

Please find set out below my submission to the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee.

Context

The basis for this submission is to ensure that there is a more even spread of county councillors across the county of Mayo, in addition to ensuring that there is a distinct town based focus to each Municipal District.

This submission addresses the existing large, unwieldy Municipal Districts that exist in Co. Mayo, that have long been a cause of concern and focus for criticism in the county. In achieving this, it has been necessary to create Local Electoral Areas (LEAs) consisting of 3 and 4 councillors.

Although suggested to be used in exceptional circumstances, a county such as Mayo with sparse population settlements requires this exception to be used. This, it is proposed, will ensure that there is a fairer geographic placement of councillors.

Finally, this submission represents a sincere effort to ensure that the proposed areas created form a distinct geographic area, with common interest across its population.

Ballina LEA

This Local Electoral Area would consist of the following District Electoral Divisions:

001 Ardnaree South Urban, Co. Mayo	2420
002 Ballina Urban, Co. Mayo	4144
005 Ardagh, Co. Mayo	359
006 Ardnaree North (Part Urban), Co. Mayo	966
007 Ardnaree South Rural (Part Urban), Co. Mayo	3084
008 Attymass East, Co. Mayo	383
009 Attymass West, Co. Mayo	236
010 Ballina Rural (Part Urban), Co. Mayo	2985
015 Carrowmore, Co. Mayo	909
020 Fortland, Co. Mayo	564
024 Kilgarvan, Co. Mayo	747
031 Sallymount, Co. Mayo	480
011 Ballycastle, Co. Mayo	615
012 Ballysakeery, Co. Mayo	613
021 Kilfian East, Co. Mayo	240
025 Killala, Co. Mayo	1256
026 Lackan North, Co. Mayo	305
027 Lackan South, Co. Mayo	428
030 Rathoma, Co. Mayo	217

20951

With a total population of 20951, this LEA would be a 5-seater.

Swinford LEA

This Local Electoral Area would consist of the following District Electoral Divisions:

029 Mount Falcon, Co. Mayo	1259
032 Sraheen, Co. Mayo	1145
080 Pontoon, Co. Mayo	486
081 Strade, Co. Mayo	602
106 Brackloon, Co. Mayo	638
107 Callow, Co. Mayo	397
108 Cloonmore, Co. Mayo	438
110 Cuildoe, Co. Mayo	349
111 Doocastle, Co. Mayo	366
112 Kilbeagh, Co. Mayo	1006
113 Kilkelly, Co. Mayo	911
115 Kilmovee, Co. Mayo	654
117 Meelick, Co. Mayo	565
118 Sonnagh, Co. Mayo	1166
119 Swineford, Co. Mayo	2527
120 Toocananagh, Co. Mayo	428
121 Toomore, Co. Mayo	1591
122 Tumgesh, Co. Mayo	366
123 Urlaur, Co. Mayo	494
105 Bohola, Co. Mayo	310

15698

With a population of 15698, this LEA would be a 4-seater. IT consists of areas that have a relationship to the town of Swinford, with other areas that relate to Charlestown or Foxford also included.

Claremorris LEA

This Local Electoral Area would consist of the following District Electoral Divisions:

084 Ballindine, Co. Mayo	823
085 Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo	3057
086 Ballyhowly, Co. Mayo	438
087 Began, Co. Mayo	744
088 Caraun, Co. Mayo	367
089 Claremorris, Co. Mayo	4308
091 Course, Co. Mayo	415
092 Crossboyne, Co. Mayo	580
093 Culnacleha, Co. Mayo	460
095 Kilcolman, Co. Mayo	459
096 Kilvine, Co. Mayo	621
097 Knock North, Co. Mayo	972
098 Knock South, Co. Mayo	748
099 Loughanboy, Co. Mayo	335

101 Murneen, Co. Mayo	356
102 Tagheen, Co. Mayo	168
103 Aghamore, Co. Mayo	618
104 Ballinamore, Co. Mayo	354
109 Coolnaha, Co. Mayo	511
114 Killedan, Co. Mayo	693
116 Kiltamagh, Co. Mayo	1424

18451

With a population of 18451, this LEA would be a 4-seater. All of these areas have some linkages or commonality with Claremorris, and other towns in the area such as Kiltimagh, Knock or Ballyhaunis.

Ballinrobe LEA

This Local Electoral Area would consist of the following District Electoral Divisions:

034 Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo	3770
036 Burriscarra, Co. Mayo	423
038 Cong, Co. Mayo	864
039 Coonard, Co. Mayo	272
040 Dalgan, Co. Mayo	1117
041 Hollymount, Co. Mayo	799
042 Houndswood, Co. Mayo	646
043 Kilcommon, Co. Mayo	663
044 Kilmaine, Co. Mayo	960
045 Neale, Co. Mayo	786
046 Newbrook, Co. Mayo	521
050 Shrule, Co. Mayo	1159
090 Cloghermore, Co. Mayo	161
094 Garrymore, Co. Mayo	460

12601

With a population of 12601, this LEA would be a 3-seater. It consists of areas that have links to Ballinrobe town and its surrounds.

