

KERRY INDEPENDENT ALLIANCE

A Daoine Uaisle,

I wish to make the following comments to the Constituency Commission for its consideration:

- 1; There is and always has been an innate unfairness in equating the life of a Dáil Deputy from the greater Dublin area with that of a Deputy from the west coast of Ireland. That unfairness is enshrined in mBunreacht na h-Éireann- Article 16: 2, 3, 4.
- 2: Travel time from Kerry to Dublin can take up to five [5] hours, which constitutes at least half of one working day. The same obviously applies to the return journey. Those who advocate five [5] day sittings for the Dáil clearly fail to acknowledge these most onerous journeys that must be undertaken weekly and the weekend workload with constituency work.
- 3: Many east coast Dáil Deputies can get from their homes to the Dáil in an hour or less.
- 4: The county of Kerry has 4,000 Kms of county roads. I cite this figure in order to try and convey the vast distances that Public Representatives have to travel in order to serve their constituents. Such distances must be mind- boggling for Deputies from the Dublin and greater Dublin areas.
- 5: Politics [sometimes] professes to be about equality for all- Public Representatives and citizens. The above arrangement discredits that.
- 6: Distances to be undertaken should be factored in when determining the number of Dáil Deputies that should be elected for a particular constituency.
- 7: Reducing the number representing Kerry [Formerly Kerry South and Kerry North] from 6 to 5 is unfair on the 5 elected Deputies and unfair on the electorate.
- 8: It should not be beyond the wit and undoubted wisdom of the members of this Commission to devise a system that would take cognisance of the above points and thus ensure greater fairness in the Electoral System, a system that should seek as priority to give equality of treatment to all as guaranteed by Bunreacht na h- Éireann: Article 40.
- 9: A system should be devised whereby distance from the Dail and the number of people per Dáil Deputy should be adjusted in order to make the system more fair.
- 10: By so doing the two former constituencies of Kerry North and Kerry South could be reinstated thus allowing fairer representation by Deputies who would be intimately familiar with their constituency
- 11: Bunreacht na h-Éireann proclaims great respect for the family Article 41. The present system is far from fair to the families of Deputies who represent constituencies far removed from Kildare Street.

Le Gach Dea-Ghuí

Michael Gleeson [Cllr]
Kerry Independent Alliance