



Councillor MARY HOADE

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To Whom It May Concern:

Review of Electoral Boundaries with particular reference to Oranmore Electoral Area.

In view of the large increase in the population of the Oranmore area, I understand that the Commission will have to examine a number of options in relation to same. I believe the following criteria should be taken into account:

1. There should be no electoral area crossing the Corrib, in other words, Connemara should be maintained as either one or two electoral areas with no area east of the Corrib included.
2. As the Oranmore Electoral Area is already the area with the smallest number of seats, I believe the best option is to increase the number of seats in the Oranmore Electoral Area.
3. I presume that when the Oranmore Electoral Area was given the smallest number of Councillors, it was with correct recognition that the population there was likely to increase and therefore that the number of seats would increase to the average in the other Electoral Areas in the County over time.
4. The area as it is constituted forms a natural hinterland around the City of rapid growth including rapidly growing areas such as Headford, Annaghdown, Claregalway, Carnmore, Turloughmore, Oranmore and Clarinbridge.
5. I am aware that there is a provision in the terms of reference regarding alignment with constituency boundaries. I do not believe that, in this case, this would suit, as the geographic area of Co. Galway that is in Galway West is very small and, furthermore, due to the rapid increase in population in the Galway City area and its environs, it is likely over the very foreseeable future that Galway

West, which is already a five seater, will only encompass Galway City and Connemara. In view of this, further constituencies reviewing the future are likely to see a reducing County area east of the Corrib.

I hope that you will take these points into account when decisions are being made in relation to the proposal of the commission.

Mise le meas


Mary Hoade
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