

The Secretary
Dublin and Cities Electoral Area Boundary Committee
Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government,
Room 2.03,
Custom House,
D1

14th March 2008

Re: Dublin and Cities Electoral Area Boundary Committee Submissions

Dear Secretary,

I wish to make a submission to the Dublin and Cities Electoral Area Boundary Committee as a resident of South East Inner City. In the terms of reference provided it states that *the number of councillors representing an area... should not be less than 4 or more than 7*. In following these guidelines, I would suggest that South East Inner City is increased into a 4 seater and Rathmines and Pembroke to be combined into a 6 seater.

The present situation, according to the 2006 census, in relation to the 3 local electoral areas is as follows:

Electoral Area	Population 2006	Number of Councillors	Population per Councillor	% Variance from Council Average
Pembroke	32452	3	10817	11.12
Rathmines	35567	4	8892	-8.66
South East Inner City	32286	3	10762	10.55

It is my proposal that SEIC retains its current local electoral area, with the exception that the boundary that is situated within Pembroke West A gets slightly extended. I would suggest that this could be achieved by continuing from Grand Canal St Upper onto Shelbourne Road then taking a left on Lansdowne Road and joining back up at the Dodder. According to the current local electoral area boundary, Pembroke West A is split between SEIC and Pembroke. Ultimately, by making an adjustment to Pembroke West A which has been split in the past, this will not cause disruption to the neighbouring Pembroke East B and Pembroke West B. Along with this, by making this adjustment it would still *achieve variance from individual average local authority representation within the range of +/-10%* as noted in the terms of reference.

It is also important that the electoral area boundary committee will take an approach that recognises the potential population growth that will occur as a result of the future proposed development plans. Some of which, include the redevelopment of the Irish

Glass Bottle Company site on Sean Moore Road and the Poolbeg Development Plan. This point, coupled with the incorporation of the section of Pembroke West A into the Inner City, will increase the population of the LEA; so that, it will reflect the need for an additional councillor.

On another note, the terms of reference also state that *the committee should subject to paragraph 2, take due account first of the desirability of preserving natural communities or the hinterlands of population centres*. SEIC is a natural community in terms of access to services; such as, primary care. When considering the expansion of Pembroke West A into SEIC, Lansdowne Stadium presents an artificial boundary in the sense that one cannot walk through the Havelock Sq or Vavasour Sq onto Lansdowne Road. Instead, many residents in this area access the services available in Pembroke East A and the other side of Pembroke West A which are both in the Inner City at present.

In addition, there are several well established links throughout SEIC. For instance, community based networks, organisations and inner city partnerships supply channels to access necessary funding and grants for this community. They also provide integral access points for Inner City residents in terms of social inclusion all of which have many societal benefits.

Furthermore, if the Local Electoral Areas within Dublin South East become two 5 seaters by carving up the Inner City between Pembroke and Rathmines it would be at the disadvantage of the residents living in the Inner City. This is mainly because at present, there are still serious issues within the Inner City in relation to socio-economic disadvantage and social exclusion. Furthermore, those issues could possibly be diluted to such an extent that they will not receive the full attention that is needed to adequately address issues of social advancement if SEIC is split. Along with this, the socio-economic mixture within Pembroke and Rathmines are so similar that it would best reflect the similarity of issues if they were combined in the same electoral area to make a joint 6 seater.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind Regards,

Ms. Maria Parodi
South East Inner City Resident