

18.177

Dear Sir /Madame

The current LEA Is supposedly the biggest in the country, It is without doubt disproportionately large.

The topography is quiet unique and very different from most electoral areas, it includes most of the Dingle Peninsula, all of the Iveragh Peninsula and a significant part of the Beara Peninsula. Regardless the terms of reference dictate it will have to be changed as it currently has 9 seats.

The first most sensible solution would be for the Dingle Peninsula to revert back to the former Dingle Electoral area, having 3 seats. Even if the former Killorglin electoral area was reinstated it would still be disproportionately large ie the 3 main towns are a significant distance away from each other: Kenmare to Killorglin is 63km (1 hour away), Kenmare to Cahersiveen is 77km (1.5 hours away), Killorglin to Cahersiveen is 40km (40 minutes away).

However I understand it is difficult to create alternatives and the criteria is 4,475 population per Councillor in Kerry with a variation of + or - 10%. If the old electoral area is returned it should be six seats as opposed to five.I believe it was a six seats since local electoral boundaries were reconfigured after independence until 2004 when it was reduced to 5.

6 seats would be needed to enable adequate public representation in such a disproportionately large electoral area encompassing 3 sizeable towns, numerous villages and many isolated rural areas along the peninsulas, some parts of which are very sparcly populated. The name of the LEA should be South Kerry.

The population is certainly there to warrant 6 seats, and it falls within the range of plus or minus 10%.

Dingle LEA:

2016 population-	14,545
Number of Councillors-	3
Population per Councillor-	4,848.33
Variation from average-	372.36
Percentage variation-	8.32

South Kerry LEA:

2016 population-	25,062
Number of Councillors-	6
Population per Councillor-	4,177.00
Variation from average -	-298.97
Percentage variation-	-6.68

Dromin would separate the two LEA's within the Municipal District as outlined in the attached map.

It should also be borne in mind that the greater Kenmare area was part of the Killarney electoral area from the foundation of the state until 1973. The re-establishing of such an area should be given serious consideration i.e. the Kenmare area as far as Sneem being joined with a 7 seat Killarney LEA or a Killarney rural area. From Killarney, Kenmare is 42km away and Sneem is 45km away and there is a greater connectivity to Killarney than the towns in the South Kerry LAP. This scenario would avoid a territorially large South Kerry LEA, otherwise there would be huge distances between its main towns as was the case with the former Killorglin Electoral Area. This would also provide another reasonable option if a Killarney rural area is being created. For this suggestion I do not propose to outline exact boundaries, populations or the number of seats as there are various options.

Whatever reconfiguration of boundaries there is i.e. Kenmare being part of a 6 seat South Kerry LEA or joining the Killarney LEA it is of utmost importance that the greater Kenmare Area should stay in tact i.e. Kenmare, Cappagh, Kilgarvan, Glanlee, Glanlough, Banawn, Dawros, Ardea, Glanmore, Reen, Dromore, Greenane, Loughbrin, Tahilla & Sneem.

Kenmare is the only town and the central focal point for the above areas, the maintaining of the greater Kenmare area is essential to take account of local and community identities, historical boundaries and the need to facilitate effective local governance.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Patrick Connor-Scarteen

OPTION 2

- MD Boundary
- LEA Boundary within MD.

— LEA Bowman
Within MB.

