

The Secretary.
Constituency Commission
Room 1.65
Custom House
Dublin 1

9 January 2016

Re; Submission regarding Kildare North and Kildare South Constituencies to the Constituency Commission review of the constituency boundaries following the 2016 Census.

Dear Secretary,

I would be most obliged if the following comments be considered in the Constituency's Commission's examination of the Kildare North and Kildare South constituencies.

In my opinion the fundamental component of the Electoral Act 1997 is section 6 (2) which states;

Electoral Act, 1997 (as amended) - Part II - Constituency Commission

6. (2) In preparing a report under subsection (1) (a) a Constituency Commission shall, in observing the relevant provisions of the Constitution in relation to Dáil constituencies, have regard to the following:

(a) the total number of members of the Dáil, subject to Article 16.2.2 of the Constitution, shall be not less than 153 and not more than 160;

(b) each constituency shall return 3, 4, 5 members;

(c) the breaching of county boundaries shall be avoided as far as practicable;

(d) each constituency shall be composed of contiguous areas;

(e) there shall be regard to geographic considerations including significant physical features and the extent of and the density of population in each constituency; and

(f) subject to the provisions of this section, the Commission shall endeavour to maintain continuity in relation to the arrangement of constituencies.

1. I would submit that the above section be the key consideration in retaining the following electoral divisions as part of the Kildare North constituency and that no consideration be given to moving these ED's to any other adjoining constituency: Kilcock, Newtown, Cadamstown, Cloncurry, Dunfieth, Ballynadrummy, Kilrainy, Carrick and Carbury. These areas are an integral part of County Kildare.

2. To return the electoral divisions of Monasterevin, Kildangan, Ballybracken, Harristown, Kilberry and Churchtown back into the Kildare South Constituency. I would submit that the return of these areas to the Kildare South constituency would amend the unsuitable allocation of these Kildare ED's to the constituency of Laois. The provision of a fourth seat to Kildare South would therefore be appropriate in the event of the transfer of these ED's back to Kildare South.

3. That the ED's of Naas Urban, Naas Rural and Bodenstown remain in the constituency of Kildare North. Any submission that included the fact of assigning Naas to the Kildare South Constituency is ill conceived. For example Sallins which is an expanding town is physically located jointly between the ED's

of Bodenstown and Naas Rural. To relocate either of these ED's would mean splitting the town of Sallins into two separate Dail constituencies.

4. I would also submit that the town of Derrinturn be moved in its entirety into Kildare North. The current anomaly whereby the town itself is split into the constituencies of Kildare North and Kildare South has led to confusion by constituents and this is unsatisfactory. This simple amendment I suggest would be a welcomed decision locally.

5. Finally, I would like to refer the submission of the Association of Irish Local Government to the Constituency Commission and in particular to its support of section 6 (2) *[as set out above]* where they state that one's "County identity is in the marrow of Irish people and their powerful sense of place on a county basis underpins their engagement and participation in the electoral process".

Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Kind regards,

Councillor Paul Ward (Kildare North).