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Submission by St Margarets' Concerned Residents Group (SMCRG) - Dublin Fingal

Local (Council) election boundary review submission.

Date: 18th February, 2018

Introduction:

- St Margaret's Concerned Residents Group (SMCRG) represent 75 individuals (24 members, including land owners, business owners, and home owners.)
- SMCRG represents residents from Millhead, Kilreesk Lane and Dunbro Lane, St Margaret's North County Dublin.
- SMCRG members will be directly affected by the proposed new runway and ancillary works at Dublin Airport.
- St Margaret's is primarily agricultural area in nature and most residents are from farming backgrounds with strong ties to the land, and the communities of Swords, Donabate Portmarnock and Rush.
- Many residents are living in St Margaret's for generations.

Background:

- In 2007 daa received planning permission for the construction of a new northern runway.
- St Margaret's Concerned Residents Group (SMCRG) appealed the planning granted and participated in an oral hearing with Bord Pleanala in 2006 and planning was granted with 31 conditions attached by An Bord Pleanala in August 2007.
- The group have been already subjected to considerable upheaval and are currently relying on local political representatives to protect their homes, heritage, livelihoods and future in St Margaret's.
- During this period, the constituencies were moved to Dublin West. In our opinion this had a grave negative effect on our position, in terms of public representation and left our rural community disenfranchised, and isolated .
- Runway proposed completion date of 2020, with operation due in 2021.

SMCRG Concerns with regard to shifting electoral boundaries:

- The shifting of boundaries to move St Margaret's Kilsallaghan , and Rolestown constituents to another Electoral Division , within Dublin West, with large urban towns such as Blanchardstown and Castleknock, (with little in common in terms of local issues) dilutes our position, and rights as citizens, who are actively involved in a lobbying process to protect our homes in relations to runway north and associated development with Dublin Airport Masterplan.
- We are extremely concerned and cognisant of the fact that any decision made relating to the area, i.e. Dublin Airport Master Plan, or implementation of future Fingal Development Plans, will directly affect our way of life, and we will be ignored completely for strategic infrastructural development - leaving our members without a voice, and political leverage which we are relying on to ensure that a fair and democratic process is followed.

Requests from the St Margaret's Concerned Residents Group (SMCRG)

- St Margarets should remain in the electoral constituency as it currently stands – united within the constituency of Swords, Dublin Fingal.
- St Margarets SMCRG residents group, issues are local issues – relating to our neighbours in Swords, Portmarnock, Malahide, Kilsallaghan, and Rolestown. We consider these areas of part of our wider community, identity and we share considerable commonalities.
- We belong with the aforementioned areas – directly aligned with Swords.
- The Dail Eireann boundaries between Dublin Fingal and Dublin West must be respected and remain as is, aligned with the current LEA's. The parts of west Swords (Rolestown, Kilsallaghan, and St Margarets) that were correctly moved back to the then new Dail Eireann Constituency of Dublin Fingal in 2012, must remain part of the Swords LEA.
- St Margaret's community currently have a voice, as part of Fingal.