



## MARTIN HEYDON TD

Kildare South Constituency

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The Secretary,  
Constituency Commission,  
Dublin 1.

10<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

Sub 16/399

Dear Sirs

I would like to take this opportunity to express my views on the review of constituency boundaries for the election of members of the Dail, with specific reference to the Dail constituency of Kildare South.

The 2012 Dail Boundary review moved a population of 7,186 voters from 6 Kildare South Electoral Divisions to the newly formed constituency of Laois. As a TD elected at the time for Kildare South, I received many calls from residents in these areas expressing their anger and confusion at being moved to Laois.

Residents found it difficult to understand the rationale for the move, which appeared arbitrary from a geographical point of view. They wanted to continue to deal with the public representatives in Kildare that they knew. This remains the case to the current day, despite the years since the change and a subsequent general election where they voted in Laois.

On a local authority level their issues are still dealt with by Kildare County Council which further adds to the confusion. This has also required Laois TDs to now liaise with Kildare County Council and Councillors as well as Laois County Council creating duplication.

Irish people have a natural and cultural affinity to their home County, a link which is often reinforced by GAA. This is very much the case in South Co. Kildare and I am aware of many proud Kildare residents who did not vote in 2016 as a result of this move.

I understand that under law and as part of your terms of reference, the breaching of county boundaries should be avoided as far as practicable. I would ask you as part of this review to reinstate the County Boundary of Kildare and return the areas of Monasterevin, Churchtown, Kildangan, Kilberry, Harristown and Ballybracken to their home County of Kildare for voting purposes.

With one of the highest population growths in the Country in 2016 expected to continue, a case could be made to expand Kildare South to a four seat constituency in conjunction with the re-instatement of the 6 Electoral Divisions back from Laois. This would allow for future population growth in the County while also retaining the County boundary.

Yours sincerely

Martin Heydon, T.D.



**FINE GAEL**