



# CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

## OBSERVER GUIDELINES

### WHO CAN ATTEND AS AN OBSERVER?

There are a limited number of spaces for observers. Observing would allow you to see how the Citizens' Assembly process functions. Due to the limited availability of space, priority will be given to certain stakeholders.

Priority stakeholders are:

- Elected representatives (including councilors, MLAs and MPs)
- Members of the press
- Advocacy & interest groups
- Academic researchers
- Members of staff of the Department of Health and the Health and Social Care Trusts

However, all expressions of interest, including those from individual members of the public, will be given due consideration.

### GUIDELINES FOR OBSERVERS

- Observers will be given access at plenary sessions only throughout both Citizens' Assembly weekends.
- An Observer Liaison Officer will be on hand to offer assistance and support to observers on the day.
- To safeguard the deliberative process, observers will be restricted to the observer spaces and will not be permitted to listen in to the table discussions.

- Citizens' Assembly members are participating anonymously. Observers must agree to respect this anonymity, and treat any personal details of members in the strictest confidence.
- Observers are not permitted to approach or contact any member of Citizens' Assembly. Any observer who attempts to do so, or to otherwise influence a members' views on the topic will be excluded from further attendance at Citizens' Assembly meetings.
- Observers must remain silent during all plenary sessions.
- Mobile phones are not permitted in any of the observer spaces.
- Failure to observe these procedures will result in immediate exclusion from all Citizens' Assembly proceedings.

Further enquiries should be directed to Rebekah McCabe, [rebekah@involve.org.uk](mailto:rebekah@involve.org.uk)

To register your interest in observing at the Citizens' Assembly, please complete [this form](#)