

The Green Party/Comhaontas Glas,
16/17 Suffolk St.,
Dublin 2.
19/02/18

Secretary,
Local Electoral Area Boundary Committees 2017,
Room 1.67,
Custom House,
Dublin 1,
D01 W6X0.

Re: Submission to Local Electoral Area Boundary Committees 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find below a combined submission to the two Boundary Committees established to examine the boundaries of local election wards prior to the 2019 Local Elections.

In making this submission, we have consulted with local Green activists in constituency groups across the country.

We make this submission, notwithstanding our deep dissatisfaction with the terms of reference imposed by the Government and in particular, the move to reduce the size of wards from between 6 to 10 seats to 5 to 7 seats. We believe that this move will disproportionately impact on the chances of smaller parties and independents getting elected. We also believe that it will impact on the ability of female candidates getting elected.

If you have any queries on this submission, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Roderic O’Gorman
Chairperson - Green Party / Comhaontas Glas
(On behalf of the Green Party)
roderic.ogorman@greenparty.ie

Dublin City Council

Dublin City North

Ward	Population	Seats	Population per seat	Breach \pm 10% range
City North				
Ballymun	61,051	7	8722	No
Cabra-Finglas	58,727	7	8390	No
Clontarf	55,096	6	9183	No
Beaumont-Donaghmede	76,349	9	8483	No
North Inner City	72,982	8	9123	No
City North Total	324205	37		
City South				
Ballyfermot-Drimnagh	54,848	6	9141	No
Crumlin-Kimmage	54,325	6	9054	No
Rathgar-Rathmines	49,757	6	8293	NO
Pembroke-South Dock	71,419	8	8927	No
City South Total	230349	26		
City Total	554554	63		

Population per seat - $554554 / 63 = 8802$

\pm 10% range (7922 - 9682)

On the northside of the the city, the fact that two wards are over the maximum seats per ward permitted under the terms of reference, there will have to be a significant readjustment of the wards.

New Proposal - City North

New Ward	Electoral Division	New Population	Seats		
North Inner City	Ballybough A Ballybough B North Dock A North Dock B North Dock C Mountjoy A Mountjoy B North City Rotunda A Rotunda B Innis Quay B Innis Quay C Arran Quay A Arran Quay B Arran Quay C Arran Quay E	64257	7 seats		
Beaumont-Whitehall	Beaumont F Beaumont E Beaumont D Beaumont C Beaumont B Beaumont A Kilmore A Kilmore B Kilmore C Kilmore D Priorswood A Priorswood B Priorswood C Priorswood D Priorswood E Whitehall D Whitehall C Whitehall B Whitehall A	60083	7 seats		
Ballymun-Finglas	Ballymun A Ballymun B Ballymun C Ballymun D Ballymun E Ballymun F Ballygall A Ballygall B Ballygall C Ballygall D	55010	6 seats		

	Finglas North A Finglas North B Finglas North C Finglas South A Finglas South B Finglas South C Finglas South D				
Cabra- Glasnevin	Phoenix Park Ashtown A Ashtown B Cabra West A Cabra West B Cabra West C Cabra West D Cabra East A Cabra East B Cabra East C Botanic A Botanic B Botanic C Drumcondra South C Innis Quay A Arran Quay D	56418	6 seats		
Clontarf	Clontarf East A Clontarf East B Clontarf East C Clontarf East D Clontarf East E Clontarf West A Clontarf West B Clontarf West C Clontarf West D Clontarf West E Grace Park Drumcondra South A Drumcondra South B	51415	6 seats		
Donaghmede	Grange A Grange B Grange C Grange D Grange E Ayrfield Edenmore Harmonstown A Harmonstown B RAheny Greendale Raheny Foxfield	44990	5 seats		

	Raheny St Assam				
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On the southside of the city, one ward - Pembroke South Dock - has one more seat than that permitted by the terms of reference. Pembroke South Dock is part of the Dail Constituency of Dublin Bay South, the other part being covered by Rathgar –Rathmines, currently a six seat LEA. We proposes that these two areas should be balanced to provide two 7 seat local electoral areas as it would best meet the criteria laid out in the terms of reference. This balance can be achieved by moving two wards: Pembroke West C and Rathmines East B, from Pembroke South Dock into Rathgar-Rathmines .

