

Mr. Martin Vaughan,
Secretary,
Electoral Areas Boundary Committee
Room 203
Dept of The Environment, Heritage & Local Government
Customs House
Dublin 1.

10th March 2008

Re: Mayo Electoral Area Boundaries

Submission on behalf of the Fine Gael Constituency Executive of Mayo

Following discussions we wish to make the following submission:-

The Mayo Constituency Executive of Fine Gael recommend the enlargement of the Ballinrobe electoral area. The town of Ballinrobe forms a natural hinterland serving the broader South Mayo area. Ballinrobe town is a growing economic region with considerable housing starts recorded in recent years and further economic growth anticipated.

In recognition of these factors, the Fine Gael Constituency Executive in Mayo propose the inclusion of extra territory justifying the retention of an enlarged Ballinrobe electoral area, augmenting its current electoral representation from a three seat to a four seat electoral area. This will result in a transfer of territory which would not reduce the number of seats in the area affected by this transfer of territory.

In the light of total representation of local authorities remaining unchanged, the Fine Gael Constituency Executive in Mayo further propose the retention of the Belmullet electoral area as an enlarged electoral area, though with an unchanged representation of four seats.

The Belmullet area by necessity requires an electoral area of its own To meet the economic and social challenges of this region. We believe it is vital this area has its own representation and complement of Council services to meet these challenges, enhancing the case for the retention of a four seat Belmullet electoral area.

The Mayo Fine Gael Constituency Executive recognises the Belmullet area may require a transfer of territory to retain its four seat complement, resulting in a likely seat loss in the area affected by the proposed transfer of territory.

The Fine Gael Constituency Executive trusts that full consideration will be given to this submission which is made in the best interests of the communities affected by these changes. Furthermore, we believe these proposed changes will enhance the administration of local government in the areas affected.

Signed

*M Burke Chairperson
On behalf of
Fine Gael Constituency Executive*