

Submission of Cllr. Malcolm Byrne (FF), Gorey Town Council
to the Electoral Area Boundary Committee

1st February, 2008.

Comments relate to Wexford County Council Electoral Areas

1. While the Boundary Committee is precluded from changing the total number of Councillors on Wexford County Council (currently 21), it should be noted that Wexford is underrepresented in comparison to the national average.
2. The Gorey Electoral Area was reduced in size under the last review in 1998 and also the number of seats were reduced from 5 to 4, making it the smallest of the four electoral areas in the County and a perception has developed that as a result, it is the least well served.
3. The Gorey Electoral Area has grown dramatically over the past decade, in large part due to the extension of the Greater Dublin commuter belt. It continues to grow faster than any of the other electoral areas in the County. According to the CSO Census figures, the area had a population of 25,808 in 2006. It should be noted, however, that Ferns and Tombrack included in the CSO figures for the Enniscorthy area and its 1,201 and 661 citizens are actually part of the Gorey district. This means that the Gorey area actually has a population of 27,700. This makes it larger than the New Ross District that has a population of 23,000 but that area currently has 5 seats.
4. The Kilmuckridge area on the Wexford coast is currently divided between Gorey and Enniscorthy districts and this is disadvantageous in terms of effective and efficient services provision.
5. Given that the population of Co. Wexford was 131,749 in 2006. The ratio of councillors to population should be around 1:6,273. A five-seat electoral area requires a population of 31,369.

Recommendation

1. Increase the size of the Gorey Electoral Area to five seats through the addition of some population in the Enniscorthy area. Approx 3,500 citizens need to be added, although the population of Gorey has grown since Census 2006.
2. The Kilmuckridge area should be entirely brought into one electoral area. It makes sense to add the area currently in Enniscorthy and contiguous areas into Gorey.

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