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Date: 12/03/2008 21:21
Subject: Submission

Secretary,

Electoral Area Boundary Committee,

Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government,

Room 2.03, Custom House,

Dublin 1.

Re Submission to Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee

Dear Secretary,

We wish to submit to the Committee that no change should be made to the Kilkenny County Council electoral area of Kilkenny City and Environs. This area is represented by 7 members which we note is the permitted maximum set by your terms of reference.

When examining the purported ratios of members to population it is submitted that the appropriate population figure to consider is that of 25513 which we believe is the figure confirmed by the 2006 census. We submit that any consideration to exclude the population of the Borough area would be irrational and contrary to the statutory framework envisaged by the 2001 Act. We are lead to believe that the population residing within the Borough area is 8,625. The correct ratio to be considered is that of 1: 3645 not 1: 2555 which is most significant.

The division of functions between Kilkenny County Council and Kilkenny Borough Council have increasingly become blurred this is in part a consequence of the maintenance of an unrealistic boundary of the Borough but that is not a matter that the Committee can address. The Committee should consider that in all local elections in the immediate past the population residing within the Borough has voted in the Kilkenny County Council elections a situation not prohibited by S.25 of the Local Government Act 2001. It is also a fact that part of the population outside the Borough area has voted in Borough Council elections.

The population residing in the area of Kilkenny City and Environs represents

some 29% of the Kilkenny County population of 87,558, they require to be represented by at least 27% of the membership of Kilkenny County Council as is currently the case. Any proposal to remove any part of the present area would fail to preserve the natural community and hinterland of Kilkenny City.

Yours sincerely

Cllr. Michael Lanigan

Cllr. Joe Reidy

Cllr. Pat Millea

Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness

Cllr. John Coonan

Cllr. Matt Doran

Cllr. Tom Brennan

Cllr. Cora Long

Cllr. Pat Walsh