

Dear Secretary,

I wish to make the following submission regarding the Carlow Kilkenny Dail Constituency. The North of Carlow needs to be returned to this constituency, the County Boundary needs to be honoured as the people in this area feel they are been totally ignored by the commission. Carlow been the smaller County in the constituency and with more than 20% less votes than Kilkenny, and when you take perportional representation into account, this also goes against the people of Carlow in getting fair, representation in the Dail. At present County Carlow only has 1 T.D. for Approx 60,000 people while Kilkenny have 4 T.D. for Aprox 90,000 people, and the reason is in a 2 County Constituency the large County can dominate the political landscape when the numbers are on their side, and history in the Carlow Kilkenny Constituency proves this. To give the people of Carlow a chance to get fair representation North Carlow needs to be retuned, but this will not be enough to give Carlow a fighting chance to increase there representation, it will require the commission to look at the 3 seat Laois Constituency, the Graiguecullen area of Carlow in Laois, is the best chance that the commission has. If North Carlow and the total area of Graiguecullen were to be part of County Carlow Electoral area while the Constituency of Carlow Kilkenny is maintained, this will give the People of Carlow a fairer chance of getting the representation that they are entitled to, the commission can see 1 T.D. representing 60,000 people is wrong, but County Carlow can get a chance to get fair representation with the Commissions help.

Cllr Ken Murnane
Carlow County Council