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Micheál Martin TD
Uachtarán Fhianna Fáil



Emer Connolly,
Secretary
Local Electoral Area Boundary Committees,
Room 1.67,
Custom House,
Dublin 1.

9th May 2018

Dear Emer,

Re: Cork City Local Electoral Area Review.

As a public representative who has made submissions in respect of all stage of the overall Boundary Review process relating to Cork over the last number of years I do so now again in respect of the current Local Electoral Area (LEA) Review.

At all times during the consultation and negotiation process regarding the extension of the Cork City Boundary it has been agreed by all parties that there should and would be an increase in Councillor representation to match the increased population.

As such it came as a shock to all involved when the terms of reference for the LEA review made reference to "assuming no change to the number of seats". In fact the IOG Report to Cabinet which was voted and passed by cabinet refers to an increase for Cork City from 31 seats to 39 seats. I submit that this recommendation should be honoured. Any change to this goes against the spirit of the agreement reached.

I would also contend that it would be a retrograde step from a local democracy perspective. The first couple of years of the new City and County Councils will see significant changes for communities and adequate representation by elected members will be vital to a successful transition for all.

In relation to the consideration of the realignment of the new LEA's I would ask that the commission give particular attention and consideration to keeping communities together. Unfortunately in the past we have seen decisions that have cut community areas in two much to the detriment of community spirit and good and effective local government.

Yours sincerely,

Micheál Martin T.D.
Uachtarán Fhianna Fáil

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