



## Constituency Commission

# Report on Dáil Constituencies, 2004

An Coimisiún um Thoghlaigh

Tuarascáil ar Thoghlaigh  
Dáilcheantair, 2004

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- A. Recommended Dáil constituencies outside Dublin.
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# 1 Summary of Recommendations

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The Constituency Commission recommends:

- That total Dáil membership should remain at 166, arranged in 43 constituencies (42 at present). The additional constituency arises from the recommendation to allocate an extra seat to County Meath and divide it into two constituencies, embracing part of County Westmeath.
- An increase of one seat in Dáil representation for the Kildare North and the Dublin Mid-West constituencies.
- A reduction of one seat in Dáil representation for the Cork North-Central and Dublin North-Central constituencies and for counties Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon and Longford combined.
- The establishment of new constituencies named Sligo-North Leitrim (3 seats), Roscommon-South Leitrim (3 seats) and Longford-Westmeath (4 seats). This constituency formation brings to an end the breach of a provincial boundary inherent in the existing Longford-Roscommon constituency.
- Changes to ten of the twelve Dublin constituencies.
- Changes to eleven other constituencies, viz. Clare, Cork North-West, Cork South-Central, Cork South-West, Donegal North-East and South-West, Kerry North and South, Limerick East and West, and Kildare South.

The following points about the Commission's recommendations are relevant:

- National average representation based on the 2002 population and the recommended 166 seats is 23,598 population per TD. The highest number of persons per TD in the recommended constituencies is 25,455 in the (unchanged) Louth constituency (i.e. a variance of +7.87% from national average representation). The lowest number of persons per member is 21,828 in the (unchanged) Cavan-Monaghan constituency (i.e. a variance of -7.50% from national average representation).
- Two new breaches of county boundaries are involved in counties Leitrim and Westmeath.
- Twelve 5-seat constituencies are proposed (14 at present):  
Carlow-Kilkenny, Cavan-Monaghan, Cork South-Central, Dublin South, Dublin South-Central, Dún Laoghaire, Galway West, Laois-Offaly, Limerick East, Mayo, Wexford and Wicklow.
- Thirteen 4-seaters are proposed (12 at present):  
Clare, Cork East, Cork North-Central, Dublin Central, Dublin Mid-West, Dublin North, Dublin South-East, Dublin South-West, Galway East, Kildare North, Longford-Westmeath, Louth, and Waterford.
- Eighteen 3-seaters are proposed (16 at present):  
Cork North-West, Cork South-West, Donegal North-East, Donegal South-West, Dublin North-Central, Dublin North-East, Dublin North-West, Dublin West, Kerry North, Kerry

South, Kildare South, Limerick West, Meath East, Meath West, Roscommon-South Leitrim, Sligo-North Leitrim, Tipperary North and Tipperary South.

- A formal definition of each recommended Dáil constituency is contained in the First Appendix. Statistics in relation to the recommended and existing Dáil constituencies are given in the Second and Third Appendices respectively. Electoral divisions recommended for transfer between constituencies are listed in the Fourth Appendix. Organisations and persons who presented submissions are listed in the Fifth Appendix. Small-scale maps illustrating new and revised constituencies are included in the text and large-scale maps showing all 43 constituencies and Dublin area constituencies are at the back of the report.

INSERT MAP 1 IRELAND HERE—————

# 2 Establishment and procedure of Commission

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## 2.1 General

Following the publication in July 2003 of Volume 1 of Census 2002 (Population Classified by Area), the Constituency Commission was established\* on 9 July 2003 under Part II of the Electoral Act 1997 (“the 1997 Act”). The Commission’s remit is to make a report in relation to the constituencies for the election of members to Dáil Éireann and to the European Parliament. The Commission’s report on European Parliament constituencies was published on 7 October, 2003 (Prn. 1002).

The Constituency Commission is the second commission established under the 1997 Act. The report of the first statutory commission, together with those of the five earlier non-statutory Dáil constituency commissions, are listed in the Sixth Appendix.

This report contains the Commission’s recommendations in relation to the constituencies for the election of members to the Dáil. The Commission’s terms of reference, set out in section 6 of the 1997 Act, are as follows:

“A Constituency Commission shall, in observing the relevant provisions of the Constitution in relation to Dáil constituencies, have regard to the following:

- (a) the total number of members of the Dáil, subject to Article 16.2.2 of the Constitution, shall be not less than 164 and not more than 168;
- (b) each constituency shall return three, four or five members;
- (c) the breaching of county boundaries† shall be avoided as far as practicable;
- (d) each constituency shall be composed of contiguous areas;
- (e) there shall be regard to geographic considerations including significant physical features and the extent of and the density of population in each constituency; and
- (f) subject to the above provisions, the Commission shall endeavour to maintain continuity in relation to the arrangement of constituencies.”

## 2.2 Commission membership

The Hon. Mr. Justice Vivian Lavan, a Judge of the High Court, was nominated by the Chief Justice as chairman of the Commission. The other members are Mr. Kieran Coughlan, Clerk of the Dáil; Ms. Deirdre Lane, Clerk of the Seanad; Mr. Niall Callan, Secretary-General of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government; and Ms. Emily O’Reilly, the Ombudsman. The Commission held 10 meetings.

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\*Establishment Order made by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (S.I. No. 292 of 2003).

†Under section 6(4) of the 1997 Act, this reference to county boundaries does not include a reference to city boundaries or the boundaries between the local government counties of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin.



## 2.3 Status of Commission

In accordance with section 9 of the 1997 Act, the Commission must present its report to the Chairman of the Dáil. The constitutional position is that the number of members of Dáil Éireann must be fixed from time to time by law and that the constituencies for which they are elected must be determined by law and revised by the Oireachtas at least once in every twelve years. Thus, the final determination of the constituencies for Dáil Éireann is a matter for the Oireachtas to prescribe in legislation: the Commission's role is advisory.

## 2.4 Submissions

The Commission invited written submissions in relation to both Dáil and European constituencies by way of notices in the daily newspapers on 24 July 2003 and in the Irish language in "Foinse" on 27 July 2003. The notice, a copy of which is in the Seventh Appendix, was also published in "Iris Oifigiúil" on 1 August. We also invited submissions from each member of the Dáil, Seanad and the European Parliament, registered political parties and the returning officers for the Dáil constituencies.

In accordance with section 10 of the 1997 Act, we prepared a statement concerning constitutional provisions relating to Dáil constituencies and population statistics relating to Dáil and European constituencies. A copy of the statement is included in the Eighth Appendix. This statement was published on the Commission's website and issued to interested parties on request.

A list of 99 organisations and persons who made submissions about Dáil constituencies is in the Fifth Appendix. Most submissions related to particular constituencies or issues but some presented schemes of constituencies covering the whole country. The Commission took account of the submissions in drawing up its recommendations and gratefully acknowledges the time and effort taken by all those who made submissions.

## 2.5 [www.constituency\\_commission.ie](http://www.constituency_commission.ie)

For the first time the Commission set up a website to facilitate public access to material relating to its remit. Included on the website are the text of the 1997 Act, the Commission's Establishment Order, the statement concerning constitutional provisions relating to Dáil constituencies and population statistics relating to Dáil and European constituencies, and this Commission's 2003 report on European Parliament constituencies. The current report will also be included on the website.

A total of 626 visits were made to the website from 1 July to 7 December 2003.

## 2.6 Support Services

The Franchise Section of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government provided the necessary support services to the Commission. We wish to record our appreciation of the prompt and efficient service provided by our Secretary, Peter Greene, and by Gabriel O'Duffy and the other staff of the Section. We also wish to express our appreciation of the support which we received from the Director General of the Central Statistics Office and the Chief Executive Officer of Ordnance Survey, Ireland.

# 3 Constitutional provisions and equality of representation

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## 3.1 Equality of representation

The overriding principles relating to the revision of Dáil constituencies are set out in Article 16 of the Constitution, which provides that:

“The number of members shall from time to time be fixed by law, but the total number of members of Dáil Éireann shall not be fixed at less than one member for each thirty thousand of the population, or more than one member for each twenty thousand of the population.” (Article 16.2.2°)

“The ratio between the number of members to be elected at any time for each constituency and the population of each constituency, as ascertained at the last preceding census, shall, so far as it is practicable, be the same throughout the country” (Article 16.2.3°), and

“The Oireachtas shall revise the constituencies at least once in every twelve years, with due regard to changes in distribution of the population....”. (Article 16.2.4°).“

The constitutional requirements were considered by the High Court in the case of *O’Donovan v The Attorney General* (1961 I.R. Page 114) and by the Supreme Court in the reference case “*In re Article 26 and the Electoral (Amendment) Bill, 1961*” (1961 I.R. Page 169).

Dealing with the principle of equality of representation in the High Court case, Mr Justice Budd stated, in relation to sub-clause 2.3 of Article 16, that:

“The primary aim and object of the sub-clause is thus to achieve equality of ratio and representation; that is the dominant principle. It is qualified only by the lesser considerations of practicability.”

In its judgement in the reference case, the Supreme Court stated in relation to sub-clause 2.3 of Article 16:

“The sub-clause recognises that exact parity in the ratio between members and the population of each constituency is unlikely to be obtained and is not required. The decision as to what is practicable is within the jurisdiction of the Oireachtas. It may reasonably take into consideration a variety of factors, such as the desirability so far as possible to adhere to well-known boundaries such as those of counties, townlands and electoral divisions. The existence of divisions created by such physical features as rivers, lakes and mountains may also have to be reckoned with. The problem of what is practicable is primarily one for the Oireachtas, whose members have a knowledge of the problems and difficulties to be solved which this Court cannot have. Its decision should not be reviewed by this Court unless there is a manifest infringement of the Article. This Court cannot, as is suggested, lay down a figure above or below which a variation from what is called the national average is not permitted. This, of course, is not to say that a Court cannot be informed of the difficulties and may not pronounce on whether there has been such a serious divergence from uniformity as to violate the requirements of the Constitution.”

The constitutional requirements in relation to equality of representation, as interpreted by the Supreme Court, allow for departures from national average representation where this is warranted by factors referred to in the above extract from its judgement. The Court rejected the view that an all but mathematical parity of ratio is to be attained. It construed the sub-clause as meaning that a parity of ratio of members to population in the constituencies, throughout the country is to be attained by the Oireachtas as far as that is capable of being carried into action in a practical way having regard to such practical difficulties as exist and may legitimately, having regard to the

context and the provisions of the Constitution generally, be taken into consideration. We formulated our recommendations on this basis, noting that previous commissions recommended, and the Oireachtas enacted into law, constituencies involving variances from national average representation in excess of 5% where this was justified by the circumstances of particular cases. The maximum variances recommended by previous non-statutory commissions and enacted into law were +7.61% in the Louth constituency (1990 commission) and -7.89% in the constituency of Mayo East (1983 commission). The variances from national average representation in the constituencies recommended in this report are within these absolute limits.

## **3.2 Terms of Reference**

The Commission's statutory terms of reference are reproduced in Chapter 2. Section 6 of the 1997 Act makes it clear that these are subordinate to the relevant Constitutional provisions.

## **3.3 Total Dáil membership**

Article 16.2.2° of the Constitution provides that the total number of members of Dáil Éireann shall not be fixed at less than one member for each 30,000 of the population or at more than one member for each 20,000 of the population. The population ascertained at the 2002 census was 3,917,203 and, on this basis, total Dáil membership could be fixed at any number between 130 and 196. Our statutory terms of reference, however, limit us to the same range of 164 to 168 seats that applied to all previous Dáil commissions.

Total Dáil membership has stood at 166 since 1980, a level determined on the basis of the 1979 population of 3,368,217. The population increased by 291,116 (+8%) in the most recent intercensal period (1996-2002) and the 2002 population is 548,986 (+16.3%) more than in 1979. Thus, the national average population per TD is 23,598 now compared to 20,290 in 1979.

We received submissions arguing for and against changing the total number of seats. However, after detailed consideration, we decided not to recommend any change because we were satisfied that the present level of membership allowed for a reasonable arrangement of constituencies in accordance with the relevant constitutional provisions and our terms of reference.

## **3.4 Overall approach to revision**

The Commission reviewed each constituency, having regard to the relevant constitutional requirements and its terms of reference. We gave particular attention to constituencies with variances exceeding 5% from national average representation. Where an adjustment was necessary, we examined the available options and have recommended an arrangement which we consider reasonable and practicable.

A table showing constituency size and total Dáil membership since 1923 is in the Ninth Appendix.

In relation to the requirement to avoid breaching county boundaries as far as practicable, we adopted the same view as previous commissions that joining two entire counties in a single constituency does not constitute a breach of the boundary between them. We were not required to avoid breaching city boundaries, or the boundaries between the local government counties in Dublin. The constituency formation we recommend involves new breaches of county boundaries

in Leitrim and Westmeath, while the existing breaches of county boundaries are retained — these are referred to in Chapter 4.

Although the issue of breaching a provincial boundary is not adverted to in our terms of reference, the constituency arrangement we recommend for the area stretching from Sligo to Meath involves the replacement of the Longford-Roscommon constituency, bringing to an end the breach of the Connacht/Leinster boundary inherent in that constituency.

Our terms of reference required us to endeavour to maintain continuity in relation to the arrangement of constituencies, subject to the constitutional requirements and the other terms of reference. While continuity of representation can be achieved where constituencies remain substantially unchanged over a relatively long period, the major governing factor influencing change is the level of population in a constituency relative to the level of population in other constituencies. Consequently, on the assumption that the population continues to increase but that distribution of this increase is uneven across the country, significant changes may be necessary, including breaching county and provincial boundaries.

