



OFFALY COMHAIRLE DÁIL CEANTAIR

Sub 16/219

Coimisiún Toghlaigh,
Teach An Chustaim
Baile Átha Cliath 1

9ú Eanáir 2017

A chara,

I write on behalf of the Offaly Comhairle Dáilceantair and wish to make the following submission on their behalf:

Having been subjected to breaches of county boundaries following recommendations from the Boundary Commission Reports of 2007 & 2012, whereby in 2007 part of the Laois / Offaly constituency moved to North Tipperary and in 2012 where part of Lower Ormond in North Tipperary was moved to a new Offaly constituency we at Offaly Fianna Fáil would like to make a submission that supports the retention of not just Offaly but all counties as a full constituency unit.

The geographical span of Offaly and North Tipperary are contentious points of the present arrangement. The situation where the local representational base differs with that of the national representational base is problematic and militates against local democracy. The geographic spread is evident and again it is undermining the "local" representational role for the Dáil Éireann.

The terms of reference highlight that apart from the population considerations, the commission shall also have regard to the following;

- I. The breaching of county boundaries shall be avoided as far as practicable.
- II. Geographic considerations including significant physical features and the extent of and the density of population in each constituency
- III. Endeavour to maintain continuity in relation to the arrangement of constituencies

On this basis we ask that the commission give serious consideration to the complications that arise when county boundaries are breached and in doing so supporting a political platform that is fair, recognisable and permeates democratic consideration in a recognisable landscape.

Mise Le meas,

M Uí Cheallacháin

M. Uí Cheallacháin - Runaí