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Dear Committee Members,

I wish to make a submission to the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee No.2.

I am currently a councillor for the Cabra/Finglas area having been elected in 2014. Prior to that I was a councillor for the Cabra/Glasnevin ward. It is extremely difficult for an Independent councillor to serve their constituents when the area they represent is constantly changing. I understand the necessity to review the electoral boundaries due to population change but any realignment should aim to cause minimal change to the constituencies. Political expediency should play no part in any realignment of the constituencies.

It would also be logical to align Local Election boundaries with General Election boundaries as far as possible. A ridiculous situation now occurs in the Ashtown area where the TD's representing the area are from the Dublin West Dáil constituency while the councillors are from either the Dublin Central or Dublin North West Dáil constituencies. The Dublin West local authority area is under the remit of Fingal County Council while the Ashtown area is under the remit of Dublin City Council.

I believe the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee No.2 should use the opportunity of this review to tackle anomalies such as the divided villages of Finglas and Drumcondra. I also believe that an area such as Cabra should be retained in its entirety in a single constituency rather than split the area across a number of constituencies. The historical linkage between Cabra West and East is important and should be retained to ensure continuity of political representation.

To assist in the review of the Local Electoral area boundaries and to promote the logical proposal to align the Local Election boundaries with the General Election boundaries, I suggest that the Ashtown/Cabra area should be realigned with the Stoneybatter area to form a 6 seater Local Election area.

Regards,

Cllr Cieran Perry.