



PeopleTalk?


Citizen-Juries Shaping Government

The Jury Handbook

www.peopletalk.ie

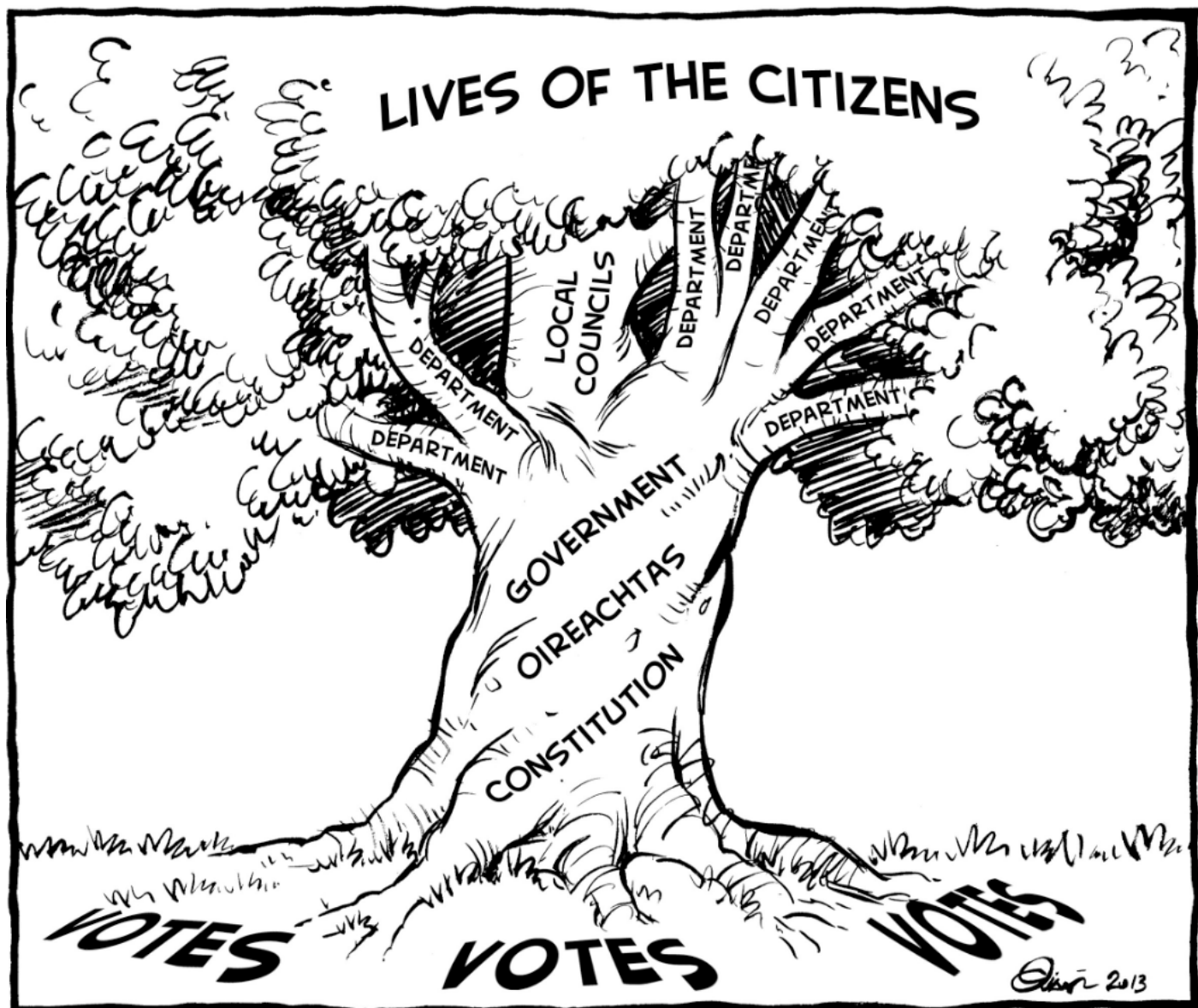




