

Elizabeth O'Reilly

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To seanadreformwg@taoiseach.gov.ie

cc

Subject Input to the Seanad reform working group

Dear Seanad Reform Working Group,

My name is Elizabeth O'Reilly and I voted to keep the Seanad during the referendum. I doubt that this email and my input is put into specific enough terms to have a real impact on this working group's outcomes, however I felt the need to explain my vote and hopefully inspire you to make the changes that I would like to see.

I believe that the Seanad has a key role in creating a forum that can inform our politicians on the issues that they make decisions on a daily basis.

I think that politicians, due to the nature of the job, do not have the necessary experience to make decisions on the multiple of topics and sectors that they are expected to. This is a fact that the public and our current politicians need to recognise and admit to. This deficient in our political system can be filled by having the most qualified, experienced and knowledgeable people in this country in our Seanad. Our politicians need to trust that the best people are chosen in order to listen to their input and they also need to trust that the people involved in each sector are the most qualified to choose who is suited to advise the government.

Each vocational panel should have a unique voting system drawing from the most relevant government bodies, companies, research institutions and social groups in that field. The best person that will fit the role should be chosen. The best politician, academic, civil servant or business owner should not be chosen. **We need our best Senators.** I firmly believe that this is a role that needs to be rediscovered by everyone in this country.

I thank you for taking the time to read this email and commend the work you are undertaking to inspire the much needed reform in our political system.

Kind Regards,

Elizabeth

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