Overall, we did not set out with a preconceived view as to the number and location of the different sizes of constituency but, in complying with the constitutional requirements and our terms of reference, we endeavoured to suit the constituency size to the population and particular circumstances of each locality. Thus, we recommend two new 3-seat constituencies covering counties Sligo, Leitrim and Roscommon due to population shortfalls in the existing constituencies there and the desirability of aligning new constituency boundaries with major physical features. We also recommend two new 3-seaters in Meath where the rising population merits Dáil representation of 6 seats in place of the existing 5-seat constituency.

# 4 Dáil constituencies where no change is recommended

## 4.1 Introduction

We recommend no change in fifteen Dáil constituencies. In reaching this decision, we had regard to the desirability of avoiding new breaches of county boundaries, significant physical features, maintaining continuity and the effect which adjustments to improve the average representation in some of these constituencies would have on adjoining constituencies.

The constituencies concerned are shown in the map on page 7 and also in the large-scale map at the back of the report. They are listed below in descending order of variance size:

| Constituency      | Number of TDs | 2002 Population | Population per TD | % variance from national average representation of 23,598 |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| Louth             | 4             | 101,821         | 25,455            | +7.87%  |
| Waterford         | 4             | 100,125         | 25,031            | +6.07%  |
| Carlow-Kilkenny   | 5             | 122,720         | 24,544            | +4.01%  |
| Laoighis-Offaly   | 5             | 122,437         | 24,487            | +3.77%  |
| Dublin South-East | 4             | 97,096          | 24,274            | +2.86%  |
| Tipperary South   | 3             | 71,125          | 23,708            | +0.47%  |
| Galway West       | 5             | 118,370         | 23,674            | +0.32%  |
| Wicklow           | 5             | 118,309         | 23,662            | +0.27%  |
| Mayo              | 5             | 117,446         | 23,489            | -0.46%  |
| Tipperary North   | 3             | 70,427          | 23,476            | -0.52%  |
| Wexford           | 5             | 116,596         | 23,319            | -1.18%  |
| Dún Laoghaire     | 5             | 116,286         | 23,257            | -1.44%  |
| Cork East         | 4             | 90,845          | 22,711            | -3.76%  |
| Galway East       | 4             | 90,707          | 22,677            | -3.90%  |
| Cavan-Monaghan    | 5             | 109,139         | 21,828            | -7.50%  |

Some of these constituencies call for individual comment as set out below.

## 4.2 Louth constituency (+7.87%)

The Louth constituency is co-terminous with the county boundary. Its population is high for its allocation of 4 seats, resulting in a variance from national average representation of +7.87%. The population is, however, more than 10,000 short of the minimum required for 5 TDs and more than 16,000 short of the population required for 5 seats to equal national average representation.

We considered transferring some Louth territory to support an extra seat in Meath but the new Longford–Westmeath constituency would then require adjustment as the population of the two counties is too high for the recommended allocation of 4 seats. We also considered increasing Louth’s seat allocation to 5 and supporting it with population from Meath. However, this could not be justified as Meath’s population gives that county a greater claim on an extra seat than Louth.

We considered the possibility of territory and/or seat transfers between the Louth and Cavan–Monaghan constituencies as the latter’s population is low for its allocation of 5 seats. However, a transfer of territory into the Cavan–Monaghan constituency would result in a constituency containing all or parts of three counties. Furthermore, any transfer of territory between the constituencies would involve the breach of a provincial boundary. While this matter is not adverted to in our terms of reference, the Commission considers that, as a general rule, such a breach should be avoided.

Every alternative to the present constituency formation in Louth involves breaching the Louth county boundary. While the population per member in Louth approaches the limits of what is acceptable, its variance from national average representation is smaller than the highest absolute variance accepted by a previous commission (viz. –7.89% in Mayo East in 1983). We decided, in all the circumstances, to recommend no change in the existing constituency.

## 4.3 Waterford constituency (+6.07%)

This constituency excludes Waterford 2002 population of 1,421 living north of the Comeraghs and south of Clonmel who are included in the constituency of Tipperary South. As the population of the Waterford constituency is already high for its allocation of 4 seats, it is clearly not in a position to take back the Waterford population in the Tipperary South constituency. As both the Tipperary constituencies have acceptable variances from national average representation, the Commission decided not to recommend any change in the Waterford constituency.

## 4.4 Wicklow (+0.27%) and Carlow–Kilkenny (+4.01%) constituencies

Apart from the Dublin area, the greatest number of submissions related to the Rathvilly–Hacketstown area of County Carlow. Most sought the return to the Carlow–Kilkenny constituency of this part of County Carlow (2002 population 3,633), which was added to the Wicklow constituency in 1995.

The return of this territory to the Carlow–Kilkenny constituency would give the latter constituency a variance from national average representation of +7.09%. This would necessitate a further adjustment to the Carlow–Kilkenny constituency which, apart from the 1995 change, has stood more or less in its present form since 1947. Waterford and Kildare are the only counties adjoining the Carlow–Kilkenny constituency which are problematic in population terms. The situation in Kildare can be dealt with satisfactorily within its boundaries. The Waterford constituency is already associated with a Tipperary constituency and it would be undesirable to link it with a third

constituency. Thus, including all of County Carlow in the Carlow-Kilkenny constituency would inevitably affect a third constituency which, on its own, does not require adjustment.

The Commission concluded that the optimal approach was to leave the existing Wicklow and Carlow-Kilkenny constituencies unchanged.

#### **4.5 Cavan-Monaghan constituency (-7.50%)**

This constituency is co-terminous with the boundaries of Cavan and Monaghan. Its population is low for its allocation of 5 seats, giving it a variance of -7.50% from national average representation. Nevertheless, its population is closer to an allocation of 5 seats than to 4 seats. Neither county has enough population to form a constituency on its own.

Every alternative to the present constituency formation in Cavan-Monaghan involves the transfer of territory to or from an adjoining constituency, thus breaching both a county and a provincial boundary. Furthermore, any transfer into the constituency would involve joining all or part of three counties in a single constituency. The existing variance of -7.50% is within the limits accepted by previous commissions and enacted into law. Furthermore, the difficulties in adjoining constituencies can be addressed without involving the Cavan-Monaghan constituency. The Commission concluded that, in all the circumstances, retention of the existing constituency is justified in the context of its terms of reference. However, if current population trends continue, the case for a reduction in the seat allocation to this constituency may arise in the future.

**MAP 2**

**CORK CITY AND COUNTY**



# 5 Dáil Constituencies where change is recommended<sup>#</sup>

## 5.1 Cork area constituencies

The present position is as follows:

| Constituency         | Number of TDs | 2002 Population | Population per TD | % variance from national average representation of 23,598 |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| Cork East            | 4             | 90,845          | 22,711            | -3.76%  |
| Cork North-Central   | 5             | 108,565         | 21,713            | -7.99%  |
| Cork North-West      | 3             | 64,290          | 21,430            | -9.19%  |
| Cork South-Central   | 5             | 116,782         | 23,356            | -1.02%  |
| Cork South-West      | 3             | 67,347          | 22,449            | -4.87%  |
| <b>Total (5 No.)</b> | <b>20</b>     | <b>447,829</b>  | <b>22,391</b>     | <b>-5.11%</b>   |

Twenty seats were allocated to Cork city and county in 1980 on the recommendation of the first non-statutory Dáil constituency commission. The 1979 population of the area was 396,118, giving a variance from national average representation of -2.38% for the 20 seats.

The 2002 population of Cork city and county is 447,829, an increase of 13.05% on the 1979 figure. This rate of increase is, however, only 80% of the national rate of population increase for the period, with the result that the 2002 variance from national average representation in the Cork area is -5.11% for its 20 seats. The 2002 population is, in fact, equivalent to 18.98 seats. In constituency terms, the population per T.D. of all five Cork constituencies is below the national average with variances outside the 5% limit in two of them, viz. North-West (-9.19%) and North-Central (-7.99%).

The options for the Cork area are as follows:

- Retain the existing level of membership and make the necessary boundary adjustments between the Cork constituencies to improve average representation in them. The Commission rejected this option because the population is insufficient to support 20 seats and the necessary corrective measures can be taken without involving outside constituencies.

<sup>#</sup>Statistics relating to the recommended constituencies are set out in the Second Appendix. Details of the electoral divisions recommended for transfer between constituencies are set out in the Fourth Appendix.

- Transfer territory from an adjoining constituency or constituencies (thus breaching one or more county boundaries) to support the existing seat allocation in the Cork area. Only two of the five constituencies adjoining Cork have populations per T.D. above the national average, viz. Waterford (with a variance of +6.07%) and Tipperary South (with a variance of +0.47%). The Waterford constituency breaches the county boundary and the Tipperary South constituency breaches the boundary between the local government counties of South and North Tipperary. A territorial transfer to Cork from either constituency could not be justified as it would, at worst, represent a second breach of the “county” boundary concerned or, at best, the substitution of a new breach for an existing breach.
- Reduce Cork’s representation to 19 seats and make the necessary boundary adjustments between the Cork constituencies to improve average representation in them. The Commission concluded that this is the appropriate option to adopt and recommends accordingly.

The reduction of one seat in Cork representation cannot be effected by removing a seat from Cork North-West, which has the lowest average representation in Cork, because it is a 3-seat constituency. The Commission, therefore, recommends that the seat reduction be made in the 5-seat North-Central constituency, the constituency with the second lowest average representation in Cork and the second lowest population increase in Cork since 1996. This change enables the entire length of the boundary between the North-Central and South-Central constituencies within Cork city to be restored to the North Channel of the River Lee. The breach of the Lee has been the subject of continued comment since the two constituencies were established in 1980. This boundary adjustment involves the transfer of 25,918 city population south of the Lee from North-Central to South-Central. The other boundary adjustments recommended by the Commission are as follows:

- Transfer 3,757 population east of Kinsale and in the area of Warner’s Crossroads from South-Central to South-West.
- Transfer 15,119 population in the Ballincollig area from South-Central to North-West.
- Transfer 7,001 population in Dripsey and the area to the east and north from North-West to North-Central.

No change is recommended to the Cork East constituency.

Statistics for the recommended Cork area constituencies are set out in the Second Appendix. These constituencies are shown in Map 2 on page 16.

## 5.2 Dublin area constituencies

The present position in relation to the twelve Dublin constituencies is as follows:

| Constituency          | Number of TDs | 2002 Population* | Population per TD | % variance from national average representation of 23,598 |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|---|
| Central               | 4             | 100,009          | 25,002            | +5.95%  |
| Mid-West              | 3             | 81,734           | 27,245            | +15.45%   |
| North                 | 4             | 102,790          | 25,698            | +8.90%  |
| North-Central         | 4             | 84,341           | 21,085            | -10.65%   |
| North-East            | 3             | 67,053           | 22,351            | -5.28%  |
| North-West            | 3             | 62,376           | 20,792            | -11.89%   |
| South*                | 5             | 117,274          | 23,455            | -0.61%  |
| South-Central*        | 5             | 118,020          | 23,604            | +0.03%  |
| South-East            | 4             | 97,096           | 24,274            | +2.86%  |
| South-West*           | 4             | 93,418           | 23,355            | -1.03%  |
| West                  | 3             | 82,424           | 27,475            | +16.43%   |
| Dún Laoghaire*        | 5             | 116,286          | 23,257            | -1.44%  |
| <b>Total (12 No.)</b> | <b>47</b>     | <b>1,122,821</b> | <b>23,890</b>     | <b>+1.24%</b>   |

\*Revised population statistics were supplied by the Central Statistics Office for these constituencies, which differ slightly from those published in Table 8 of Volume 1 of Census 2002.

The Dublin area 2002 population of 1,122,821 represents an increase of 6.1% on 1996 and is equivalent to 47.58 seats. The variance from national average representation for the 47 seats currently allocated to the area is +1.24%. While the allocation of an extra seat to the Dublin area would bring average representation overall closer to the national average (viz. a variance of -0.87%), the Commission concurs with the view of the 1998 commission that Dublin's under-representation in statistical terms is partially offset by the compact, urban nature of the area. The Commission felt that a satisfactory arrangement of constituencies could be devised based on the existing 47 seats in the Dublin area and, consequently, recommends no change in Dublin's existing representation overall.

Seven of the twelve constituencies within the Dublin area have variances outside the 5% limit. The constituencies with low population to member ratios are in the North City, viz. North-West has a variance of -11.89%, North-Central has a variance of -10.65% and North-East has a variance of -5.28%. These three constituencies are the only constituencies in the country to have lost population since the 1996 census. The variance from national average representation for the ten seats in the combined constituencies is -9.41%, whereas it would be +0.65% for nine seats. The Commission concluded that nine seats is the appropriate level of representation for this area.

A seat cannot be removed from North-West, which has the lowest average representation in Dublin, because it is a 3-seat constituency. The Commission considered the option of a 5-seat and 4-seat scheme for the area but decided on a scheme of three 3-seat constituencies in the interests of continuity of the present constituency formation. This involves removing a seat from North-Central which becomes a 3-seater.

The change in North-Central's seat allocation gives rise to the following boundary adjustments with adjoining constituencies:

- Transfer to North-East of 5,820 population in the Edenmore area, extending the use of the Santry river as a constituency boundary.
- Transfer to North-West of 5,020 population in the Beaumont/Whitehall area.

There is also a transfer from Dublin West to North-West, aligning the boundary between the two constituencies with the M50, thus extending the use of the motorway as a constituency boundary on Dublin's northside. The transfer affects 1,106 population.

