

25th March 2013

Dear Christine McDonald

Thankyou for the invitation to provide a submission regarding Citizens Initiative Referendum.

I completely support this Bill because I regard a country which denies CIR to be an incomplete democracy. Admittedly we are better off than many other countries but that is no excuse for rejecting that which I would describe as a right.

In Switzerland where CIR has been a permanent feature since federation, it has produced a parliament where members are acutely aware of the wishes of their constituents. The fact they can be brought to task without waiting for the next election makes them more aware of public opinion. There is a tendency for smaller parties to form and disband without forced allegiance to issues dictated by party leaders. This in itself is a good thing, our parliamentarians appear to act like large corporations where the overriding requirement is increased profit instead of the overall good of the community.

Had CIR been in place we might not have become involved in the recent foreign wars, which continue to this day: our government might have been forced to demand the release of David Hicks, instead of slavishly following Washington: taken a more serious view and action over the loss of industry going off shore: implemented greater control over foreign activities such as mining and agriculture in our country: stopped the sale of public property to private interests: and provided considerably more support for Julian Assange. In the latter case I must point out Britain denied Spain's request for the extradition of General Pinochet who committed many far worse crimes than Assange. What crime has he committed anyway? And what harm has he done?. My, admittedly limited, knowledge of the Swedish charge against him, sounds like rubbish.

The above and many other issues are rightfully of interest to our citizens, and Citizens Initiative Referendum will give them the opportunity to demand immediate action from our elected representatives. Note, elected they may be, but in my opinion they rarely respect our views, a sore point which could be redressed by CIR.

Once again thankyou for the opportunity to get this off my chest.

Yours sincerely

William Mildren

