

“ENCOURAGING VOTES-FOR-LIFE NEWS” SAYS BORIS JOHNSON ELECTORAL OPPONENT

Tucked away in yesterday’s budget paper, under the heading **Supporting the most affected** paragraph 2.41 announces:

Overseas Electors – The government is providing an additional £2.5 million to remove the limit preventing British citizens who live overseas from voting after 15 years.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/budget-2021-documents>

The BBC reports a Treasury spokesman saying the necessary legislation would be laid before Parliament later this year:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-56265898>

“**This is an encouraging sign,**” says William Tobin.

Tobin stood in Boris Johnson’s constituency in the 2019 General Election. With the slogan “Don’t Vote Tobin – Let Tobin Vote” his aim was to highlight three groups excluded from UK elections:

- **3 million** Brits living overseas (like him) disenfranchised because of the 15-year rule.
- **2½ million** foreign nationals permanently resident in the UK. Like everyone, they contribute to British society and pay VAT and other taxes.
- **1½ million** emergent adults (16- & 17-year olds) who *can* vote in Scottish & Welsh elections and the Crown dependencies (Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man).

“For many of us ‘most affected,’ Brexit has churned up our lives and we had no say. This isn’t fair, this isn’t democratic. Like the suffragettes before us, we deserve a say over our own lives.”

“However the Conservatives have been promising overseas electors votes since 2015, and in 2019 allowed enabling legislation to be filibustered. Despite the optimistic budget news for people like me, I shall believe ‘votes-for-life’ only when the legislation receives Royal Assent. And I weep for the 4 million others whom the Government plans to keep without a vote.”

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Campaign:

Web page <https://tobin.pagesperso-orange.fr/>
(flyer, media coverage, high-res photos, and I’m Standing! – Tobin’s account of his candidacy)

Twitter https://twitter.com/@Dont_Vote_Tobin

