

MEDIA INFORMATION PACK

Local Council Election 2 May 2019

Information on Election Candidates and the Election Process for Newry, Mourne and Down



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DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS FOR THE COUNCIL OF NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN

- **Crotlieve**
- **Downpatrick**
- **Newry**
- **Rowallane**
- **Slieve Croob**
- **Slieve Gullion**
- **The Mournes**

CANDIDATES

CROTLIEVE (6 seats)	Jim	Boylan	Independent
	Michael	Carr	SDLP (Social Democratic & Labour Party)
	Mark	Gibbons	Independent
	Joshua	Lowry	Ulster Unionist Party
	Declan	McAteer	SDLP (Social Democratic & Labour Party)
	Wilma	McCullough	Democratic Unionist Party – DUP
	Lorcan	McGreevy	Alliance
	Karen	McKevitt	SDLP (Social Democratic & Labour Party)
	Oksana	McMahon	Sinn Féin
	Gerry	O’Hare	Sinn Féin
	Mickey	Ruane	Sinn Féin
	Jarlath	Tinnelly	Independent
	Mary	Tinnelly	Sinn Féin

DOWNPATRICK (5 seats)	Alex	Burgess	Ulster Unionist Party
	Dermot	Curran	SDLP (Social Democratic & Labour Party)
	Macartán	Digney	Aontú
	Cadogan	Enright	Independent
	Oonagh	Hanlon	Sinn Féin
	Jamie	Kennedy	Green Party Northern Ireland
	Tiernan	Laird	Alliance
	Jordan	Madden	Sinn Féin
	James	Savage	Democratic Unionist Party – DUP
	Gareth	Sharvin	SDLP (Social Democratic & Labour Party)
	John	Trainor	SDLP (Social Democratic & Labour Party)

SLIEVE GULLION (7 seats)	Pete	Byrne	SDLP (Social Democratic & Labour Party)
	Balázs	Gazdag	Alliance
	Terry	Hearty	Sinn Féin
	Linda	Henry	Democratic Unionist Party – DUP
	Mickey	Larkin	Sinn Féin
	Kate	Loughran	SDLP (Social Democratic & Labour Party)
	Oonagh	Magennis	Sinn Féin
	Roisín	Mulgrew	Sinn Féin
	Barra	Ó’Muirí	Sinn Féin
	David Samuel	Taylor	Ulster Unionist Party

CANDIDATES

THE MOURNES (7 seats)	Willie	Clarke	Sinn Féin
	Laura	Devlin	SDLP (Social Democratic & Labour Party)
	Sean	Doran	Sinn Féin
	Glyn	Hanna	Democratic Unionist Party – DUP
	Leeanne	McEvoy	Sinn Féin
	Harold	McKee	Ulster Unionist Party
	Andrew	McMurray	Alliance
	Brian	Quinn	SDLP (Social Democratic & Labour Party)
	Henry	Reilly	

NEWRY (6 seats)	Charlie	Casey	Sinn Féin
	Valerie	Harte	Sinn Féin
	Liz	Kimmins	Sinn Féin
	Gavin	Malone	Independent
	Sarah Jane	McAllister	Sinn Féin
	Ricky	McGaffin	Ulster Unionist Party
	Michael	Savage	SDLP (Social Democratic & Labour Party)
	Gary John	Stokes	SDLP (Social Democratic & Labour Party)
	Helena	Young	Alliance

ROWALLANE (5 seats)	Terry	Andrews	SDLP (Social Democratic & Labour Party)
	Patrick	Brown	Alliance
	Robert	Burgess	Ulster Unionist Party
	Emma	Cairns	Green Party Northern Ireland
	Marianne	Cleary	Sinn Féin
	Harry	Harvey	Democratic Unionist Party – DUP
	Walter	Lyons	Ulster Unionist Party
	Liam	Mulhern	Aontú
	Martyn	Todd	Independent
William	Walker	Democratic Unionist Party – DUP	

CANDIDATES

SLIEVE CROOB	Gregory	Bain	Alliance
(5 seats)	Hugh	Gallagher	SDLP (Social Democratic & Labour Party)
	Maynard	Hanna	Democratic Unionist Party – DUP
	Tracey	Harkin	Aontú
	Roisin	Howell	Sinn Féin
	Alan	Lewis	Ulster Unionist Party
	Cathy	Mason	Sinn Féin
	Mark	Murnin	SDLP (Social Democratic & Labour Party)
	John	Rice	Sinn Féin

