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February 18th, 2018

BY EMAIL TO: boundarycommittee@housing.gov.ie

The Secretary
Local Electoral Area Boundary Committees,
Room 1.67,
Custom House
Dublin 1
D01 W6X0

Dear Sirs,

This is a submission by the Fine Gael Dublin Central Constituency Executive in relation to the review of the local election area boundary of the **Cabra-Finglas** ward of Dublin City.

Following the 2017 review of general election boundaries, the Dublin Central constituency now has a population of 113,765 people. However, in considering the optimal boundary structure for local election areas within Dublin Central, the areas of Ashtown A, Ashtown B and Phoenix Park (which are located in Dublin West and Dublin South Central for Dail purposes) should be grouped with Dublin Central. These districts combined have a population of 14,743, which brings the aggregate area with which this submission deals to 128,508. At an average of 8,802 population per member, this aggregate area is entitled to 14.6 seats.

We are cognisant of the terms of reference of the boundary commission, so far as it concerns keeping communities together. We are also considering the preference to align local electoral area boundaries with Dail constituency boundaries as envisaged by paragraph 5 of your terms of reference.

While the existing Cabra-Finglas alignment could be preserved, the current district straddles three Dail constituencies which is not an optimum configuration. Indeed Cabra-Finglas is the only area nationally to straddle three constituencies and part of one of its components is in a fourth.

As such, we would ask that the divisions of Ashtown (1.5 seats), Botanic (1.01 seats), Cabra East (1.53 seats), Cabra West (1.12 seats), Drumcondra South C (0.4 seats) and Phoenix Park (0.17 seats) – total population of 50,462, be aggregated to form a Cabra-Glasnevin ward supported by 6 local councillors.

The Drumcondra South A area could also be considered for inclusion, but this may be required to align with other areas - we have also considered the need to create a new area in the "middle" to deal with the nine seat Beaumont-Donaghmede area however have not explored this further in our submission.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully,

Fiona O'Connor
Chairperson, Dublin Central Fine Gael