

To Secretary of the Constituency Commission,

I believe that consideration should be given to expanding Dublin North West to a 4 seat constituency for a number of valid reasons.

- It is the most overpopulated constituency per TD in the country – with 32,299 residents per T.D.
- It is subject to fast population growth currently – with a large number of developments currently underway. This is also evident on Census results
- It has a diverse mix of urban villages: Ballymun, Finglas, Santry, Whitehall – but not all of Glasnevin, Drumcondra and Beaumont are contained within it.
- It is the central constituency of the Northside – positive changes with its boundaries can ensure that changes elsewhere are minimal.
- Per Oireachtas research in 2016 on the matter (https://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/media/housesoftheoireachtas/libraryresearch/lrsnotes/Election_Turnout_FINAL_28_Jan2016_180434.pdf), turnout tends to be lower in urban areas. It is also understood that turnout tends to be negatively affected in areas which are subject to multiple constituency redraws. By bringing together Drumcondra, Glasnevin and Beaumont all into one respective constituency, there could be a beneficial effect on turnout.
- Bringing Dublin North West to a 4 seat constituency ensures that the work of the 2012 Constituency Commission need not be undone, and that confusion about constituency identities and boundaries which have already changed in 2012 only to change again in mid-2017 ahead of a likely late 2017/early 2018 General Election need not be necessary.

To elaborate on the residential developments: there are a number of developments also forthcoming in Dublin North West which will boost the population even further in advance of both the election and your next report, and I believe recognition should also be given to these.

The units, combined, total well in excess of 1,500 and presumably will add at least 3,000 people to the existing area – this excludes one off developments, of which there are many. It's fair to say that rapid growth is taking place here and this is not including the many green spaces in Ballymun which are ripe for further development inside the M50.

If Dublin North West is trimmed back to a smaller 3 seat constituency (as it is currently the furthest over the threshold in the country, at 32,299 people per seat), then this growth will clearly create a further headache in further reviews, resulting in even further back and forth.

It's quite clear that Dublin North West has more upward potential for development than Dublin Central, which has little left by way of residential development lands. I hope this recognised by the commission in any decision they make. An expansion of Dublin North West makes more sense both for now and for the future.

Yours Sincerely,

Jimmy Hanratty