

PUBLIC NOTICE

REVIEW OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CONSTITUENCIES

In accordance with section 56 (1) (b) of the Electoral Reform Act 2022 An Coimisiún Toghcháin has been directed by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to conduct a further review of Ireland's European Parliament constituencies. This direction was made on foot of the European Council Decision (EU) 2023/2061 of 22 September 2023 establishing the composition of the European Parliament which was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 27 September 2023. The European Council Decision provides for, among other matters, 14 members to be elected to represent Ireland in the 2024 - 2029 term of the European Parliament. This increase in membership from 13 to 14 MEPs necessitates a review of our European Parliament constituencies.

The provisions concerning the revision of constituencies are in section 56 (1) (a) and 57 (1) (a) of the Electoral Reform Act 2022, as follows:

The Electoral Commission is required to have regard to the following in making its report:

- The number of members of the European Parliament to be elected in the State as may be specified for the time being pursuant to the Treaties governing the European Communities – that number is now 14 following the decision of the European Council on 22 September 2023;
- there shall be reasonable equality of representation as between constituencies;
- each constituency shall return 3, 4 or 5 members;
- the breaching of county boundaries shall be avoided as far as practicable
- each constituency shall be composed of contiguous areas;
- there shall be regard to geographic considerations including significant physical features and the extent of and the density of population in each constituency; and

- subject to the above provisions the committee shall endeavour to maintain continuity in relation to the arrangement of constituencies.

The Electoral Commission invites submissions in relation to matters which should be considered in reporting on European Parliament constituencies. Submissions should be addressed to The Electoral Commission, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2 or by email to constituencyreview@electoralcommission.ie

The closing date for submissions is 29 October 2023.

Submissions received will be published on the website of the Electoral Commission at www.electoralcommission.ie, and may be inspected by prior arrangement. The Commission is required to present a report containing the recommendations of the Commission before the Oireachtas not later than 2 months after receiving a written direction from the Minister under section 56(1) (b) of the Electoral Reform Act, that is by 27 November 2023.

Statement on Legislative Provisions and Population Statistics Relating to European Parliament Constituencies

Section 59(2) requires An Coimisiún to prepare a statement, based on the population in the Census Results report, for the European Parliament constituencies currently in force.

European Parliament Constituencies

The European Parliament constituencies currently in force are set out in the European Parliament Elections (Amendment) Act 2019, following the recommendations in the Report on European Parliament Constituencies 2018. The total number of representatives to be elected in the State to the European Parliament specified pursuant to the Treaty on European Union is now 14 in accordance with the decision of the European Council of 22 September 2023.

Population statistics for constituencies

The tables below contain the following details in relation to each Dáil constituency and to each European Parliament constituency, based on the population data taken from Census 2022 Final Results (published by the Central Statistics Office on 29 June 2023). These show an overall increase in population in the order of 387,274, mostly in the Dublin region.

In relation to European Parliament constituencies, the Commission shall have regard to the following:

- The total number of members to be elected in the State to the European Parliament shall be such as may be specified pursuant to the Treaties governing the European Communities. This is now 14.
- There shall be reasonable equality of representation as between constituencies.
- Each constituency shall return 3, 4 or 5 members.
- The breaching of county boundaries shall be avoided as far as practicable
- Each constituency shall be composed of contiguous areas.

