panels.

- \* Devise a convention that the Taoiseach, in relation to the 11 Senators that he appoints to the Seanad, must either:

- (a) Appoint a group of 11 Senators whose political composition matches, as closely as possible, the political composition of the Dail

- (b) Reserve a certain number, if not all of the appointed Senators, to those who has gained recognition on the basis of their past contributions to Life, Culture, and Society in Ireland - Excluding former members of the Seanad and the Dail.

- \* Provide a number of Senators to be elected from an electorate consisting only of Irish Citizens residing abroad for less than a certain number of years.

- \* Elect the remaining Senators via the general electorate in Ireland, by sub-dividing the country into a several, large regional constituencies.

As for how to reform the workings of the Seanad - personally, I believe that very little substantial difference could be made to the relationship between the Seanad and the Dail without a Constitutional amendment, and therefore, I have nothing to suggest that is within the realms of the mandate of this working group.

I hope, however, that you may consider some of my suggestions, in relation to changes to the selection and composition of the Seanad, and I wish you the best of luck in introducing reform to the outmoded Upper House.

Yours sincerely,  
Thomas Creamer