

SUBMISSION FROM THE DUBLIN WEST GREEN PARTY TO THE DUBLIN
AND CITIES ELECTORAL AREA BOUNDARY COMMITTEE

This submission relates to Dublin West constituency as constituted under the Constituency Commission 2007 report and to the adjoining small area of Dublin North-West constituency within Fingal County.

The Committee is required to consider Dáil constituency boundaries. But it is also required to consider urban and neighbourhood focal points, natural communities, population centres, and continuity of electoral areas. For all these latter considerations, we submit, the new constituency boundary between Dublin West and Dublin North is unsuitable as a boundary for local Electoral Areas. It cuts almost through the middle of the town of Swords, and to create even a 3-seat Electoral Area including the Electoral Division of Swords-Forrest it would be necessary to take in some of the Dublin 15 built-up area, creating an Electoral Area totally without focus, centering on the lightly-populated area around the N2.

We therefore submit that the boundary between Swords and Mulhuddart Areas should remain in its present position along the North Road, which allows the hinterland of each built-up area to be treated separately.

The combined population of the Mulhuddart and Castleknock Areas is now 90,974. As Fingal has a population of 239,992 to be shared between 24 councillors, this gives a population of 10,000 per councillor to the nearest whole number. Therefore the combined area is entitled to an increase from 8 to 9 seats. The continuity of the existing areas should be maintained by giving the extra seat to Mulhuddart and leaving the Mulhuddart/Castleknock boundary unchanged. This provides variances of -6.61% in Mulhuddart and +5.83% in Castleknock, which are well within the 10% limit prescribed.