

RE: Dublin Bay North – Beaumont B and F

Dear Secretary,

I am contacting you as a resident of Beaumont in relation to the current situation of Beaumont within the Dail Eireann constituency boundaries.

The numbers appear to be straightforward:

As set out by Bunreacht na hEireann, there is a minimum of 20,000 population per TD, and a maximum 30,000 population per TD, while also no constituency can be smaller than 3 TDs or bigger than 5.

- Dublin Bay North is now at 5 TDs and is now over 30,000 people per TD so needs to lose some people, as it can not gain a seat and is beyond its constitutional maximum in both population and seat terms, as is its other neighbouring constituency, Dublin Fingal.

- Dublin North West is at 3 TDs and is around 32,300 people per TD, so well over 30,000 per TD, and in fact the highest over per country, so realistically should gain more people and become a 4 seat constituency, in line with the Commission's remit of reducing the number of 3 seat constituencies where possible.

This presents an opportunity: reunite Beaumont in Dublin North West.

In terms of representation, it makes more sense, as Beaumont is shared among three electoral divisions which are currently divided. Similarly, it achieves the necessary objective of reducing the overall size of Dublin Bay North slightly.

In the recent elections, a great many residents of Beaumont felt as though candidates from as far away as Howth were simply not engaging with them. I believe that reuniting Beaumont would address that imbalance.

The historic context: Beaumont was traditionally contained entirely within Dublin North Central. However, in recent times, Beaumont was split: Beaumont A was split into Dublin North West while the remaining two Beaumont constituencies that are actually Beaumont (as distinct from Donnycarney or Artane) – namely Beaumont B and Beaumont F – were placed in Dublin North Central.

With the amalgamation of Dublin North Central into the much larger area of Dublin Bay North, it is now a timely opportunity – in the context of reviewing Dublin North West as a potential 4 seat constituency – to reunite Beaumont in one constituency, that of Dublin North West.

Regards,

Michael Twomey