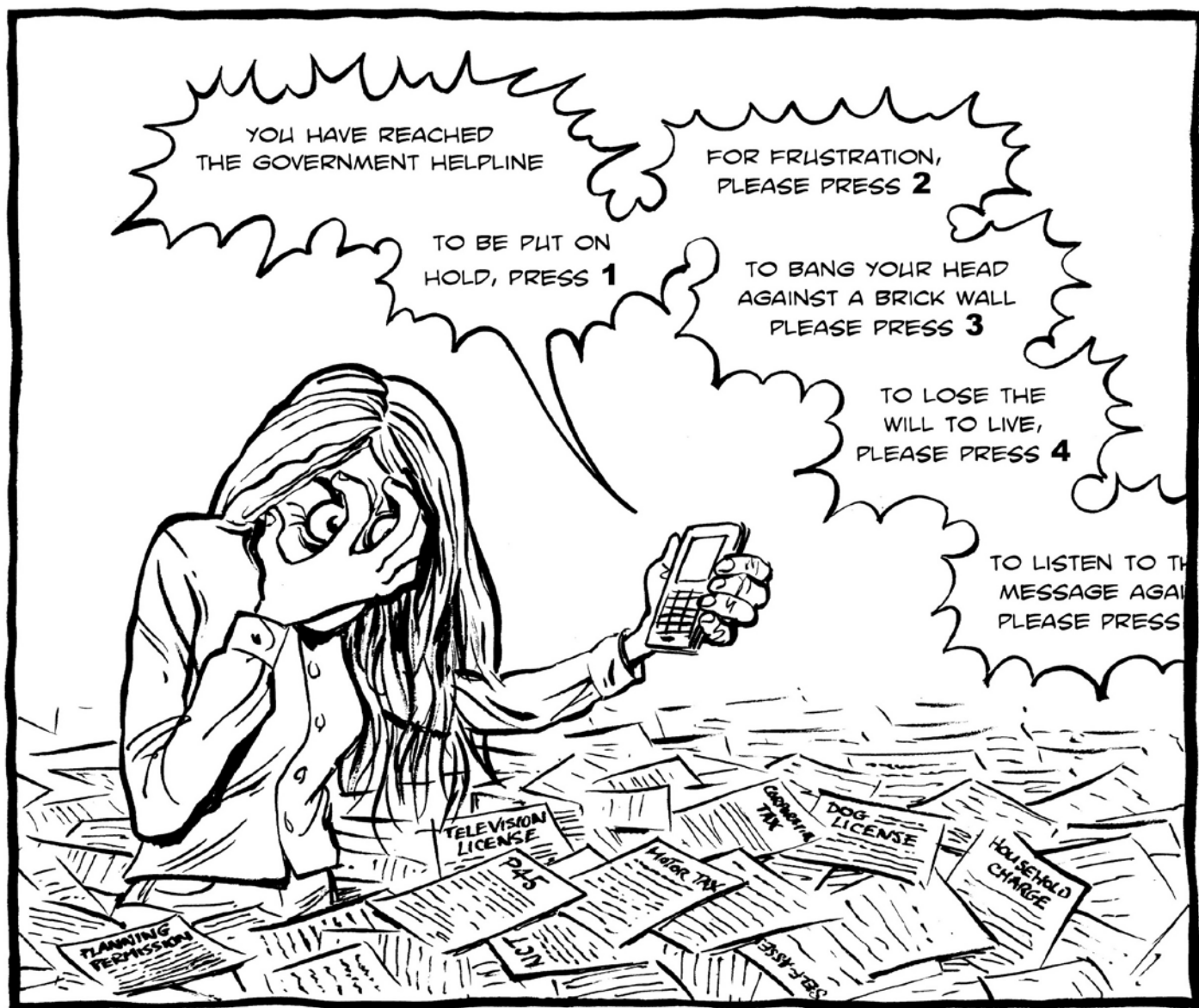


**Something painful
has happened
to our democracy.**