TIMETABLE FOR ELECTION PROCESS

Date	Time	Action	Contact
Thursday 2 May	7.00 am – 10.00 pm	Polling	Electoral Office
Thursday 2 May	10.00 pm onwards (or as soon as possible)	Verification of UNUSED ballot papers (continue overnight if necessary)	Deputy Returning Officer Media Liaison Officer
Friday 3 May	8.00 am – midnight/ later if necessary	Verification of USED ballot papers will commence at 8.00am. The Counts will begin after the verification process has been completed, in the following order: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crotlieve 2. Downpatrick 3. Slieve Gullion 4. The Mournes 5. Newry 6. Rowallane 7. Slieve Croob 	Media Liaison Officer
Saturday 4 May	9.00 am – Close	Count continues	Media Liaison Officer

CONTACT DETAILS

Deputy Returning Officer

- Mr Liam Hannaway

Assistant Deputy Returning Officers

- Mrs Aisling Murray
- Mrs Briege Magill

Senior Count Manager

- Mrs Dorinnia Carville

MEDIA CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

For all media enquiries regarding the Local Council Election, 2 May 2019 please contact:

Media Liaison Officer

- Veronica Keegan
T: 078 0383 2511
E: marketing@nmandd.org



www.newrymournedown.org



@nmdcouncil



@nmdcouncil

MEDIA GUIDANCE AND PROTOCOLS

Counting the Votes

The counting of votes in the Local Council Election for Newry Mourne and Down will take place in Newry Leisure Centre, 60 Cecil Street, Newry, BT35 6AU.

Media Accreditation

1. Accreditation is open to all news broadcast and news print media.
2. Media access to the Count Centre will be strictly controlled at all times and prior accreditation is required.
3. Please register your accreditation with the Media Liaison Officer.

What Access Will the Media have to the Count/Count Hall for the Local Council Election?

1. Media access to Count Centre will be strictly controlled at all times.
2. Admission will be from 7.15 am on Friday 3 May and 8.15 am on Saturday 4 May.
3. Individuals must produce:
 - a current NUJ Card; or
 - a current photographic organisation pass; or
 - an original letter of authority from a print/broadcast organisation supported with a second form of photographic identification – such as a passport or Electoral Identity Card.
4. Members of the media will be required to sign in and wear photographic identification, for example organisation ID/NUJ pass, at all times. You may leave the hall at any time but if you do so you should ensure you have your identification for re-admission.
5. All attendees at the Count are required to have read the Notification of Requirement of Secrecy in Appendix I.
6. A Media Liaison Officer will be present throughout the Count and will be the first point of contact for media related enquiries. Please note the Media Liaison Officer will only be available for the duration of the Count. If you have any queries in advance of the Count they should be referred to the Deputy Returning Officer.
7. Members of the media must abide by any direction given by the Deputy Returning Officer, the Assistant Deputy Returning Officers, Media Liaison Officer or any person acting on behalf of the Deputy Returning Officer.
8. The Media Liaison Officer will facilitate access to the Counting hall for a limited period to allow filming of the ballot box opening process.
9. Throughout the Count media will have access to an area, on the first floor, from which to film. This area will enable a clear visual of Count proceedings.
10. Cameras or recording equipment (including phone cameras) will not be permitted to film close-ups of ballot papers or interfere with the Count process as this breaches the secrecy of the ballot. Mobile phones must be kept on 'silent' when in the Count area.
11. Interviews with candidates are not permitted within the Count arena. However, every assistance will be provided by the Media Liaison Officer to ensure that candidates are informed of interview requests.
12. Everyone present must observe safety briefs and comply with reasonable requests from the Media Liaison Officer and/or Centre Managers.
13. The decision of the Deputy Returning Officer is final, and he is not required to allow any member of the media into the Count (unless they are also a candidate, candidate's agent, counting agent or an EONI accredited observer).

CONDUCT IN THE COUNT CENTRE

Media Accreditation Details

Prior media accreditation is required.
Please forward your details to the Media Liaison Officer.

Media Liaison Officer

Veronica Keegan, M: 078 0383 2511, E: marketing@nmandd.org

Admission Process

There will be an Admissions Desk inside the Centre. Access to the Count Centre will be strictly controlled and accredited media will be asked to produce their identification. Individual wrist bands will be issued to all those admitted, and they must be worn at all times in the Count Centre.

Media Area

The Media Centre will be located in a separate designated area located on the **first floor**, overlooking the main Count Hall.

Accredited media representatives will be present within the Count Centre. This may include TV cameras and press photographers. Cameras will not be allowed to approach the counting tables or, in the case of television, to focus on the tables in close-up.