Both areas would meet the criteria laid out under point 2 of the Terms of Reference in regards to alignment with the city wide average. The proposed swap would leave Rathgar Rathmines with an average population per councillor of 8635, a variation form the city average of -1.6%. Furthermore this would leave Pembroke South Dock with an average population per councillor of 8587, a variation from the city average of -2.1%. This would also be in keeping with point 3 of the terms of reference in regards to numbers of seats as they would both be 7 seats.

These exchanges would also meet the criteria laid out in point 4 of the terms of reference – Pembroke West C is covered by the Upper Leeson Street Area Residents Association, the majority of which is already in Rathgar – Rathmines, this would bring together in one local electoral area a neighbourhood that sees itself as connected and already functions as one, while Rathmines East B moving would ensure that both upper and lower Ranelagh are in the same local Electoral area, and that the Urban village of Miltown is also contained within one electoral area. This would also be in keeping with point 5 of the terms of reference in regards to maintaining alignment with the Dail boundary for Dublin Bay South.

As both the Ballyfermot-Drimnagh and the Crumlin-Kimmage are within the seat limits and the population limits, we propose that both should be left as they currently are.

Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown

Population per ward Census 2016

Ward	Population	Seats	Population per seat	Breach \mp 10% range
Blackrock	32,047	6	5341	No
Stillorgan	30,508	6	5085	No
Dundrum	37,452	7	5350	No
Glencullen - Sandyford	40,902	7	5843	No
Killiney - Shankill	33,802	6	5634	No
Dún Laoghaire	43,307	8	5413	No
Total	218,018	40	5450	

Population per seat - $218018/40 = 5450$

\mp 10% range (4905 - 5995)

While all wards are within the 10% range, one ward, Dun Laoghaire, has more seats than are permitted under the terms of reference. Therefore, one seat and population of approximately 5,000 needs to be taken from that ward. In order to avoid the breach of constituency boundaries, the transfer of population and seat should be to either Killiney-Shankill or Blackrock.

We propose the transfer of Foxrock Beechpark (1,680) and Cabinteely-Pottery (4,997) giving a total population of 6677 from Dun Laoghaire to Blackrock. This leave Dun Laoghaire as a 7 seat ward with a population of 36,630, within the 10% range, and Blackrock as a 7 seat ward with a population of 38,724, within the 10% range.

As the other wards remain within the 10% range and the seat range, we recommend no changes to them.

Fingal County Council

Population per ward Census 2016

Ward	Population	Seats	Population per seat	Breach \pm 10% range
Balbriggan	61845	8	7731	No
Howth/Malahide	59794	8	7474	No
Swords	64486	9	7165	No
Castleknock	50148	7	7164	No
Mulhuddart	59747	8	7468	No
Total	296020	40		

Population per seat = 7401

\pm 10% range (6661 - 8141)

All but one of the current wards have seat numbers greater than that permitted by the terms of reference, so significant changes are required. Looking at the seats in Dublin 15 (west of the old N2) in the Dublin West constituency, this area has a population of 109,895, which equates to 15 seats. This requires three 5 seater wards.

The ED of Blanchardstown-Blakestown has a population of 38,894, which equates to a 5 seat ward. This can be called the Ongar-Blakestown ward.

The EDs of Blanchardstown-Roselawn, Blanchardstown-Delwood, Castleknock-Park, Lucan North, Castleknock-Knockmaroon and those parts of the Blanchardstown-Coolmine ward north of the Clonsilla Road and south of the Snugborough Road South will be formed into the Castleknock-Blanchardstown ward.

