

Anita Kenny

Subject: FW: Query re Membership of Education and Training Boards (ETBs) by local authorities
Attachments: Copy of wording of SI 244 of 2024 - Local Authority Members (Amendment) Regulations 2024.pdf

From: McDonagh, Mairead <mairead_mcdonagh@education.gov.ie>
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2024 3:35 PM
To: Anita Kenny <Anita.Kenny@galwaycity.ie>
Cc: Financialetb <financialetb@education.gov.ie>
Subject: RE: Query re Membership of Education and Training Boards (ETBs) by local authorities

You don't often get email from mairead_mcdonagh@education.gov.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Anita,

Thanks for your query below.

I am going to refer you to the ETB Act 2013 (Link below) and the wording of the SI 244 of 2024 (attached).

The wording of the SI 244 of 2024 refers to, **each local authority shall –**

- (a) establish a panel of candidates for election comprising of all the female members of the local authority who **seek election** to the education and training board concerned, and
- (b) establish a panel of candidates for election comprising of all the male members of the local authority who **seek election** to the education and training board concerned.

Depending on the circumstances that arise at any of the council meeting, the aim is for the gender balance to be reached by each local authority, however if no male members seek election to the board then it is not possible to compel them to go just to reach a gender balance. Following legal advise sought on this matter this year the SI was revised as compelling a member to be on a board was deemed inappropriate.

In relation to the wording in the ETB Act, Section 30 (5) (b);

(b) that, as far as practicable, a minimum number of women and a minimum number of men shall be elected from **each** local authority.

ETB Act 2013: <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2013/act/11/enacted/en/html>

So, in summary if no male member sought to be elected onto the ETB board then they cannot be compelled to be on the boards.

Let me know if you have any further queries.

Kind regards,

Mairéad McDonagh

Mairéad McDonagh

ETB Financial and Administrative Personnel Section

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