

**Reference No:** E124/63/24;     **Date:** 03/07/1925

**Circular 23/1925:- Civil Servants as candidates for seats in the Oireachtas and on Local Councils**  
A Dhuine Uasail,

I am directed by the Minister for Finance to call attention to the fact that under Sections 51 and 57 of the Electoral Act, 1923, (No.12 of 1923) "a person either temporarily or permanently in the Civil Service of Saorstát Eireann unless he is by the terms of his employment expressly permitted to be a member" is incapable of being elected or sitting as a member of the Dail or Seanad.

2.     The question of the eligibility of Civil Servants for election to membership of Local Authorities has recently been under consideration, and I am now to inform you that it has been decided that no Civil Servant, permanent, temporary, or part time, is in future to be permitted to become a candidate for, or to serve on, a County Council, County or other Borough Council, Urban District Council, Rural District Council, Board of Guardians, Town Commissioners, or other Local Authority.

3.     The Minister directs me to state that in accordance with these authorities any person in the Civil Service of the State seeking a seat in the Oireachtas or on a Local Council shall, when his intention to become a candidate is formed, immediately notify the Head of his Department thereof and shall resign his office so soon as he issues his address to the electors, or accepts nomination, or in any other manner announces himself, or causes himself to be announced, as a candidate for election.

4.     In the case of any member of the Civil Service who through not having received a notification of the official intention in the matter, has already accepted membership of a local body as the result of elections held in the past, the prohibition in this Circular will not apply, and such membership may continue on the understanding, however, that it is conveyed in writing to any person in your Department concerned, that this concession does not imply permission to take part in any matter in which political issues are involved and, of course, applies only to his present membership and not to any future election.

5.     I am to request that the contents of this Circular generally should be conveyed to all staffs serving in your Department from time to time for their information and guidance.

Mise le meas

H.P. Boland