

Subject: SUBMISSION FOR DUBLIN AND CITIES ELECTORAL AREA BOUNDARY COMMITTEE

Importance: High

44 Kiltipper Drive,
Aylesbury, Tallaght,
Dublin 24.

12/3/08

The Secretary,
Dublin & Cities Committee,
The Department of Environment,
Dublin 1.

A Chara,

I write in relation to the local electoral boundary areas of South Dublin County Council with specific reference to the Tallaght area and I wish to make the following observations.

- (1) The terms of reference of your Committee are virtually identical with the terms of reference of the 1998 Dublin Electoral Area Boundary Committee (page 5 1998 Report), with the exception of the elimination of three seat wards unless in exceptional circumstances.
- (2) South Dublin County Council has 26 Councillors and based on the 2006 Census a population of 242.173, which results in an average representation of one Councillor for every 9.314 residents.
- (3) While taken cognizance of the terms of reference, that restrict an increase in the number of Councillors in an administrative area, I should point out that there are some major discrepancies between electoral areas in terms of representation.

(4) The current populations and number of seats for the five electoral areas within the administrative area of South Dublin County Council are

- (1) Terenure-Rathfarnham-60.000 residents and seven seats.
- (2) Tallaght South-55.000 residents and five seats.
- (3) Tallaght Central-36.000 residents and five seats.
- (4) Clondalkin-42.000 residents and five seats.
- (5) Lucan-47.000 residents and four seats.

(5) Bearing the terms of reference which indicate that the Committee should endeavour, as far as practicable for a variance from average local authority representation within the range of + or - 10%, it is clear that the above electoral areas cannot comply with this requirement as the electoral areas currently exist.

(6) On the basis of the 2006 Census, it would appear that the electoral areas of Terenure-Rathfarnham, Tallaght Central & Clondalkin are currently over represented, with the electoral areas of Tallaght South and Lucan significantly under represented.

(7) Noting item 3 of the 2008 terms of reference and page 16 &17 of the 1998 Dublin Electoral Area Boundary Committee Report, with specific reference to the urban focus that the Tallaght Town Centre provides, I would suggest that Tallaght Central keep its existing five seats. This could be arranged by the inclusion of the DED's of Tallaght-Kiltipper and Tallaght-Killinarden (total population of 10.500). Such a transfer of the two DED's would reduce the Tallaght-South population to approximately 45.000 residents and increase the Tallaght Central population to 46.500. Both areas would be within the maximum-minimum variance outlined in item 1 of the 2008 terms of reference. The boundary between Tallaght Central & Tallaght South would be the Dodder River. The inclusion of the natural communities of DED of Kiltipper and Killinarden would be in keeping with the items 2 &3 of the terms of reference of the 2008 Boundary Committee.

(8) Noting that it is assumed that there will be no change in the total membership of South Dublin County Council, The discrepancy in representation between Terenure-Rathfarnham & Lucan could be resolved by the simple transfer of a Council seat from Terenure-Rathfarnham to Lucan. This would leave Terenure-Rathfarnham with 6 seats and Lucan with an extra Council seat leaving Lucan with five

seats. To ensure total equity of representation for all electoral areas in the County, I would suggest that the part of the DED of Firhouse-Knocklyon east of the M50 be transferred from the Terenure -Rathfarnham electoral area in to Tallaght South and that part of the DED of Clondalkin-Moorefield east of the M50 be transferred from Lucan to Clondalkin.

(9) The above proposals would allow the two major urban focal points in the County to retain their existing seats (page 16 & 17, 1998 Electoral Area Boundary Committee Report), while also recognise and dealing with the existing discrepancies in representation in Terenure-Rathfarnham/Tallaght South & Lucan electoral areas.

I am earnestly requesting that you give consideration to the proposals outlined above.

Is mise le meas,

Joe Neville