

From: "Tom Cunningham" <tom@gnka.ie>
To: <electoralareacommittees@environ.ie>
Date: 14/03/2008 12:08
Subject: Electoral Boundary review. Waterford City (3 Ward areas)

Dear Sirs,

in regards to your review of the above I would wish to comment as follows.

The last time a shift in area population with consequent imbalance in population per public rep. was identified resulting in a review it was decided to increase adjust the number of reps per ward area. The result was an alteration from 5-5-5 to 4-5-6 . This solution was accepted by all members on city council and all political groupings as fair and was welcomed by residents and community groupings. The representation per head of population was more balance and there was a seamless continuity of relationship in the affected areas.

I think this should be the model for any adjustments in this review. I represent ward 2 and have done so since 1992. I think it important that the working relationships built up between area public reps and community groups are allowed, in so far as possible, to continue. The trust and confidence built up between area public reps and community associations can not be overstated.

It seems to me that the fairest and least politically contentious way is to just adjust the number of reps in the area to take account of rise or fall in population.

In regards to Ward 2 it is fairly obvious as demonstrated by the census that an increase in rep. Nos is justified. Ward 2 is the most populous ward and is also the area showing the biggest housing growth so an adjustment in rep Nos. also has an element of future proofing the ratio of rep/population and carries that additional merit.

It is of course possible to consider a number of statitical scenarios to rebalance the rep/population ratio but surely there is merit in keeping it simple and also 'not fixing what ain't broken. .

kind regards

Cllr. Tom Cunningham
Ward 2
Waterford City Council