

SUBMISSION TO COMMITTEE No. 2 LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA BOUNDARY COMMITTEES 2017/218

1. The Liffey Boundary

1.1 The layout of the current Dublin City local electoral areas observes a north – south division of the city on either side of the River Liffey. The River Liffey is Dublin city’s most recognisable natural boundary. This division has been maintained for many years for both local electoral boundaries and Dail Constituency boundaries and it is submitted that the long-standing natural division of Dublin along the Liffey should be maintained.

1.2 In the 2017 Report for Dail Constituency boundaries it states:

“No change is recommended to the Dublin Bay South constituency which comprises that part of the city of Dublin south of the river Liffey which is not contained in the Dublin South-Central constituency.”

It was also acknowledged in the same report the desirability *“of endeavouring to maintain continuity in relation to the arrangements of constituencies. The Commission is of the view that it is nonetheless a very important consideration.”*

1.3 The Local Electoral Area Boundary Committees Terms of Reference (Committee No.2) at paragraph 5 state *“The committee should take account of the desirability, where it may be possible to do so, of aligning local electoral area boundaries with Dail constituency boundaries.”*

1.4 We submit that for reasons of continuity and feasibility that the boundaries of the existing local electoral areas should be contained within the Dublin Bay South Constituency. The electorate and their communities are best served where local and national boundaries coincide.

The area based administrative arrangements operated by Dublin City Council are currently arranged on a north-south basis and on Dail constituency boundaries. The table below shows a breakdown of a north-south division based on the prescribed 63 members for Dublin City Council as per Terms of Reference 2. No change in total membership.

North/South City Division of Council Seats

	Population Census 2016	No of members	Population per member	%variation from average
Dublin City	554554	63	8802	
Dublin City North	325387	37	8794	-0.09%
Dublin City South	229167	26	8814	0.14%

2. Population Figures

2.1 Based on the 2016 census figures, the population of Dublin City South is 229,167. Dublin City South is divided between two Dail Constituencies. Dublin Bay South has a population of 121,176 and the part of Dublin South Central within Dublin City has a population of 107,991.

2.2 Dublin Bay South, with 121,176 people, is a population equivalent to 13.76 or 14 members, using the average of 8,802 per member. Dublin South Central, with 107,991 people, is a population equivalent to 12.27 or 12 members using the average of 8,802 per member.

3. Overview- Dublin Bay South

3.1 The 14 seats that the population of Dublin Bay South would warrant could be divided into two seven-member areas, the 12 seats that the population of Dublin South Central (within Dublin City) would warrant could be divided into two six seat member areas.

3.2 The proposed new local electoral areas accord with the Terms of Reference at No 3, where it states:

“The number of councillors assigned to a local electoral area shall be not less than 5 and not more than 7”.

3.3 Significantly, in respect of consistency with the Terms of Reference, it would also allow the continuation of the area based administrative arrangements operated by Dublin City Council.

3.4 The Terms of Reference at point No 4 states that “*Local electoral should be designed, as far as possible around urban villages ----- or the need to avoid designating local electoral areas---- which divide individual urban villages, or natural communities*”. It is submitted that in keeping with the terms of reference, the Committee should not seek to split communities and continue with the proposals of the 2009 Boundary Report that united the urban Villages of Terenure and Sandymount.

4. Specific Proposed New Local Electoral Areas

4.1 This submission proposes 2 local electoral areas of 7 seats each in Dublin Bay South with the following possible layout.

4.2 The existing local electoral area of Pembroke/South Dock has an existing population of 71,419 which is equivalent to 8.11 seats using the average of 8,802 population per seat.

4.3 The Rathgar /Rathmines Local electoral area has an existing population of 49,757 which is equivalent to 5.65 seats using the average of 8,802 population per seat.

4.4 To comply Terms of Reference at No 3, where it states:

“The number of councillors assigned to a local electoral area shall be not less than 5 and not more than 7”.

The existing 8 seats of local electoral area Pembroke/South Dock requires a reduction of 1 and the existing 6 seats of Rathgar /Rathmines Local electoral area requires an increase of population of 1 seat.

4.5 The options are to move the boundary of Rathgar /Rathmines Local electoral area to the north or to the east. The addition of the Portobello area (St Kevin’s ED and Wood Quay B, ED) population 5,122 and 3,414, total 8,536 to Rathgar/Rathmines would bring this area up to a population required for 7 seats.

4.6 The alternative in moving the boundary to the east would involve splitting the village of Donnybrook and not recommended to comply with the terms of reference.

