

This proposal is dated Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 2017 and is for the attention of the members of the Constituency Commission to whom the proposal below is hereby made under the terms of the public notice.

To Whom It May Concern,

It is a most regrettable decision made in 2011 to place parts of 2 Counties (Donegal and Cavan) and 2 complete Counties (Sligo and Leitrim) in one Constituency. The work of the Constituency Commission and the decision to be made in the coming weeks and months has the opportunity to rectify this. My proposal is that the parts of County Cavan in the 4 County Constituency are removed from the 4 County Constituency and placed back in the Cavan Monaghan Constituency. In addition the fourth seat will be removed from the 4 County Constituency (making it a 3 seater) and placed back into the Cavan Monaghan Constituency making it a five seater again like it was in the 2011 General Election. I give the reasons below for making this proposed change.

1.

The GAA community gives Parishes around our island North and South an identity. On our island, we have 26 Counties in the Republic Of Ireland and 6 Counties in Northern Ireland which gives a selection of Parishes another identity. By having 4 Counties in one Constituency you are diluting this identity. In my opinion having two Counties together for example Cavan and Monaghan you are allowing these Counties to have the ideal level of proportional representation needed for prosperity to the area. You will not have this with a four County Constituency.

2.

Visits by IDA Ireland to County Cavan and County Monaghan over the years 2015 and 2016 have been extraordinarily low just above non-existent in most areas. In my opinion having such a large area of County Cavan in another Constituency makes this problem worse. How is a TD from County Sligo or indeed Co Leitrim meant to propose Bawnboy Co Cavan as an ideal location for FDI or indeed inward investment from a Company already located elsewhere on our Island to open more locations on our Island. They would rightly be voted out by members of their local communities at the next available opportunity after one of the hardest campaigns ever fought in the history of our State. Likewise someone from Bawnboy having been elected chooses to recommend an area of Co Sligo above their own area would have the same consequence in my opinion.

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3.

Brexit is a reality and needs to be treated like the single biggest issue that has ever faced our citizens. It has the potential to cause damage ten times the damage the global recession post 2008 caused our Country and indeed the local Counties. Widespread business closures due to the loss of an export market therefore widespread emigration both to other areas of Ireland and indeed other Countries like New Zealand, Australia and Canada. In my opinion having County Cavan split into two different Constituencies splits the effectiveness of the proportional representation that our TD's have. This is somewhat allowed for by our Senators but we the people living and working in County Cavan, paying our taxes, raising our children, supporting local charities and our local economies do not make the decision to elect the Senators.

4.

Finally and in my opinion the most important is the right of someone who has voted for a Co Cavan politician all their life should have the option of voting for a County Cavan politician. The makeup of the 2 Constituencies makes the possibility of this not happening very high. At selection convention, the likelihood of a County Cavan politician beating one from County Sligo or Leitrim is slim given that all of both Counties are part of the Constituency. By making the proposed change above you allow this to happen.

#ReuniteCavan now, fix the mistake made in 2011 and I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year

Regards

David.