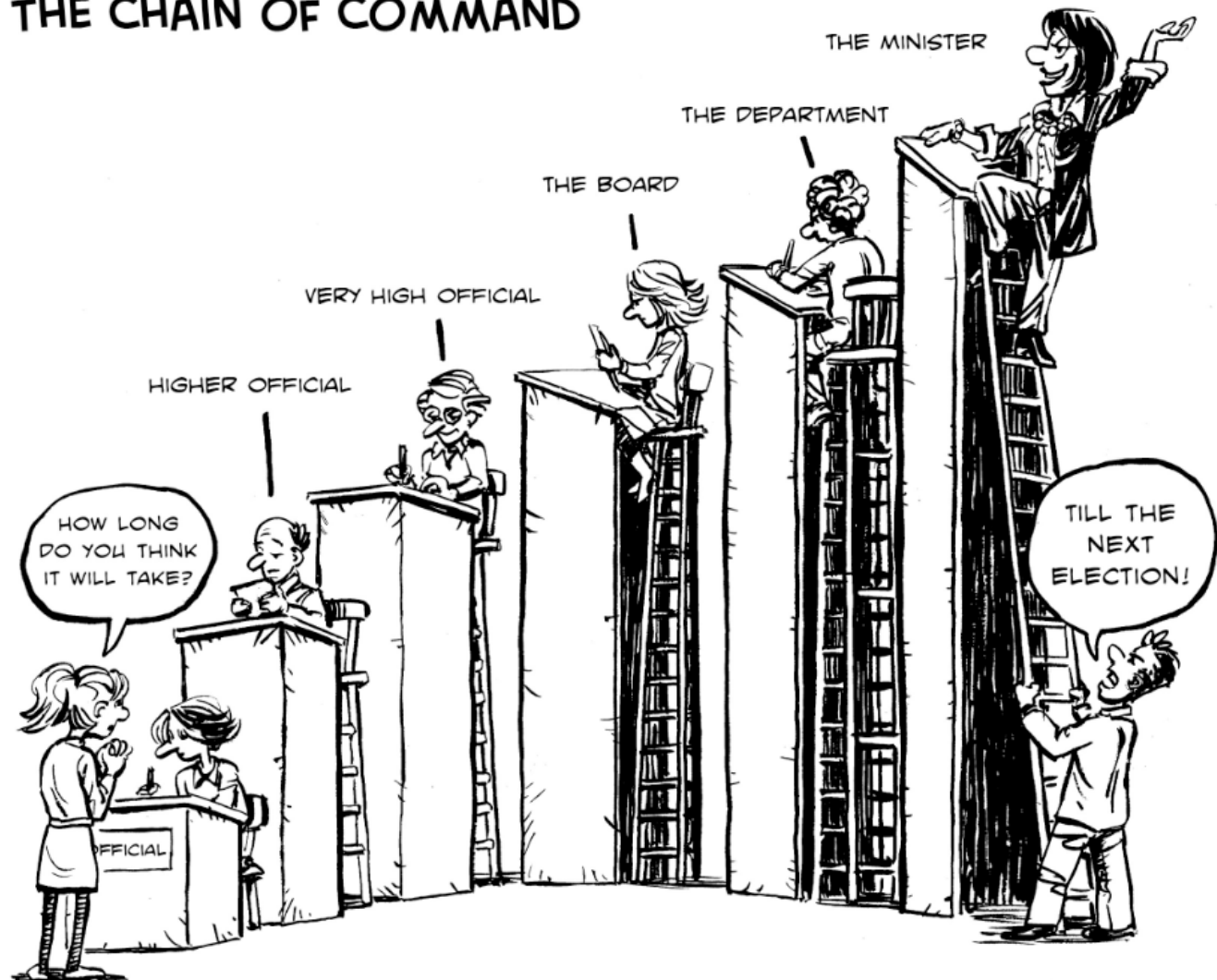


Government has grown and grown til all its branches have got tangled up in our lives



