

A Two-Minute Political Statement by Stephen T Manning Independent Candidate for the Mayo Constituency

Our TD's are amongst the highest paid politicians in the world – and WE, the public, are footing the bill. The very least we deserve is **SOME** measure of openness, transparency and accountability, and **SOME** respect for the will of the people.



The major political parties have had 100 years to get it right, but all we get is broken promises, cronyism, corruption and criminal cover-ups, and costly investigations and so-called 'tribunals of inquiry' that all-but guarantee impunity for the wrongdoers.

Certainly, the genuine interests of the country are way down the list of priorities for those in exalted positions of power and authority, where incompetence, arrogance and waste is endemic. If these people can't even solve the hospital trolley crisis or the Irish Water debacle, then what on earth are we doing asking them to run the country?

100 years after the Easter Rising and we are right back where we started – with a cabal of vested interests and unscrupulous authority figures plundering the country for their own benefit. The only difference between then and now is that THEN we *knew* who the enemy was. Then, there were NO venal conspirators masquerading as 'elected representatives'; there were NO false pledges and political promises being broken; and NO pretence that 'they' *weren't* there to systematically oppress and exploit us.

Ireland's most accomplished thieves now lie to us with Irish accents, and do so with unabashed contempt, backed by complicit State Agencies and a politically-appointed judiciary. Confronted by their own brazen duplicity, their trickery and their deceptions, there is no shame, no contrition, and no genuine remorse for this appalling betrayal of their mandates to serve the people, and of the privileged positions they hold.

It's time for a radical change in Irish politics, and time to deliver genuine democracy to the people. Clearly, we cannot depend on 'them' (the major political parties and their cronies) to do the delivering. So please, vote wisely this year. Vote for people of conscience and integrity who WILL put the people, the Country and their own consciences first.



Surely Ireland - enough is enough!?

Check out *Integrity Ireland* and the innovative *One Year Initiative* and let's make 2016 a year that we can ALL be *truly* proud of!



"One by one – together – we CAN make a difference!"