

Boundary Committee

Introduction

I wish to make a submission to the boundary committee.

This is the second major redrawing of boundaries within 2 electoral cycles.

The committee must take care that arbitrary redrawing of the boundaries does not have a detrimental effect upon the communities in Fingal.

This can happen were a town or suburb is split in Two. Often voting happens on a geographical rather than pure political grounds so if a community is split there is a danger that they will receive reduced representation and a resulting disenfranchisement.

It should be noted that the Electoral Districts which are used primarily as the building blocks of Local Electoral areas do not always reflect the actual nature of communities. Many of the natural boundaries such as the M50, and the M1 did not exist at the time the electoral divisions were created.

There is a strong belief that Swords should remain intact as a single electoral area and should not be arbitrarily split.

There is a concern among people that reduction in ward sizes will result in a political advantage to larger parties over smaller parties and that the move to reduction in wards is more motivated by political bias than by a willingness to improve representation. There is on the other hand a recognition that very large wards can result in uneven distribution of representation and in a heavy workload for a part time position.

I believe that in the interest of continuity wards and numbers of reps per ward should remain as close to the wards that currently exist as possible. This reduces the likelihood that any single change will overly or unfairly disadvantage any community or candidate. I would favour a prevalence of 7 seaters and 6 seat constituencies to reduce the perception of gerrymandering and to encourage proportional representation. I also think it is extremely important to recognise communities with proximity and to as far as possible keep them in the same Local Electoral area.

This is my understanding of the limits on numbers of population per seat based on 40 Cllrs and the 2016. It should be noted that there will be large scale population increases in Fingal which already has some of the highest population per Cllr rates in the country. In an ideal world the number of Cllrs would expand to take this into account. Ireland already has some of the lowest numbers of Cllrs per person in Europe.

	-10%	Average	110%
Fingal 2016	6,661	7,401	8,140

2: The Existing Howth Malahide electoral Area

Portmarnock North and South should stay together. The Torcaill estate should be moved in to Portmarnock North Electoral district.

Baldoyle and Portmarnock have close links and should not be separated. There are a further 2000 houses to be built between Portmarnock and Baldoyle which will even strengthen this link combined with a new cycle way and Public park.

In Malahide there are many houses which are technically in the Swords Seatown electoral district, but which are to all intents and purposes part of Malahide. Waterside and any part of Seabury should become part of the Malahide east electoral district.

The current size of the Malahide ward is too large at 59,974 according to the 2016 census for a 7-seater. My suggestion is that Howth Malahide ward be reduced to seven seats and the boundary adjusted slightly to return a proportion of the area to a new electoral area in swords. Holywell which is in Swords would seem an obvious possibility

A large proportion of The Kinsaley ward has close ties with Malahide and Portmarnock which should be considered.

Howth Sutton and Baldoyle are closely tied

Any alignment of Howth Malahide should note that there has already been significant housing development which renders the 2016 census figures already redundant and over 5000 houses planned. If possible, this should be considered in ensuring the Cllr ratio which is already very high is not at the higher end of the scale

3: An outline base suggestion of LEA'S for Fingal which can act as the base for the committee to be adjusted for local geographical requirements:

Below is a general template which could be used to form the basis for the new boundaries. It is an outline only and the boundary commission should take account of local anomalies and views to move houses and areas from one local electoral area to another where the boundary of the electoral district does not reflect community ties. The commission should also reflect not just the submissions to this boundary commission but also to previous ones to avoid any unwanted changes which are regarded as previously settled.

Fingal 2016	-10% 6,661	Average 7,401	=10% 8,140
	Pop		
Howth Malahide	7 seats		

Portmarnock North	4109		
Portmarnock south	3621		
Malahide east	7429		
Malahide west	6149		
Howth	8294		
Baldoyle	7524		
Sutton	5680		
Kinsaley	9621		
Balgriffin	3113		
HM minus population eq	55540	7= 7934	
Mullhuddart LEA	50145	7 seats	
Blanchardstown Mullhuddart	4,123		
Blanchardstown corduff	3,871		
Blanchardstown Blakestown	38,894		
Blanchardstown Tyrell	3257	7 =7163	
Castleknock	50148	7164 =7 Cllrs	
Stays As is			
New Northwest Fingal	6 seats		
Skerries	8501		
Balbriggan rural	16495		
Balbriggan urban	8116		
Holmpatrick	3458		
Garristown	1628		

Hollywood	1397		
Balscadden	717		
ClonMethan	836	41148	6= 6858
Swords LEA	7 seats		
Swords Forest	15,153		
Swords Glassmore	7711		
Swords Lissenhall	10,447		
Swords Village	2674		
Swords Seatown	7003		
Airport	5018		
Turnapin	1700	49706	7= 7106
Mid Fingal			
The ward	9602		
Dubber	7732		
Killsallaghan	2263		
Ballyboghill	1162		
Lusk	9623		
Rush	9627		
Donabate	9399	49406	7=7058