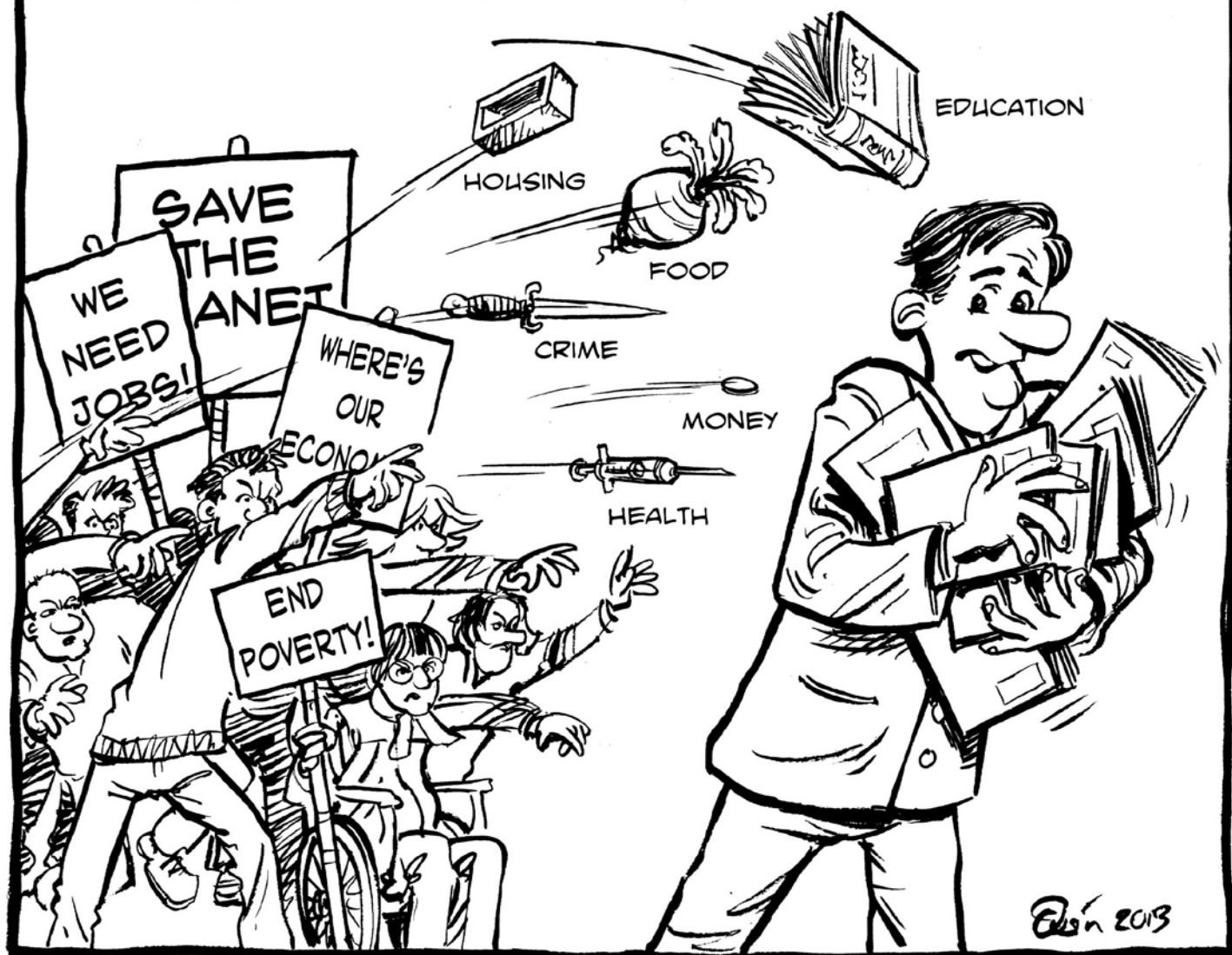
It has all become so knotted-up that we are left feeling frustrated and bewildered

THE CHAIN OF COMMAND



Sometimes we surrender and start pleading for help and other times we demand to know who is to blame so that they can be punished.

THE CONCERNS OF GOVERNMENT



Anger and opposition are the fuel in the machine of democracy but, if anger is getting us nowhere, then we need to stop and think.

The PeopleTalk Jury

**is an attempt to stop and think
so that we can**

**rebuild trust in
public life**

and bring

a citizen's view

**to bear on the reform
of the public sector.**





Why a Jury?

- **Familiar...**

- ...goes back centuries

- **Respected...**

- ...no loss of credibility

- **Straightforward...**

- ...come together, does the job, disbands


- **Recognised...**

- ...national and local endorsement





Our Principles

- 1. An independent voice**
 - 2. Act boldly, but listen**
 - 3. We don't have every answer**
 - 4. Don't just listen, learn**
 - 5. Everyone matters**
- 

The Two Questions:




1. How can government organise itself better to serve us, the citizens?
2. How can citizens have a greater say in the design and delivery of public services?

TIME

- Not more than a half-day a month
- Not longer than two years.

DECISIONS

- Agreement of everyone
 - Failing that, 10/2 majority
- 

Four Tasks

1. Public listening sessions six electoral areas
2. 'Mapping' the issues
3. Conversations Politicians, Public Service Managers, Plenary Session
4. Practical proposals for change

Support

FACILITATION to help Jury work together effectively

RECORD KEEPING of insights and developments

EVENT ADMINISTRATION for widest possible contact

RESEARCH to answer questions from jury



What Peopletalk Needs

- **RESPECT FOR OTHERS**

Is it about 'me'/'us'... or 'people'?

- **LISTENING**

If nobody listens, who will be heard?

- **SPEAKING YOUR MIND**

If nobody speaks, who will learn?

- **GETTING AGREEMENT**

Without it, where are we?



We All Have Our Off Days!

- **‘MY BRILLIANT IDEA’**

Is it me or my idea that’s ‘brilliant?’

- **‘MY VAST EXPERIENCE’**

Have I learnt from it
or do I love talking about it?

- **‘MY NOBLE CONSCIENCE’**

Does it trouble me
or am I just making trouble?

- **CONDEMNATION FROM A DISTANCE**

Is the person I accuse present to defend themselves?
Is my accusation true?

- **EMPTY SEATS**

Can’t attend? Send apologies.
Can’t continue? Let someone else do it.







PeopleTalk

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