The EDs of Blanchardstown-Tyrrelstown, Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart, Blanchardstown-Corduff, Blanchardstown-Abbotstown and those remaining parts of the Blanchardstown-Coolmine ward will be formed into the Mulhuddart-Tyrrelstown ward.

Taking account of Terms of Reference No.4 regarding urban villages, we propose that those Small Areas in the Blanchardstown-Blakestown north of the N3 should be moved to from the Ongar-Blakestown ward to the Mulhuddart-Tyrrelstown ward, thus keeping the unity of Mulhuddart Village. Further, those Small Areas in the Blanchardstown-Abbotstown south of the N3 should be moved from the Mulhuddart-Tyrrelstown ward to the Castleknock-Blanchardstown ward, thus keeping the unity of Blanchardstown village.

In the north county, we would propose the following changes:

New Ward	Electoral Division	New Population	Seats		
Balbriggan-Skerries	Balbriggan Urban Balbriggan Rural Balscaddan Hollywood Garristown Skerries Holmpatrick Ballyboghil Clonmethan Lusk (west of M1)	43106	6 seats		
Lusk-Rush-North Swords	Rush Lusk (east of M1) Donabate Swords-Lissenhall Swords-Glasmore Killsalaghan	48559	6 seats		
South Swords	Swords Village Swords Seatown (west of Motorway) Swords Forrest Dubber Airport Kinsaley Turnapin	41827	6 seats		
Howth-Malahide	Kinsaley (East of Feltrim Hill) Swords Seatown (East of Motorway) Balgriffin Malahide West Malahide East Portmarknock North Portmarnock South Baldoyle Sutton Howth	51681	7 seats		

South Dublin

Ward	Population	Seats	Population per seat	Breach \pm 10% range
Lucan	57,705	8	7213	No
Clondalkin	55,641	8	6955	No
Tallaght - South	44,201	6	7367	No
Tallaght - Central	39,119	6	6520	No
Templeogue - Terenure	43,724	6	7287	No
Rathfarnham	38,377	6	6396	No
Total	278,767	40	6969	

Population per seat - $278767/40 = 6969$

\pm 10% range (6272 - 7666)

As both Lucan and Clondalkin have one seat over the maximum permitted by the terms of reference, boundary changes must be made here. We propose that the EDs of Clondalkin Rowlagh and Clondalkin Moorfield (total population 10472) be taken from the Clondalkin ward, along with two seats. This population, added to that of Lucan, would give a total population of 68177. This would serve two 5 seat wards, once based around Lucan Village and West Lucan and the second based on Palmerstown, Ronanstown and Griffeen. Clondalkin would be a 6 seat ward with a population of 45169.

As the other wards remain within the 10% range and the seat range, we recommend no changes to them.

Carlow

Ward	Population	Seats	Population per seat	Breach $\pm 10\%$ range
Carlow	34,846	10	3485	Yes
Muinebeag	22,086	8	2761	Yes
Total	56,932	18	3163	

Population per seat - $56932/18 = 3163$

$\pm 10\%$ range (2847 - 3479)

We would suggest the creation of a 7 seat urban ward around Carlow town, a 5 seat ward in north Carlow and a 6 seat ward based around Muinebeag/South Carlow.

Galway City Council

Population per ward Census 2016

Ward	Population	Seats	Population per seat	Breach \pm 10% range
Galway City Central	24109	6	4018	No
Galway City East	26595	6	4433	No
Galway City West	27964	6	4661	No
Total	78668	18		

Population per seat = 4370

\pm 10% range (3933 - 4807)

As wards remain within the 10% range and the seat range, we recommend no changes to them.

