5.6 Waterford - Tipperary - Laois - Offaly - Kildare area

The total population of these five counties, at 640,107, is equivalent to 22 seats in a 158 member Dáil. As the area currently has an allocation of 22 seats no change is necessary to the overall allocation of seats.

An arrangement of constituencies in the area for a 158 member Dáil based exclusively on county boundaries is not feasible. Neither of the counties of Laois and Offaly can form a single constituency and the combined population results in an unacceptable variance in a 5-seat constituency. The population of the county of Tipperary exceeds that of a 5-seat constituency and is insufficient to form two 3-seat constituencies.

The Commission considered a number of options for the area. One was to make minimal change with a small transfer of population between the existing Tipperary North and Tipperary South constituencies. However, in the light of the terms of reference the preferred option of the Commission is to recommend changes to constituencies in the area focused on improving parity of representation.

The Commission accordingly recommends the following arrangement of constituencies for the area:

Waterford

Two electoral divisions in county Waterford and parts of two others with a population of 1,597, currently allocated to the existing Tipperary South constituency, should be transferred to the Waterford constituency, which should remain as a 4-seat constituency. This ends the breach of the Waterford county boundary.

Tipperary

Twenty-four electoral divisions, with a population of 10,953, in the north west of County Tipperary should be transferred to the new Offaly constituency. The rest of County Tipperary should form a new 5-seat constituency.

Offaly

The county of Offaly combined with twenty-four electoral divisions from the north west of Tipperary should form a new 3-seat constituency.

Laois

The county of Laois combined with six electoral divisions from the Kildare South constituency should form a new 3-seat constituency.

Kildare North and Kildare South

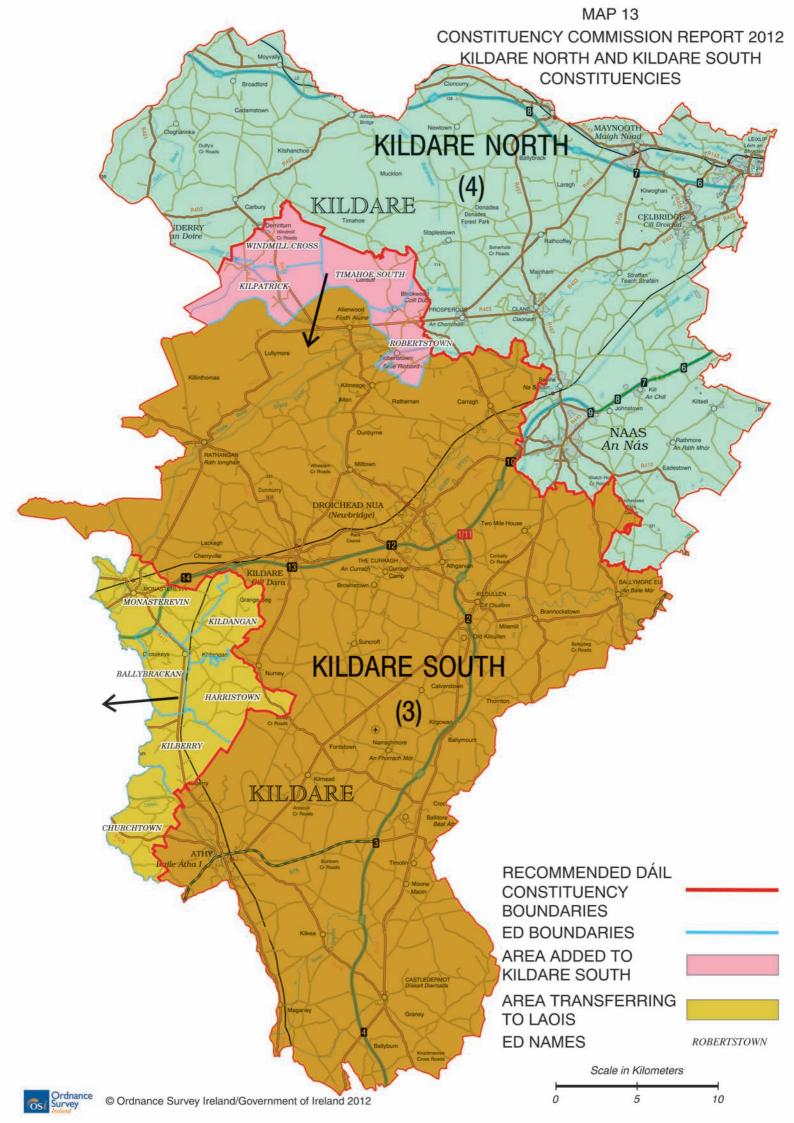
Six electoral divisions, with a population of 7,186, should be transferred from the Kildare South constituency to the new Laois constituency. Four electoral divisions, with a population of 4,698, should be transferred from the Kildare North to the Kildare South constituency. The Kildare South constituency will then have a population of 87,776 which is equivalent to 3 seats in a 158 member Dáil. The Kildare North constituency with a population of 115,350 should remain as a 4-seat constituency.

