

**COISTE TOGHLAIGH UM PARLAIMINT
NA hEORPA**

**TUARASCÁIL AR THOGHLAIGH DO
PHARLAIMINT NA hEORPA, 2018**

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CONSTITUENCY
COMMITTEE**

**REPORT ON EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
CONSTITUENCIES 2018**

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1. RECOMMENDATION

The European Parliament Constituency Committee (referred to hereafter as the “Committee”) recommends that the State be divided into the following three constituencies for the election in Ireland of 13 members of the European Parliament.

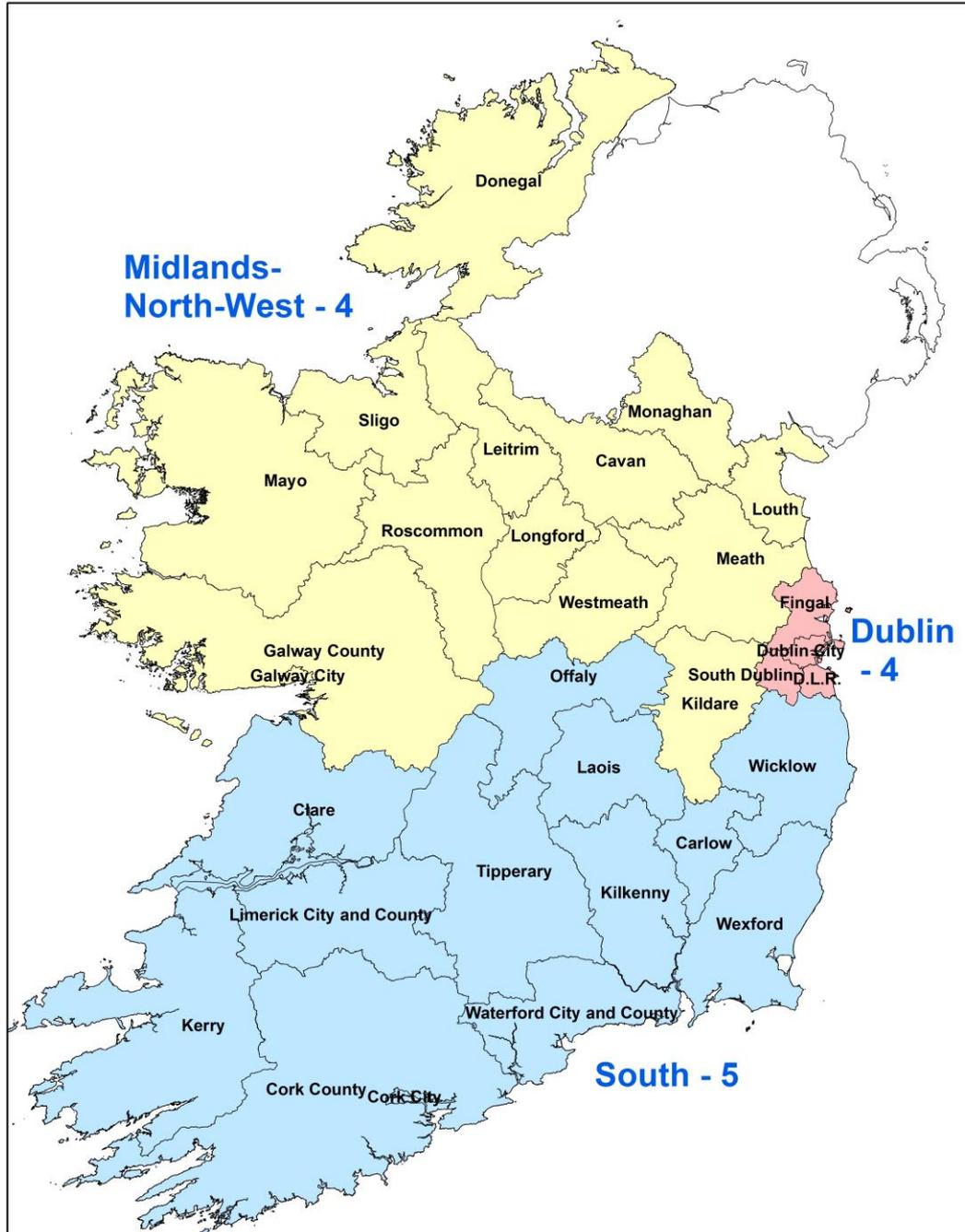
A 4-seat ‘Dublin’ constituency comprising the counties of: Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin; and the city of Dublin.