Information Point

A Media Liaison Officer will be available to answer any media enquiries.

Social Media

Updates from the Count will be posted on Twitter and Facebook.

If you wish to follow this Twitter feed then please follow @nmdcouncil.

Updates will also be posted on Facebook, please follow /nmdcouncil.

Twitter updates will also be posted on the NI Electoral Office twitter feed @eoni_official

Candidates, agents and observers may use mobile phones to view this information in the Count Centre but only outside the Count area.

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE COUNT FOR THE LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTION?

The Local Council Election Count will commence at 8.00am on Friday 3 May 2019 with the verification of the used ballot papers. **It is impossible to state with any certainty when the verification will be completed or at what time the Local Council Count will start. Media/broadcasters should bear this in mind when planning their schedules.**

The Verification and Count Process

This is a 'Single Transferrable Vote' Count whereby voters mark 1, 2, 3 and so on, in the order of their preference.

Verification

After the close of poll, the number of unused, spoilt and tendered ballot papers returned from polling stations will be reconciled overnight in the Count Centre.

The opening of the ballot boxes will begin at **8.00am on Friday 3 May**. The Count teams will reconcile the number of ballot papers found in each ballot box against the number recorded on the ballot paper account by the Presiding Officer. If the number of ballot papers recorded on the ballot paper account and the physical checks correspond, the verification of that box is complete. If they do not, the ballot papers will be recounted and the documentation checked until the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) is satisfied as to the actual number of ballot papers to be included in the count. This process will continue until all the ballot boxes have been verified.

On completion of the verification stage the Deputy Returning Officer will announce the following:

- eligible electorate
- total votes polled
- percentage turnout

Printed copies of the turnout figures will be available from the Media Liaison Officer immediately after the announcement and they will be displayed on smart TVs.

Mixing the Ballot Papers

The legislation specifies that the DRO shall not count the votes on any ballot papers until the whole of the ballot papers have been mixed.

First Stage

The counting of each candidate's ballot papers will not begin until the verification stage has been fully completed and the tables cleared. Each candidate's ballot papers will then be removed from the sorting frames and moved to the Count tables. The candidate's name will be displayed at each table to identify which papers are being counted by each Count team and the ballot papers will be kept face upwards at all times.

Doubtful Ballot Papers

All doubtful ballot papers will be moved from the sorting frames to the Doubtful Votes area on a continuous basis.

A ballot paper is deemed to be invalid if it:

- does not bear the official mark; or
- the figure 1 is not placed so as to indicate a first preference for any candidate; or
- the figure 1 indicating a first preference is set opposite the name of more than one candidate; or
- anything (other than the printed number and other unique identifying mark on the back of the paper) is written or marked by which the voter can be identified; or
- is unmarked or void for uncertainty

Adjudication Process

An announcement will be made on the PA system stating when the adjudication of the doubtful ballot papers will take place.

The DRO will show the candidates and agents each paper and give a provisional decision. They will hear any representations regarding their decision but the decision of the DRO is final.

Any ballot paper deemed to be acceptable for a particular candidate will be taken immediately to that candidate's table in the vote records area.

The DRO will endorse the word 'Rejected' on any ballot paper which is invalid and will add the words 'Rejection objected to' where an objection to their decision is made by an election agent or counting agent. There is no appeal against the decision of the DRO and candidates and agents are not permitted to put their own stamps on the ballot papers.

Reconciliation of Aggregate First Preference Vote

The total number of first preference votes for each candidate will be entered in the Candidate's Vote Record Sheet, after all the papers have been received in the Vote Records section.

The Vote Record Supervisor will:

- collect all the Vote Record Sheets showing the total number of votes for each candidate and the total number of rejected votes from the DRO;
- reconcile the aggregate first preference vote with the Count Calculator. These figures should total the number of ballot papers included in the count;
- the Deputy Returning Officer will discuss the first stage result with candidates and their election agents;
- when all invalid votes have been set aside, the total vote for each candidate and the total valid vote will be determined.

The Quota

When the aggregate first preference vote (the total valid vote) is agreed, the quota for the election will be determined by dividing the total valid vote by the number of seats to be filled plus one and increasing the result, ignoring any remainder, by one.

The quota will then be calculated using the following formula:

$$Q = \left\{ \frac{\text{total valid votes}}{\text{Number of seats in the DEA} + 1} \right\} \text{ ignore any fraction and add 1}$$

The DRO will advise the next step after the result of the first stage.

Recount

At the end of any stage of the count, candidates can request a recount, and this will be carried out. However, there is no obligation upon the DRO to carry out a second or further recount for that stage.

