

25 January, 2008



Dear Manager

**Dublin and Cities Electoral Area Boundary Committee
Consultation**

The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr John Gormley, T.D., has established two Committees under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1991 to review local electoral areas in –

- (a) Dublin and the cities of Cork, Galway, Limerick and Waterford
- (b) each county outside Dublin, the boroughs of Drogheda and Sligo and the towns of Bray and Dundalk

and to report to him not later than 20 June 2008.

The reviews of local electoral areas are being undertaken in prospect of the local elections to be held in 2009, and having regard to population changes since the last similar reviews in 1998. The Committees' reports will be considered by the Minister as the basis for the revision of the local electoral areas under his statutory powers.

The Committees are mandated to review the ratio of population to elected members in each local electoral area and to ensure a reasonable relationship (as far as practicable within a variance of $\pm 10\%$) between the population as established by 2006 census and representation within each local authority. In addition, in the case of counties and cities, the Committees must also seek to draw up, where possible, electoral areas that would, alone or in combination, have an urban or neighbourhood focal point or points.

The terms of reference for the Committees also require them to take due account of the desirability of preserving natural communities or the hinterlands of population centres, and, where possible, of aligning local electoral area boundaries with Dáil constituency boundaries.

The Committees are asked to assume no change in present numbers of elected members at overall local authority level. Within individual electoral areas as recommended by the Committees, the number of councillors should not be less than 4 or more than 7, provided that in very exceptional circumstances 3 seat local electoral areas may be recommended where otherwise the geographic size of the area would be disproportionately large.

The **Dublin and Cities Electoral Area Boundary Committee** will report and make recommendations in relation to Dublin City, Cork City, Galway City, Limerick City, Waterford City, and Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin County Councils. The Committee is now consulting each local authority

concerned on the matters referred to above. (A wider consultation process in relation to the work of both Committees will also be undertaken; this will include the placing of public notice advertisements in newspapers and direct invitations by letter to each member of the Dáil and Seanad).

A submission may be sent by e-mail to electoralareacommittees@environ.ie or by post to Room 2.03, Custom House, Dublin 1, and should be addressed to –

Secretary
Dublin and Cities Electoral Area Boundary Committee

to arrive no later than 14 March 2008. All submissions will be made available on the website of the Committees (www.electoralareacommittees.ie / www.coistitoghlimestone.ie - which will be in operation shortly) as soon as they are received.

The Terms of Reference of the review are attached. Please bring this invitation to make a submission to the attention of the elected members of your authority.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Sheridan
Secretary
Dublin and Cities Electoral Area Boundary Committee
Tel. 01 888 2361

To: the councils of
- Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford Cities
- Fingal, South-Dublin, and Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Counties

Dublin and Cities Electoral Area Boundary Committee

Terms of Reference

- 1 To review and to make recommendations, subject to paragraph 2, on the division of the cities of Dublin, Cork, Galway, Limerick and Waterford and the counties of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin into local electoral areas and the number of members of the councils to be assigned to each such area, with a view to ensuring a reasonable relationship between the 2006 population and representation within each local authority. For this purpose, the Committee is to assume no change in the total membership of each local authority and to endeavour, as far as practicable, to achieve variance from individual average local authority representation within the range of + or - 10%.
- 2 In carrying out its review, the Committee shall have as an objective the drawing up of electoral areas which (alone or in combination) would, as far as practicable, have an urban or neighbourhood focal point (or points).
- 3 In recommending changes to local electoral areas, the Committee should, subject to paragraph 2, take due account first of the desirability of preserving natural communities or the hinterlands of population centres, and secondly of the desirability, where it may be possible to do so, of aligning local electoral area boundaries with Dáil constituency boundaries.
- 4 The number of councillors representing an area as determined above should not be less than 4 or more than 7, provided that in very exceptional circumstances 3 seat local electoral areas may be recommended where otherwise the geographic size of the area would be disproportionately large.
- 5 Subject to the above, the Committee shall endeavour to maintain continuity in relation to the arrangement of local electoral areas.
- 6 The Committee shall submit its report as soon as possible and, in any event, not later than 20 June 2008.