

One of the core principles of the PAG Charter is that "The people have the right to elect Members of the Legislative Council"

It is at the very heart of the Reform Bill which Peter Karran will soon be presenting for a second reading in the House of Keys.

It proposes popular election to LegCo, on an all-Island basis, on or after 2018. The island will be regarded as a single constituency and the candidates with the highest number of votes will be elected.

An amendment to pay and conditions is included with remuneration pegged at 50% of that of MHKs.

In addition it states that no elected Member of the Legislative Council may serve as a Minister or as a member of a government Department.

This is the third such Bill to be drafted in 7 years, the others being the Constitution Bill 2007 and the Electoral Reform Bill 2011.

It may be that in 2014, with politicians being more than aware of the need to cut costs, this latest attempt may have struck the right formula at last.