

Polling Review: Terms of Reference and Criteria for Assessing the Suitability of the Current and Proposed Arrangements

The following should be considered as part of the assessment of the suitability of polling district boundaries:

Boundaries:

- Are they well defined?
- For example, do they follow the natural boundaries of the area?
- If not, is it clear which properties belong in the polling district?

Location:

Are there suitable transport links within the polling district, and how do they relate to the areas of the district that are most highly populated?

Are there any obstacles to voters crossing the current polling district and reaching the polling place e.g., steep hills, impassable major roads, railway lines, rivers?

There are a number of factors that must be considered when reviewing existing polling places or when assessing new polling places, including:

Location:

- Is it reasonably accessible within the polling district?
- Does it avoid barriers for the voter such as steep hills, major roads, rivers, etc.?
- Are there any convenient transport links?

Size:

- Can it accommodate more than one polling station if required?
- If multiple polling stations are required, is the polling place ample enough to accommodate all voters going into and out of the polling stations, even where there is a high turnout?

Suitability:

- Is the building readily available in the event of any unscheduled elections?
- Is there any possibility that the building may be demolished as part of a new development?
- Is the building accessible to all those entitled to attend the polling place?