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ALAN FARRELL TD

Dublin Fingal Constituency

Dáil Éireann, Leinster House,
Kildare Street, Dublin 2

Dáil Tel: 01 6184008

E Mail: alan.farrell@oir.ie

www.alanfarrell.ie

① AlanFarrellTD

② AlanFarrell

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To whom it may concern:

While the terms of reference make it impossible to maintain the integrity of the existing Swords Ward, I believe it an imperative to maintain Swords, as a town and its environs as one electoral ward.

As the County town, Swords is due to grow at a significant rate over the coming decades, to break it up politically at this stage would have the potential to harm the future expansion of the town with competing demands from elected local representatives who would be representing different electoral wards within the town. This would lead to resources being split between electoral wards, and be counter-productive to the focused development of Swords into the future on a basis which would benefit the town in its entirety.

The division of Swords could create a situation whereby different sides of the town are competing against one another for the same resources. Given the potential of Swords in terms of future development, I do not believe it would be in the best interests of local residents to split the town into different electoral wards.

Similarly, the Howth/Malahide ward is currently divided by the physical boundary of the North/South M1. To divide it electorally would be detrimental to the consolidation of the urban environment and the retention of the green belt between the urban centres of Malahide & Swords.

While the terms of reference are difficult to apply in a easy way to the County of Fingal, I believe the key sentences within the terms of reference provides the Committee with relief by way of the reference to "as far as practicable" and "as far as possible" in paragraphs 2 & 4. I would therefore urge the Committee to use this discretion to provide for manageable and practical geographic & political divisions within Fingal County Council.

I commend the Committee for their work and thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Alan Farrell TD
Fine Gael

Dublin Fingal Constituency

Chairman, Oireachtas Committee on Children & Youth Affairs

Member of the Public Account Committee
Head of Ireland's delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Co-Chair of Fine Gael Brexit Committee

