

DOOLEY HARTE
NIPSA HQ OFFICIAL

**PRESENTATION ON PROPOSALS TO CLOSE THE
REGIONAL ELECTORAL OFFICES**

BACKGROUND

- **Summer 2015 – Management inform NIPSA about budgetary pressures and possible implications**
- **January 2016 – NIPSA provided copy of proposals paper – preferred option is centralisation**
- **NIPSA seeks financial information to justify closure of regional electoral offices – denied**

INDUSTRIAL ACTION

- **NIPSA members balloted in April 2016**
 - 92% turnout**
 - 95% support strike action**
 - 100% support action short of strike action**
- **Meetings at Labour Relations Agency**
- **Strike on 03 & 07 June**

Political Engagement

- **Significant political support**
- **Motion debated and passed at NI Assembly**
- **Meetings with First & Deputy First Ministers**
- **Meetings with MPs, MLAs & Councillors**
- **Meetings sought with NI Affairs Committee and Secretary of State**

What Regional Electoral Offices Do

- **Assembly, Westminster and European Elections**
- **Referendums**
- **Electoral Identification**
- **Voter Registration**
- **Promoting Voter Participation**

Local Councils

- **Plans at early stage**
- **Chief Electoral Officer has spoken with all 11 Local Council Chief Executives**
- **Councils to take over all Elections**
- **Councils to provide an Electoral Identification service**
- **Councils to provide a Voter Registration service**

What Councils need to do?

- Remember the NI Assembly motion – retain six regional electoral offices
- Actively engage Chief Electoral Officer
- Get a fully costed business plan for transfer of any electoral services
- Respond to any Public Consultation process



Thank You

Any Questions?