

18.145

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

16<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make a submission regarding Co. Laois to the Area Boundary Committee.

As you know there has been a big increase in population in Co. Laois in recent times and Portlaoise is now a very big town.

It is important that Portlaoise town has a strong voice for the town on Laois County Council. I see in your terms of reference number 4 that there should be an urban focus for all towns above 15,000. The population in Portlaoise is well over this figure and the town and the immediate area around the town should have its own voice.

To achieve this Portlaoise Urban Area should include the townlands of: Portlaoise Urban, Portlaoise Rural, Borris and Clondarrig. This would involve moving the areas of Abbeyleix, Ballinakill, Clash, Raheen, Colt, Clonkeen and Shaen into the Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick area. It would also involve moving Dysartgallen, Blandsfort, Ballyroan, Cullenagh and Kilcolmanbane into the Graiguecullen/Portarlinton area.

The population of Co. Laois is 84,697: 19 Members, with an average per member of 4,458. The Portlaoise area would have a population of 23,541: 5 members with an average per member of 4,708. Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick would have a population of 30,642: 7 members with an average per member of 4,377. Graiguecullen/Portarlinton would have a population of 30,514: 7 members with an average per member of 4,359.

This proposal would give strong recognition and focus to Portlaoise town and a close number of members to the population across each of the 3 elected areas.

Perhaps you might consider this as part of your work on the committee.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area, obscuring the name and any handwritten notes.

Cathriona Clooney