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19/02/2018

A Chairde

In relation to your deliberations on the local electoral areas in Dublin, and particularly in relation to the Dáil Dublin North West constituency, I would ask you to consider the following.

1. The current configuration of the Cabra-Finglas electoral area is not working. Cabra and Finglas are two distinct urban villages and having them in the one LEA does not make sense. They are in two different Dáil constituencies, Cabra in Dublin Central and Finglas in Dublin North West. The current configuration does not serve either area well. The committee should consider building LEAs around each individually which would be more in keeping with the Committee's terms of reference in relation to urban villages, and maintaining General Election constituency boundaries where possible.
2. The current Ballymun LEA runs from the Whitworth Road to almost the M50. It is a very large area and again the connections between Ballymun and, for example, the Botanic area are not strong. Also, in the recent General Election Boundary commission report, the Electoral Divisions of Botanic A, B and C, and Drumcondra South C, have been relocated from Dublin North West to Dublin Central. It would make sense to remove these Electoral Divisions from the Ballymun LEA to LEAs within Dublin Central. Again this would assist in relation to your terms of reference, in allowing you to examine an LEA focussed on the urban village that is Ballymun, and keeping the Ballymun LEA within the Dublin North West constituency.
3. The committee should also consider the inclusion of an LEA encompassing both Finglas and Ballymun. These areas do have an association and such an LEA would meet the terms of reference of your committee.
4. Another aspect that you might consider is to relocate the area between the current boundaries of the Cabra-Finglas LEA and the Ballymun LEA to the M50 motorway from Fingal County Council into the Dublin City Council area. This area is part of the Dublin North West Dáil constituency but within the Fingal County Council area. The M50 is a natural boundary and the population in this area have a natural hinterland into Finglas and/or Ballymun.

Is Mise le meas,

Dessie Ellis TD