

Francis Donnelly

19/01/2015 20:30

To seanadreformwg@taoiseach.gov.i
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cc

Subject Submission

Dear Sirs,

I submit that the Seanad is most useful as a body of national politicians rather than the super-local environment of the Dail.

In this vein, I believe the undemocratic nature as it stands could be addressed by a simple opt-in method, whereby at the time of a general election each voter would self-select their relevant panel and cast their seanad vote from among the list of candidates for that panel. In this way we have politicians of national reputation and stature in the upper house to apply to counterbalance the local yokels in the Dail. In this form perhaps the Seanad could be addressed to issues which local constituency politicians have difficulty dealing with, such as planning. All of this could be achieved without amending the constitution.

I think it goes without saying that abolishing the Taoiseach's nominees would be essential in any attempt to address the democratic deficit.

Regards,

FL Donnelly.