

18.305



Email: boundarycommittee@housing.gov.ie
Secretary
Local Electoral Area Boundary Committees 2017
Room 1.67
Custom House
Dublin 1
D01 W6X0

19 February 2018

Dear Secretary,

Re: Dublin City Local Election boundaries

The following are my observations in relation to the public consultation on Local Electoral Areas ("LEA") for Dublin City Council.

1. Proposed Changes to Dublin City LEA

Reconfigure the present Ballymun LEA and Cabra-Finglas LEA into two new LEAs-

- Ballymun-Finglas
- Cabra-Glasnevin

CURRENT LEA	NEW LEA	+LED	-LED	NET LED	SEATS	POPULATION
Ballymun	Ballymun-Finglas	+7	-5	+2	7	+21,839
Cabra-Finglas	Cabra-Glasnevin	+5	-7	-2	7	-17,458

Appendix I shows the proposed transfers of LEDs necessary to form the new LEAs.

The Ashtown Area A and Ashtown Area B LEDs should be located in the newly constituted Cabra-Glasnevin LEA.

2. Detailed Observations on Cabra-Finglas LEA

2.1. Aligning City Council and Dáil boundaries

The present Cabra-Finglas LEA straddles four Dáil constituencies-

- Dublin Central
- Dublin North West
- Dublin South-Central
- Dublin West

This arrangement is very unsatisfactory and it is not in line with the Committee's Term of Reference No. 5.

Under my proposals-

- Ballymun-Finglas would be entirely within Dublin North West
- Cabra-Glasnevin would align within Dublin Central and Dublin West

I note that a very small sliver of Phoenix Park LED north of the Liffey lies within Dublin South Central. However, no change to Phoenix Park LED is proposed as its current configuration respects the Liffey boundary.

I submit that these new LEA will give far greater coherence and effectiveness to electoral representation in the areas concerned. They will help to reduce the current confusion between Dáil and Council boundaries caused by the present messy LEA configurations.

2.2. Population increases in Ashtown LEDs

I note that the populations of Ashtown Area A and Ashtown Area B continue to grow. The following is just some of the new housing construction in the area-

- Approximately 100 new homes built and occupied, and the construction of a further 300 homes underway in Royal Canal Park
- Rathborne Park – 200 new homes under construction
- Capel site has planning permission for approximately 320 new homes

A seven seater Cabra-Glasnevin provides scope to ensure that these population increases are catered for in the next Council elections.

2.3. Community/Neighbourhood coherence and linkages

I submit that my observations are in line with Term of Reference No. 4.

My proposals are intended to-

- i. Reinstate the traditional coherence of the Finglas and Ballymun urban villages, including Ballygall
- ii. Tie with linkages of Ballymun and Finglas around the N1 and N2 road transport corridors
- iii. Reflect Ballymun and Finglas linkages around proposed rail upgrades under Project Ireland 2040
- iv. Respect the coherence of the mature Cabra and Navan Road urban villages
- v. Take account of the developing Ashtown/Rathborne/Royal Canal Park urban village- the Navan Road/Pelletstown Community Policing Forum is a demonstration of this coherence
- vi. Reflect the linkages between the Navan Road/Ashtown/Broombridge/Cabra areas along the new LUAS Cross City and Maynooth line rail transport corridors.
- vii. Reflect the coherence of the Navan Road/Ashtown/Cabra area along the N3 road transport corridor

I note also that the present Cabra-Finglas lacks geographical coherence because it straddles the River Tolka. This does not respect the Committee's Term of Reference No.4 which is that natural communities be respected. My proposals seek to address this matter.

3. North Inner City

I propose that the current North Inner City LEA remain as currently configured.

4. About the Submitter

I serve as Chairman of Royal Canal Park Community Association. I act as a director of Kingfisher Owners' Management CLG, the Owners' Management Company for Royal Canal Park, Ashtown.

I was a Fine Gael candidate in the 2014 Local Elections.

This submission is made in an entirely personal capacity.

5. Conclusion

I trust my observations will be given due consideration in the Committee's deliberations. Please contact me if you have any queries.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

[*Sent via email without signature]

David Rouse

Appendix I - Transfers of LEDs

LED	FROM	TO	POPULATION ¹
Finglas North A	Cabra-Finglas	Ballymun-Finglas	3,319
Finglas North B	Cabra-Finglas	Ballymun-Finglas	2,874
Finglas North C	Cabra-Finglas	Ballymun-Finglas	3,464
Finglas South A	Cabra-Finglas	Ballymun-Finglas	2,904
Finglas South B	Cabra-Finglas	Ballymun-Finglas	4,206
Finglas South C	Cabra-Finglas	Ballymun-Finglas	2,645
Finglas South D	Cabra-Finglas	Ballymun-Finglas	2,427
Botanic A	Ballymun	Cabra-Glasnevin	3,174
Botanic B	Ballymun	Cabra-Glasnevin	3,481
Botanic C	Ballymun	Cabra-Glasnevin	2,222
Drumcondra South A	Ballymun	Cabra-Glasnevin	3,517
Drumcondra South C	Ballymun	Cabra-Glasnevin	5,064

¹ http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/census/census2016/census2016boundaryfiles/SAPS2016_ED3409.csv