

18.098

I wish to make the following submission to the commission in relation to the review of the local electoral area boundaries within Co Mayo having studied the Terms of Reference of your commission.

It is my strong opinion that the current Claremorris Municipal District be kept largely intact for a number of reasons. These reasons are geographical, strategic, economical and operational.

The majority of this region straddles for a large part along the Galway border. The strong influence that Galway City and its hinterland has on South Mayo as a region cannot be overstated and from a common policy platform it is critically important that this area should remain as one as far as possible so as to act in a cohesive and constructive manner to promote and encourage its development. The new M18 motorway has now arrived on the edge of this region and its importance to Ballinrobe and Claremorris is huge.

As a Municipal District operating on behalf of both towns the devising of both an economic and infrastructure plan is a roll which the region needs to consider as one. Joined up thinking for both Ballinrobe and Claremorris from a planning and infrastructure perspective is all the more important and the linking of both towns and their hinterlands will reflect this.

I understand that Mayo will have to change from the current system of four Municipal Districts, Castlebar 8 seats, Ballina 8 seats, Claremorris 7 seats, West Mayo 7 seats. My belief is that the county should now go to five 6 seat constituencies based on geography, economics, natural hinterlands and historical local electoral areas. This would serve everybodys interests and would be reasonable from an administration aspect.

For information purposes the Ballinrobe area I refer to includes the following District Electoral Divisions - Ballinrobe, Cloonliffen-Roxborough, Kilmane, Shrule, Ballycushion, Cong, Cross, The Neale, Glencorrib, Kilroe, Gortjordan, Roundfort, Hollymount, Lisatava and Garrymore.

Thank you for your time in considering this submission.
Yours sincerely,

Damien Ryan.