A 4-seat ‘Midlands-North-West’ constituency comprising the counties of: Cavan, Donegal, Galway, Kildare, Leitrim, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Roscommon, Sligo and Westmeath; and the city of Galway.

A 5-seat ‘South’ constituency comprising the counties of: Carlow, Clare, Cork, Kerry, Kilkenny, Laois, Offaly, Tipperary, Wexford and Wicklow; the cities and counties of Limerick and Waterford; and the city of Cork.

RECOMMENDED CONSTITUENCIES

IRELAND



2. ESTABLISHMENT AND PROCEDURE OF COMMITTEE

2.1 Establishment

The Committee was established on 24 July 2018 under Part II of the Electoral Act 1997 (as amended) to make a report to the Ceann Comhairle in relation to the constituencies for the election of members of the European Parliament.

2.2 Committee Membership and meetings

Mr. Justice Robert Haughton, of the High Court, was nominated by the Chief Justice as Chairperson of the Committee. The other members are: Mr. Peter Finnegan, Clerk of the Dáil; Mr. Martin Groves, Clerk of the Seanad; Mr. John McCarthy, Secretary General of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government; and Mr. Peter Tyndall, Ombudsman.

2.3 Terms of Reference

The Committee's terms of reference, set out in the Electoral Act 1997 (as amended), are as follows:

- the total number of members of the European Parliament to be elected in the State shall be such number as may be specified for the time being pursuant to the treaties governing the European Communities;
- there shall be reasonable equality of representation as between constituencies;
- each constituency shall return 3, 4 or 5 members;
- the breaching of county boundaries shall be avoided as far as practicable;
- each constituency shall be composed of contiguous areas;
- there shall be regard to geographic considerations including significant physical features and the extent of and the density of population in each constituency; and
- subject to the above provisions, the Committee shall endeavour to maintain continuity in relation to the arrangement of constituencies.

The reference above to county boundaries is deemed not to include a reference to the boundary of a city or any boundary between any two of the counties of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin.

The total number of representatives to be elected in the State to the European Parliament specified pursuant to the Treaty on European Union is 13 in accordance with the decision of the European Council of 28 June 2018, a copy of which is in Appendix 4.

2.4 Status of the Committee's recommendation

The Committee's role is advisory. The final configuration of the constituencies for the European Parliament is determined by law enacted by the Oireachtas.

2.5 Submissions

The Committee invited written submissions by way of notice in national newspapers on 27 July 2018 and 29 July 2018. An Irish language notice was also published in *Seachtain* on 1 August 2018. In addition, the notice was published on the website www.constituency-commission.ie. Copies of these notices are set out in Appendix 2. An invitation to make a submission was sent directly to each member of the Dáil and the Seanad, to the Irish MEPs, to political parties registered under section 25 of the Electoral Act 1992 and to returning officers.

The submissions received were considered by the Committee and were published on www.constituency-commission.ie as they were received. They were also available for public inspection at the offices of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Custom House, Dublin 1, D01 W6X0 until the conclusion of the Committee's work.

A list of the persons and organisations who made submissions by the deadline of 31 August 2018 is given in Appendix 3. The Committee wishes to record its appreciation of the time taken by them and the consideration given to those submissions.

2.6 Support services of the Committee

The Franchise Section of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government provided the necessary support services to the Committee. The Committee wishes to record its appreciation of the work of Barry Ryan, Paris Beausang, Ian Stuart-Mills and David Harbourne in this regard.

The Committee has sought to minimise the publication costs involved in the preparation and in the printing of its Report. These have been defrayed by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

3. IRISH LEGISLATION AND PREVIOUS REVIEWS OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CONSTITUENCIES

3.1 Irish Legislation

Elections in Ireland to the European Parliament are governed by the European Parliament Elections Acts 1992 to 2014 which provide for elections on the single transferable vote system in multi-member constituencies. The provision concerning the revision of constituencies is in section 15(2) of the European Parliament Elections Act 1997, as follows:

“(2) The Minister shall, having considered any report presented on statutory authority to each House of the Oireachtas recommending any alteration in the constituencies for which candidates shall be elected under this Act to be representatives in the Parliament, and not later than the first day of December, 2003 and at least once in every ten years thereafter, submit to the Oireachtas proposals for a review of the said constituencies.”

