

Letter to Editor of *The Irish Examiner*

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A chara,

The parachuting of Pat Cox, former Fianna Fáil, Progressive Democrat and independent politician and latest blow-in to the ranks of Fine Gael to contest the presidential election, should be treated with the contempt it deserves.

As a hitherto non-party member of Fine Gael and by virtue of his status as a former president of the European Parliament, former MEP and TD, Cox is regarded as having a better chance of being elected President of Ireland than Gay Mitchell and Mairéad McGuinness. Following so closely on the parachuting of former RTÉ finance guru George Lee and GAA President Seán Kelly to represent FG at national and EU level, is political chicanery at its worst.

Do our politicians never learn? Have they forgotten about the attempted shoehorning of Orla Guerin, late of RTÉ fame, to contest the European elections on behalf of the Labour Party in 1994? Ms Guerin was rejected by the electorate who rightly took exception to being regarded as automatons by then Labour leader Dick Spring. As it transpired, Ms Guerin's cough was well and truly softened and we the electorate in our innocence foolishly believed that parish pump political nominations were to be confined to the graveyard of political has-beens and never-weres. How wrong we were. It seems that Fine Gael's appetite for personality politics and scatter-gun candidate selection has not yet been sated.

Is mise,

Tom Cooper,
Cathaoirleach,
INC