Westport LEA

This Local Electoral Area would consist of the following District Electoral Divisions:

004 Westport Urban, Co. Mayo	5847
124 Acaill, Co. Mayo	845
125 Aghagower North, Co. Mayo	1008
126 Aghagower South, Co. Mayo	108
127 Aillemore, Co. Mayo	355
130 Bundorragha, Co. Mayo	81

131 Clare Island, Co. Mayo	210
132 Clogher, Co. Mayo	873
133 An Corrán, Co. Mayo	673
134 Croaghpatrick, Co. Mayo	578
135 Derryloughan, Co. Mayo	690
136 Dumha Éige, Co. Mayo	623
137 Drummin, Co. Mayo	181
138 Emlagh, Co. Mayo	325
139 Erriff, Co. Mayo	122
140 Glenhest, Co. Mayo	248
142 Kilgeever, Co. Mayo	108
143 Kilmaclasser, Co. Mayo	639
144 Kilmeena (Part Urban), Co. Mayo	1512
145 Kilsallagh, Co. Mayo	531
146 Knappagh, Co. Mayo	766
147 Louisburgh, Co. Mayo	958
148 Newport East, Co. Mayo	1164
149 Newport West, Co. Mayo	810
150 Owennadornaun, Co. Mayo	99
151 Slievemahanagh, Co. Mayo	454
152 Slievemore, Co. Mayo	991
153 Srahmore, Co. Mayo	142
154 Westport Rural, Co. Mayo	1521

22462

With a population of 22462, this would form a 5 seat LEA. There is a historic link between Achill, and its neighbouring districts of Mulranny and Newport, to Westport. IT forms a large area around Clew Bay, with Westport the principle town at the centre of it. There is much commonality in terms of landscape and economic conditions in this area.

Castlebar LEA

This Local Electoral Area would consist of the following District Electoral Divisions:

003 Castlebar Urban, Co. Mayo	6163
033 Baile an Chalaídh, Co. Mayo	220
035 Baile Óbha, Co. Mayo	206
037 An Cheapaigh Dhuibh, Co. Mayo	372
047 Abhainn Bhrain, Co. Mayo	200
048 Partraí, Co. Mayo	561
049 Roslee, Co. Mayo	432
067 Balla, Co. Mayo	1556
068 Ballinafad, Co. Mayo	589
069 Ballyhean, Co. Mayo	588
071 Bellavary, Co. Mayo	1038
072 Breaghwy, Co. Mayo	1833
073 Burren, Co. Mayo	312

074 Castlebar Rural (Part Urban), Co. Mayo	7308
075 Clogher, Co. Mayo	551
076 Cloonkeen, Co. Mayo	795
077 Croaghmoyle, Co. Mayo	172
078 Killavally, Co. Mayo	485
079 Manulla, Co. Mayo	985
082 Tamhnaigh na Graí, Co. Mayo	352
083 Turlough, Co. Mayo	1446
100 Mayo, Co. Mayo	447
141 Islandeady, Co. Mayo	1001

27612

With a population of 27612, this LEA would be a 6-seater. This LEA consists of the town of Castlebar, and its hinterland, or areas influenced by Castlebar. Castlebar is the largest urban centre by some distance in this area. It also includes the area of Tourmakeady, stretching to the Galway border. There is a history of this area being linked to Castlebar politically.

Belmullet LEA

This Local Electoral Area would consist of the following District Electoral Divisions:

013 Béal Deirg Mór, Co. Mayo	157
014 Bunaveela, Co. Mayo	81
016 Crossmolina North, Co. Mayo	1061
017 Crossmolina South, Co. Mayo	824
018 Deel, Co. Mayo	481
019 Derry, Co. Mayo	175
022 Kilfian South, Co. Mayo	250
023 Kilfian West, Co. Mayo	109
028 Letterbrick, Co. Mayo	125
051 An Geata Mór Thuaidh, Co. Mayo	939
052 An Geata Mór Theas, Co. Mayo	980
053 Bangor, Co. Mayo	467
054 Barr Rúscáí, Co. Mayo	100
055 Béal an Mhuirthead, Co. Mayo	1954
056 Gleann na Muaidhe, Co. Mayo	215
057 Gleann Chaisil, Co. Mayo	493
058 Glenco, Co. Mayo	67
059 Guala Mhór, Co. Mayo	135
060 Cnoc an Daimh, Co. Mayo	337
061 Cnoc na Lobhar, Co. Mayo	757
062 Moing na Bó, Co. Mayo	241
063 Na Monga, Co. Mayo	221
064 Cnoc na Ráithe, Co. Mayo	712
065 Sheskin, Co. Mayo	24

066 Addergoole, Co. Mayo	837
070 Ballynagoraher, Co. Mayo	354
128 Ballycroy North, Co. Mayo	303
129 Ballycroy South, Co. Mayo	333

12575

With a population of 12575, this would be a 3-seater LEA. It consists of the Erris area, a distinct, which due to population decline is no longer able to support a 3-seat area in its own right. Therefore, territory has to be added to it. There is a logical link between Erris and Crossmolina; this town was linked to the former ESB electricity station in Bellacorick for many years. In addition, the main infrastructure routes into Erris (namely the N59 and R312 roads) pass through or near Crossmolina. Therefore, there is much common cause between Crossmolina and Erris. A further reason to link these two places, is that Crossmolina and its hinterland has enough population to counterbalance the Erris area, resulting that there is likely to be sufficient population in the Crossmolina area to secure representation for its population.

Potential Municipal Districts

If the above listed electoral areas were considered to be too small to exist as stand alone Municipal Districts, 2 or more of them could be joined to form a single Municipal District (consisting of two distinct and separate LEAs). This would ensure efficiency of service delivery, with the safeguard that distinct areas within the county would have political representation.

Potential linked Municipal Districts could be formed by joining Belmullet and Ballina (to form a North Mayo Municipal District), or by joining Claremorris and Swinford (to form an East Mayo Municipal District). Ballinrobe could be linked to Castlebar, or indeed Westport and Castlebar could be linked. Another option could include forming Castlebar as a stand alone county town Municipal District.

Yours faithfully,
Ian Callaghan.

A large black rectangular redaction mark covering the signature area.