The Dublin constituencies with very high average representation are in North and West Dublin. The second-highest variance from national average representation in the country is in the Dublin West 3-seat constituency (+16.43%) and the third-highest is in Dublin Mid-West (+15.45%). The Commission considered allocating an extra seat to Dublin West but decided instead to allocate an extra seat to Mid-West because this change facilitates the transfer of the Palmerstown area from Dublin West to Mid-West, thus establishing the Liffey as a constituency boundary from Chapelizod to the Kildare county boundary.

In order to bring the high variance in Dublin North (+8.90%) within acceptable limits, the Commission recommends the transfer from that constituency to Dublin West of 3,927 population in the St Margaret's/Kilsallaghan area west of Dublin Airport. For similar reasons, the Commission recommends the transfer of 955 population in Islandbridge from Dublin Central to South-Central.

The largest number of submissions on one issue received by the Commission related to uniting the entire electoral division (ED) of Firhouse Village in one constituency. The three Firhouse ED's have traditionally been included in the Dublin South constituency. However, the greater part of the Firhouse Village ED was transferred to South-West in 1998. The 2002 population of that part of the ED in South-West is 7,029, with the balance of 1,995 in Dublin South.

Many submissions sought the return to Dublin South of that part of the ED included in South-West. If this were done, the variance from national average representation in both constituencies would be outside the 5% limit, thus requiring boundary adjustments with two other constituencies to correct them.

Other submissions sought the transfer to South-West of that part of Firhouse Village ED included in Dublin South. If this were done, the variances in both constituencies would be acceptable. The position then would be that the entire ED, which lies west of the M50, would be contained in Dublin South-West which lies wholly to the west and south of the M50. In the longer term, South-West appears to be the "natural" home for the ED, given that the M50 is likely to be used as a constituency boundary in the future wherever possible. In all the circumstances, the

Commission decided to recommend that the entire electoral division of Firhouse Village should be included in the Dublin South-West constituency.

Statistics for the recommended Dublin area constituencies are set out in the Second Appendix. These constituencies are shown in the large-scale maps at the back of the report.

SLIGO-NORTH LEITRIM CONSTITUENCY

ROSCOMMON-SOUTH LEITRIM CONSTITUENCY

LONGFORD-WESTMEATH CONSTITUENCY



MEATH CONSTITUENCIES

### 5.3 Sligo-Leitrim, Longford-Roscommon, Westmeath and Meath constituencies

The decisions to be taken in relation to the area comprising the constituencies of Sligo-Leitrim, Longford-Roscommon, Westmeath and Meath are, to an extent, inter-related and it is appropriate to consider them together. The following table summarises the position:

| Constituency       | Number of TDs | 2002 Population | Population per TD | % variance from national average representation of 23,598 |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| Sligo-Leitrim      | 4             | 83,999          | 21,000            | -11.01%   |
| Longford-Roscommon | 4             | 84,842          | 21,210            | -10.12%   |
| Westmeath          | 3             | 71,858          | 23,953            | +1.50%  |
| Meath              | 5             | 134,005         | 26,801            | +13.57%   |

The 4-seat constituency of **Sligo-Leitrim** comprising the two counties has stood since 1980. The constituency's population has increased by 1.87% since 1979 and is now equivalent to 3.56 seats. Due to the 16.3% rise in the national population over that period, its variance from national average representation has fallen from +1.59% in 1980 to -11.01% in 2002. The current variance is well outside the highest variance of -7.89% recommended by any Dáil commission (Mayo East in 1983) and is not sustainable. A reduction of one in the constituency's seat allocation would result in a variance of +18.65% for 3 seats, which is not feasible without transfer of population to an adjoining constituency.

The 4-seat **Longford-Roscommon** constituency comprising the two counties has been the subject of continued comment since its formation in 1990 because it straddles the Shannon, breaching a provincial boundary. Its variance from national average representation has fallen from +0.90%, based on its 1986 population, to -10.12%, based on its 2002 population. However, if the constituency were reduced to 3 seats, the variance would be +19.84%, which would not be feasible without a transfer of population to an adjoining constituency.

As counties Leitrim and Roscommon have previously been associated for constituency purposes, a seat could be removed from Sligo-Leitrim (which has the lower population) and territory transferred to Longford-Roscommon to generate acceptable average representation in both. However, this would result in all or parts of three counties being included in a single constituency, which the Commission considers undesirable.

The 5-seat **Meath** constituency, co-terminous with the county, was established in 1990. Its 2002 population of 134,005 represents an increase of 24,273 on 1996, the equivalent of more than a seat, giving it a variance of +13.57% for its 5 seats. The county is just 504 population short of a -5% variance for six seats and the Commission concluded that an additional seat should be allocated to the area. This necessitates establishing two 3-seaters in Meath and adding population from an adjoining constituency to support the increased representation in the area. County Meath has previously been associated for constituency purposes with Counties Kildare, Cavan, Monaghan, and, most recently, **Westmeath** (which has a variance of +1.50% for its current allocation of

3 seats). The Commission also considered but rejected, for the reasons set out in Chapter 4, the option of transferring territory from County Louth to a Meath constituency.

The Commission decided, in all the circumstances, to recommend the following constituency formation in the area:

- A 3-seat constituency named Sligo–North Leitrim, with a variance of  $-5.53\%$ . While this variance is outside the 5% limit (i.e. the constituency population is 374 persons below the limit), the Commission considered that this was justified in order to use Lough Allen as the internal constituency boundary within County Leitrim. Some or all of North Leitrim has been included in a constituency with Sligo since 1961.
- A 3-seat constituency named Roscommon–South Leitrim, with a variance of  $+0.14\%$ . Some or all of South Leitrim was included in a constituency with Roscommon from 1961 to 1980.
- A 4-seat constituency named Longford–Westmeath comprising County Longford and the bulk of Westmeath (i.e. excluding the former Delvin Rural District), with a variance of  $+2.18\%$ . These two counties were previously associated in a constituency for decades. If all of Westmeath were included in the constituency, the variance from national average representation would be  $+9.04\%$ , which is too high.
- A 3-seat constituency named Meath West, comprising the western part of County Meath (including the three local government towns of Kells, Navan and Trim) and the former Delvin Rural District in County Westmeath (previously included in the Meath constituency from 1980 to 1990). This constituency has a variance of  $-0.79\%$ .
- A 3-seat constituency named Meath East, comprising the balance of County Meath, which includes the growing urban areas of Ashbourne, Bettystown/Laytown, Dunboyne, Dunshaughlin and Ratoath. The variance for this constituency is  $-0.78\%$ .

The recommended constituencies are shown in Maps 3–6 on pages 22–25.

MAP 7

KILDARE CONSTITUENCIES

## 5.4 Kildare North and Kildare South constituencies

| Constituency  | Number of TDs | 2002 Population | Population per TD | % variance from national average representation of 23,598 |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| Kildare North | 3             | 85,473          | 28,491            | +20.73%   |
| Kildare South | 3             | 78,471          | 26,157            | +10.84%   |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>6</b>      | <b>163,944</b>  | <b>27,324</b>     | <b>+15.79%</b>  |

The population of County Kildare has increased by almost 69% since 1979, the highest rate of increase of all counties. Its 2002 population of 163,944 is equivalent to 6.95 seats, viz. one seat more than its current allocation of 6 seats. Thus, the populations of both Kildare constituencies are very high — North has a variance from national average representation of +20.73% (the highest in the country) for its 3 seats, while South has a variance of +10.84% for its 3 seats.

The Commission recommends that an extra seat be allocated to County Kildare and, specifically, to the Kildare North constituency. The population of Kildare North is too low for 4 seats, so a boundary adjustment with Kildare South is necessary to balance average representation in both constituencies. The Commission recommends the transfer of an area in the north-west of the county with a 2002 population of 9,554 from Kildare South to Kildare North. This gives a revised variance for Kildare North's 4 seats of +0.67% and for Kildare South's 3 seats of -2.65%.

The revised Kildare constituencies are shown in Map 7 on page 28.

DONEGAL CONSTITUENCIES

## 5.5 Donegal North-East and Donegal South-West constituencies

| Constituency       | Number of TDs | 2002 Population | Population per TD | % variance from national average representation of 23,598 |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| Donegal North-East | 3             | 73,961          | 24,654            | +4.47%  |
| Donegal South-West | 3             | 63,614          | 21,205            | -10.14%   |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>6</b>      | <b>137,575</b>  | <b>22,929</b>     | <b>-2.83%</b>   |

The present constituency formation in Donegal has stood since 1980 and the county's 2002 population continues to warrant its current allocation of 6 seats. However, the population of Donegal South-West is too low for its allocation of 3 seats, with a variance from national average representation of -10.14%. A boundary adjustment is required between the Donegal constituencies to balance average representation in them. The Commission recommends the transfer of the Lifford-Raphoe area (2002 population of 5,386) from North-East to South-West. This transfer gives revised variances of -2.53% in South-West and -3.13% in North-East, which are acceptable.

The revised Donegal constituencies are shown in Map 8 on page 30.

CLARE CONSTITUENCY



LIMERICK CONSTITUENCIES

## 5.6 Clare, Limerick East and Limerick West constituencies

| Constituency  | Number of TDs | 2002 Population | Population per TD | % variance from national average representation of 23,598 |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| Clare         | 4             | 99,364          | 24,841            | +5.27%  |
| Limerick East | 5             | 114,652         | 22,930            | -2.83%  |
| Limerick West | 3             | 64,565          | 21,522            | -8.80%  |

The Clare constituency excludes 2002 population of 3,913 in part of the Ballyglass electoral division of County Clare, which has been included in the Limerick East constituency since 1990 on the basis that it includes suburbs of Limerick City.

The population of the Clare constituency is high for its present allocation of 4 seats. If the constituency comprised the entire county, its population would be too high for 4 seats and too low for an allocation of 5 seats. With its current seat allocation, the constituency is not in a position to take back the Ballyglass population from Limerick East.

The population of Limerick East (which includes Limerick City and suburbs) is satisfactory for its current allocation of 5 seats. However, the population of the Limerick West constituency is too low for its allocation of 3 seats, with a variance from national average representation of -8.80%. An apparent solution would be to transfer territory from Limerick East to West, but Limerick East's population is too low to enable it to shed sufficient population to bring Limerick West within the 5% limit without itself going outside that limit. However, a transfer of territory between the Clare and Limerick East and West constituencies would result in each constituency having average representation within 5% of the national average.

The Commission recommends, therefore, the following transfers of territory:

- The balance of the electoral division of Ballyglass (2002 population of 1,025) from the Clare constituency to the Limerick East constituency: this results in a variance of +4.18% in the Clare constituency.
- Bruff, Knockainy, Knocklong and surrounding areas (2002 population of 3,228) from Limerick East to Limerick West: this results in variances of -4.70% in the Limerick East constituency and -4.24% in the Limerick West constituency.

If current population trends continue, the case for a reduction in the Dáil representation for Limerick City and County may arise in the future.

The revised Clare and Limerick constituencies are shown in Maps 9 and 10 on pages 32 and 33.

KERRY CONSTITUENCIES

## 5.7 Kerry North and Kerry South constituencies

| Constituency | Number of TDs | 2002 Population | Population per TD | % variance from national average representation of 23,598 |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| Kerry North  | 3             | 65,158          | 21,719            | -7.96%  |
| Kerry South  | 3             | 67,369          | 22,456            | -4.84%  |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>6</b>      | <b>132,527</b>  | <b>22,088</b>     | <b>-6.40%</b>   |

The population of Kerry North is too low for its current allocation of 3 seats, giving a variance from national average representation of -7.96%. The population of Kerry South is also low for its 3 seats, with a variance of -4.84%. The variance for the county's 6 seats is -6.40%. However, the county's population is closer to its current allocation of 6 seats than to 5 seats.

It would be difficult to support Kerry's 6 seats with a transfer of territory from either of its adjoining counties, Limerick or Cork, because their populations are already low for their current seat allocations. The reduction of a seat in Cork, as recommended in this report, would put that county in a better position to support Kerry's existing level of representation. In this connection, parts of the Beara peninsula in County Cork were included in the Kerry South constituency from 1969 to 1980. However, the Commission concluded that, in the present circumstances, it would not be appropriate to breach a county boundary and transfer territory involving a small number of people for the sole purpose of improving marginally the average representation in a neighbouring constituency. The Commission, therefore, recommends the retention of 6 seats in County Kerry without any external boundary adjustment. However, if current population trends continue, the case for a reduction in Dáil representation for County Kerry may arise in the future.

In order to improve average representation in the two constituencies, the Commission recommends the transfer of an area west of Tralee on the northern side of the Dingle peninsula (2002 population of 1,235) from Kerry South to Kerry North. The eastern part of this area was included in the Kerry North constituency from 1935 to 1980 and the western part from 1935 to 1961 and from 1969 to 1980. This boundary adjustment results in variances from national average representation in Kerry North of -6.22% and in Kerry South of -6.58%.

The revised Kerry constituencies are shown in Map 11 on page 35.

VIVIAN LAVAN, Chairman

KIERAN COUGHLAN

DEIRDRE LANE

NIALL CALLAN

EMILY O'REILLY

P. Greene, Secretary to the Commission

January 2004

# APPENDICES



# APPENDICES

- First Appendix: Specification of recommended Dáil constituencies.
- Second Appendix: Statistics relating to recommended Dáil constituencies.
- Third Appendix: Statistics relating to existing Dáil constituencies.
- Fourth Appendix: Electoral divisions recommended for transfer between constituencies.
- Fifth Appendix: Organisations and persons who made submissions.
- Sixth Appendix: Previous commission reports.
- Seventh Appendix: Press notice issued by Commission.
- Eighth Appendix: Commission statement on relevant constitutional provisions in relation to Dáil constituencies, matters concerning the European Parliament and population statistics relating to Dáil and European constituencies.
- Ninth Appendix: Constituency size and total Dáil membership since 1923.

