

TO:

The Secretary,

Constituency Commission,

Room 1.65, Custom House,

Dublin 1,

D01 W6X0

Email address: constituency.commission@housing.gov.ie

Re: The Constituency of Kildare North

Individual submission made by Dr. Liz Cullen, dated the 9th January 2017.

1. Separating/excluding the Two Mile House area from Naas (the North Kildare Dáil Constituency) causes unnecessary and widespread confusion for the local electorate. This fails to serve the most effective operation of and participation in the democratic process.

The area (parish) of Two Mile House which comprises, inter alia, the village of Two Mile House and town lands of Mullacash and Killashee is politically, socially, economically, geographically and culturally inextricably linked to the county's capital town of Naas. It is located approx. 2km from Naas town border. The majority of secondary students residing in Two Mile House attend the secondary schools in Naas. Moreover Two Mile House daily commuters to Dublin avail of the local Naas transport bus transport available from main street Naas and/or the commuter railroad transportation available at Sallins-Naas train station. Two Mile House has, inter alia, close cultural ties with Naas being actively involved in the local arts, the local markets and also has active sporting links with the local sporting organisations and clubs based in Naas including Naas race course. Separating Two Mile House from Naas by

placing it (as is currently the case) in the Kildare South Dail Constituency causes widespread confusion and inconvenience which does not serve the democratic process and runs contrary to the proper sense of community including political community.

2. It is submitted that the Commission should explore the feasibility of rectifying and/or preventing this current situation which breaks up and divides the existing Local Electoral Area of Naas

In respect of the County Council area boundaries, all the town lands in Two Mile House form part of the Naas local electoral area (LEA). Yet the current Kildare North Dáil constituency configuration unnecessarily breaks this up by dividing and separating Two Mile House from the rest of its said LEA (by putting it in the South Kildare Dáil Constituency).

3. Population statistics

This submission proposes that the said electoral divisions located so very close to Naas town (Two Mile House village, Killashee, Mullacash) should be transferred from the Kildare South Constituency to the Kildare North Constituency and to balance this out, the electoral division in the far western part of the Kildare North Constituency should be transferred to the Kildare South Constituency. The western area which is rural (marked on the said enclosed map) comprises areas, inter alia, Carbury, Kilranny, Cadamstown which are not inextricably tied up or geographically linked with any particular urban town in Kildare North. I have drawn lines on the attached map marking the population numbers on same. As can be seen the said area to be transferred from North to South has a population of 5943 whilst the area it is proposed to transfer from Kildare South to North Kildare has a population of 5811. It is therefore submitted the change as proposed more than balances out each other. I am therefore requesting the Constituency Commission to consider the merit of including the said Two Mile House area into its obvious and natural socio-economic hinterland of the county's capital town Naas i.e. add it to the Kildare North Constituency. This can be done retaining the current number of 4 seats in the constituency

Co. Kildare as a whole (i.e. including the part now in Laois constituency) has 222130 people, which at the average 1 TD for 30,114 people which would entitle it to 7.38 seats so it is therefore accepted that it would not appear to be feasible to make a case for a 5-seat Kildare North Constituency (unless there was a breach of the county boundaries). Kildare North has a TD for every 30,562 people and Kildare South has a TD for every 30,663 people so this would indicate that there is a case for a transfer, admittedly small transfer, from South to North –this amounts to only 172 people. It is accepted that this figure taken in isolation does not amount to a compelling argument but if it is considered in conjunction with my paragraphs 1 & 2 above, it further justifies the proposed change as appropriate. In conclusion the said electoral divisions (as marked on map) which are within such close proximity to Naas town should, it is submitted, be transferred from South Kildare to North Kildare and to balance this out, the electoral divisions as currently in the western part of the Kildare North Constituency (also marked on map) be transferred to Kildare South.

County Kildare

