

Submission to the Constituency Commission

Dear Secretary

Now that constituency boundaries have to be looked at again because of population changes can I suggest that the commission consider restoring the Galway constituencies to their natural and county boundaries. The last alterations divided villages and parishes in a most antisocial and unnatural way. Voters in the areas annexed to Roscommon were not and are not happy to have been taken out of the Galway constituency. It is important that people feel that they are part of the system and that the system is working for them and because of the arbitrary way that the constituency was divided many people feel alienated and are less likely to participate in national elections.

If you look at Galway county it naturally divides itself into east and west with Lough Corrib and Galway city forming a natural divide. The western part to include Galway City and Connemara form the council areas of Galway City Council and Connemara Council Area and is self contained as all business and trade for this area is through the city. The population of this area would merit representation of four elected members to the Dail. Whereas east of the Lough Corrib Galway City line it is served by market towns of Athenry, Ballinasloe, Gort, Headford, Loughrea, Oranmore and Tuam self contained communities with natural hinterlands forming the county council areas of Athenry-Oranmore, Ballinasloe, Loughrea and Tuam. The population of this new Galway East constituency would merit a Dail representation of five TD's.

For your Consideration.

Yours Faithfully

Laurie Harney