# First Appendix

## Specification of recommended Dáil constituencies

(Existing Dáil constituencies are specified in the Schedule to the Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 1998 [No. 19 of 1998]).

| Name of Proposed Constituency | Local Government Area*   | Number of Members |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Carlow-Kilkenny               | The county of Kilkenny and the county of Carlow, except the part thereof which is comprised in the constituency of Wicklow.  | Five.             |
| Cavan-Monaghan                | The counties of Cavan and Monaghan.  | Five.             |
| Clare                         | The county of Clare, except the part thereof which is comprised in the constituency of Limerick East.  | Four.             |
| Cork East                     | <p>In the county of Cork the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Ballynaglogh, Cobh Rural, Glenville, Knockraha in the former <i>Rural District of Cork</i>;</p> <p>Aghern, Ballyhooly, Ballynoe, Carrig, Castlecooke, Castle Hyde, Castletyons, Castletownroche, Coole, Curraglass, Fermoy Rural, Glanworth East, Glanworth West, Gortnaskehly, Gortroe, Kilcor, Kilcummer, Kildinan, Killathy, Kilworth, Knockmourne, Leitrim, Rathcormack, Watergrasshill, in the former <i>Rural District of Fermoy</i>;</p> <p>Ballyclogh, Ballynamona, Buttevant, Caherduggan, Carrig, Clenor, Doneraile, Kilmaclenine, Mallow Rural, Monanimy, Rahan, Shanballymore, Skahanagh, Wallstown, in the former <i>Rural District of Mallow</i>;</p> <p>Ballintemple, Ballycottin, Ballyspillane, Carrigtohill, Castlemartyr, Clonmult, Cloyne, Corkbeg, Dangan, Dungourney, Garryvoe, Ightermurragh, Inch, Lisgoold, Midleton Rural, Mogeely, Rostellan, Templebodan, Templenacarriga, in the former <i>Rural District of Midleton</i>;</p> <p>Ballyarthur, Derryvillane, Farahy, Kildorrery, Kilgullane, Kilphelan, Marshalstown, Mitchelstown, Templemolaga, in the former <i>Rural District of Mitchelstown No. 1</i>;</p> <p>Ardagh, Clonpriest, Kilcronat, Killeagh, Kilmacdonagh, Youghal Rural, in the former <i>Rural District of Youghal No. 1</i>;</p> <p>and the towns of Cobh, Fermoy, Mallow, Midleton and Youghal.</p> | Four.             |

\*As specified in Schedules 5 and 6 to the Local Government Act 2001 (No. 37 of 2001).



| Name of Proposed Constituency | Local Government Area*  | Number of Members |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Cork North-Central            | <p>In the city of Cork the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Blackpool A, Blackpool B, Churchfield, Commons, Fair Hill A, Fair Hill B, Fair Hill C, Farranferris A, Farranferris B, Farranferris C, Gurranebraher A, Gurranebraher B, Gurranebraher C, Gurranebraher D, Gurranebraher E, Knocknaheeny, Mayfield, Montenotte A, Montenotte B, St. Patrick's A, St Patrick's B, St. Patrick's C, Shanakiel, Shandon A, Shandon B, Sunday's Well A, Sunday's Well B, The Glen A, The Glen B, Tivoli A, Tivoli B;</p> <p>and, in the county of Cork, the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Blackpool, Blarney, Caherlag, Carrignavar, Carrigrohane Beg, Dripsey, Firmount, Greenfort, Killeagh, Knockantota, Matehy, Rathcooney, Riverstown, St. Mary's, Whitechurch, in the former <i>Rural District of Cork</i>;</p> <p>Gowlane, in the former <i>Rural District of Macroom</i>.</p>  | Four.             |
| Cork North-West               | <p>In the county of Cork the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Ballygroman, Ballymurphy, Bengour, Brinny, Kilbonane, Knockavilly, Moviddy, Murragh, Teadies, Templemartin, in the former <i>Rural District of Bandon</i>;</p> <p>Ballincollig, Ovens, in the former <i>Rural District of Cork</i>;</p> <p>Aultagh, Bealaneageary, Bealock, Carrigboy, Castletown, Coolmountain, Garrown, Kinneigh, Manch, Teerelton, in the former <i>Rural District of Dunmanway</i>;</p> <p>Allow, Ballyhoolahan, Banteer, Barleyhill, Barnacurra, Bawncross, Boherboy, Castlecor, Castlemagner, Clonfert East, Clonfert West, Clonmeen, Coolclogh, Dromina, Glenlara, Gortmore, Greenane, Kanturk, Kilbrin, Kilmeen, Knockatooan, Knocktemple, Meens, Milford, Nad, Newmarket, Newtown, Roskeen, Rosnalee, Rowls, Tincoora, Tullylease, Williamstown, in the former <i>Rural District of Kanturk</i>;</p> <p>Aghinagh, AGLISH, Bealaneageary, Candroma, Cannaway, Cleanrath, Clondrohid, Clonmoyle, Derryfineen, Gurnatubbrid, Greenville, Inchigeelagh, Kilberriher, Kilcullen, Kilnamartery, Macloneigh, Magourney, Mashanaglass, Mountrivers, Rahalisk, Slievareagh, Ullanes, Warrenscourt, in the former <i>Rural District of Macroom</i>;</p> <p>Ardskeagh, Churchtown, Dromore, Imphrick, Kilshannig, Liscarroll, Milltown, Rathluirc, Springfort, Streamhill, Templemary, in the former <i>Rural District of Mallow</i>;</p> <p>Caherbarnagh, Coomlogane, Crinnaloo, Cullen, Derragh, Doonasleen, Drishane, Keale, Kilcorney, Knocknagree, Rathcool, Skagh, in the former <i>Rural District of Millstreet</i>;</p> <p>and the town of Macroom.</p> | Three.            |

| Name of Proposed Constituency | Local Government Area*  | Number of Members |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Cork South-Central            | <p>The city of Cork, except the part thereof which is comprised in the constituency of Cork North-Central;</p> <p>and, in the county of Cork, the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Ballygarvan, Bishopstown, Carrigaline, Douglas, Iniskenny, Lehenagh, Monkstown Rural, Monkstown Urban, in the former <i>Rural District of Cork</i>;</p> <p>Carrigaline, Kilpatrick, Liscleary, Templebreedy, in the former <i>Rural District of Kinsale</i>.</p>   | Five.             |
| Cork South-West               | <p>The county of Cork, except the parts thereof which are comprised in the constituencies of Cork East, Cork North-Central, Cork North-West and Cork South-Central.</p>   | Three.            |
| Donegal North-East            | <p>In the county of Donegal the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Ardmalin, Ballyliffin, Birdstown, Buncrana Rural, Burt, Carndonagh, Carthage, Castleary, Castleforward, Culdaff, Desertegny, Dunaff, Fahan, Glenagannon, Gleneely, Glentogher, Greencastle, Illies, Inch Island, Kilderry, Killea, Malin, Mintiaghs, Moville, Newtown Cunningham, Redcastle, Straid, Three Trees, Turmone, Whitecastle, in the former <i>Rural District of Inishowen</i>;</p> <p>Ballymacool, Castlewray, Church Hill, Corravaddy, Edenacarnan, Gartan, Gortnavern, Killymasny, Kincaig, Letterkenny Rural, Magheraboy, Manorcunningham, Seacor, Templedouglass, in the former <i>Rural District of Letterkenny</i>;</p> <p>Ballyarr, Carrickart, Carrowkeel, Cranford, Fanad North, Fanad West, Glen, Glenalla, Greenfort, Killygarvan, Kilmacrenan, Knockalla, Loughkeel, Millford, Rathmelton, Rathmullan, Rosguill, Rosnakill, Termon, in the former <i>Rural District of Millford</i>;</p> <p>Feddyglass, Meencargagh, St. Johnstown, Treantaghmucklagh, in the former <i>Rural District of Stranorlar</i>;</p> <p>and the towns of Buncrana and Letterkenny.</p> | Three.            |
| Donegal South-West            | <p>The county of Donegal, except the part thereof which is comprised in the constituency of Donegal North-East.</p>   | Three.            |
| Dublin Central                | <p>In the city of Dublin the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Arran Quay A, Arran Quay B, Arran Quay C, Arran Quay D, Arran Quay E, Ashtown A, Ashtown B, Ballybough A, Ballybough C, Botanic A, Botanic B, Botanic C, Cabra East A, Cabra East B, Cabra East C, Cabra West A, Cabra West B, Cabra West C, Cabra West D, Drumcondra South B, Drumcondra South C, Inns Quay A, Inns Quay B, Inns Quay C, Mountjoy A, Mountjoy B, North City, North Dock A, North Dock B, North Dock C, Rotunda A, Rotunda B;</p> <p>and that part of the electoral division of Phoenix Park situated north of a line drawn along Chapelizod Road, Conyngham Road and Parkgate Street.</p>  | Four.             |

| Name of Proposed Constituency | Local Government Area*  | Number of Members |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Dublin Mid-West               | <p>In the county of South Dublin the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Clondalkin-Cappaghmore, Clondalkin-Dunawley, Clondalkin-Moorfield, Clondalkin-Rowlagh, Clondalkin Village, Lucan-Esker, Lucan Heights, Lucan-St. Helens, Newcastle, Palmerston Village, Palmerston West, Rathcoole, Saggart;</p> <p>and that part of the electoral division of Clondalkin-Monastery situated west of a line drawn along the M50 Western Parkway.</p>  | Four.             |
| Dublin North                  | <p>In the county of Fingal the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Balbriggan Rural, Balbriggan Urban, Balgriffin, Ballyboghil, Balscadden, Clonmethan, Donabate, Garristown, Hollywood, Holmpatrick, Kinsaley, Lusk, Malahide East, Malahide West, Portmarnock North, Portmarnock South, Rush, Skerries, Swords-F Forrest, Swords-Glasmore, Swords-Lissenhall, Swords-Seatown, Swords Village;</p> <p>and those parts of the electoral divisions of Airport and Turnapin situated north of a line drawn along the Northern Cross Route (M50) passing in a clockwise direction around and excluding roundabout No. 3 at the junction of the Northern Cross Route (M50) with the M1 motorway;</p> <p>and, in the city of Dublin, those parts of the electoral divisions of Priorswood A, Priorswood B and Priorswood C situated north of a line drawn along the Northern Cross Route (M50) and the Northern Cross Extension (N32), passing in a clockwise direction around and excluding the following three roundabouts, viz. roundabout No. 3 at the junction of the Northern Cross Route (M50) with the M1 Motorway, the roundabout at the junction of the Northern Cross Route (M50) with Clonshaugh Road and the roundabout at the junction of the Northern Cross Extension (N32) with Malahide Road (R107).</p> | Four.             |
| Dublin North-Central          | <p>In the city of Dublin the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Beaumont B, Beaumont C, Beaumont D, Beaumont E, Beaumont F, Clontarf East A, Clontarf East B, Clontarf East C, Clontarf East D, Clontarf East E, Clontarf West A, Clontarf West B, Clontarf West C, Clontarf West D, Clontarf West E, Drumcondra South A, Grace Park, Harmonstown A, Harmonstown B, Kilmore A, Kilmore B, Kilmore C, Kilmore D.</p>   | Three.            |
| Dublin North-East             | <p>In the city of Dublin the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Ayrfield, Edenmore, Grange A, Grange B, Grange C, Grange D, Grange E, Priorswood D, Priorswood E, Raheny-Foxfield, Raheny-Greendale, Raheny-St. Assam;</p> <p>and those parts of the electoral divisions of Priorswood A, Priorswood B and Priorswood C situated south of a line drawn along the Northern Cross Route (M50) and the (Northern Cross Extension) (N32), passing in a clockwise direction around and including the following three roundabouts, viz. roundabout No. 3 at the junction of the Northern Cross Route (M50) with the M1 Motorway, the roundabout at the junction of the Northern Cross Route (M50) with Clonshaugh Road and the roundabout at the junction of the Northern Cross Extension (N32) with Malahide Road (R107);</p> <p>and, in the county of Fingal, the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Baldoyle, Howth, Sutton.</p>   | Three.            |