A request for a recount will only be acceded to if it is made when the stage has been finalised. As soon as the commencement of the next stage is formally announced any such request will be refused.

Declaration

The successful candidates will formally be declared elected by the DRO.

Media personnel will be given an advance warning before the Declaration of the Result announcement. Printed copies of the result will be available from the Media Liaison Officer after the announcement.

The following information will be available:

- the name of the candidates declared to be elected;
- the number of first preference votes for each candidate whether elected or not;
- the transfer of votes;
- the total number of votes for each candidate at each stage of the Count at which such transfer took place.

COUNT VENUE DETAILS

Car Parking Facilities

Car Parking facilities are available at Newry Leisure Centre from 7.15 am.

Start Time

Friday 3 May 2019: 8.00am

Saturday 4 May 2019: 9.00am

Count Centre Layout

See Appendix II.

Cafeteria and Refreshments

The café at the Leisure Centre will be open from 7.30am to 10.00pm should candidates, agents, accredited media personnel etc wish to avail of any refreshments.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

A risk assessment of the Count Centre has been carried out in advance of the count.

- The Leisure Centre has full disabled access and disabled parking spaces are available. Please notify the DRO in advance if any candidates will require assistance within the Count Centre.
- There is a No Smoking and No Alcohol policy in place.
- There is a First Aid area within the Count Centre.
- Council staff are available to assist and ensure that the Centre is evacuated safely in the event of an Emergency.

EVACUATION PROCEDURE

- There are no planned tests of the Fire Alarm during the duration of the Count.
- In the event of the Fire Alarm sounding you are to leave the Leisure Centre immediately by the nearest Fire Exit and make your way to the assembly area at the Leisure Centre. Anyone who may need particular assistance with evacuation should contact the DRO in advance so their requirements can be accommodated.
- You are to remain in the assembly area unless you are directed to somewhere else by either Deputy Returning Officer or Assistant Deputy Returning Officers.
- You are not to re-enter the building until told to do so.

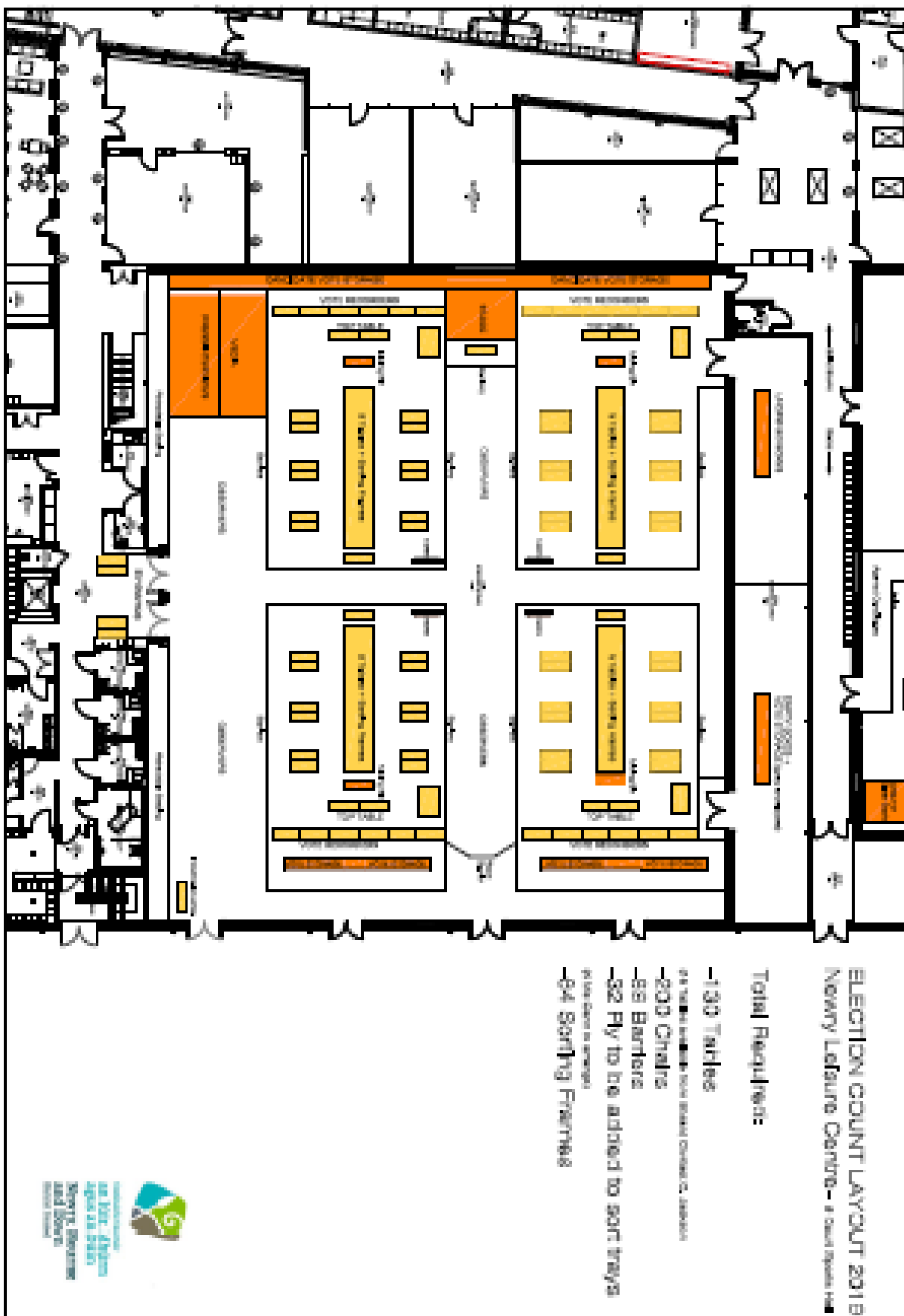
NOTIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT OF SECRECY

