

Sirs,

Following the last Constituency Commission it was decided to carve up Dublin Central and transfer from Dublin Central to Dublin West Ashtown A, Ashtown B and a part of the electoral division of the Phoenix Park. This was to the detriment of both those remaining in the new Dublin Central and to the residents who were moved into Dublin West.

Dublin Central was redrawn as a three seat constituency. A three-seater is acknowledged as the worst type of constituency as it allows for the poorest political representation. Every effort was previously made by Commissions to minimise the number of these sized constituencies across the country.

The redrawn boundaries have produced the ridiculous situation where residents of Ashtown A and Ashtown B find themselves in different constituencies for general and local elections. Our local councillors, who, seeking our votes in future years as they move from local to national politics, are encouraged to work on the City Council to improve our area. This is the natural course of local and national politics. In our case, we now find our local councillors are abandoning us entirely because there are no votes for them in future Dáil elections.

Similarly, because we have no voting history with the local representatives who sit on Fingal County Council, 20 miles away in Swords (as opposed to 3 miles down the road in the City Hall) we are unconnected to them too. We have no knowledge of, or interaction with, county councillors in Fingal who subsequently appear on telephone poles around our area when a general election comes around.

The decision to take Ashtown A & B out of Dublin central has effectively deprived us of ALL representation at both local and national elections because in each case we are now voting for people we don't know from Adam and who have never attended any of our meetings or worked with us on either local or national issues. We have gone from a very active, and politically adept Community, to a no-man's-land in political terms. We can't even get Dublin City councillors to return our calls or emails.

The last boundary commission produced a political black hole and threw us into it. This injustice must be reversed immediately.

If this was not bad enough, new census information shows that part of Ashtown (Pelletstown) is suddenly the most densely populated place on the entire island of Ireland and it is set to grow hugely with house building already increasing rapidly. There have been a number of planning permissions granted for new apartment developments of up to 12 storeys in height. These facts demand that the three seat constituency of Dublin Central needs to become a four seat constituency and the bogus excuse used to divorce us from our natural hinterland (too few people) is patently no longer true.

Please reconnect us with the correct local authority (Dublin City Council) who collect our bins and maintain our streets and give our city councillors a reason to talk to us again. And please give us a choice of faces we know in the next general election, rather than a bunch of "culchies" we have never even heard of who don't even know how to find their way into our estates and streets. Some of them regard us as a mere inconvenience slowing down their speeding into town from their ranches in Meath, others want to have the speed ramps REMOVED because they don't live here and don't have to face the daily flow of speeding culchies in and out of the city centre morning and evening. In short, give us back our democratic rights that were denied to us by the last bunch of messers who looked at our electoral boundaries.

Boundary changes are urgently required and it is clear that Dublin Central should be returned to a four seater constituency including the good people of Ashtown.

Yours sincerely,
Simon McGuinness

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