

Submission on behalf of
the Dublin South Constituency
of the Progressive Democrats

Table 1 - 2006 Population

District	2006 population	number cllrs
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	194,038	28.00
Stillorgan	15,998	2.31
Dundrum	37,530	5.42
Glencullen	25,648	3.70
Old Total	79,175	11.43
Foxrock Carrickmines DED	5,982	
Cabinteely Loughlinstown (part of)	2,500	
New Total	87,657	12.65

As can be seen from table 1, there is a significant change in the amount of councillors that the Dundrum, Stillorgan and Glencullen wards are entitled to when the 2006 population is taken into account. If the boundaries were left unchanged, Dundrum would be entitled to 5.4 seats, Glencullen would be entitled to 3.7 seats and Stillorgan would only be entitled to 2.3 seats. As the terms of reference state that the minimum seats in a ward must be 4 seats, a radical redrawing of boundaries must be undertaken.

In putting together a submission, we have ensured that

- Wards contain between 4 & 7 councillors
- Natural geographic boundaries are respected
- Dáil constituency boundaries are not breached

We are proposing that

- The Dundrum and Stillorgan wards be merged into one 7 seat ward
- Some DEDs from Stillorgan and Ballybrack be transferred to Glencullen

- Glencullen be increased to a 6 seat ward

Table 2 - Glencullen Ward

DED	Old Ward	Pop	
006 Ballinteer-Woodpark	Glencullen	4,305	
057 Glencullen	Glencullen	13,925	
069 Tibbradden	Glencullen	827	
037 Dundrum-Balaly & 039 Dundrum-Sandyford	part Dundrum part Glencullen	9,473	Part of DEDS
Foxrock Carrickmines DED	Ballybrack	5,982	
Cabinteely Loughlinstown (part of)	Ballybrack	2,500	
065 Stillorgan-Leopardstown	Stillorgan (Old DL)	2,067	
056 Foxrock-Torquay	Stillorgan (Old DL)	1,379	
Total		40,458	
6 seater		41,580	
Difference		-1,122	-2.70%

Table 3 - Dundrum/Stillorgan Ward

DED	Old Ward	Pop	
001 Ballinteer-Broadford	Dundrum	3,152	
002 Ballinteer-Ludford	Dundrum	2,118	
003 Ballinteer-Marley	part Dundrum part Glencullen	2,443	
004 Ballinteer-Meadowbroads	Dundrum	1,587	
005 Ballinteer-Meadowmount	Dundrum	1,984	
022 Churchtown-Castle	Dundrum	1,244	
023 Churchtown-Landscape	Dundrum	1,198	
024 Churchtown-Nutgrove	Dundrum	3,100	
025 Churchtown-Orwell	Dundrum	1,871	
026 Churchtown-Woodlawn	Dundrum	1,323	
028 Clonskeagh-Farranboley	Dundrum	1,483	
029 Clonskeagh-Milltown	Dundrum	1,915	
031 Clonskeagh-Windy Arbor	Dundrum	2,510	
038 Dundrum-Kilmacud	Dundrum	2,981	
040 Dundrum-Sweetmount	Dundrum	1,890	
041 Dundrum-Taney	Dundrum	2,583	
027 Clonskeagh-Belfield	Stillorgan	2,442	
030 Clonskeagh-Roebuck	Stillorgan	2,037	

063 Stillorgan-Deerpark	Stillorgan	2,828	
066 Stillorgan-Merville	Stillorgan	2,859	
067 Stillorgan-Mount Merrion	Stillorgan	2,386	
037 Dundrum-Balally & 039 Dundrum-Sandyford	part Dundrum part Glencullen	1,265	Part of DEDs
Total		47,199	
7 seater		48,510	
Difference		-1,311	-2.70%

As can be seen from Tables 2 and 3 this involves the transfer of the Foxrock-Carrickmines, Stillorgan-Leopardstown, Foxrock-Torquay DEDs and part of the Cabinteely-Loughlinstown DED (the area that is now part of the Dublin South Dáil constituency) into the Glencullen ward. All of these DEDs are part of the Dublin South Dáil constituency.

At present the Dundrum-Balally and Dundrum-Sandyford DEDs are split between the Dundrum and Glencullen wards. We propose that this should remain the same but the boundaries of these wards should change in order to minimise the variations in population required for 7 seat and 6 seat wards in Dundrum/Stillorgan and Glencullen respectively.

We are proposing that the remaining DEDs in the Stillorgan ward should be merged with the Dundrum ward to form a 7 seat constituency.

We note that the previous report stated that Dundrum was to have large representation in the council chamber to ensure that it was a "focal point" and to preserve "natural communities" and "areas forming the hinterland of particular population or shopping centres." We believe that a merged 7 seat Dundrum/Stillorgan constituency would ensure that all of these conditions continue to be met.

Furthermore, we believe that the creation of a 7 seat and 6 seat ward would ensure fairer representation in the council chamber. Due to the technicalities of the PR-STV voting system, larger wards ensure that the composition of the Council chamber more accurately reflects how people voted. (Source: *Politics in the Republic of Ireland* by John Coakley and Michael Gallagher)

For example, if 10% of people vote for party A, then it is more likely that 10% of the council seats will be won by party A in a 7 seat ward than it would be in 4 seat ward.

Therefore, we believe that the creation of a 7 seat and 6 seat constituency is the fairest and most democratic way to divide the constituency into wards, with the constraint of not breaching the Dáil constituency boundary.

Residents and their associations feel that the current structure of 3 and 4 seat wards are unfair.

On many occasions during the last council the issues faced by people in the Glencullen and Stillorgan wards didn't received the priority they required due to the fact that only 3 of the 28 councillors in the council chamber represent these wards.

Members of the wards with 6 seats have the ability to represent the interests of their residents far more effectively as they hold nearly 22% of the council seats.

For the same reasons, we believe that the Terenure-Rathfarnham ward in the South Dublin County Council area should remain a 7 seat constituency and that the boundary should be adjusted to ensure that there is a sufficient population in the ward to justify 7 seats.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our submission.

Regards,

Colm Fahey

Chairman

Dublin South Progressive Democrats