

Constitutional Convention - Members of the Public Recruitment Process

- During the month of July and early August 2012, a total of 66 citizens, representative of the population of the Republic of Ireland, was recruited by Behaviour & Attitudes for the Constitutional Convention.
- In addition, a ‘Shadow’ panel of 66 citizens was also recruited in precisely the same fashion, as a back-up to the core Citizens panel.
- A multi-staged sampling procedure was utilised to select the Core and Shadow panel members as follows:
 - The sample was first stratified across a total of 16 broad regions within the four standard areas of Dublin, Rest of Leinster, Munster and Connaught/Ulster.

The sample was distributed in this fashion to ensure a representative geographical spread of citizens, covering all of the main urban and rural population centres across the country.

- In addition to the geographical spread of the sample, detailed quotas were set in relation to age within gender, socio economic status, and working status.

The table below illustrates:

CORE TARGET	MALES					FEMALES					Class			Work			
	TOTAL	Male Targets				Female Targets					ABC1	C2DE	F	Full Time	Part Time	Rest	
		MALE	-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Female	-24	25-44	45-64							65+
	66	33	4	14	10	5	33	4	14	10	5	27	34	5	26	8	32
Dublin	19	9	1	4	3	1	10	1	4	4	1	10	9	0	8	2	9
Rest of Leinster	17	9	1	4	3	1	8	1	4	2	1	7	9	1	7	2	8
Munster	18	9	1	4	2	2	9	1	4	2	2	6	10	2	7	1	10
Connaught / Ulster	12	6	1	2	2	1	6	1	2	2	1	4	6	2	4	3	5

- All of the above quotas were set in accordance with the most recently available population estimates from the Central Statistics Office, and were applied so as to ensure that all types of individuals, from every socio economic background, age, and gender grouping was represented in their correct proportions.

- Within each of the 16 geographical strata, individuals were recruited to the panel at a series of pre-selected District Electoral Divisions, with the specific DEDs within each region again selected proportionate to the known population distribution across that region.
- Within each DED, interviewers began their surveying at a randomly generated starting address (drawn from the GeoDirectory) and proceeded within that DED to approach households until their quotas were achieved.
- A summary of the achieved core sample of citizens recruited is set down below for reference:

<u>CORE ACHIEVED</u>	MALES					FEMALES					Class			Work			
	TOTAL	MALE	- 24	25- 44	45- 64	65+	Female	- 24	25- 44	45- 64	65+	ABC1	C2DE	F	Full Time	Part Time	Resi
	66	33	4	14	10	5	33	4	14	10	5	27	34	5	26	8	32
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Munster	18	9	1	4	2	2	9	1	4	2	2	6	10	2	6	2	10
Connaught / Ulster	12	6	1	2	2	1	6	1	2	2	1	4	6	2	3	2	7

- Where the interviewer called to a home where nobody fitted the required quotas and/or nobody was interested in participating in the Convention, the interviewer called to a different home in the same area, until all quotas were achieved.
- All citizens professing an interesting in becoming a member of the Convention were given an informational booklet explaining what the Constitutional Convention was, who would be participating in it, how it would work throughout the year, and the type of issues that would be discussed at it.
- No monetary incentives were offered or provided to participating members, although they were told that their out of pocket expenses would be covered by the Convention.
- No exclusion criteria were imposed on the panel of citizens recruited in terms of membership of political parties, membership of lobby groups, levels of interest in social/political matters, etc.