Kildare

Population per ward Census 2016

Ward	Population	Seats	Population per seat	Breach $\pm 10\%$ range
Celbridge - Leixlip	37,486	7	5355	No
Maynooth	50,842	9	5649	No
Kildare - Newbridge	52,718	9	5858	No
Naas	49,278	9	5475	No
Athy	32,180	6	5363	No
Total	222,504	40	5563	

Population per seat - $222504/40 = 5563$

$\pm 10\%$ range (5007 - 6119)

Kildare requires the creation of an extra wards in order to enable to fall within the terms of reference. We suggest maintaining the existing ward names, but that the Kildare-Newbridge ward should be split in two, taking in territory from surrounding wards.

Kilkenny

Population per ward Census 2016

Ward	Population	Seats	Population per seat	Breach $\pm 10\%$ range
Castlecomer	22,924	6	3821	No
Kilkenny City East	26,520	6	4420	No
Kilkenny City West	25,652	6	4275	No
Piltown	24,136	6	4023	No
Total	99,232	24	4135	

Population per seat - $99232/24 = 4135$

$\pm 10\%$ range (3722 - 4549)

As all wards remain within the 10% range and the seat range, we recommend no changes to them.

Limerick

Population per ward Census 2016

Ward	Population	Seats	Population per seat	Breach $\pm 10\%$ range
Newcastle West	27,416	6	4569	No
Adare - Rathkeale	27,710	6	4618	No
Cappamore - Kilmallock	34,821	7	4974	No
Limerick City West	34,896	7	4985	No
Limerick City East	41,160	8	5145	No
Limerick City North	28,896	6	4816	No
Total	194,899	40		4872

Population per seat - $194899/40 = 4872$

$\pm 10\%$ range (4385 - 5359)

One ward (Limerick City East) has more seats than permitted by the terms of reference. We would propose that Limerick City North should be extended southwards into Limerick City East, transferring areas from Garryowen to the Market to Limerick City North, and moving one seat across to leave both as 7 seat wards.

Louth

Population per ward Census 2016

Ward	Population	Seats	Population per seat	Breach \pm 10% range
Drogheda	44,052	10	4405	No
Ardee	29,026	6	4838	No
Dundalk South	30,207	7	4315	No
Dundalk Carlingford	25,599	6	4267	No
Total	128,884	29	4444	

Population per seat - $128884/29 = 4444$

\pm 10% range (4000 - 4888)

The wards of Ardee, Dundalk South and Dundalk Carlingford all meet the population requirement and the seat requirement. As such, we propose all should be left as they currently are.

In Drogheda, the 10 seat ward must be split in two to meet the requirements of the terms of reference. We propose the creation of a Drogheda Suburbs ward comprised of Mullary, Monasterboice, St. Peter's, Termonfeckin and the two parks of St. Mary's. This would have a population of 23,255.

The wards of Fair Gate, West Gate, St. Lawrence Gate would be formed into a Drogheda Urban ward, with a population of 20,797.

Mayo

Population per ward Census 2016

Ward	Population	Seats	Population per seat	Breach $\pm 10\%$ range
Ballina	32,688	8	4086	No
Claremorris	32,672	7	4667	No
Castlebar	34,169	8	4275	No
West Mayo	30,978	7	4425	No
Total	130,507	30	4350	

Population per seat - $130507/30 = 4350$

$\pm 10\%$ range (3915 - 4785)

Two of the wards in Mayo have seat numbers below the maximum permitted. Mayo is a constituency where it may be practicable to use wards with seat numbers of less than 3 or 4. We would recommend a new 4 seat ward based around Belmullet, covering the north-west and north of the county. We would then base two 7 seat wards around Westport and Claremorris and two 6 seat wards around Ballina and Castlebar.

Meath

Population per ward Census 2016

Ward	Population	Seats	Population per seat	Breach $\pm 10\%$ range
Kells	32,398	7	4628	No
Laytown - Bettystown	33,752	7	4822	No
Ashbourne	29,178	6	4863	No
Ratoath	33,590	7	4799	No
Trim	31,195	6	5199	No
Navan	34,931	7	4990	No
Total	195,044	40	4876	

Population per seat - $195044/40 = 4876$

$\pm 10\%$ range (4388 - 5364)

As all the wards in Meath are within the population limits and meet the seat per ward requirements, we propose leaving all wards as they currently stand.

