

Submission to Electoral Review Commission

To whom it concerns,

On behalf of Ballinrobe Community Development Council, we submit that Ballinrobe Electoral Area be retained as an electoral area in its own in Mayo into the future.

In the ten years since the boundaries changed – separating Ballinrobe and Claremorris into individual electoral areas – Ballinrobe has progressed enormously and we believe that it would be a retrograde step for the town and its massive hinterland for it to be joined with Claremorris again. In the past when Ballinrobe and Claremorris were combined, Ballinrobe suffered from a lack of representation at County Council level, as there was always a greater number of councillors from the Claremorris area and thus projects in the Ballinrobe area – in spite of its massive geographical hinterland – did not receive the priority attention they deserved.

Additionally, according to the Census 2006 figures, Ballinrobe is the fastest growing town in the county, and, while Claremorris showed a slower rate of growth, it grew significantly also. If these two towns were to be combined into one electoral area, administration and decision-making would be too unwieldy and neither town would be as well-served at County Council level as it ought to be.

In its own right, Ballinrobe Electoral Area has 2.96 quotas and thus has a very strong case to be a three-seat electoral area. Alternatively, we submit that the electoral area become a four-seater and stretch into the Castlebar area, drawing on some of its surplus population.

Again, we feel strongly – as the strongest representative body in Ballinrobe town – that it is of the utmost importance to our area that we retain our independence as an electoral area.

Yours sincerely,

Denise Horan,

Chairperson,

Ballinrobe Community Development Council.