The existing European constituencies are specified in the Third Schedule to the European Parliament Elections Act 1997 (as amended).

3.2 Reviews 1977 to 2017

European Parliament constituencies have been reviewed on eight previous occasions. The outcomes of reviews from 1977 to 2017 are summarised in Appendix 5.

The most recent review was reported in the *Constituency Commission Report 2017 Dáil and European Parliament Constituencies*.

In that report the Commission recommended that the arrangement most in keeping with its terms of reference would be that of maintenance of the existing arrangement of constituencies for the election of members of the European Parliament. That recommendation was accepted and no legislative change was made arising from that review.

The existing European Parliament constituencies are detailed in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Existing European Parliament Constituencies

EXISTING EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CONSTITUENCIES				
Constituency and number of members	Area	2016 Population	Population per MEP	Variance¹
Dublin (3)	The counties of: Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin; and the city of Dublin.	1,347,359	449,120	+3.75%
Midlands-North-West (4)	The counties of: Cavan, Donegal, Galway, Kildare, Laois, Leitrim, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo and Westmeath; and the city of Galway.	1,686,175	421,544	-2.62%
South (4)	The counties of: Carlow, Clare, Cork, Kerry, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Wexford and Wicklow; the cities and counties of Limerick and Waterford; and the city of Cork.	1,728,331	432,083	-0.19%
Total		4,761,865	432,897	

¹ = % variance from national average population per MEP.

4. NEW CONSTITUENCY ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 General considerations

The review of the European Parliament constituencies is required because of the European Council Decision of 28 June 2018 which arose from the anticipated withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union and the consequential redistribution of seats. Because the number of members to be elected in Ireland to the European Parliament is increased from 11 to 13, the existing configuration of two 4-seat constituencies and one 3-seat constituency must be discontinued. By law each constituency must elect 5, 4 or 3 members.

The Committee considered the various configurations that were possible in dividing 13 seats between constituencies within the confines of 5, 4 and 3 seat constituencies. The committee noted that the following configurations are possible:

1. 1 x 5-seat constituency and 2 x 4-seat constituency;
2. 2 x 5-seat constituency and 1 x 3-seat constituency;
3. 3 x 3-seat constituency and 1 x 4-seat constituency.

The Committee noted that the existing constituencies are configured as two 4-seat constituencies and one 3-seat constituency. The Committee considered that the continuation of a three constituency arrangement would be most in keeping with its terms of reference. It was therefore inclined towards a configuration based on either option 1 or 2 above.

Equality of representation

The Committee's terms of reference require that there should be reasonable equality of representation as between constituencies. The degree of equality which can reasonably be achieved is influenced by practical considerations and particularly by the number of seats allocated to Ireland (now 13) and the desirability of taking account of the comparatively large units (mainly the counties) upon which the constituencies will be based. The Committee noted that in previous reviews the recommended constituencies have involved variations from the national average population per member ranging as follows:

Table 2 - Population variances in European constituencies 1977 to 2017

POPULATION VARIANCES IN EUROPEAN CONSTITUENCIES 1977 TO 2017			
Year of Review	Variance from National Average		Difference in the variances in percentage points
	Highest	Lowest	
1977	+ 8.44%	-11.16%	19.60
1993	+9.05%	-11.12%	20.17
1998	+9.44%	-10.39%	19.83
2003	+10.33%	- 9.92%	20.25
2007	+12.00%	-6.20%	18.20
2012	+10.94%	-5.86%	16.80
2013	+1.74%	-1.88%	3.62
2017	+3.75%	-2.62%	6.37

Population

The terms of reference provide that regard be had to the extent and density of population in each constituency. The Committee had regard, when making its recommendations, to the results of the 2016 population census. The 2016 population of each county, city and county and city is listed in the table in Appendix 1.

Accordingly, based on numerical equality of representation, each of the 13 MEPs elected in 2019 should represent an average 2016 population of 366,297.

