

18.253

Submission

Local Electoral Area Boundary Committees 2017

Re: Fingal

Committee Members,

I wish to address the Balbriggan and Swords Electoral Areas.

These are derived from the division of the Swords electoral Area established in time for the 1979 Local Elections and which then divided at the 1985 Local Election to form the current divisions.

They operate jointly as the Balbriggan Swords Area Committee.

Currently, there are seventeen seats divided: Swords 9 Balbriggan 8.

In 1979 the area of Lusk was transferred from the Balbriggan E. Area to Swords E. Area. This was not a success in terms of delivering representation for the Lusk area particularly for residents in the AL division.

It is my submission that a new electoral Area should be formed based on the following Electoral Areas:

BG, BJ, BL, BY, BO, AL, AT, AZ.

This should form a four-seat Electoral Area. This division would effectively leave two areas, one Rush/Lusk and the Donabate peninsula and their hinterlands both sub-areas capable of electing two members.

The Current Balbriggan Electoral Area less the Electoral areas contained within books Bo, AL, AZ and AT but with the inclusion of BA which contains the Rural Village of Rolestown should become a six-seat Electoral Area. This in essences leaves this area with a balance between three population blocks capable of electing two representatives from each. These are Skerries, Balbriggan and Rural Villages and their hinterland.

The current Swords area should be reduced to a seven-seat Electoral Area having then lost the populations contained within the Electoral Areas of BA, BG, BY, BL and BJ, These reductions make the area easier to represent as the population is less diverse and the development needs are more cohesive.

There is a case that if the Lusk/Rush Electoral area is amalgamated with the Donabate Peninsula, that the AL, AZ and At Electoral areas should be brought into the Dublin Metropolitan Area.

May I take the opportunity to wish you well in your deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

Cathal Boland,