**PRESS RELEASE**

**IMMEDIATE 2.3.2017**

**ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS FAIL**

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS…**

**…AND NOBODY, IT SEEMS, CARES A DAMN**

Further to the press release issued earlier today:

1. over-crowding was exacerbated by polling station staff shouting voters’ numbers to party agents, the latter often in conversation with voters, at times just friendly banter, on occasion openly political;
2. quite a few voters were not on the register;
3. at least one person’s vote had been impersonated;

but worst of all were incidents when:

1. a party agent aided a voter inside the polling booth;
2. party agents twice carried written information as to voters who had voted out of the premises.

1) and 2) were both illegal. All three incidents were reported. No action was taken.

Items a) and 2) would both be much reduced ***IF*** the rules for the conduct of elections were i.a.w. international standards. I have been campaigning on this issue for years – see for example *Fortnight* Magazine No. 436 of 2005 – but nobody, it seems, either in the Electoral Office or the Electoral Commission, cares a damn.

Peter Emerson

Election observer for the osce in over 20 elections in Central and Eastern Europe.

Adviser to the osce in Bosnia in 1999.

International Trainer in Kosova in 2001.

The Director, the de Borda Institute

36 Ballysillan Road

Belfast BT14 7QQ

Northern Ireland

028-90711795

07837717979

[www.deborda.org](http://www.deborda.org/)

[pemerson@deborda.org](mailto:pemerson@deborda.org)