County boundaries

The terms of reference require the Committee to avoid the breaching of county boundaries as far as is practicable. Counties and cities have been used for boundary adjustment since the European constituencies were first drawn up in 1977. This approach has allowed for this particular term of reference to be fully complied with on the occasion of each review.

Continuity

The terms of reference require that subject to other considerations, the Committee should endeavour to maintain continuity in relation to the arrangement of constituencies. This presents a particular challenge when new constituency arrangements are to be recommended and there are two more seats to be allocated among constituencies.

4.2 Arrangements for constituencies

The Committee examined a range of constituency configurations including options under the three configurations outlined in section 4.1. All of the options that were considered by the Committee achieved reasonable equality of representation and all arrangements were configured so that no breaches of county boundaries occurred. However, the Committee was of the view that an arrangement based on three constituencies was most in keeping with its terms of reference.

The Committee considered the existing Dublin constituency and noted that it had a variance of +3.75% in the existing 11 seat arrangement. However, with the new 13-seat arrangement, the variance for Dublin changes to +22.61%, which the Committee considered to be excessive. A number of the submissions received by the Committee recommended a new 5-seat East constituency with various combinations of counties to be added to the existing Dublin constituency. The Committee gave careful consideration to this option but, on balance, was of the view that the equality of representation that was achieved by adding a seat to the existing Dublin constituency, without any change in its geographical territory, was satisfactory. The Committee was of this view particularly in light of the variances that were previously recommended and enacted and in light of the continuity that such an arrangement would provide.

If Dublin is a 4-seat constituency then its variance becomes -8.04% which, from the perspective of the past figures for variance as set out in Table 2, the Committee considered to be a reasonable figure. (5 seats in Dublin would give a variance of -26.43%).

Given the Committee's inclination towards a three constituency arrangement, the remaining nine seats can be distributed in a configuration of 5 and 4 seats respectively.

In order to achieve an acceptable equality of representation, the Committee considered it necessary to transfer population between the existing constituencies of Midlands-North-West and South. The preferred approach of the Committee was to transfer the population in the counties of Laois and Offaly from the existing Midlands-North-West constituency into the existing South constituency with the existing Midlands-North-West constituency remaining at 4 seats and the South constituency becoming a 5-seat constituency. One of the features of this configuration is that none of the existing constituencies would 'lose' a seat which the Committee felt was important in the context of an overall increase of two members to be elected from Ireland.

The following table outlines the recommended constituencies.

Table 3 - Recommended constituencies - election of members of the European Parliament

RECOMMENDED CONSTITUENCIES - ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT				
Constituency and number of members	Area²	2016 Population		Variance³
		Total	per MEP	
Dublin (4)	The counties of: Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin; and the city of Dublin.	1,347,359	336,840	-8.04%
Midlands-North-West (4)	The counties of: Cavan, Donegal, Galway, Kildare, Leitrim, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Roscommon, Sligo and Westmeath; and the city of Galway.	1,523,517	380,879	+3.98%
South (5)	The counties of: Carlow, Clare, Cork, Kerry, Kilkenny, Laois, Offaly, Tipperary, Wexford and Wicklow; the cities and counties of Limerick and Waterford; and the city of Cork.	1,890,989	378,198	+3.25%
Total		4,761,865	366,297	

4.3 Article 3.2 of the European Council Decision of 28 June 2018 - delay in Brexit

The Committee considered Article 3.2 which provides in effect that in the event that the United Kingdom does not leave the European Union on 29 March 2019 then 11 of the 13 members elected from Ireland would take up their seats initially with the remaining two members taking up their seats when the United Kingdom's withdrawal becomes legally effective. The Committee was of the view that it was not within its terms of reference to recommend how the Oireachtas might legislate to comply with this provision.

² Area = counties, cities and cities and counties construed in accordance with section 10 of, and schedule 5 to, the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

³ = % variance from national average population per MEP.

4.4 Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the State be divided into the following three constituencies for the election in Ireland of 13 members of the European Parliament.

A 4-seat 'Dublin' constituency comprising the counties of: Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin; and the City of Dublin.

A 4-seat 'Midlands-North-West' constituency comprising the counties of: Cavan, Donegal, Galway, Kildare, Leitrim, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Roscommon, Sligo and Westmeath; and the city of Galway.