Table below shows that this arrangement complies with the terms of reference.

TABLE 1

	Population	No of members	Population per member	%variation from average
Dublin City	554,554	63	8802	
Pembroke/ South Dock	62,883	7	8983	2.06%
Rathgar/Rathmines	58283	7	8327	-5.39%

CONCLUSION

1. The Liffey should remain the natural dividing line in Dublin City between North and South;
2. The Dail Boundaries of Dublin Bay South should be respected in the creation of new local electoral areas;
3. Local community identity and linkages should not be divided;
4. The two new proposed local electoral areas create the desired seat numbers of 7;
5. The proposed local electoral areas are within the +/- 10% variance in representation as recommended;
6. That the electorate and their communities are best served where local and national boundaries coincide;
7. To continue the area based administrative arrangements operated by Dublin City Council that are currently arranged on a north-south basis and on Dail constituency boundaries.

We respectfully submit this submission for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely.

Kevin O'Higgins, Fine Gael Constituency Chairman, Dublin Bay South.

Martin Fitzgerald, Fine Gael Constituency Organiser, Dublin Bay South

Dated the 17th of February 2018

APPENDIX 1

For information, the extracts from Census 2016 relating to Dublin Bay South are reproduced below together with the suggested breakdown of the two local electoral areas.

Population Dublin Bay South by Electoral Division Census 2016					
Electoral Divisions	POP-2016	Seats per 8802	Pembroke/South Dock	POP-2016	Seats per 8802
113 Kimmage C,	3043	0.35	117 Mansion House A,	4665	0.53
117 Mansion House A,	4665	0.53	118 Mansion House B,	1311	0.15
118 Mansion House B,	1311	0.15	125 Pembroke East A,	5078	0.58
125 Pembroke East A,	5078	0.58	126 Pembroke East B,	3818	0.43
126 Pembroke East B,	3818	0.43	127 Pembroke East C,	3920	0.45
127 Pembroke East C,	3920	0.45	128 Pembroke East D,	5263	0.60
128 Pembroke East D,	5263	0.60	129 Pembroke East E,	3902	0.44
129 Pembroke East E,	3902	0.44	130 Pembroke West A,	4992	0.57
130 Pembroke West A,	4992	0.57	131 Pembroke West B,	3003	0.34
131 Pembroke West B,	3003	0.34	132 Pembroke West C,	4852	0.55
132 Pembroke West C,	4852	0.55	135 Rathmines East B,	6058	0.69
133 Rathfarnham,	4683	0.53	144 Royal Exchange A,	4329	0.49
134 Rathmines East A,	4836	0.55	145 Royal Exchange B,	2082	0.24
135 Rathmines East B,	6058	0.69	147 South Dock,	7004	0.80
136 Rathmines East C,	3351	0.38	161 Wood Quay A	2606	0.30
137 Rathmines East D,	2757	0.31		62883	7.14
138 Rathmines West A,	5461	0.62	Rathgar /Rathmines		
139 Rathmines West B,	3713	0.42	113 Kimmage C,	3043	0.35
140 Rathmines West C,	2681	0.30	133 Rathfarnham,	4683	0.53
141 Rathmines West D,	3106	0.35	134 Rathmines East A,	4836	0.55
142 Rathmines West E,	3390	0.39	136 Rathmines East C,	3351	0.38
143 Rathmines West F,	2859	0.32	137 Rathmines East D,	2757	0.31
144 Royal Exchange A,	4329	0.49	138 Rathmines West A,	5461	0.62
145 Royal Exchange B,	2082	0.24	139 Rathmines West B,	3713	0.42
146 St. Kevin's,	5122	0.58	140 Rathmines West C,	2681	0.30
147 South Dock,	7004	0.80	141 Rathmines West D,	3106	0.35
148 Terenure A,	3741	0.43	142 Rathmines West E,	3390	0.39
149 Terenure B,	3490	0.40	143 Rathmines West F,	2859	0.32
150 Terenure C,	1854	0.21	146 St. Kevin's,	5122	0.58
151 Terenure D,	792	0.09	148 Terenure A,	3741	0.43
161 Wood Quay A	2606	0.30	149 Terenure B,	3490	0.40
162 Wood Quay B	3414	0.39	150 Terenure C,	1854	0.21
Population Dublin Bay South	121,176	13.77	151 Terenure D,	792	0.09
			162 Wood Quay B	3414	0.39
				58293	6.62