

## Electoral Commission submission 2023

The overall revision being undertaken should be forward looking and provide for stability in constituencies by aiming for a total seat allocation for the Dáil towards the upper limit being considered. This is to avoid significant revisions being needed at each census and leading into each election cycle. Constant changes is not conducive to maintaining a linkage between voters and their representatives if the constituency they are voting in is prone to frequent change.

The individual constituency recommendations in this submission are predicated on a Dáil close to the upper limit of 181 seats and aim for a population ratio in each of the constituencies of close to 28,300 per representative.

While a mix of 3 to 5 seater constituencies continues to be appropriate, the use of the larger 5 seat constituencies for areas with a wider population distribution is disadvantageous to ensuring good linkage between voters and their Dáil representatives. This is due to the large distances that public representatives of all parties and none have to travel to maintain regular contact with constituents. And the considerable distances that constituents themselves also need to travel to access any constituency offices or clinics that the representatives may have.

For this reason, the geographic and consequently seat size of those more rural constituency should lean towards the smaller possible size of 3 seats where that is feasible.

### Western seaboard

Galway could readily consist of 3 constituencies of Galway West, Galway East and Galway city of 3/4/3 seats respectively.

Donegal could revert to its previous configuration of two 3 seat constituencies. This would be respectful of the county boundaries.

Kerry could revert to its previous configuration of two 3 seat constituencies including if required to satisfy the population needs the more traditionally aligned area of the Beara peninsula with the southern Kerry constituency rather than seeking to include parts of Limerick with a northern Kerry constituency as happened in previous revisions. This Southern Constituency could be named Iveragh and Beara to allay any concerns on the Cork side of attempted assimilation by the Kingdom.

### Dublin North

Based on population to TD ratio of roughly 28,300 to 1, Dublin would have a reasonable expectation of an allocation of 51 TDs.

Again to avoid the undue geographical challenges with the larger more dispersed areas, Fingal should be served by two constituencies that also ensure that the county boundary is respected. Such a move would provide sufficient population for two constituencies totalling 7 seats covering the entirety of the Fingal local authority area. This can be done by moving the Fingal local authority areas currently in **Dublin Bay North** into a new 4 seat Constituency of **Fingal East** that would be encompassing as much of Swords as possible and the remaining areas into a 3 seater **Fingal North West**.

In addition areas within the Fingal Local authority area that were transferred, in whole or in part, to **Dublin North West** in the last revision could be transferred back to bolster the new Fingal constituencies, these could include Airport 04001 and Dubber 04020.

The remaining areas of **Dublin Bay North** along with **Dublin North West** and **Dublin Central** have sufficient population for 12 seats on a ratio of 28,300 to 1 TD.

This could be served by a single 3 seat constituency of the current **Dublin North West** configuration but with the areas that had been transferred to **Dublin Central** in the last revision reverting back to Dublin North West, these being Botanic A/ Botanic B / Botanic C . This would provide DNW with a population of roughly, 84371, after these additions combined with the transfer of some areas back into Fingal as previously outlined.

Further to this the allocation of the remaining 9 seats could take the form of two constituencies of 4 and 5 seats respectively. The former would involve maintaining **Dublin Central** as it is, other than the areas reverted to **Dublin North West** outlined above and the addition of Clontarf West D from **Dublin Bay North**. The **Dublin Bay North** constituency, other than the areas moved to **Fingal** and to **Dublin Central** would remain unchanged.

Further submission on specific constituencies to follow.

Yours Daniel K Sullivan