A 5-seat 'South' constituency comprising the counties of: Carlow, Clare, Cork, Kerry, Kilkenny, Laois, Offaly, Tipperary, Wexford and Wicklow; the cities and counties of Limerick and Waterford; and the city of Cork.

ROBERT HAUGHTON, Chairman

PETER FINNEGAN

MARTIN GROVES

JOHN MCCARTHY

PETER TYNDALL

Barry Ryan, Secretary to the
Committee

24 September 2018

Appendix 1 - 2016 Population for each City, County and City and County

Local Government Area	2016 Population
City	
Cork	125,657
Dublin	554,554
Galway	78,668
County	
Carlow	56,932
Cavan	76,176
Clare	118,817
Cork	417,211
Donegal	159,192
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	218,018
Fingal	296,020
Galway	179,390
Kerry	147,707
Kildare	222,504
Kilkenny	99,232
Laois	84,697
Leitrim	32,044
Longford	40,873
Louth	128,884
Mayo	130,507
Meath	195,044
Monaghan	61,386
Offaly	77,961
Roscommon	64,544
Sligo	65,535
South Dublin	278,767
Tipperary	159,553
Westmeath	88,770
Wexford	149,722
Wicklow	142,425
City and County	
Limerick	194,899
Waterford	116,176
Total	4,761,865

Appendix 2 - Public notice given by the committee

REVIEW OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CONSTITUENCIES

A statutory committee has been established under section 5(1A) of the Electoral Act 1997 (amended by the Electoral, Local Government and Planning and Development Act 2013) to make a report in relation to the constituencies for the election of members of the European Parliament.

In accordance with the 1997 Act, the Chief Justice has nominated the Hon. Mr. Justice Robert Haughton to act as chairperson of the committee. The other members of the committee, as set out in the Act, are:

- the Secretary General of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (Mr. John McCarthy),
- the Ombudsman, (Mr. Peter Tyndall),
- the Clerk of the Dáil (Mr. Peter Finnegan), and
- the Clerk of the Seanad (Mr. Martin Groves).

The committee is required to have regard to the following in making its report:

- the number of members of the European Parliament to be elected in the State as may be specified for the time being pursuant to the Treaties governing the European Communities – that number is now 13 (up from 11) following the decision of the European Council on 28 June 2018;
- there shall be reasonable equality of representation as between constituencies;
- each constituency shall return 3, 4 or 5 members;
- the breaching of county boundaries shall be avoided as far as practicable – this is deemed not to include a reference to the boundary of a city or any boundary between any two of the counties of Dún-Laoghaire Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin;
- each constituency shall be composed of contiguous areas;
- there shall be regard to geographic considerations including significant physical features and the extent of and the density of population in each constituency; and
- subject to the above provisions the committee shall endeavour to maintain continuity in relation to the arrangement of constituencies.

The committee invites written submissions in relation to matters which should be considered in reporting on European Parliament constituencies. Submissions should be addressed to The Secretary, European Parliament Constituencies Committee, Room 1.65, Custom House, Dublin 1, or by email to europarconstituencies@housing.gov.ie.

The closing date for submissions is **Friday, 31 August 2018**.

Submissions received by the committee will be published on the website of the Constituency Commission at www.constituency-commission.ie, and may be inspected by any person by prior arrangement with the committee in the Custom House, Dublin 1 (telephone 01-8882339) during the hours of 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. (Monday to Friday), until the conclusion of the work of the committee. The committee is required to present a report to the Chairman of the Dáil within two months of its establishment, that is by 24 September 2018.

ATHBHREITHNIÚ AR THOGLAIGH PHARLAIMINT NA HEORPA

Bunaíodh coiste reachtúil faoi alt 5(1A) den Acht Toghcháin 1997 (arna leasú ag an Acht um Thoghchán, Rialtas Áitiúil agus Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2013) chun tuairisc a dhéanamh ar na toghlaigh chun comhaltaí de Pharlaimint na hEorpa a thoghadh.

