

To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to make a submission to the Constituency Commission.

As an elected member of the Oireachtas and an elected Public Representative who has served the constituency of South Mayo for approximately twenty-two years, I wish to make an informed submission to the Constituency Commission in respect of the boundary change which was made in the last constituency review; parts of Mayo were included in Galway. I served as a Public Representative at a time when part of Galway was in the Mayo constituency but has since been returned to the Galway constituency; the people of Galway were very unhappy at that time being included in Mayo. The same now applies to the parts of Mayo which have been included in the Galway constituency.

In fact, in the recent General Election (2016)- a large number of people in the South Mayo area did not cast their vote because they felt disenfranchised. Taking part of Mayo and including it in West Galway is quite simply not practical. There is no connection between the two areas namely South Mayo and West Galway.

I am asking that in this current boundary review that Mayo would be reinstated as a five seat constituency and if this is not possible and it has to be left as a four seat consistency- then I would ask that all of Mayo be left together as a four seat constituency. People have pride in their county and want to vote for candidates within their own county.

I make this submission on my own behalf and also on behalf of a large number of people from South Mayo who have contacted me in my capacity as Minister of State for Regional Economic Development in this regard. These people have reiterated to me on many occasions that they feel excluded and unrepresented. They want to remain in the Mayo constituency.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL RING T.D.
Minister of State for Regional Economic Development