| Name of Proposed Constituency | Local Government Area*  | Number of Members |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Dublin North-West             | <p>In the city of Dublin the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Ballygall A, Ballygall B, Ballygall C, Ballygall D, Ballymun A, Ballymun B, Ballymun C, Ballymun D, Ballymun E, Ballymun F, Beaumont A, Finglas North A, Finglas North B, Finglas North C, Finglas South A, Finglas South B, Finglas South C, Finglas South D, Whitehall A, Whitehall B, Whitehall C, Whitehall D;</p> <p>and, in the county of Fingal those parts of the electoral divisions of Airport, Blanchardstown-Abbotstown, Dubber, The Ward and Turnapin situated south of a line drawn along the Northern Cross Route (M50), passing in a clockwise direction around and including roundabout No. 3 at the junction of the Northern Cross Route (M50) with the M1 Motorway.</p>  | Three.            |
| Dublin South                  | <p>In the county of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Ballinteer-Broadford, Ballinteer-Ludford, Ballinteer-Marley, Ballinteer-Meadowbroads, Ballinteer-Meadowmount, Ballinteer-Woodpark, Churchtown-Castle, Churchtown-Landscape, Churchtown-Nutgrove, Churchtown-Orwell, Churchtown-Woodlawn, Clonskeagh-Belfield, Clonskeagh-Farranboley, Clonskeagh-Milltown, Clonskeagh-Roebuck, Clonskeagh-Windy Arbour, Dundrum-Balally, Dundrum-Kilmacud, Dundrum-Sandyford, Dundrum-Sweetmount, Dundrum-Taney, Glencullen, Stillorgan-Deerpark, Stillorgan-Kilmacud, Stillorgan-Merville, Stillorgan-Mount Merrion, Tibbradden;</p> <p>and that part of the electoral division of Cabinteely-Loughlinstown situated west of a line drawn along the road from Carrickmines to Kiltiernan;</p> <p>and that part of the electoral division of Stillorgan-Leopardstown situated south-west of a line drawn along the former Harcourt Street-Bray railway line;</p> <p>and, in the county of South Dublin, the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Ballyboden, Edmondstown, Firhouse-Ballycullen, Firhouse-Knocklyon, Rathfarnham-Ballyroan, Rathfarnham-Butterfield, Rathfarnham-Hermitage, Rathfarnham-St. Enda's, Rathfarnham Village.</p> | Five.             |
| Dublin South-Central          | <p>In the city of Dublin the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Carna, Chapelizod, Cherry-Orchard A, Cherry-Orchard C, Crumlin A, Crumlin B, Crumlin C, Crumlin D, Crumlin E, Crumlin F, Decies, Drumfinn, Inchicore A, Inchicore B, Kilmainham A, Kilmainham B, Kilmainham C, Kimmage A, Kimmage B, Kimmage C, Kimmage D, Kimmage E, Kilmore, Kylemore, Merchants Quay A, Merchants Quay B, Merchants Quay C, Merchants Quay D, Merchants Quay E, Merchants Quay F, Terenure A, Terenure B, Terenure C, Terenure D, Ushers A, Ushers B, Ushers C, Ushers D, Ushers E, Ushers F, Walkinstown A, Walkinstown B, Walkinstown C;</p> <p>and, that part of the electoral division of Phoenix Park situated south of a line drawn along Chapelizod Road, Conyngham Road and Parkgate Street;</p> <p>and, in the county of South Dublin, the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Templeogue-Kimmage Manor, Terenure-Cherryfield, Terenure-Greentrees;</p> <p>and those parts of the electoral divisions of Clondalkin-Monastery, Clondalkin-Ballymount and Tallaght-Kilnamanagh situated east of a line drawn along the M50 Western Parkway.</p>   | Five.             |

| Name of Proposed Constituency | Local Government Area*   | Number of Members |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Dublin South-East             | <p>In the city of Dublin the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Mansion House A, Mansion House B, Pembroke East A, Pembroke East B, Pembroke East C, Pembroke East D, Pembroke East E, Pembroke West A, Pembroke West B, Pembroke West C, Rathfarnham, Rathmines East A, Rathmines East B, Rathmines East C, Rathmines East D, Rathmines West A, Rathmines West B, Rathmines West C, Rathmines West D, Rathmines West E, Rathmines West F, Royal Exchange A, Royal Exchange B, St. Kevin's, South Dock, Wood Quay A, Wood Quay B.</p>  | Four.             |
| Dublin South-West             | <p>In the county of South Dublin the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Ballinascorney, Bohernabreena, Firhouse Village, Tallaght-Avonbeg, Tallaght-Belgard, Tallaght-Fettercairn, Tallaght-Glenview, Tallaght-Jobstown, Tallaght-Killinardan, Tallaght-Kiltipper, Tallaght-Kingswood, Tallaght-Millbrook, Tallaght-Oldbawn, Tallaght-Springfield, Tallaght-Tymon, Templeogue-Cypress, Templeogue-Limekiln, Templeogue-Orwell, Templeogue-Osprey, Templeogue Village, Terenure-St. James;</p> <p>and those parts of the electoral divisions of Clondalkin-Ballymount and Tallaght-Kilnamanagh situated west of a line drawn along the M50 Western Parkway.</p>   | Four.             |
| Dublin West                   | <p>In the county of Fingal the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Blanchardstown-Blakestown, Blanchardstown-Coolmine, Blanchardstown-Corduff, Blanchardstown-Delwood, Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart, Blanchardstown-Roselawn, Blanchardstown-Tyrrelstown, Castleknock-Knockmaroon, Castleknock-Park, Kilsallaghan and Lucan North;</p> <p>and, those parts of the electoral divisions of Blanchardstown-Abbotstown, Dubber and The Ward situated north of a line drawn along the Northern Cross Route (M50) passing in a clockwise direction around and excluding roundabouts Nos. 5 and 4 at the junction of the Northern Cross Route (M50) with national road N2 and regional road R108, respectively.</p>   | Three.            |
| Dún Laoghaire                 | <p>In the county of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Ballybrack, Blackrock-Booterstown, Blackrock-Carysfort, Blackrock-Central, Blackrock-Glenomena, Blackrock-Monkstown, Blackrock-Newpark, Blackrock-Seapoint, Blackrock-Stradbroom, Blackrock-Templehill, Blackrock-Williamstown, Cabinteely-Granitefield, Cabinteely-Kilbogget, Cabinteely-Pottery, Dalkey-Avondale, Dalkey-Bullock, Dalkey-Coliemoore, Dalkey Hill, Dalkey Upper, Dún Laoghaire-East Central, Dún Laoghaire-Glasthule, Dún Laoghaire-Glenageary, Dún Laoghaire-Monkstown Farm, Dún Laoghaire-Mount Town, Dún Laoghaire-Sallynoggin East, Dún Laoghaire-Sallynoggin South, Dún Laoghaire-Sallynoggin West, Dún Laoghaire-Salthill, Dún Laoghaire-Sandycove, Dún Laoghaire-West Central, Foxrock-Beechpark, Foxrock-Carrickmines, Foxrock-Deansgrange, Foxrock-Torquay, Killiney North, Killiney South, Shankill-Rathmichael, Shankill-Rathsallagh, Shankill-Shanganagh, Stillorgan-Priory;</p> <p>and those parts of the electoral divisions of Cabinteely-Loughlinstown and Stillorgan-Leopardstown which are not comprised in the constituency of Dublin South.</p> | Five.             |

| Name of Proposed Constituency | Local Government Area*  | Number of Members |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Galway East                   | <p>In the county of Galway the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Abbeygormacan, Ahascragh, Aughrim, Ballinasloe Rural, Ballymacward, Clonfert, Clontuskert, Kellysgrove, Kilconnell, Killaan, Killallaghan, Killoran, Killure, Kilmacshane, Kiltormer, Kylemore, Laurencetown, Lismanny, Oatfield, in the former <i>Rural District of Ballinasloe</i> No. 1;</p> <p>Ballinastack, Ballymoe, Ballynakill, Boyounagh, Creggs, Curraghmore, Glennamaddy, Island, Kilcroan, Kiltullagh, Raheen, Scregg, Shankill, Templetogether, Toberroe, in the former <i>Rural District of Glennamaddy</i>;</p> <p>Ardamullivan, Ardrahan, Ballycahalan, Beagh, Cahermore, Cappard, Castletaylor, Doorus, Drumacoo, Gort, Kilbeacanty, Killeely, Killeenavarra, Killinny, Kiltartan, Kiltomas, Kinvarra, Rahasane, Skehanagh, in the former <i>Rural District of Gort</i>;</p> <p>Aille, Athenry, Ballynagar, Bracklagh, Bullaun, Cappalusk, Castleboy, Cloonkeen, Colmanstown, Craughwell, Derrylaur, Drumkeary, Graigabbey, Grange, Greethill, Kilchreest, Kilconickny, Kilconierin, Killimor, Killogilleen, Kilmeen, Kilreekill, Kilteskil, Kiltullagh, Lackalea, Leitrim, Loughatorick, Loughrea Rural, Loughrea Urban, Marblehill, Mountain, Movode, Raford, Tiaquin, Woodford, in the former <i>Rural District of Loughrea</i>;</p> <p>Annagh, Ballynakill, Caltra, Castleblakeney, Castlefrench, Clonbrock, Cloonkeen, Cooloo, Derryglassaun, Killeroran, Killian, Mount Bellew, Mounthazel, Taghboy, in the former <i>Rural District of Mount Bellew</i>;</p> <p>Abbeyville, Ballyglass, Coos, Derrew, Drummin, Eyrecourt, Killimor, Kilmalinoge, Kilquain, Meelick, Moat, Pallas, Portunna, Tiranascragh, Tynagh, in the former <i>Rural District of Portunna</i>;</p> <p>Abbey East, Abbey West, Addergoole, Annaghdown, Ballinderry, Ballinduff, Ballynapark, Beaghmore, Belclare, Carrownagur, Carrowrevagh, Claretuam, Clonbern, Cloonkeen, Cummer, Donaghpatrick, Doonbally, Dunmore North, Dunmore South, Foxhall, Headford, Hillsbrook, Kilbennan, Kilcoona, Killeany, Killeen, Killererin, Killoower, Killursa, Kilmoylan, Kilshanvy, Levally, Milltown, Monivea, Moyne, Ryehill, Toberadosh, Tuam Rural, Tuam Urban in the former <i>Rural District of Tuam</i>;</p> <p>and the town of Ballinasloe.</p> | Four.             |
| Galway West                   | <p>The county of Galway, except the parts thereof which are comprised in the constituency of Galway East;</p> <p>and the city of Galway.</p>  | Five.             |

| Name of Proposed Constituency | Local Government Area*   | Number of Members |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Kerry North                   | <p>In the county of Kerry the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Deelis, in the former <i>Rural District of Dingle</i>;</p> <p>Kilfelim, in the former <i>Rural District of Killarney</i>;</p> <p>Ardagh, Astee, Ballincloher, Ballyconry, Ballyduff, Ballyegan, Ballyhorgan, Beal, Carrig, Causeway, Cloontubbrid, Drommartin, Duagh, Ennismore, Gullane, Gunsborough, Kilfeighny, Killehenry, Killury, Kilmeany, Kilshenane, Kiltomy, Leitrim, Lisloughtin, Lisselton, Listowel Rural, Lixnaw, Moynsha, Newtownsandee, Rathea, Shronowen, Tarbert, Tarmon, Trienearagh, Urlee, in the former <i>Rural District of Listowel</i>;</p> <p>Abbeydorney, Arabela, Ardfert, Ballyegan, Ballyheige, Ballynahaglish, Ballynorig, Ballyseedy, Banna, Baurtregaum, Blennerville, Brosna, Castleisland, Clogherbrien, Cordal, Crinny, Doon, Gneevies, Kerryhead, Kilflyn, Kilgobban, Killahan, Kilmurry, Knockglass, Knocknagashel, Lackabaun, Mount Eagle, Nohaval, O'Brennan, Ratass, Tralee Rural, Tubrid, in the former <i>Rural District of Tralee</i>;</p> <p>and the towns of Listowel and Tralee.</p> | Three.            |
| Kerry South                   | The county of Kerry, except the part thereof which is comprised in the constituency of Kerry North.  | Three.            |
| Kildare North                 | <p>In the county of Kildare the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Balraheen, Celbridge, Cloncurry, Donadea, Donaghcumper, Kilcock, Leixlip, Maynooth, Straffan, in the former <i>Rural District of Celbridge No. 1</i>;</p> <p>Ballynadrummy, Cadamstown, Carbury, Carrick, Drehid, Dunfieth, Kilrainy, Windmill Cross, in the former <i>Rural District of Edenderry No. 2</i>;</p> <p>Bodenstown, Clane, Downings, Kill, Kilteel, Naas Rural, Oughterard, Rathmore, Robertstown, Timahoe North, Timahoe South in the former <i>Rural District of Naas No. 1</i>;</p> <p>and the town of Naas.</p>  | Four.             |
| Kildare South                 | The county of Kildare, except the part thereof which is comprised in the constituency of Kildare North.  | Three.            |
| Laois-Offaly                  | The counties of Laois and Offaly.  | Five.             |
| Limerick East                 | <p>In the county of Limerick the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Caherconey, Hospital, Killeely, in the former <i>Rural District of Kilmallock</i>;</p> <p>Abington, Ballybricken, Ballycummin, Ballysimon, Ballyvarra, Caherconlish East, Caherconlish West, Caherelly, Cappamore, Castleconnell, Clonkeen, Doon West, Glenstal, Kilmurry, Limerick North Rural, Limerick South Rural, Roxborough, in the former <i>Rural District of Limerick No. 1</i>;</p> <p>Bilboa, Doon South, Grean, Oola, Templebredon, in the former <i>Rural District of Tipperary No. 2</i>;</p> <p>and the city of Limerick;</p> <p>and, in the former <i>Rural District of Meelick</i>, in the county of Clare, the electoral division of Ballyglass.</p>   | Five.             |