De réir Acht 1997, d'ainmnigh an Príomh-Bhreitheamh an tOnórach an Breitheamh Robert Haughton chun feidhmiú mar chathaoirleach an choiste. Is iad comhaltaí eile an choiste, arna leagan amach san Acht:

- Ard-Rúnaí na Roinne Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil (An tUas. John McCarthy),
- An tOmbudsman, (an tUas. Peter Tyndall),
- Cléireach na Dála (an tUas. Peter Finnegan), agus
- Cléireach an tSeanaid (an tUas. Martin Groves).

Éilítear ar an gcoiste aird a thabhairt ar an méid seo a leanas agus an tuairisc á déanamh:

- líon na gcomhaltaí de Pharlaimint na hEorpa a bheith le toghadh sa Stát de réir mar a bheidh sonraithe de thuras na huaire de bhun na gConarthaí a rialáíonn na Comhphobail Eorpacha – tá an líon sin ag 13 chomhalta anois (méadú ar 11 chomhalta) i ndiaidh chinneadh na Comhairle Eorpaí an 28 Meitheamh 2018;
- beidh comhionannas réasúnach ionadaíochta amhail idir toghlaigh;
- toghfaidh gach dáilcheantar 3, 4 nó 5 chomhalta;
- a mhéid is indéanta, seachnófar sárú teorainneacha contae – measfar nach bhfoláíonn sé sin tagairt do theorainn cathrach ná d'aon teorainn idir aon 2 cheann de chontaetha Dhún Laoghaire-Ráth an Dúin, Fhine Gall agus Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas;
- beidh gach dáilcheantar comhdhéanta de limistéir thadhlaigh;
- tabharfar aird ar chúinsí geografacha lena n-áirítear sainghnéithe fisiceacha suntasacha agus méid agus dlús an daonra i ngach dáilcheantar; agus
- faoi réir na bhforálacha thuasluaite, féachfaidh an coiste le leanúnachas a chothabháil indáil le cóiríú dáilcheantar.

Iarrann an coiste aighneachtaí i scríbhinn maidir le cúinsí ba cheart aird a thabhairt orthu sa tuairiscí ar thoghlaigh Parlaimint na hEorpa. Ba cheart aighneachtaí a sheoladh chuig: An Rúnaí, Coiste Thoghlaigh Parlaimint na hEorpa, Seomra 1.65, Teach an Chustaim, Baile Átha Cliath 1, nó ar ríomhphost chuig: europarlconstituencies@housing.gov.ie.

Is é an dáta deiridh d'aighneachtaí **Dé hAoine, 31 Lúnasa 2018**.

Foilseofar aighneachtaí a fhaigheann an coiste ar shuíomh gréasáin an Choimisiúin um Thoghlaigh ar www.constituency-commission.ie, agus féadfaidh duine ar bith iad a scrúdú ach é a shocrú roimh ré leis an gcoiste i dTeach an Chustaim, Baile Átha Cliath 1 (teileafón 01-8882339) óna 10.00 r.n. go dtí 4.30 i.n. (Luan go hAoine), go dtí go gcuirtear obair an choiste i gcrích. Éilítear ar an gcoiste tuarascáil a chur faoi bhráid Chathaoirleach na Dála laistigh de dhá mhí dá bhunú, is é sin faoin 24 Meán Fómhair 2018.

Appendix 3 - Persons and organisations from whom submissions were received⁴

Ewan Duffy
James Lawless, T.D.
Damon Matthew Wise
Éamon Ó Gamhna
Mark Larkin
Conor Forde
European Movement Ireland
Irish Civil Rights Association
Pat McDaid
Eithne Coughlan
Sinn Féin
Green Party
Mairead McGuinness, M.E.P.
Cllr. Johnny Flynn
Joe Carey, T.D.
Ian Dinan
Cllr. Gabriel Keating
Fine Gael
Committee on the Administration of Justice
Focus: The Identity Trust

⁴ Listed in the order received.