Your attention is drawn to the relevant provisions of paragraph 27 of Schedule 9 to the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962 which apply to this election, and in particular to the maximum penalty for anyone guilty of an electoral offence. Level 5 is currently set at £5,000. It is the policy of the Chief Electoral Officer to report to the police any person suspected of breaking any of these provisions.

- (2) Any person attending in any capacity at the count at any election shall be guilty of an electoral offence if he –
- (a) ascertains or attempts to ascertain at the count the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of any ballot paper; or
 - (b) at any time communicates any information obtained at the count as to the candidate for whom any vote is given on any particular ballot paper.

Section 111 (2A) (d) in the case of an offence under paragraph 27 of Schedule 9, a person guilty of an electoral offence at a local election shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.

COUNT CENTRE LAYOUT



SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA

- Newry, Mourne and Down is the third largest council in Northern Ireland, comprising more than 10% of the total land area of Northern Ireland.
- The Council has a combined population of approximately 177,000 citizens, 10% of all those living in Northern Ireland.
- 41 Councillors represent the Council's 41 wards in its seven District Electoral Areas.
- The Council is approximately 60 miles from Saintfield in the north to Crossmaglen in the south, and approximately 60 miles from Strangford in the east to Newtownhamilton in the west.
- Only 60 miles from Dublin and 40 minutes from Belfast, the main Belfast to Dublin transport corridor runs through the Council area with all the important economic benefits that come with it.
- The Council area includes three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty – Strangford & Lecale, Slieve Gullion, and the Mourne Mountains as well as 100 miles of coastline.
- The Council area has two major hospitals – Daisy Hill in Newry and the Downe in Downpatrick.
- Newry, Mourne and Down is famous for its myths, legends and stories including links to Ti Chulainn and Saint Patrick.
- The Mourne Mountains were the inspiration for CS Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia and the area is the location for Game of Thrones Winterfell, filmed at Castle Ward.

MAP OF THE COUNCIL AREA OF NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN



APPENDIX V

STATEMENT OF PERSONS NOMINATED AND NOTICE OF POLL FOR ALL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS

Crotlieve - <https://tinyurl.com/y6en2wbp>

Downpatrick - <https://tinyurl.com/y6t9w2q9>

Newry - <https://tinyurl.com/y3kk6nho>

Rowallane - <https://tinyurl.com/yxjpnror>

Slieve Croob - <https://tinyurl.com/y3sy4274>

Slieve Gullion - <https://tinyurl.com/y43epxel>

The Mournes - <https://tinyurl.com/yx9bav3h>

APPENDIX VI

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENTS OF ELECTION AGENTS FOR ALL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS

Crotlieve - <https://tinyurl.com/y45o839s>

Downpatrick - <https://tinyurl.com/y3jnfjnb>

Newry - <https://tinyurl.com/y3yjp5xs>

Rowallane - <https://tinyurl.com/y5zvfeq4>

Slieve Croob - <https://tinyurl.com/y3ah6fvv>

Slieve Gullion - <https://tinyurl.com/y5khdlw5>

The Mournes - <https://tinyurl.com/y6y9t84o>

