

17th December 2016 _

The Secretary,
Constituency Commission
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I wish to make the following submission to the Boundary Commission as part of its review for the constituencies for election to Dáil Éireann.

Firstly, I believe that as a result of the significant changes made as part of the last Constituency Review that a minimal alteration should be made to constituencies on this occasion. I believe the current constituencies have just ‘bedded down’ following the radical redrawing of boundaries on the last occasion, and a further radical review would cause utter confusion across the country.

In that context I would strongly suggest that the current constituency of Roscommon Galway should remain, with only minor alterations to the East Galway part of the constituency in order to comply with the Ministerial Order of 14th July & Article 16.2.2 of the Constitution.

My grounds for seeking the retention of this constituency are that Roscommon and East Galway have a past history of being part of one constituency, and this has allowed this new constituency to become acceptable to the public quite quickly. This has been strengthened by the strong local, social and economic ties between this part of Galway and Roscommon. For example the local commercial centre and hospital for the people of North East Galway is Roscommon Town. The local hospital and one of the local commercial centres for the people of South Roscommon is Ballinasloe.

I would propose that should additional population be required in order to meet the requirements of Article 16.2.2 of the Constitution, then the Commission should look to the hinterland of the Town of Ballinasloe, which is quite close to the Town but in the adjoining Constituency of East Galway.

I would be most grateful if you would give due consideration to this submission.

Yours sincerely

Denis Naughten T.D.