

To Whom It May Concern:

I refer to the Leitrim Local Authority area.

More specifically, I focus on the Ballinamore Electoral Area and the ratio of representation issue that some parties and individuals have focused on in a clearly biased manner.

Recommendations have been made by certain individuals to reshuffle the electoral boundaries given that the Ballinamore Electoral area has the lowest Councillor to population ratio in the country.

The important fact which has chosen to be ignored in this scenario is that in the 2004 Local Elections, the Ballinamore Electoral area had the highest voter turnout of any electoral area in the country.

Arguments have been raised on disparities between electoral areas. Once such argument involved a comparison of a councillor's workload in the Mulhuddart Electoral Area against that of the Ballinamore Electoral Area.

Clearly, any attempt to make fair comparisons on population alone in this regard is unrealistic. Other factors must also be taken into account for a more accurate comparison, such as the difference in size of the electoral areas in question and the range of issues that must be dealt with.

Enough damage was done to Leitrim's political representation with the reshaping of boundaries for the national elections. If boundaries are moved in this situation, the Electoral Area Committee will be responsible for furthering disenfranchising the interests of one of the most politically active and conscious areas of the country.

Yours sincerely,

Nevan McCartin  
Main Street  
Newowngore  
Co. Leitrim