Offaly

Population per ward Census 2016

Ward	Population	Seat	Population per seat	Breach \pm 10% range
Birr	25,476	6	4246	No
Edenderry	23,326	6	3888	No
Tullamore	29,159	7	4166	No
Total	77961	19	4103	

Population per seat - $77961/19 = 4103$

\pm 10% range (3693 - 4513)

All the current wards meet the seat size requirement and fall within the \pm 10% range. As such, we recommend no changes.

Sligo

Population per ward Census 2016

Ward	Population	Seats	Population per seat	Breach $\pm 10\%$ range
Sligo	38,804	10	3880	No
Ballymote - Tobercurry	26,731	8	3341	No
Total	65,535	18	3641	

Population per seat - $65535/18 = 3641$

$\pm 10\%$ range (3277 - 4005)

As both wards breach the terms of reference for the number of seats, we recommend a urban ward based around Sligo town. A second ward would take the areas north of the town towards the border with Donegal, and stretch south as Ballymote. Finally, a rural ward based around Tobercurry in the east of the county.

Waterford

Population per ward Census 2016

Ward	Population	Seats	Population per seat	Breach \pm 10% range
Waterford City East	22,987	6	3831	No
Waterford City South	21,176	6	3529	No
Tramore - Waterford City West	23,672	6	3945	No
Comeragh	19,279	6	3213	Yes
Dungarvan - Lismore	29,062	8	3633	No
Total	116,176	32	3631	

Population per seat - $116176/36 = 3631$

\pm 10% range (3268 - 3994)

The Comeragh ward has a population below the 10% range and the Dungarvan Lismore ward has a seat in excess of that permitted under the terms of reference. As such, there must be a boundary adjustment and transfer of seat between these wards.

We propose the movement of the following wards from Dungarvan-Lismore to Comeragh and to rename that ward Comeragh-Lismore (Mocollop, Gortnapeaky, Ballyduff, Ballysaggorth, Ballyin, Cappoquin, Ballyane, Lismore Urban, Lismore Rural, Castlerichard, Drumroe). We also propose the transfer of the Mountkennedy ward from Comeragh to the newly renamed Dungarvan ward. Both Dungarvan and Comeragh-Lismore would be 7 seat wards.

Westmeath

Population per ward Census 2016

Ward	Population	Seats	Population per seat	Breach $\pm 10\%$ range
Mullingar - Coole	30,949	7	4421	No
Mullingar - Kilbeggan	26,602	6	4434	No
Athlone	31,219	7	4460	No
Total	88,770	20	4439	

Population per seat - $88770/20 = 4439$

$\pm 10\%$ range (3995 - 4883)

While all wards meet the population per seat range and the total seat requirement set out in the terms of reference, we would suggest to the Commission that it examines readjusting the split of two Mullingar based wards to a north-south basis instead of an east-west basis as is currently the case. This would allow for the commuter communities on the south of the county, along the M6, to form a common ward.

Wexford

Population per ward Census 2016

Ward	Population	Seats	Population per seat	Breach $\pm 10\%$ range
Gorey	36,656	8	4582	No
Enniscorthy	35,613	8	4452	No
New Ross	32,025	8	4003	No
Wexford	45,428	10	4543	No
Total	149,722	34	4404	

Population per seat - $149722/34 = 4404$

$\pm 10\%$ range (3995 - 4845)

All wards in Wexford are over the number of seats permitted under the terms of reference. We would propose the creation of a 8 seat ward based around Wexford town and the immediate hinterland. We would also propose a South Wexford ward, from Rosslare in the east to Ballyhack in the west, consisting of 6 seats. New Ross would be reduced to a 6 seat ward, with both Enniscorthy and Gorey would fall to 7 seats, with appropriate adjustments of population.