

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to the invitation for submissions to the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee. I set out below my submission in respect of County Laois.

There has been an increase in population in County Laois as outlined in the 2016 Census to 84,697. There are 19 elected members to Laois County Council, giving a population per member of 4,458. Despite the increase in population since 2011, the existing boundaries in the County can remain unchanged and with no change to the numbers of elected members in each of these areas.

Your terms of reference allow for a variance from the average local authority representation within the range of plus or minus 10%. This is the situation in County Laois. Accordingly, there is no reason to look any further to consider any changes.

I set out below a summary of my recommendations in the table below:

<i>Local Electoral Area</i>	<i>Number of members</i>	<i>Population 2016</i>	<i>Population per member</i>	<i>Percentage variance from county average + / - %</i>
<i>Graigecullen - Portarlinton</i>	6	28,096	4,682	+ 0.5
<i>Borris-in-Ossory - Mountmellick</i>	6	24,437	4,072	-8.7
<i>Portlaoise</i>	7	32,164	4,595	+0.3
<i>Total</i>	19	84,697	4,458	

Regards,

Sean Fleming T.D.

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Chairman, Public Accounts Committee