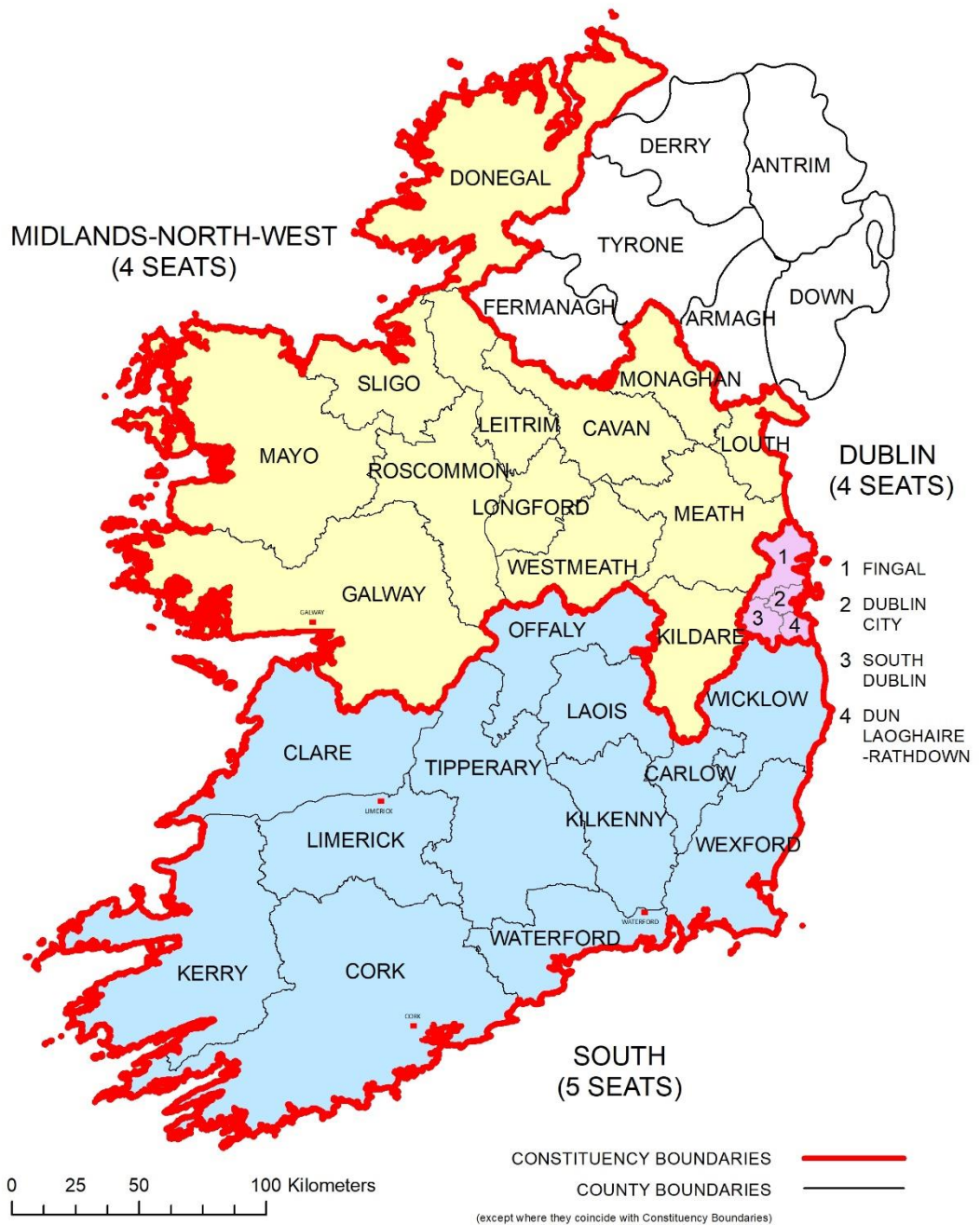
- There shall be regard to geographic considerations including significant physical features and the extent of and the density of population in each constituency; and
- Subject to the above matters, the Commission shall endeavour to maintain continuity in relation to the arrangement of constituencies.

European Parliament Constituencies Table

- the population of each constituency in 2022;
- the population per MEP in each constituency in 2022;
- the percentage variance of population per MEP in the constituency from the national average population per MEP, in 2022;
- the number of MEPs in accordance with the decision of the European Council of 23 September, 2023; and
- the population per MEP in accordance with the decision of the European Council of 23 September, 2023.

Existing Constituency	2022 Population	Number of MEPS 2022	Population Per MEP	% Variance from national average population per MEP
Dublin	1,458,154	4	364,539	-0.89%
Midlands-North-West	1,656,714	4	414,179	+12.61%
South	2,034,271	5	406,854	+10.62%
Total	5,149,139	13+1 additional seat to be allocated	367,796	

European Parliament Constituencies 2019



Existing Constituency	Area	2022 Population	Number of MEPS 2022	Population Per MEP	% Variance from national average population per MEP
Dublin	The counties of: Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin; and the city of Dublin.	1,458,154	4	364,539	-0.89%
Midlands-North-West	The counties of Cavan, Donegal, Galway, Kildare, Leitrim, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Roscommon, Sligo and Westmeath; and the city of Galway.	1,656,714	4	414,179	+12.61%
South	The counties of Carlow, Clare, Cork, Kerry, Kilkenny, Laois, Offaly,	2,034,271	5	406,854	+10.62%

	Tipperary, Wexford and Wicklow; and the city of Cork, and the city and county of Limerick and the city and county of Waterford.				
Total		5,149,139	13 plus 1 additional seat to be allocated	367,796	

Population of Each County 2022 Census

County	2022 Population
Carlow	61,968
Cavan	81,704
Clare	127,938
Cork	584,156
Donegal	167,084
Dublin	1,458,154
Galway	277,737

Kerry	156,458
Kildare	247,774
Kilkenny	104,160
Laois	91,877
Leitrim	35,199
Limerick	209,536
Longford	46,751
Louth	139,703
Mayo	137,970
Meath	220,826
Monaghan	65,288
Offaly	83,150
Roscommon	70,259
Sligo	70,198
Tipperary	167,895
Waterford	127,363
Westmeath	96,221
Wexford	163,919
Wicklow	155,851
Total	5,149,139