

Sub 16 / 195



**NOEL ROCK TD**  
Dublin North West Constituency

## **Northside Dublin - Constituency Commission Submission**

Assuming that the River Liffey remains a natural boundary between constituencies, the population of the combined five constituencies North of the Liffey necessitates the addition of one seat, given all five constituencies are over the 30,000 limit set down in the Constitution. This would bring the Northside of Dublin from 20 seats to 21 seats.

Arising from that, this submission attempts to rebalance the constituencies in a logical way, remaining within the 5% variance limit, and future proofing against further growth and minimising the level of changes between constituencies.

This submission would propose that, as has been the precedent in urban areas, that you begin with the middle constituency in the area being considered and then work outwards.

This is routinely the case in Cork, where the process starts at Cork North Central and works outwards. Previously on the Northside of Dublin this was not possible, as there were six constituencies and no "central hub" from which to work - now that we have five constituencies, Dublin North West is the 'central hub' constituency of the Northside of Dublin and, assuming we aren't going to breach the Liffey or County boundaries, is the natural starting point of any deliberation.

### **Proposed changes:**

This submission proposes a total of just six changes to allow the entire Northside of Dublin balance out in a logical, future-proofed way, which would begin at Dublin North West and work from there:

- Move Drumcondra South B from Dublin Central to Dublin North West (1694)
- Move Drumcondra South A from Dublin Bay North to Dublin North West (5100)
- Split Cabra East A (north of the Canal) DED and move the portion north of the canal from Dublin Central to Dublin North West (circa 2,000 - 2011 figure North of canal was 1,896, with the DED as a whole having increased by 314 from 2011 to 2016) [1]
- Move Beaumont B from Dublin Bay North to Dublin North West (4962)
- Move Beaumont F from Dublin Bay North to Dublin North West (3590)
- Move Balgriffin from Dublin Fingal to Dublin Bay North (3131)

## Reasons and rationale for the proposed changes:

1. Dublin North West is now the most under represented constituency in the State and is the natural place to add an extra seat
2. Three urban villages (Glasnevin, Drumcondra and Beaumont) are currently divided across constituencies. Uniting these would give Dublin North West sufficient mass, and create a more cohesive "constituency identity" for Central, Bay North and North West
3. Clear natural boundary of canal, which marks a separation between urban and suburban
4. Ensures all Northside constituencies are within the variance limits
5. Requires relatively little redrawing, with only 6 DEDs across the entire Northside being moved, with one being split
6. Does not undo any changes from the previous Constituency Commission - ensuring voter confusion is kept at a minimum
7. Giving an extra seat to Dublin North West clearly future proofs against any further rise in population - and DNW is far more likely than DC to see a larger percentage rise in population, based on current planning applications and potential for development. There are a number of substantial developments in Whitehall, Finglas, Glasnevin and Meakstown which have planning permission or are under construction. It is one of the fastest growing areas in the country

## Outcome of the changes:

Dublin North West gains 17,346, ending with 28,561 per seat, which is 4% under  
 Dublin Central loses 3,694, ending with 30,785 per seat, which is 3.5% over  
 Dublin West has no changes, ending with 30,627 per seat, which is 3% over  
 Dublin Fingal loses 3,131, ending with 29,726 per seat, which is 0.0% under  
 Dublin Bay North would end up with 28,462 per seat, which is 4.3% under

	Population	New	Seats	Population	Variance	
	change	population		per TD	Number	%
Dublin North-West	17,346	114,243	4	28,561	-1,130	-4.0%
Dublin Central	-3,694	92,354	3	30,785	1,085	3.5%
Dublin Bay North	-10,521	142,309	5	28,462	-1,221	-4.3%
Dublin West	0	122,508	4	30,627	917	3.0%
Dublin Fingal	-3,131	148,629	5	29,726	-11	0.0%

## **Conclusion:**

Changes on the Northside of Dublin are necessary and, after the amalgamation of North Central and North East, we are presented with a unique opportunity to work out from the middle constituency of the five constituencies on the Northside and establish useful, worthwhile changes while only moving six DEDs.

These changes would also balance the constituencies in such a way as to future proof them, while also ensuring the integrity of the urban villages of Beaumont, Glasnevin and Drumcondra within a single constituency. It also has the added benefit of not undoing any changes undertaken in 2011, therefore minimising the prospect of voter confusion, which surveys show can be a feature following a redraw - the small number of DEDs being moved furthers this case.

## **Appendix:**

[1] A further note on Cabra East A

[2] Illustration of changes

[1] A further note on Cabra East A:

The segment of Cabra East A which is north of the canal is entirely within Glasnevin. Given that 91% of the population of Glasnevin is now in Dublin North West, it would be consistent to allow this remaining 9% to follow by splitting this DED.

The splitting of DEDs, while rare, has happened in the past in Cork North Central and, in fact, we see it in Dublin North West already with the Dubber, Airport, Turnapin and The Ward boxes, which are partially in Dublin North West owing to the M50 being recognised as the 'natural' boundary.

It would, however, not make sense to transfer the entirety of Cabra East A to Dublin North West, as you begin to break up the Cabra-Phibsborough areas south of the canal, with the entirety of the remainder remaining within Dublin Central, with little prospect of them being reunited. As such, on this occasion, I believe it would make sense to split this DED between constituencies.

[2] Changes Illustrated - changed borders indicated by blue lines, changed areas indicated by black and white patterned areas. This successfully reunites Drumcondra, Glasnevin and Beaumont.