| Name of Proposed Constituency | Local Government Area*   | Number of Members |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Limerick West                 | The county of Limerick, except the part thereof which is comprised in the constituency of Limerick East.   | Three.            |
| Longford-Westmeath            | <p>The county of Longford;</p> <p>and, in the county of Westmeath, the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Athlone East Rural, Auburn, Ballybroder, Bellanalack, Carn, Castledaly, Glassan, Kilcumreragh, Killinure, Moate, Mount Temple, Moydrum, Muckanagh, Tubbrit, Umma, in the former <i>Rural District of Athlone No. 1</i> ;</p> <p>Ardnagrath, Ballymore, Doonis, Drumraney, Noughaval, Piercetown, Templepatrick, Winetown, in the former <i>Rural District of Ballymore</i>;</p> <p>Boherquill, Coole, Coolure, Finnea, Glore, Knockarrow, Rathowen, Street, in the former <i>Rural District of Coole</i>;</p> <p>Ardnaglew, Ballinalack, Ballykilmore, Ballymorin, Ballynagore, Belvidere, Carrick, Castle, Castlelost, Castletown, Churchtown, Cloghan, Clonfad, Clonlost, Derrymore, Dysart, Emper, Enniscoffey, Gaybrook, Glenlough, Greenpark, Griffinstown, Heathstown, Hopestown, Huntingdon, Jamestown, Kilbeggan, Kilbixy, Killare, Killucan, Kinnegad, Knockdrim, Lackan, Lauree, Middleton, Milltown, Mullingar Rural, Mullingar North Urban, Mullingar South Urban, Multyfarnham, Newtown, Owel, Portloman, Raharney, Rahugh, Rathconrath, Russellstown, Skeagh, Sonna, Stonehall, Streamstown, Taghmon, Tullaghan, Woodland, in the former <i>Rural District of Mullingar</i>;</p> <p>and the town of Athlone.</p> | Four.             |
| Louth                         | The county of Louth.   | Four.             |
| Mayo                          | The county of Mayo.  | Five.             |
| Meath East                    | <p>In the county of Meath the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Drumcondra, Grangegeeth, Killary, in the former <i>Rural District of Ardee No. 2</i>;</p> <p>Culmullin, Donaghmore, Dunboyne, Dunshaughlin, Kilbrew, Killeen, Kilmore, Rathfeigh, Ratoath, Rodanstown, Skreen, in the former <i>Rural District of Dunshaughlin</i>;</p> <p>Ardagh, Carrickleck, Cruicetown, Kilmainham, Moybolgue, Moynalty, Newcastle, Newtown, Nobber, Posseckstown, Trohanny, in the former <i>Rural District of Kells</i>;</p> <p>Ardcath, Duleek, Julianstown, Mellifont, St. Mary's (part), Stamullin, in the former <i>Rural District of Meath</i>;</p> <p>Ardmulchan, Castletown, Donaghpatrick, Kentstown, Painestown, Rathkenny, Slane, Stackallan, Tara, in the former <i>Rural District of Navan</i>.</p>   | Three.            |
| Meath West                    | The county of Meath, except that part which is comprised in the constituency of Meath East, and the county of Westmeath, except that part which is comprised in the constituency of Longford-Westmeath.  | Three.            |



| Name of Proposed Constituency | Local Government Area*  | Number of Members |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Roscommon-South Leitrim       | <p>The county of Roscommon;</p> <p>and, in the county of Leitrim, the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Ballinamore, Cloverhill, Corralla, Drumreilly North, Drumreilly South, Garradice, Greaghglass, Killygar, Newtowngore, Oughteragh, Stralongford, in the former <i>Rural District of Ballinamore</i>;</p> <p>Aghacashel, Annaduff, Barnameenagh, Carrick-on-Shannon, Drumreilly East, Drumreilly West, Drumshanbo, Drumsna, Gortnagullion, Gowel, Keshcarrigan, Kiltubbrid, Leitrim, Moher, Yugan, in the former <i>Rural District of Carrick-on-Shannon No. 1</i>;</p> <p>Aghavas, Beihy, Breandrum, Bunny Beg, Carrigallen East, Carrigallen West, Cashel, Castlefore, Cattan, Cloone, Corriga, Drumard, Drumdoo, Drumod, Fenagh, Gortermone, Keeldra, Lisgillock, Mohill, Rinn, Riverstown, Roosky, Rowan, in the former <i>Rural District of Mohill</i>.</p> | Three.            |
| Sligo-North Leitrim           | The county of Sligo and the county of Leitrim, except the part thereof which is comprised in the constituency of Roscommon-South Leitrim.   | Three.            |
| Tipperary North               | <p>The county of North Tipperary;</p> <p>and, in the county of South Tipperary, the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Ballysheehan, Clogher, Clonoulty East, Clonoulty West, Gaile, Graystown, Killenauale, Nodstown, in the former <i>Rural District of Cashel</i>;</p> <p>Ballyphilip, Buolick, Crohane, Farranrory, Fennor, Kilcooly, New Birmingham, Poyntstown, in the former <i>Rural District of Slievardagh</i>.</p> <p>Cappagh, Curraheen, Donohill, Glengar, in the former <i>Rural District of Tipperary No. 1</i>.</p>   | Three.            |
| Tipperary South               | <p>The county of South Tipperary, except the part thereof which is comprised in the constituency of Tipperary North;</p> <p>and, in the former <i>Rural District of Clonmel No. 2</i> in the county of Waterford, the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Kilmacomma, Kilonan;</p> <p>and the townlands of:</p> <p>Barravakeen, Bawnard, Boola, Carrickabrone, Coolishal, Derrinlaur Lower, Derrinlaur Upper, Glendaw, Gurteen Lower, Gurteen Upper, Lisheen, Tikincor Lower, Tikincor Upper, in the electoral division of Gurteen;</p> <p>and the townlands of:</p> <p>Croan Lower, Croan Upper, Glenary, Glennagad, Kilgainy Lower, Kilgainy Upper, Knocklucas, Knocknagriffin, Lyranearla, Monacalee, Poulboy, Pounlagunoge, Scrothea East, Scrothea West, Spa, in the electoral division of St. Mary's.</p>  | Three.            |

| Name of Proposed Constituency | Local Government Area*  | Number of Members |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Waterford                     | The county of Waterford, except the part thereof which is comprised in the constituency of Tipperary South;<br><br>and the city of Waterford.   | Four.             |
| Wexford                       | The county of Wexford.  | Five.             |
| Wicklow                       | The county of Wicklow;<br><br>and, in the county of Carlow, the electoral divisions of:<br><br>Clonmore, Hacketstown, Haroldstown, Kineagh, Rahill, Rathvilly, Ticknock, Williamstown, in the former <i>Rural District of Baltinglass No. 2</i> . | Five.             |

# Second Appendix

## Statistics relating to recommended Dáil constituencies

| Constituency            | Number of TDs | 2002 Population  | Population per TD | % variance from national average representation of 23,598 |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|---|
| Carlow-Kilkenny         | 5             | 122,720          | 24,544            | +4.01%  |
| Cavan-Monaghan          | 5             | 109,139          | 21,828            | -7.50%  |
| Clare                   | 4             | 98,339           | 24,585            | +4.18%  |
| Cork East               | 4             | 90,845           | 22,711            | -3.76%  |
| Cork North-Central      | 4             | 89,648           | 22,412            | -5.03%  |
| Cork North-West         | 3             | 72,408           | 24,136            | +2.28%  |
| Cork South-Central      | 5             | 123,824          | 24,765            | +4.94%  |
| Cork South-West         | 3             | 71,104           | 23,701            | +0.44%  |
| Donegal North-East      | 3             | 68,575           | 22,858            | -3.13%  |
| Donegal South-West      | 3             | 69,000           | 23,000            | -2.53%  |
| Dublin Central          | 4             | 99,054           | 24,764            | +4.94%  |
| Dublin Mid-West         | 4             | 93,793           | 23,448            | -0.63%  |
| Dublin North            | 4             | 98,863           | 24,716            | +4.74%  |
| Dublin North-Central    | 3             | 73,501           | 24,500            | +3.82%  |
| Dublin North-East       | 3             | 72,873           | 24,291            | +2.94%  |
| Dublin North-West       | 3             | 68,502           | 22,834            | -3.24%  |
| Dublin South            | 5             | 115,279          | 23,056            | -2.30%  |
| Dublin South-Central    | 5             | 118,975          | 23,795            | +0.83%  |
| Dublin South-East       | 4             | 97,096           | 24,274            | +2.86%  |
| Dublin South-West       | 4             | 95,413           | 23,853            | +1.08%  |
| Dublin West             | 3             | 73,186           | 24,395            | +3.38%  |
| Dún Laoghaire           | 5             | 116,286          | 23,257            | -1.44%  |
| Galway East             | 4             | 90,707           | 22,677            | -3.90%  |
| Galway West             | 5             | 118,370          | 23,674            | +0.32%  |
| Kerry North             | 3             | 66,393           | 22,131            | -6.22%  |
| Kerry South             | 3             | 66,134           | 22,045            | -6.58%  |
| Kildare North           | 4             | 95,027           | 23,757            | +0.67%  |
| Kildare South           | 3             | 68,917           | 22,972            | -2.65%  |
| Laois-Offaly            | 5             | 122,437          | 24,487            | +3.77%  |
| Limerick East           | 5             | 112,449          | 22,490            | -4.70%  |
| Limerick West           | 3             | 67,793           | 22,598            | -4.24%  |
| Longford-Westmeath      | 4             | 96,453           | 24,113            | +2.18%  |
| Louth                   | 4             | 101,821          | 25,455            | +7.87%  |
| Mayo                    | 5             | 117,446          | 23,489            | -0.46%  |
| Meath East              | 3             | 70,241           | 23,414            | -0.78%  |
| Meath West              | 3             | 70,237           | 23,412            | -0.79%  |
| Roscommon-South Leitrim | 3             | 70,892           | 23,631            | +0.14%  |
| Sligo-North Leitrim     | 3             | 66,881           | 22,294            | -5.53%  |
| Tipperary North         | 3             | 70,427           | 23,476            | -0.52%  |
| Tipperary South         | 3             | 71,125           | 23,708            | +0.47%  |
| Waterford               | 4             | 100,125          | 25,031            | +6.07%  |
| Wexford                 | 5             | 116,596          | 23,319            | -1.18%  |
| Wicklow                 | 5             | 118,309          | 23,662            | +0.27%  |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>166</b>    | <b>3,917,203</b> | <b>23,598*</b>    |   |

\*National average representation is 23,598 population per TD.

# Third Appendix

## Statistics relating to existing Dáil constituencies

| Constituency         | Number of TDs | 2002 Population* | Population per TD | % variance from national average representation of 23,598 |
|----------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|---|
| Carlow-Kilkenny      | 5             | 122,720          | 24,544            | +4.01%  |
| Cavan-Monaghan       | 5             | 109,139          | 21,828            | -7.50%  |
| Clare                | 4             | 99,364           | 24,841            | +5.27%  |
| Cork East            | 4             | 90,845           | 22,711            | -3.76%  |
| Cork North-Central   | 5             | 108,565          | 21,713            | -7.99%  |
| Cork North-West      | 3             | 64,290           | 21,430            | -9.19%  |
| Cork South-Central   | 5             | 116,782          | 23,356            | -1.02%  |
| Cork South-West      | 3             | 67,347           | 22,449            | -4.87%  |
| Donegal North-East   | 3             | 73,961           | 24,654            | +4.47%  |
| Donegal South-West   | 3             | 63,614           | 21,205            | -10.14%   |
| Dublin Central       | 4             | 100,009          | 25,002            | +5.95%  |
| Dublin Mid-West      | 3             | 81,734           | 27,245            | +15.45%   |
| Dublin North         | 4             | 102,790          | 25,698            | +8.90%  |
| Dublin North-Central | 4             | 84,341           | 21,085            | -10.65%   |
| Dublin North-East    | 3             | 67,053           | 22,351            | -5.28%  |
| Dublin North-West    | 3             | 62,376           | 20,792            | -11.89%   |
| Dublin South         | 5             | 117,274          | 23,455            | -0.61%  |
| Dublin South-Central | 5             | 118,020          | 23,604            | +0.03%  |
| Dublin South-East    | 4             | 97,096           | 24,274            | +2.86%  |
| Dublin South-West    | 4             | 93,418           | 23,355            | -1.03%  |
| Dublin West          | 3             | 82,424           | 27,475            | +16.43%   |
| Dún Laoghaire        | 5             | 116,286          | 23,257            | -1.44%  |
| Galway East          | 4             | 90,707           | 22,677            | -3.90%  |
| Galway West          | 5             | 118,370          | 23,674            | +0.32%  |
| Kerry North          | 3             | 65,158           | 21,719            | -7.96%  |
| Kerry South          | 3             | 67,369           | 22,456            | -4.84%  |
| Kildare North        | 3             | 85,473           | 28,491            | +20.73%   |
| Kildare South        | 3             | 78,471           | 26,157            | +10.84%   |
| Laoighis-Offaly      | 5             | 122,437          | 24,487            | +3.77%  |
| Limerick East        | 5             | 114,652          | 22,930            | -2.83%  |
| Limerick West        | 3             | 64,565           | 21,522            | -8.80%  |
| Longford-Roscommon   | 4             | 84,842           | 21,210            | -10.12%   |
| Louth                | 4             | 101,821          | 25,455            | +7.87%  |
| Mayo                 | 5             | 117,446          | 23,489            | -0.46%  |
| Meath                | 5             | 134,005          | 26,801            | +13.57%   |
| Sligo-Leitrim        | 4             | 83,999           | 21,000            | -11.01%   |
| Tipperary North      | 3             | 70,427           | 23,476            | -0.52%  |
| Tipperary South      | 3             | 71,125           | 23,708            | +0.47%  |
| Waterford            | 4             | 100,125          | 25,031            | +6.07%  |
| Westmeath            | 3             | 71,858           | 23,953            | +1.50%  |
| Wexford              | 5             | 116,596          | 23,319            | -1.18%  |
| Wicklow              | 5             | 118,309          | 23,662            | +0.27%  |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>166</b>    | <b>3,917,203</b> | <b>23,598#</b>    |   |

\*Includes revised population statistics supplied by the Central Statistics Office for certain Dublin constituencies.

#National average representation is 23,598 population per TD.

