

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to make a submission with respect to the review of boundaries for Dail constituencies.

Given the statistics contained in the preliminary Census report, there is now a constitutional requirement that the 33rd Dail be increased to a minimum of 159 seats. The Census data indicates that the constituency of Dublin Central and that of Dublin North West are under-represented by at least 13,000 electors.

This submission focuses mainly on the formation of Dublin Central.

The last review of boundaries made two substantial changes to Dublin Central.

- The removal of Ashtown A, Ashtown B and Phoenix Park from Dublin Central into Dublin West.
- The movement of Botanic A, B & C into Dublin North West.

A significant consequence of the movement of Ashtown A,B and Phoenix Park was that it breached local authority boundaries with the movement of an area supported by Dublin City Council into a Dail constituency (DW) primarily supported by Fingal County Council. This has created ongoing representational challenges with Oireachtas representatives in Dublin West dealing with local matters that originate in a very different and separate local authority. Furthermore this significantly undermined the natural association and relationship that exists within the Dublin 7 area as it is now represented in two different Dail constituencies.

I have continued to receive very substantial and contact from these communities despite my no longer representing them in Dail Eireann. Since the last boundary review the population of Dublin Central has now increased from 89,030 to 96,048. This increase of 7.9% now means that the current residents of Dublin Central do not receive their due Oireachtas representation on the current boundaries in a 3 seat Dail format.

To recognise thus I am requesting that the following changes be considered.

- The electoral divisions of Ashtown A, Ashtown B and the Phoenix Park are transferred in their entirety back to the constituency of Dublin Central, adding a population totalling 14,713. This will restore the fit between local authority and Oireachtas boundaries and ensure that all of the community of Dublin 7 is coherently represented.
- The electoral divisions of Botanic A, B & C, Drumcondra South C and Clontarf West D & E are moved into Dublin Central.

In making such changes, I would strongly contend that the communities of Finglas not be divided.

The implementation of these changes would bring the constituency of Dublin Central to a population of approximately 115,000. After considering the data available, I would contend that the average constituency will have a ratio of 29,924 electors per elected member. This would mean that Dublin Central will be below this average by -4%. Given expected population growth within these communities this should ensure stability of Dail boundaries.

I wish the members of the Constituency Commission well in their deliberations and that they take into consideration the suggestions and proposals detailed above.

Best Wishes,

Paschal

Paschal Donohoe TD
Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform