

18.026

Secretary
Local Electoral Area Boundary Committees
Room 1.67
Custom House
Dublin 1

January 2018

Dear Boundary Committee,

In 2013 the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee discriminated against the neighbourhoods of Brittas and Saggart when these villages were excluded from the Clondalkin Electoral Area, in Dublin Mid-West.

The communities of Brittas, Saggart, Newcastle and Rathcoole represent the only rural villages in South Dublin County Council. Together the villages are commonly known as the 4 districts. They share community resources and amenities. The primary schools in Brittas, Saggart and Newcastle are among the main feeder schools for Rathcoole's second level school. More importantly, the villages share a strong sense of community.

The villages of Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart and Brittas have moved Local Electoral Area time and time again being separated and reunited at the whim of the boundary commission and census statistics. They are all included in the Dublin Mid-West Constituency, but Brittas and Saggart are not included in either of the Local Electoral Areas within Dublin Mid-West.

The families in these four villages identify themselves as part of the one community and I would ask the Boundary Commission to treat them as such.

Under the terms of reference of the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee, the committee must consider: "Local electoral areas should be designed, as far as possible, around urban villages or have a neighbourhood focal point (or points), taking due account of local and community identities and linkages and the need to facilitate the effectiveness of the governance and representational roles of elected members"

I respectfully ask the boundary commission to treat the villages of Brittas, Saggart, Newcastle and Rathcoole as one community and re-define the local boundary to ensure that these four villages are in the same Local Electoral Area going forward. That is the only way to support sustainable rural communities in South County Dublin and allow community spirit to thrive.

Kind regards,