

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you with regard to the upcoming redistribution of the constituency boundaries and in particular the future of the Dublin Central constituency.

The constituency of Dublin Central was massively altered following the last boundary commission report and I believe this has had a number of negative effects on both the residents who stayed in the redrawn Dublin Central and those who were redistributed to other constituencies.

Firstly for the people who stayed in Dublin Central the reduction of the population in the constituency meant that it went from a four seats to a three-seat constituency. A three-seat constituency is obviously not the ideal type of constituency as every effort was made by the previous commission to minimize their numbers across the country.

The redrawn boundaries also did not seem to take into account the possible detrimental impact of ignoring any socio-economic balance within the constituency. The lack of real balance has a knock-on effect to the election of the array of politicians of varying views that our PR-STV system is designed to encourage. The concentration of lower socio-economic groups such as has happened in Dublin Central, where the majority of the CSO respondents indicated they were in non-professional socio-economic groups (mainly groups D, E, F and G), into a single constituency over the long term can only act to marginalize them and will reduce the balance of any parliament.

The changes have also disrupted the socio-economic profile in surrounding constituencies. The removal of areas with higher socio-economic groupings from Dublin Central led to them being added into other constituencies such as Dublin West, which already has a large group who identify themselves as being in the higher socio-economic groups. This will have shifted the balance in that constituency.

The division of Dublin Central and the redistribution of the Navan Road area (Ashtown A, Ashtown B) into Dublin West also had other negative consequences. It has led to lack of proper representation for the area from TDs as no sitting Dublin Central TD moved to contest the 2016 Election in Dublin West and the elected TDs from Dublin West are concentrated in the original parts of that constituency.

Also the Navan Road area is controlled by Dublin City Council (DCC) at a Local Authority level but has now been added to a constituency previously totally controlled by Fingal Council.

Considering that a lot of issues can involve both local and national government interaction to be resolved having the TDs representing the Navan Road area with

no historical ties to or working relationship with Dublin City Council is far from ideal.

The situation was complicated further by the changes made to the local election boundaries that placed the Navan Road area into a ward (Cabra-Finglas) that stretches across three General Election Constituencies (Dublin West, Dublin North West and Dublin Central). The Navan Road area has now been placed on the very periphery of three different constituencies.

New census information shows that a three seat Dublin Central will far exceed the limits allowed in the legislation governing the number of people (30,000) per TD. Considering this means that boundary changes will be required I would greatly appreciate if you would take the points outlined above into account and consider returning the Navan Road area to a four seat Dublin Central constituency.

Yours Sincerely,

Ciarán Dunleavy