



COUNCILLOR GUSS O'CONNELL PC,

*MEMBER COMMUNITY ALLIANCE,
REPRESENTING THE PALMERSTOWN
and LUCAN COMMUNITIES
ON SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL.*

18th February 2018

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

Dear Secretary,

Re: Boundary Committee No.2

I write as an elected member of South Dublin County Council and append below my submission on the revision of the Constituencies as applied to our County and to our current electoral area known as Lucan.

At the outset, I want to state that while I agree certain rural constituencies needed to be reconsidered to take account of the unfortunate abolishment of Urban Councils, geographical distances, etc., it would have been better to have left the Dublin Constituencies as they were for at least another election. My Lucan Constituency of 8 members has worked well as, to the best of my knowledge, have the other constituencies in South Dublin.

I say this because the people of the Lucan Constituency, and other Constituencies in our County and the greater Dublin Area, are still in the process of developing communities and bonding together in a common County identity. It is inevitable and unfortunate, given the criteria the Commission has to work under, that some communities that are only beginning to create an identity within an LEA will now find themselves uprooted to a new area without ever making a conscious decision to move.

That said, my approach to complying with the criteria, would be:

NEW LUCAL ELECTORAL AREA

Reduce from 8 to a new 7 seat Lucan LEA:

10,658 Lucan St Helens

5,196 Lucan Heights

32,236 Lucan Esker

48,090 Population = 6,870 per Councillor in New Lucan LEA

NEW LIFFEY VALLEY ELECTORAL AREA

Incorporate some of the former Clondalkin LEA with Palmerstown Village and Palmerstown West to create a 5 seat Liffey Valley LEA.

3,635 Palmerstown Village

7,521 Palmerstown West

11,323 Clondalkin Dunawley

4,096 Clondalkin-Rowlagh

2,581 Clondalkin-Cappamore

6,376 Clondalkin-Moorefield

35,532 Population = 7,106 per Councillor in Liffey Valley LEA

Note 1: As Balgaddy (Population 2,100) is to the west of the Fonthill and many residents of Balgaddy identify with Lucan South where most facilities are

currently located, I would recommend putting this section of Clondalkin-Cappamore in with the Lucan LEA. It will hardly distort either set of figures to any great significance but may be much better in community terms.

Note 2: The title of the New Constituency could be as I suggest, “Liffey Valley” or “Coldcut” both of which are neutral and very relevant. Or, “Fonthill” but this is less relevant or descriptive of the area(s) involved. Or reflecting the two parent areas the LEA could be called “Palmerstown-Dunawley LEA.

Note 3. The Clondalkin Electoral Area would, with 5 Councillors, and a population of 34,374 have a ratio of 6,874 per Councillor. This, as proposed (by Cllr Emer Higgins) would allow for the unification of the traditional communities Rathcoole, Newcastle and Saggart.

Thanking you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely

Guss O'Connell

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