

Joe Costello, Labour Spokesperson on Urban Regeneration

338 North Circular Road, Phibsborough Dublin 7

T: (087) 2450777 E: joe.costello@outlook.ie W: www.joecostello.ie

The Secretary,
Constituency Commission
Room 1.65 Custom House
Dublin 1

10 January 2017

SUBMISSION ON DUBLIN CENTRAL

I wish to propose that Dublin Central be restored to a four seat constituency.

After the 2011 Census, the Boundary Commission reduced Dublin Central from a four seat constituency to a three seat. This caused considerable surprise as Dublin Central had always been a four or five seat constituency and the constituency had experienced the greatest growth in population in the entire country. Moreover, in 2011, Dublin Central had a population of 114,861 or 28,715 per TD. It needed no adjustment to remain a four-seater. The integrity of the North Inner City and Cabra Local Electoral Areas was maintained.

Since 2011 the population has continued to increase rapidly and according to the 2016 Census the population of the new three seat constituency of Dublin Central created in the previous Constituency revision is already well in excess of the constitutional requirement.

Such is the population increase that if Dublin Central received the Navan Road area south of the River Tolka, namely Ashtown A, Ashtown B and Phoenix Park District Electoral Divisions (DEDs) that had been removed in 2011, without any other adjustment Dublin Central would become a valid four-seater again.

Moreover, the residents of these areas would greatly welcome a return to their natural hinterland. The issues facing these communities have more in common with the Dublin 7 communities in Cabra and North Circular Road within the Dublin City Council boundary than with Castleknock and Blanchardstown in the Fingal Council area. The Navan Road Community Council has made a strong submission to that effect.

It should also be noted that the population in the North Inner City will continue to increase at an unprecedented level.

The new Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) on the Dublin Docklands which is underway at present will deliver thousands of new homes in Dublin 1 in the next few years. Some 5,000 units of student accommodation are being constructed at present with thousands more to follow in the short term in the Dublin 1 and Dublin 7 areas.

The existing legislation makes provision for two extra seats in line with population increase. The growth in population of the north side of Dublin warrants an extra seat in Dublin Central.

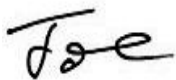
The Boundary Commission's terms of reference require the Commission to take account of the natural features when determining constituency boundaries. Dublin Central is one of only two three seat constituencies on the north side of Dublin. It is traditionally a four seater with natural boundaries. It could be restored to a four seater with a minimum impact on the other adjoining north side constituencies.

Moreover, the boundaries of the Tolka River, the Liffey and the sea would be restored creating one of the most natural geographic boundaries of any constituency in the country

I request that the Commission in its deliberations ensure that the natural boundary of the Liffey is respected and that Dublin Central be kept intact on the north side of the City.

Finally, I wish to support requests by residents of Phibsborough that there would be no further “balkanisation” of the Phibsborough area. (Phibsborough already straddles two local electoral areas) and that the District Electoral Divisions (DEDs) making up Phibsborough, namely Cabra East A, Inns Quay A, Inns Quay B, and Arran Quay A are retained within Dublin Central in their entirety.

Yours sincerely,



JOE COSTELLO

