

Secretary,
Dublin and Cities Electoral Area Boundary Committee,
Room 2.03,
Custom House,
Dublin 1.

March 14, 2008

A Chara,

I write to you in relation to the Local Electoral Areas in Dublin City Council and Fingal County Council.

Dublin City Council

It is of utmost importance that the existing communities in Dublin North West retain their own identities. There has been much change in the local area in recent years and more is set to take place in the coming months and years as the redevelopment of Finglas Village and the multi million-euro regeneration of Ballymun advances, and as a result these developments mean that both areas have their own homogenous identities. The Dáil Constituency Commission has now recommended in two consecutive reports that small parts of the Artane LEA and Clontarf LEA be contained in the Dublin North West constituency. I would ask that in the interest of close attention to local areas at this time of much local change in each area that the Committee align the Dáil constituency boundary and LEA boundaries. This can be done if the Committee take account of the following:

Currently the combined population of Dublin City Council areas within the Dublin North West Constituency is 66416 which when seven seats are allotted to the entire area represents a deviation of -2.5% from the Dublin City Average. This figure is well within the limits in the Committees terms of reference. This evidence presents that the retention of two LEAs of three and four seats is appropriate with the following alterations:

- The transfer of Ballymun A and Ballymun E from Ballymun Whitehall LEA into Finglas LEA;
- The transfer of Beaumont A and Whitehall D (Part) from Artane LEA into Ballymun Whitehall LEA;
- The transfer of Whitehall D (Part) from Clontarf LEA into Whitehall LEA.

The result of these transfers shows the following where both of the proposed LEAs are within the 5% Deviation limit :

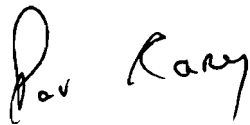
LEA	Population including transfer	Members	Population per member	% Deviation per LEA
Ballymun Whitehall	28851	3	9617	-1.13%
Finglas	37565	4	9391	-3.56%
	66416	7	9488	-2.51%

Fingal County Council

With regard to the areas south of Dublin Airport in the County of Fingal: I understand that the Committee have no remit in their terms of reference to realign the boundary between Dublin City and County Fingal however there are some measures which the committee should consider. It is an illogical situation that in the hinterland of Ballymun, Finglas and Santry south of Dublin Airport four of County Fingal's five LEAs dissect this area. I would ask that the committee should make as much provision that areas south of Dublin airport that are not immediate hinterlands of Fingal towns be contained, as far as is practicable within one electoral area.

I trust you will bear these wishes in mind when deciding the electoral boundaries.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Carey'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

PAT CAREY TD
MINISTER OF STATE
March 14, 2008