

18.367



18-02-2018

Secretary,
Local Electoral Area Boundary Committes,
Room 1.67,
Custom House,
Dublin 1,
A Chara,

Based on advice and information on the potential changes to boundaries I wish to make the following comments and suggestions Primarily in relation to East Galway. My observations are to assist the committee and my intention is to guide the committee as to which areas have vital links with another adjoining area so they remain in the same local electoral area.

To reduce Tuam to the recommended 5-7 seat population threshold I would recommend removing the Cooloo area into the Ballinasloe LEA as Cooloo is part of the Parish of Mountbellew/ Moylogh which makes this a very unnatural divide .

Given the Population growth in the Oranmore/Athenry areas it may be feasible to make an extra constituency in this area one way to do this might be to form an Oranmore/Claregalway area and a separate possibly Athenry/Kinvara area. In this scenario the Oranmore area could take in the area from Oranmore to Annaghdown and and southward to Annagh Hill (this would further reduce the Tuam area)

The new constituency would then go from Kinvara across to Monivea via Athenry it is important for Monivea would be in the same area as Athenry as the two parishes are intrinsically linked , it is by far the nearest Town to Monivea and would make Athenry more central in this new constituency. This would then further reduce the current 9 seat Tuam area.

It is likely that the Loughrea area would be reduced slightly to form the new Athenry/Kinvara area.

The Ballinasloe area I would envisage will remain largely unchanged as the population demographics don't warrant much change.

While making all changes I would request the committees make every effort not to divide parishes if at all possible as this can leave the smaller part of the Parish under represented(ie Cooloo from

Mountbellew and Moylough) as they are politically peripheral. Where in doubt about Parish boundaries I would urge the Committes to liase with people in a particular area.

I wish the Committees well in their work and hope this submission is of benefit.

Yours Sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Patrick Connolly.

Patrick Connolly

A black rectangular redaction box covering contact information, likely a phone number or email address.