



**St Helena
Government**

ST HELENA GOVERNMENT

REPORT ON CONSULTATIVE POLL

Report on Consultative Poll

1. On 15th January 2021 this House resolved that a consultative poll be taken for two questions to be balloted as to a change in the system of government in Saint Helena.
2. Such poll was taken on 17th March 2021. Participation in the poll was open to all those on the Register of Electors and also those not on that register but being otherwise entitled to be were permitted to subscribe to a Supplemental List of Individuals for the purposes of this Poll only.
3. In total there were 2089 electors registers in the Register of Electors and 57 other persons who had registered to be added to the Register of Electors or otherwise were on a specific 'Supplemental List of Individuals' for this Poll; combined some 2146 persons were entitled to participate.
4. As resolved by this House the Consultative Poll consisted of two questions. Those casting ballots were entitled to answer either one, or both of the questions polled.
5. Polling Stations were in the eight districts of the island, and by districts returned the following number of ballots.

Votes Cast by District		
Jamestown	70	18.8% of total ballots cast
St Paul's	99	26.6% of total ballots cast
Half Tree Hollow	70	18.8% of total ballots cast
Alarm Forest	52	14.0% of total ballots cast
Levelwood	4	1.1% of total ballots cast
Sandy Bay	14	3.8% of total ballots cast
Blue Hill	17	4.6% of total ballots cast
Longwood	46	12.4% of total ballots cast

6. The results of the consultative poll were as follows:

Total number registered to vote	2146
Total turnout	372
Spoilt ballots	1
Total number of valid ballots	371
Turnout as a percentage of registered for the poll	17.3%

Q1: Do you want the current system of governance to be changed?		
Yes	286	Representing 79.2% of responses to Q1
No	75	Representing 20.8% of responses to Q1
Total Responses to Q1	361	Representing 97.3% of valid ballots

Q2: If the public will is for a change to the current system of governance, should the governance system be changed to:		
a) Revised Committee System	151	Representing 44.9% of responses to Q2
b) Ministerial System	185	Representing 55.1% of responses to Q2
Total responses to Q2	336	Representing 90.6% of Valid ballots.

7. This House will recall, including from considering its earlier Motion commissioning the poll, that there had been notable public engagement and publicity leading to the poll and going back some 18 months. Such publicity was included:

- (i) Prof Sarkin, an FCDO funded Governance expert, holding public meetings in September 2019 to gauge public interest in change and what are the options. This resulted in a report released into the public domain.
- (ii) Prof Sarkin held further public meetings in early 2020 to discuss his options for Governance change. His final report was released into the public domain.

- (iii) The Governance Commission in July held public meetings to discuss and go through their more detailed ideas on what the current system looks like, and how a Revised Committee system and a Ministerial System would work. This was released into the public domain. The Governance Commission did further outreach at work places and other institutions. The public were also encouraged to send in their views in writing.
- (iv) In the month's lead up to the Consultancy Poll, there was considerable publicity on the consultancy poll and the 3 options. This was through the two newspapers, websites, booklets, social media, and the radio. The Councilors also engaged with public meetings across all districts. This publicity focused on the three options as well as encouraging the public to vote. The public were also encouraged to send in any views / questions in writing.