Appendix 4 - European Council decision of 28 June 2018

2.7.2018

EN

Official Journal of the European Union

L 165 I/1

II

(Non-legislative acts)

DECISIONS

**EUROPEAN COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2018/937
of 28 June 2018
establishing the composition of the European Parliament**

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 14(2) thereof,

Having regard to the initiative of the European Parliament ⁽¹⁾,Having regard to the consent of the European Parliament ⁽²⁾,

Whereas:

- (1) The first subparagraph of Article 14(2) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) lays down the criteria for the composition of the European Parliament, namely that representatives of the Union's citizens are not to exceed seven hundred and fifty in number, plus the President, that representation is to be degressively proportional, with a minimum threshold of six members per Member State, and that no Member State is to be allocated more than ninety-six seats.
- (2) Article 10 TEU provides, inter alia, that the functioning of the Union is to be founded on representative democracy, with citizens being directly represented at Union level in the European Parliament and Member States being represented by their governments, themselves being democratically accountable to their national Parliaments or citizens, in the Council.
- (3) Article 14(2) TEU therefore applies within the context of the wider institutional arrangements set out in the Treaties, which also include the provisions on decision making in the Council,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

In the application of Article 14(2) TEU, the following principles shall be respected:

- the allocation of seats in the European Parliament is to fully utilise the minimum and maximum thresholds per Member State set by the TEU in order to reflect as closely as possible the sizes of the respective populations of the Member States,
- degressive proportionality is to be defined as follows: the ratio between the population and the number of seats of each Member State before rounding to whole numbers is to vary in relation to their respective populations in such a way that each Member of the European Parliament from a more populous Member State represents more citizens than each Member of the European Parliament from a less populous Member State and, conversely, that the larger the population of a Member State, the greater its entitlement to a large number of seats in the European Parliament,
- the allocation of seats in the European Parliament is to reflect demographic developments in the Member States.

⁽¹⁾ Initiative adopted on 7 February 2018 (not yet published in the Official Journal).⁽²⁾ Consent of 13 June 2018 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

Article 2

The total population of the Member States is calculated by the Commission (Eurostat) on the basis of the most recent data provided by the Member States, in accordance with a method established by means of Regulation (EU) No 1260/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹⁾.

Article 3

1. The number of representatives in the European Parliament elected in each Member State is hereby set as follows for the 2019-2024 parliamentary term:

Belgium	21
Bulgaria	17
Czech Republic	21
Denmark	14
Germany	96
Estonia	7
Ireland	13
Greece	21
Spain	59
France	79
Croatia	12
Italy	76
Cyprus	6
Latvia	8
Lithuania	11
Luxembourg	6
Hungary	21
Malta	6
Netherlands	29
Austria	19
Poland	52
Portugal	21
Romania	33
Slovenia	8
Slovakia	14
Finland	14
Sweden	21

2. However, in the event that the United Kingdom is still a Member State of the Union at the beginning of the 2019-2024 parliamentary term, the number of representatives in the European Parliament per Member State taking up office shall be the one provided for in Article 3 of the European Council Decision 2013/312/EU ⁽²⁾ until the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union becomes legally effective.

Once the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the Union becomes legally effective, the number of representatives in the European Parliament elected in each Member State shall be the one provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article.

All representatives in the European Parliament who fill the additional seats resulting from the difference between the number of seats allocated in the first and second subparagraphs shall take up their seats in the European Parliament at the same time.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) No 1260/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013 on European demographic statistics (OJ L 330, 10.12.2013, p. 39).

⁽²⁾ European Council Decision 2013/312/EU of 28 June 2013 establishing the composition of the European Parliament (OJ L 181, 29.6.2013, p. 57).

Article 4

Sufficiently far in advance of the beginning of the 2024-2029 parliamentary term, the European Parliament shall submit to the European Council, in accordance with Article 14(2) TEU, a proposal for an updated allocation of seats in the European Parliament.

Article 5

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels, 28 June 2018.

For the European Council
The President
D. TUSK

Appendix 5 - European Parliament constituency reviews 1977 to 2017

1977

Constituency recommendations were first made in the *European Assembly Constituency Commission Report 1977* (Pr. 6626). That Commission recommended 4 constituencies for the election of 15 MEPs -

- Connacht-Ulster: 3 seats (counties Cavan, Donegal, Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Monaghan, Roscommon and Sligo);
- Dublin: 4 seats (Dublin City and Dublin County);
- Leinster: 3 seats (counties Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laoighis, Longford, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow);
- Munster: 5 seats (counties Clare, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary North Riding, Tipperary South Riding, Waterford and the cities of Cork, Limerick and Waterford).

The recommendations of the Commission were accepted in full and the new constituencies were specified in the [European Assembly Elections Act 1977](#).

