

Secretary
Dublin and Cities Electoral Area Boundary Committee
Custom House
Dublin 1

13th March 2008

A chara,

Given that the current ratio of councillors to population in several of the electoral areas of South Dublin County falls outside the +/- 10% variation from the average recommended under the terms of reference of the Committee, some revision is necessary to redress the current imbalances.

The current situation is as follows:

	population per seat	population	current seats	Population divided by average
Clondalkin	8798.2	43991	5	4.6
Lucan	12461.25	49845	4	5.2
Tallaght Central	7307.2	36536	5	3.8
Tallaght South	11153.4	55767	5	5.9
TerenureRath farnham	8685.1	60796	7	6.4
	9497.5	246935	26	

Thus, on the current distribution of seats:

Clondalkin is overrepresented by 7.3%

Lucan is underrepresented by 31.2%

Tallaght Central is overrepresented by 23%

Tallaght South is underrepresented by 17.4%

Terenure Rathfarnham is overrepresented 8.6%

On the basis of these figures, and without any changes to the ward boundaries, Lucan clearly merits another seat. Tallaght Central has one seat more than its population merits, and Tallaght South also merits another seat. To keep the total number of seats at 26, Terenure-Rathfarnham would have to lose one seat, notwithstanding the fact that its variation from the average is slightly less than 10%.

I believe, however, that a better balance of representation can be achieved by retaining the current seat distribution at 5 seats each in the Tallaght Central and Tallaght South wards.

Moving the electoral districts of Tallaght-Kiltipper (population 6426) and Tallaght-Killinarden (population 4135) from Tallaght South to Tallaght Central will give a population of 47097 in Tallaght Central, with one councillor per 9419 of population, and a population of 45206 in Tallaght South, with one councillor per 9041 of population. This represents a variation from the average of well within 10% in both cases, as required by point 1 of the terms of reference.

This realignment of the boundary conforms with point 2 of the terms of reference ("have an urban or neighbourhood focal point (or points)"), with a clear urban focal point for the Tallaght Central

ward in Tallaght, and also conforms with point 3 ("the desirability of preserving natural communities or the hinterlands of population centres"), by re-uniting the community of the wider Old Bawn area (between the N81 and the river Dodder) in one electoral ward, as the area served by the same schools, church, sporting facilities, etc., is currently somewhat arbitrarily divided between Tallaght South and Tallaght Central with Firhouse Rd West as the boundary between the wards.

The Tallaght South ward maintains its coherence in comprising the village hinterlands to the south and west of Tallaght, taking in Saggart, Rathcoole, Firhouse and the newer villages of Ballycullen and Fortunestown/Citywest. Again, this arrangement conforms to both the relevant points of the terms of reference cited in the previous paragraph.

While it is not necessary to adjust the boundary between Tallaght South and Terenure-Rathfarnham, moving the part of the Firhouse-Ballycullen electoral area currently in Terenure-Rathfarnham to Tallaght South (in addition to the changes already outlined) would give an even closer correspondence to the average representation of 1 councillor per 9497.5 of population, particularly in Terenure-Rathfarnham, which with a resulting population of 56876 and six seats, would have 1 councillor per 9479 of population, while Tallaght South (resulting population 49126) would have 1 councillor per 9825 of population.

Thus, I would recommend:

- moving the Tallaght-Kiltipper and Tallaght-Killinardan electoral districts from Tallaght South to Tallaght Central;
- possibly also moving that part of Firhouse-Ballycullen electoral district in Terenure-Rathfarnham to Tallaght South;
- maintaining the current distribution of 5 seats in both Tallaght Central and Tallaght South;
- reducing the number of seats in Terenure-Rathfarnham to 6.

Is mise, le meas,

David Hutchinson Edgar