# Fourth Appendix

## Electoral divisions recommended for transfer between constituencies

### 1. Cork Area constituencies

| Electoral division  | 2002 Population |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>A. Transfer in Cork City from Cork North-Central to Cork South-Central</b> |                 |
| Ballinlough A   | 809             |
| Bishopstown A   | 1,155           |
| Bishopstown B   | 2,005           |
| Bishopstown C   | 5,324           |
| Centre A  | 560             |
| Centre B  | 1,583           |
| City Hall A   | 783             |
| City Hall B   | 1,106           |
| Evergreen   | 1,414           |
| Gillabbey A   | 1,948           |
| Gilabbey B  | 1,088           |
| Gilabbey C  | 1,686           |
| Glasheen A  | 741             |
| Glasheen B  | 728             |
| Mardyke   | 875             |
| South Gate A  | 1,431           |
| South Gate B  | 958             |
| Tramore A   | 834             |
| Turner's Cross A  | 890             |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>25,918</b>   |
| <b>B. Transfer in Cork County from Cork South-Central to Cork South-West</b>  |                 |
| <i>Former Cork Rural District:</i>  |                 |
| Dunderrow   | 1,323           |
| <i>Former Kinsale Rural District:</i>   |                 |
| Ballyfeard  | 271             |
| Ballyfoyle  | 234             |
| Cullen  | 399             |
| Farranbrien   | 460             |
| Kilmonoge   | 571             |
| Kinure  | 290             |
| Nohaval   | 209             |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>3,757</b>    |
| <b>C. Transfer in Cork County from Cork South-Central to Cork North-West</b>  |                 |
| <i>Former Cork Rural District:</i>  |                 |
| Ballincollig  | 15,119          |
| <b>D. Transfer in Cork County from Cork North-West to Cork North-Central</b>  |                 |
| <i>Former Cork Rural District:</i>  |                 |
| Carrigrohane Beg  | 1,691           |
| Dripsey   | 1,323           |
| Firmount  | 489             |
| Matehy  | 2,593           |
| <i>Former Macroom Rural District:</i>   |                 |
| Gowlane   | 905             |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>7,001</b>    |

## 2. Dublin Area constituencies

| Electoral division  | 2002 Population |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>A. Transfer in Fingal County from Dublin North to Dublin West</b>                |                 |
| The Ward (part north of M50)  | 1,189           |
| Dubber (part north of M50)  | 706             |
| Kilsallaghan  | 2,032           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>3,927</b>    |
| <b>B. Transfer in Fingal County from Dublin West to Dublin North-West</b>           |                 |
| Blanchardstown-Abbotstown (part east of M50)  | 1,106           |
| <b>C. Transfer in South Dublin County from Dublin West to Dublin Mid-West</b>       |                 |
| Palmerston West   | 8,130           |
| Palmerston Village  | 3,929           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>12,059</b>   |
| <b>D. Transfer in Dublin City from Dublin North-Central to Dublin North-East</b>    |                 |
| Grange E  | 2,930           |
| Edenmore  | 2,890           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>5,820</b>    |
| <b>E. Transfer in Dublin City from Dublin North-Central to Dublin North-West</b>    |                 |
| Beaumont A  | 2,667           |
| Whitehall D   | 2,353           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>5,020</b>    |
| <b>F. Transfer in Dublin City from Dublin Central to Dublin South-Central</b>       |                 |
| Phoenix Park (part south of Chapelizod Road and Conyngham Road and Parkgate Street) | 955             |
| <b>G. Transfer in South Dublin County from Dublin South to Dublin South-West</b>    |                 |
| Firhouse Village (part not currently in Dublin South West)                          | 1,995           |

## 3. Kildare constituencies

| Electoral division  | 2002 Population |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>Transfer in County Kildare from Kildare South to Kildare North</b> |                 |
| <i>Former Edenderry No. 2 Rural District:</i>                         |                 |
| Ballynadrumny   | 575             |
| Cadamstown  | 763             |
| Carbury   | 1,650           |
| Carrick   | 212             |
| Drehid  | 197             |
| Dunfierth   | 610             |
| Kilrainy  | 501             |
| Windmill Cross  | 663             |
| <i>Former Naas No. 1 Rural District:</i>                              |                 |
| Downings  | 2,090           |
| Robertstown   | 1,760           |
| Timahoe South   | 533             |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>9,554</b>    |

#### 4. Donegal constituencies

| Electoral division  | 2002 Population |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>Transfer in County Donegal from Donegal North-East to Donegal South-West</b> |                 |
| <i>Former Stranorlar Rural District:</i>  |                 |
| Clonleigh North   | 1,328           |
| Clonleigh South*  | 2,004           |
| Figart  | 725             |
| Raphoe  | 1,329           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>5,386</b>    |

\*Includes Lifford.

#### 5. Clare and Limerick constituencies

| Electoral division   | 2002 Population |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>A. Transfer in County Clare from Clare to Limerick East</b>   |                 |
| <i>Former Meelick Rural District:</i>  |                 |
| The following townlands in Ballyglass Electoral District:<br>Ballyglass, Blackwater, Castlebank, Drummin, Lakyle, Parkroe, Quinspool North,<br>Reanabrone, Glenlon North, Glenlon South, Illaunaroan and 7 other islands on the River<br>Shannon | 1,025           |
| <b>B. Transfer in Limerick County from Limerick East to Limerick West</b>  |                 |
| <i>Former Kilmallock Rural District:</i>   |                 |
| Bruff  | 1,265           |
| Uregare  | 539             |
| Knockainy  | 625             |
| Knocklong  | 799             |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>3,228</b>    |

#### 6. Kerry constituencies

| Electoral division  | 2002 Population |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>Transfer in County Kerry from Kerry South to Kerry North</b> |                 |
| <i>Former Tralee Rural District:</i>                            |                 |
| Baurtregaum   | 422             |
| Kilgobban   | 262             |
| Knockglass  | 252             |
| <i>Former Dingle Rural District:</i>                            |                 |
| Deelis  | 299             |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>1,235</b>    |

# Fifth Appendix

## Organisations and persons who made submissions

### Political Parties

Fianna Fail  
Fianna Fail, Dublin Central  
Fianna Fail, Dublin South West  
Fine Gael  
Green Party  
Labour Party, Dublin North-West  
Labour Party, Dublin South-Central  
Progressive Democrats  
Progressive Democrats, Drogheda  
Progressive Democrats, Dublin Mid-West  
Sinn Fein

### Public Representatives

Mr. N. Ahern, T.D., Minister of State  
Mr. L. Aylward, T.D., Minister of State  
Mr. J. Bruton, T.D.  
Mr. E. Gilmore, T.D.  
Mr. P. Kiely, T.D.  
Mr. S. Kirk, T.D.  
Mr. C. Lenihan, T.D.  
Mr. F. McGrath, T.D.  
Ms. B. Moynihan-Cronin, T.D.  
Ms. L. McManus, T.D.  
Mr. D. Naughten, T.D.  
Mr. M. J. Nolan, T.D.  
Mr. J. O’Keeffe, T.D.  
Mr. B. Timmins, T.D.  
Senator J. Bannon  
Senator F. Browne  
Senator T. Leyden  
Senator J. P. Phelan  
Senator J. Tuffey  
Councillor D. Alcock, Carlow County Council  
Councillor J. Browne, Carlow County Council  
Councillor J. Hannon, South Dublin County Council  
Councillor P. J. Kavanagh, The Mill, Ballyredmond, Clonegal, County Carlow  
Councillor E. Nolan, Park, Tinsyland, Carlow  
Councillor W. Paton, Carlow County Council

### Local Authorities

Carlow County Council  
Fingal County Council



## Organisations

Carlow Chamber of Commerce  
Colaiste Eoin, Hacketstown  
Drogheda Chamber of Commerce

## Individuals

S. Allen  
A. & T. Brady, Firhouse  
B. Brennan  
Madge & Kevin Buggy, Woodlawn Park Avenue, Firhouse, Dublin 24  
Frank Butler, Villa Park Road, Navan Road, Dublin 7  
Sean & Debbie Byrne, Woodlawn Park Avenue, Firhouse, Dublin 24  
D. Cassidy, Woodlawn Park Avenue, Firhouse, Dublin 24  
F. Cassidy  
Paul Connell  
L. & B. Connolly  
P. Connors  
M. Deane, Glenamoy, Ballina, County Mayo  
Ann Duffy, Drumguin, Hacketstown, County Carlow  
L. & S. Early  
A. Fallon  
Fitzgerald Family, Firhouse, Dublin 24  
K. Flannigan, Woodlawn Park Avenue, Firhouse, Dublin 24  
Noeleen Foster & Family, Carriglea Avenue, Firhouse, Dublin 24  
Stephaine Gallagher, Woodlawn Park Avenue, Firhouse, Dublin 24  
Eamonn Hoban-Shelley, Woodlawn Park Avenue, Firhouse Road, Dublin 16  
B. Hurley (e-mail)  
Lorraine Hynes, Castlewood Gardens, Carlow  
Colm Jackson (e-mail)  
T. & M. Kavanagh, Woodlawn Park Avenue, Firhouse, Dublin 24  
Y. Kavanagh, Woodlawn Park Avenue, Firhouse, Dublin 24  
Gerry, Marie, Paul & Fiona Keegan, Carriglea Downs, Firhouse, Dublin 24  
Noel Kennedy, St Patricks Park, Rathvilly, County Carlow  
P. Killeen  
Dermot C. Melia, Foxfield Road, Raheny, Dublin 5  
Frank Mockler, The Beeches, Shannon View, Ballina, Killaloe, County Clare  
Oliver Moran, Woodlawn Park Avenue, Firhouse Road, Dublin 24  
Patrick Mullarkey, Braganza, Athy Road, Carlow  
Michael F Murphy, Ailesbury Park, Dublin 4  
Tom Murphy, Carrigwood, Firhouse, Dublin 24  
Kieran Mulvey, Woodlawn Park Avenue, Firhouse, Dublin 24  
M. & C. Mulvey, Woodlawn Park Avenue, Firhouse, Dublin 24  
McCarthy family, Firhouse  
E. McCarthy  
M. McDaid, Woodlawn Park Avenue, Firhouse, Dublin 24  
Patrick McDaid, Meadow View, Drogheda, County Louth  
Betty, Seamus & Jamie McDonagh, Woodlawn Park Avenue, Firhouse, Dublin 24  
Patricia Noctor, Woodlawn Park Avenue, Firhouse, Dublin 24  
M. & P. Nolan, Woodlawn Park Avenue, Firhouse, Dublin 24

P. Nolan, Woodlawn Park Avenue, Firhouse, Dublin 24  
Déaglán Ó hArgadáin, Corrán na Sceach Gael, Baile Phámar, Baile Átha Cliath 20  
Sean O'Donoghue, Auburn Green, Clonmel  
Barry O'Hara, Carrigwood, Firhouse, Dublin 24  
Patrick O'Leary, Mount Leinster Park, Tullow Road, Carlow  
John, Mary & Colm O'Neill (e-mail)  
M. Porrally  
T. Price, Woodlawn Park Avenue, Firhouse, Dublin 24  
J. R. Quigley, LIT, Moylish Park, Limerick  
M. Reegan  
H. & D. Scallon  
Robert Shannon, Durrus, Bantry, County Cork  
John Sheridan, Dromiskin, Dundalk, County Louth  
Leo Varadkar, Roselawn Road, Dublin 15  
L. Yong

# Sixth Appendix

## Previous commission reports

### A. Dáil Constituencies

Report of April 1980 (PrI. 8878)  
Report of July 1983 (Pl. 1774)  
Report of October 1988 (Pl. 5984)\*  
Report of July 1990 (Pl. 7520)  
Report of April 1995 (Pn. 1619)  
Report of March 1998 (Pn. 5074)

\*The constituencies recommended in this report were not enacted into law.

### B. European Constituencies

Report of October 1977 (PrI. 6626)  
Report of June 1993 (Pl. 9901)  
Report of March 1998 (Pn. 5074)  
Report of October 2003 (Prn. 1002)

# Seventh Appendix

## Press notice issued by Commission

A Constituency Commission has been established under section 5 of the Electoral Act, 1997 to make a report in relation to the constituencies for (a) the election of members to the Dáil and (b) the election of members to the European Parliament.

1. In relation to Dáil constituencies, the Commission is required, in observing the relevant provisions of the Constitution, to have regard to the following:
  - (a) the total number of members of the Dáil, subject to Article 16.2.2° of the Constitution, shall be not less than 164 and not more than 168;
  - (b) each constituency shall return three, four or five members;
  - (c) the breaching of county boundaries shall be avoided as far as practicable. (The reference to county boundaries shall be deemed not to include a reference to the boundary of a county borough or any boundary between any two of the administrative counties standing established by virtue of Part II of the Local Government (Dublin) Act, 1993);
  - (d) each constituency shall be composed of contiguous areas;
  - (e) there shall be regard to geographic considerations including significant physical features and the extent of and the density of population in each constituency; and
  - (f) subject to the above matters, the Commission shall endeavour to maintain continuity in relation to the arrangement of constituencies.
2. In relation to European constituencies, the Commission shall have regard to the following:
  - (a) in accordance with decisions taken at the European Council in Copenhagen (12/13 December 2002), the total number of members to be elected in the State to the European Parliament shall be 13 in the June 2004 elections;
  - (b) there shall be reasonable equality of representation as between constituencies; and
  - (c) the matters specified at (b) to (f) of paragraph 1 above.

The Commission invites written submissions in relation to matters which should be considered in making its report. Submissions should be addressed to The Secretary, Constituency Commission, Room 1.65, Custom House, Dublin 1, or by email to [constituency\\_commission@environ.irlgov.ie](mailto:constituency_commission@environ.irlgov.ie). The Commission intends to present separate reports in relation to Dáil and European Parliament constituencies. Having regard to the different timescales involved for these reports, submissions on the European Parliament constituencies should be made not later than 5 September 2003 and on Dáil constituencies not later than 26 September 2003.