1993

Recommendations in the *European Parliament Constituency Commission Report 1993* (Pl. 9901) were for the transfer of a seat from the Munster to the Leinster constituency while retaining 4 constituencies for 15 MEPs -

- Connacht-Ulster: 3 seats; Dublin: 4 seats; Leinster: 4 seats; Munster: 4 seats.

The recommendations of the Commission were accepted in full and the new constituencies were specified in the [European Parliament Elections Act 1993](#).

1998

In the *Constituency Commission Report 1998* (Pn. 5074) no change was recommended in the formation of the 4 existing European constituencies or in the number of members to be elected in each. That recommendation was accepted and no legislative change was made arising from this review.

The next two reviews

Transitional arrangements in the Accession Treaty signed on 16 April 2003 provided for Ireland to elect 13 MEPs in the 2004 European Parliament elections and 12 in the 2009 elections. The next two Constituency Commissions made recommendations based on these numbers.

2003

In the *Constituency Commission Report on European Parliament Constituencies, 2003* (Prn. 1002) the Commission recommended, for the 13 seats, that the existing constituencies be altered by the reduction of a seat in each of the Leinster and Munster constituencies and the transfer of the population of County Clare from the Munster constituency to the Connacht-Ulster constituency. The Commission also recommended that the constituencies be renamed -

- North-West: 3 seats (counties Cavan, Clare, Donegal, Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Monaghan, Roscommon, Sligo and the city of Galway);
- Dublin: 4 seats (counties Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, South Dublin and the city of Dublin);
- East: 3 seats (counties Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Longford, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow);
- South: 3 seats (Cork, Kerry, Limerick, North Tipperary, South Tipperary, Waterford and the cities of Cork, Limerick and Waterford).

The recommendations of the commission were accepted in full and the new constituencies for the election of 13 members of the European Parliament were specified in the [European Parliament Elections \(Amendment\) Act 2004](#).

2007

In the *Constituency Commission Report on Dáil and European Parliament Constituencies 2007* (Prn. A7/1347) the Commission recommended, for the 12 seats, that there be a reduction of one seat in the Dublin constituency and that the population of the counties of Longford and Westmeath be transferred from the East to the North-West constituency -

- North-West: 3 seats (counties Cavan, Clare, Donegal, Galway, Leitrim, Longford, Mayo, Monaghan, Roscommon, Sligo, Westmeath and the city of Galway);
- Dublin: 3 seats (counties Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, South Dublin and the city of Dublin);
- East: 3 seats (counties Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Wexford and Wicklow);
- South: 3 seats (Cork, Kerry, Limerick, North Tipperary, South Tipperary, Waterford and the cities of Cork, Limerick and Waterford).

The recommendations of the Commission were accepted in full and the new constituencies were specified in the [Electoral \(Amendment\) Act 2009](#).

2012

In the *Constituency Commission Report 2012 Dáil and European Parliament Constituencies* (Prn. A12/0834) the Commission recommended that the arrangement most in keeping with its terms of reference would be that of maintenance of the existing arrangement of constituencies for the election of members of the European Parliament. That recommendation was accepted and therefore no legislative change was necessary arising from this review.

2013

In 2013 a Committee was established to review European Parliament Constituencies. This review was brought about by the European Council Decision of 28 June 2013 which provided that the number of MEPs to be elected from Ireland for the 2014-2019 parliamentary term would be 11 (reduced from 12).

In the *Report on European Parliament Constituencies 2013*, the Committee recommended the following configuration -

- Dublin (3 seats) - counties Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin; and the city of Dublin;
- Midlands-North-West (4 seats) - counties Cavan, Donegal, Galway, Kildare, Laois, Leitrim, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo and Westmeath; and the city of Galway;
- South (4 seats) - counties Carlow, Clare, Cork, Kerry, Kilkenny, Limerick, North Tipperary, South Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford and Wicklow; and the cities of Cork, Limerick and Waterford.

These constituencies were specified in the [European Parliament Elections \(Amendment\) Act 2014](#).

2017

In the *Constituency Commission Report 2017 Dáil and European Parliament Constituencies* no change was recommended in the formation of the 3 existing European Parliament constituencies or in the number of members to be elected in each. That recommendation was accepted and therefore no legislative change was necessary arising from this review.

Notes

Notes

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