

To: The Electoral Commission, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2

By Email: constituencyreview@electoralcommission.ie

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to the review of the European Parliament Constituencies.

As an Offaly resident, the increase in MEPS from 13 to 14 provides an ideal opportunity to for a new constituency to represent similar counties in the Leinster/ Mid-Leinster region.

One of the most significant challenges facing communities in Offaly and our neighbouring counties is the impact of transitioning from historical peat industries to greener energy industries and a climate-neutral economy.

The Just Transition Mechanism (JTM) is a key EU tool designed to ensure that the transition towards a climate-neutral economy happens in a fair way. The JTM sets out to provide targeted financial and other supports of around €55 Billion for the affected regions.

The Midlands region is the first Irish region to undertake a Just Transition Process and is a target area for transitioning away from peat industries.

A dedicated EU constituency will ensure Offaly and similarly affected communities in the Midlands/Leinster region have EU representation to help alleviate the socio-economic impact of the transition in our areas and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon future by boosting communities and the economic fabric of the wider Midlands region.

A Leinster/ Mid-Leinster EU constituency should include similar counties including Offaly, Laois, Westmeath, Longford, Kildare, Meath, Wicklow and possibly other counties in Leinster.

I would suggest however, that Louth remain in an EU constituency with the other border counties with similar challenges and similar opportunities.

Ireland should take this opportunity to increase the number of EU constituencies from 3 to 4 and provide a more targeted regional representation which can be of benefit to Ireland's EU representation as a whole.

Regards

Frank Hynes Co. Offaly