

Jury Service

In 2013, the Commission published a [Report on Jury Service \(LRC 107-2013\)](#) (3rd Programme of Law Reform, Project 1), which followed its [Consultation Paper on Jury Service \(LRC CP 61-2010\)](#). The Report contains 56 recommendations and includes a draft Juries Bill intended to implement these. Among the recommendations in the Report are:

- jury panels should be based on the electoral registers for Dáil, local and European elections, which would allow not only Irish citizens but also EU citizens and other long-term residents (the Report recommends a minimum residency requirement of at least 5 years) to be selected for jury service. This would add about 200,000 persons to those qualified for jury service.
- the existing blanket excusal from jury service “as of right” for many professionals and public servants should be repealed, and be replaced by an individualised excusal “for good cause.”
- jurors should be allowed deferral of service for up to 12 months to facilitate those who have good reasons to decline jury service when they are initially summoned for jury service.
- a person with a disability should be eligible for jury service unless, taking account of permissible and practicable assisted decision-making supports and accommodation that are consistent with the right to a trial in due course of law, the disability would mean that he or she could not perform the duties of a juror. The Report also recommends that specific research should be conducted on this matter. This research should examine developing codes, standards and practical experience from other jurisdictions, and should then determine whether it would be feasible to apply these in the jury system in Ireland.
- a modest daily flat rate payment should be paid to jurors to cover their travel and subsistence costs; and the government should consider what other means could be used to alleviate the financial burden that jury service involves for small businesses and self-employed persons, including the use of tax credits and insurance.
- a court should be allowed to empanel up to 3 additional jurors where the judge estimates that the trial will extend beyond three months.
- research should be carried out on matters such as jury representativeness, juror comprehension, juror management and juror capacity and competence. This research should be subject to appropriate confidentiality safeguards to ensure that jury deliberations are not revealed.