**Executive Elections 2019**

**How do we look at complaints/incidents?**

The IRO in conjunction with the DRO’s are responsible for ensuring the rules of the election are kept to. When there are potential breaches of these regulations they conduct an investigation to establish what has happened and then decide on a suitable course of action. This is an explanation of principals that will be followed when conducting this work:-

* The level of evidence that is available to support a particular event and incident.
* What communication and guidance has been given on a particular issue
* What material impact the incident would have on the election, and is it likely to bring into question the fairness of the election.
* The seriousness of the offence
* The history of the conduct of the candidate/supporters.

**Other points to note**

* As part of this it is usual for the DRO’s to meet with candidates directly, it is important to note that this doesn’t necessarily mean that there is a problem.
* The IRO looks at all complaints that are submitted and is the only person who can either exclude a candidate or deduct votes.
* Only those issues brought to our attention prior to the close of voting can be examined.

**What are the possible outcomes if an offence is committed?**

* Suspension of campaigning for a period of time for candidate/s this can include face to face and online campaigning.
* An informal, formal or final written warning
* Expulsion from the election
* The deduction of a certain number of 1st choice votes.