The Commission has prepared a statement of the constitutional provisions relating to Dáil constituencies and tables showing relevant statistics based on Census 2002, for the existing Dáil and European Parliament constituencies. This statement is available on request from the Commission or on the Commission's website at [www.constituency-commission.ie](http://www.constituency-commission.ie).

Submissions received by the Commission may be inspected by prior arrangement with the Commission's Secretary in the Custom House, Dublin 1 (telephone 01-8882484) during the hours of 10.00am to 4.30pm (Monday to Friday) until 31 October 2003. A person may take a copy of the submissions or of extracts from them on payment of a fee of 5c per page.

# Eighth Appendix

## Commission statement on relevant provisions of the Constitution in relation to Dáil constituencies, matters concerning the European Parliament and population statistics relating to Dáil and European parliament constituencies

### A. Dáil constituencies

#### 1. Equality of representation

Article 16.2.2° of the Constitution provides that:

“The number of members shall from time to time be fixed by law, but the total number of members of Dáil Éireann shall not be fixed at less than one member for each thirty thousand of the population, or more than one member for each twenty thousand of the population.”

Article 16.2.3° of the Constitution provides that:

“The ratio between the number of members to be elected at any time for each constituency and the population of each constituency, as ascertained at the last preceding census, shall, so far as it is practicable, be the same throughout the country.”

and Article 16.2.4° provides that:

“the Oireachtas shall revise the constituencies at least once in every twelve years, with due regard to changes in distribution of the population.”

Dáil constituencies were last revised under the Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 1998.

The text of Article 16 of the Constitution is set out in full in page 00.

#### 2. Court cases

The constitutional requirements in relation to equality of representation were considered by the High Court in the case of *O’Donovan v the Attorney General* (1961 IR 114) and the Supreme Court in “*In the matter of Article 26 of the Constitution and in the matter of the Electoral (Amendment) Bill, 1961*” (1961 IR 169).

The Court found in the *O’Donovan* case that the Electoral (Amendment) Act, 1959 was unconstitutional because the ratio of members to population was not, so far as was practicable, the same throughout the country and because due regard had not been had to changes in the distribution of the population. The Court did not lay down what variation from the national average would be regarded as permissible.

The judgement also stated that:

“Attention should be paid to one important point. It is not the rise or fall of population in any particular constituency to which ‘due’ regard is to be had. It is something much wider than that. It is the constituencies themselves which have to be revised so as to give effect to the contemplated changes in the distribution of population. They, the constituencies, must be so formed and revised as to give effect to the changes.”

## **The Electoral (Amendment) Bill 1961**

The variances from national average representation in the constituencies set out in the Electoral (Amendment) Bill (1961) passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas, were all within a 1,000 population of the average population per member. Pursuant to Article 26 of the Constitution, the President referred the Bill to the Supreme Court for decision whether the Bill (or any provision or provisions thereof) was repugnant to the Constitution or to any provision thereof. The Court said:

“The subclause (i.e. subclause 3 of clause 2 of Article 16) recognises that exact parity in the ratio between members and the population of each constituency is unlikely to be obtained and is not required. The decision as to what is practicable is within the jurisdiction of the Oireachtas. It may reasonably take into consideration a variety of factors, such as the desirability so far as possible to adhere to well-known boundaries such as those of counties, townlands and electoral divisions. The existence of divisions created by such physical features as rivers, lakes and mountains may also have to be reckoned with. The problem of what is practicable is primarily one for the Oireachtas, whose members have knowledge of the problems and difficulties to be solved which this Court cannot have. Its decision should not be reviewed by this Court unless there is a manifest infringement of the Article. This Court cannot, as is suggested, lay down a figure above or below which a variation from what is called the national average is not permitted.”

### **3. Population details per Dáil constituency**

The table at page 6 contains details of the following information in relation to each constituency based on the population data taken from the Census of Population 2002:

- the number of members established for the constituency under the Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 1998;
- the population of the constituency;
- the population per member; and
- the percentage variation of population per member of the constituency from the national average population per member.

## **B. European Parliament constituencies**

### **Background**

The European Parliament constituencies were established in 1977 and revised in 1993 when a seat was transferred from the Munster to the Leinster constituency.

Elections in Ireland to the European Parliament are governed by the European Parliament Elections Acts, 1992 to 1997 which provide for elections on the single transferable vote system in multi-member constituencies. Under the terms of section 15 of the European Parliament Elections Act, 1997, legislative proposals for a review of the European constituencies must be submitted to the Oireachtas by 1 December 2003 and at least once in every ten years thereafter. The constituencies were last reviewed in 1998 when the Commission recommended no change in the formation of the four constituencies.

### **4. Equality of Representation**

The specific constitutional provisions and the court rulings relating to equality of representation in the formation of Dáil constituencies have no direct application to the formation of European constituencies. The terms of reference of the Commission are set out in section 6 (see extract at page 7) of the Electoral Act 1997 and contain most of the factors to be considered in the case of Dáil constituencies. The degree of equality which can

reasonably be achieved is also limited by practical considerations. This is particularly the case where the number of seats available for distribution is limited and the blocks (primarily the counties) which can be used for adjustment purposes are comparatively large, both in extent and in population.

**In accordance with decisions taken at the European Council in Copenhagen (12/13 December 2002), the number of members to be returned by Ireland at the next European Parliament Elections (June 2004) is 13.**

### C. Population details per European Constituency

Statistics relating to the existing European constituencies are contained in the Table below.

| European Constituency | Number of MEPs | 2002 Population  | Population per MEP | % variance from national average population per MEP |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|---|
| Connacht-Ulster       | 3              | 711,010          | 237,003            | -9.25%  |
| Dublin                | 4              | 1,122,821        | 280,705            | +7.49%  |
| Leinster              | 4              | 982,758          | 245,689            | -5.92%  |
| Munster               | 4              | 1,100,614        | 275,153            | +5.36%  |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>15</b>      | <b>3,917,203</b> | <b>261,147</b>     | —   |



# Constitution of Ireland

## Article 16

### THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT

16. 2. 1° Dáil Éireann shall be composed of members who represent constituencies determined by law.
- 2° The number of members shall from time to time be fixed by law, but the total number of members of Dáil Éireann shall not be fixed at less than one member for each thirty thousand of the population, or at more than one member for each twenty thousand of the population.
- 3° The ratio between the number of members to be elected at any time for each constituency and the population of each constituency, as ascertained at the last preceding census, shall, so far as it is practicable, be the same throughout the country.
- 4° The Oireachtas shall revise the constituencies at least once in every twelve years, with due regard to changes in distribution of the population, but any alterations in the constituencies shall not take effect during the life of Dáil Éireann sitting when such revision is made.
- 5° The members shall be elected on the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.
- 6° No law shall be enacted whereby the number of members to be returned for any constituency shall be less than three.

## Existing Dáil Constituencies

| Constituency          | Number of TDs | 2002 Population  | Population per TD | % variance from national average population per TD |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|--|
| Carlow-Kilkenny       | 5             | 122,720          | 24,544            | +4.01  |
| Cavan-Monaghan        | 5             | 109,139          | 21,828            | -7.50  |
| Clare                 | 4             | 99,364           | 24,841            | +5.27  |
| Cork East             | 4             | 90,845           | 22,711            | -3.76  |
| Cork North-Central    | 5             | 108,565          | 21,713            | -7.99  |
| Cork North-West       | 3             | 64,290           | 21,430            | -9.19  |
| Cork South-Central    | 5             | 116,782          | 23,356            | -1.02  |
| Cork South-West       | 3             | 67,347           | 22,449            | -4.87  |
| Donegal North-East    | 3             | 73,961           | 24,654            | +4.47  |
| Donegal South-West    | 3             | 63,614           | 21,205            | -10.14   |
| Dublin Central        | 4             | 100,009          | 25,002            | +5.95  |
| Dublin Mid-West       | 3             | 81,734           | 27,245            | +15.45   |
| Dublin North          | 4             | 102,790          | 25,698            | +8.90  |
| Dublin North-Central  | 4             | 84,341           | 21,085            | -10.65   |
| Dublin North-East     | 3             | 67,053           | 22,351            | -5.28  |
| Dublin North-West     | 3             | 62,376           | 20,792            | -11.89   |
| Dublin South*         | 5             | 117,018*         | 23,404            | -0.82  |
| Dublin South-Central* | 5             | 117,948*         | 23,590            | -0.03  |
| Dublin South-East     | 4             | 97,096           | 24,274            | +2.86  |
| Dublin South-West*    | 4             | 93,490*          | 23,372            | -0.96  |
| Dublin West           | 3             | 82,424           | 27,475            | +16.43   |
| Dún Laoghaire*        | 5             | 116,542*         | 23,308            | -1.23  |
| Galway East           | 4             | 90,707           | 22,677            | -3.90  |
| Galway West           | 5             | 118,370          | 23,674            | +0.32  |
| Kerry North           | 3             | 65,158           | 21,719            | -7.96  |
| Kerry South           | 3             | 67,369           | 22,456            | -4.84  |
| Kildare North         | 3             | 85,473           | 28,491            | +20.73   |
| Kildare South         | 3             | 78,471           | 26,157            | +10.84   |
| Laoighis-Offaly       | 5             | 122,437          | 24,487            | +3.77  |
| Limerick East         | 5             | 114,652          | 22,930            | -2.83  |
| Limerick West         | 3             | 64,565           | 21,522            | -8.80  |
| Longford-Roscommon    | 4             | 84,842           | 21,210            | -10.12   |
| Louth                 | 4             | 101,821          | 25,455            | +7.87  |
| Mayo                  | 5             | 117,446          | 23,489            | -0.46  |
| Meath                 | 5             | 134,005          | 26,801            | +13.57   |
| Sligo-Leitrim         | 4             | 83,999           | 21,000            | -11.01   |
| Tipperary North       | 3             | 70,427           | 23,476            | -0.52  |
| Tipperary South       | 3             | 71,125           | 23,708            | +0.47  |
| Waterford             | 4             | 100,125          | 25,031            | +6.07  |
| Westmeath             | 3             | 71,858           | 23,953            | +1.50  |
| Wexford               | 5             | 116,596          | 23,319            | -1.18  |
| Wicklow               | 5             | 118,309          | 23,662            | +0.27  |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>166</b>    | <b>3,917,203</b> | <b>23,598</b>     |  |

[\*Revised population statistics for these constituencies were supplied subsequently by the Central Statistics Office. Revised statistics are set out in the Third Appendix.]

# Electoral Act, 1997

## Part II

### Constituency Commission

#### Section 6

6. (1) It shall be the function of a Constituency Commission to make a report in relation to the constituencies for—
  - (a) the election of members to the Dáil, and
  - (b) the election of representatives to the European Parliament.
- (2) In preparing a report under subsection (1)(a) a Constituency Commission shall, in observing the relevant provisions of the Constitution in relation to Dáil constituencies, have regard to the following:
  - (a) the total number of members of the Dáil, subject to Article 16. 2. 2 of the Constitution, shall be not less than 164 and not more than 168;
  - (b) each constituency shall return three, four or five members;
  - (c) the breaching of county boundaries shall be avoided as far as practicable;
  - (d) each constituency shall be composed of contiguous areas;
  - (e) there shall be regard to geographic considerations including significant physical features and the extent of and the density of population in each constituency; and
  - (f) subject to the provisions of this section, the Commission shall endeavour to maintain continuity in relation to the arrangement of constituencies.
- (3) In preparing a report under subsection (1)(b) a Commission shall have regard to the following:
  - (a) the total number of representatives to be elected in the State to the European Parliament shall be 15 or such other number as may be specified for the time being pursuant to the treaties governing the European Communities;
  - (b) there shall be reasonable equality of representation as between constituencies; and
  - (c) the matters specified in paragraphs (b) to (f) of subsection (2).
- (4) The reference in subsection (2)(c) to county boundaries shall be deemed not to include a reference to the boundary of a county borough or any boundary between any two of the administrative counties standing established by virtue of Part II of the Local Government (Dublin) Act, 1993.

# Ninth Appendix

## Constituency size and total Dáil membership since 1923

| Year of revision   | Number of TDs in constituency |    |    |   |   |   | Total number of constituencies | Total number of TDs |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|----|----|---|---|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|
|                    | 3                             | 4  | 5  | 7 | 8 | 9 |                                |                     |
| 1923               | 6                             | 4  | 9  | 5 | 3 | 1 | 28 <sup>1</sup>                | 147 <sup>1</sup>    |
| 1935               | 15                            | 8  | 8  | 3 |   |   | 34                             | 138                 |
| 1947               | 22                            | 9  | 9  |   |   |   | 40                             | 147                 |
| 1959 <sup>2</sup>  | 21                            | 9  | 9  |   |   |   | 39                             | 144                 |
| 1961               | 17                            | 12 | 9  |   |   |   | 38                             | 144                 |
| 1969               | 26                            | 14 | 2  |   |   |   | 42                             | 144                 |
| 1974               | 26                            | 10 | 6  |   |   |   | 42                             | 148                 |
| 1980               | 13                            | 13 | 15 |   |   |   | 41                             | 166                 |
| 1983               | 13                            | 13 | 15 |   |   |   | 41                             | 166                 |
| 1990               | 12                            | 15 | 14 |   |   |   | 41                             | 166                 |
| 1995               | 12                            | 15 | 14 |   |   |   | 41                             | 166                 |
| 1998               | 16                            | 12 | 14 |   |   |   | 42                             | 166                 |
| 2003 (Recommended) | 18                            | 13 | 12 |   |   |   | 43                             | 166                 |

<sup>1</sup> Excludes six university members returned for two constituencies of 3 members each.

<sup>2</sup> This revision was found to be unconstitutional by the High Court.