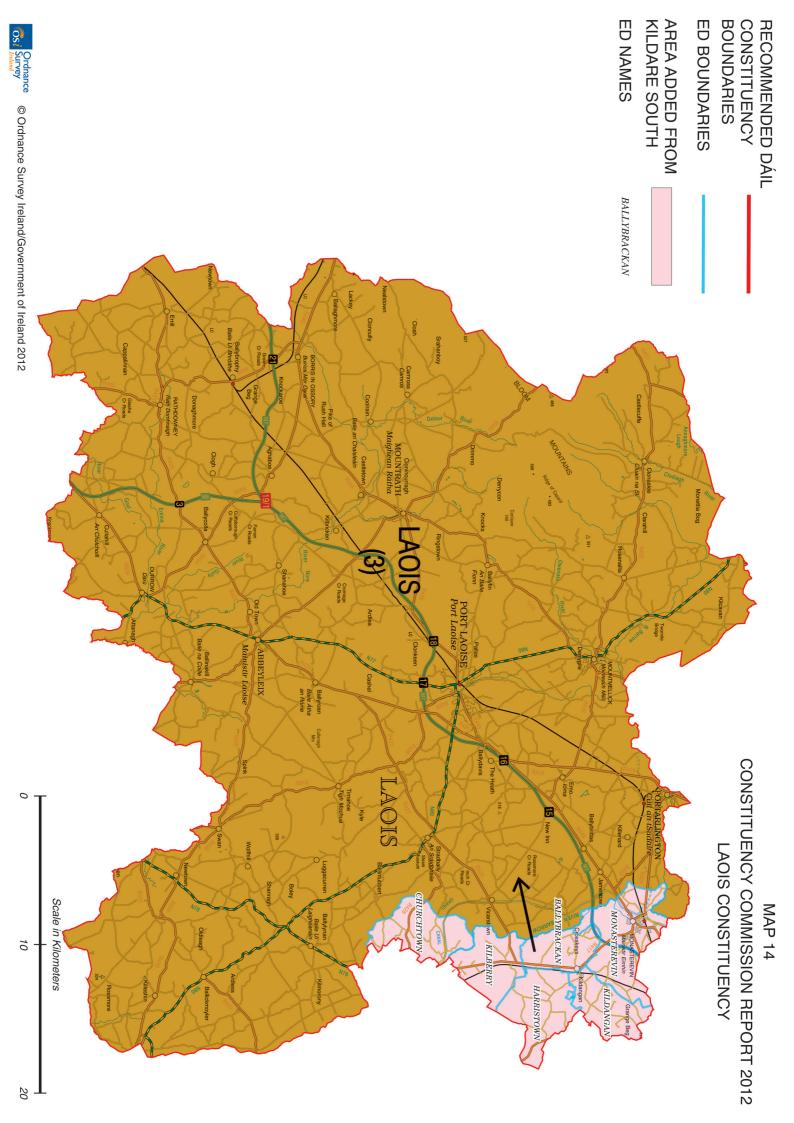
CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2012

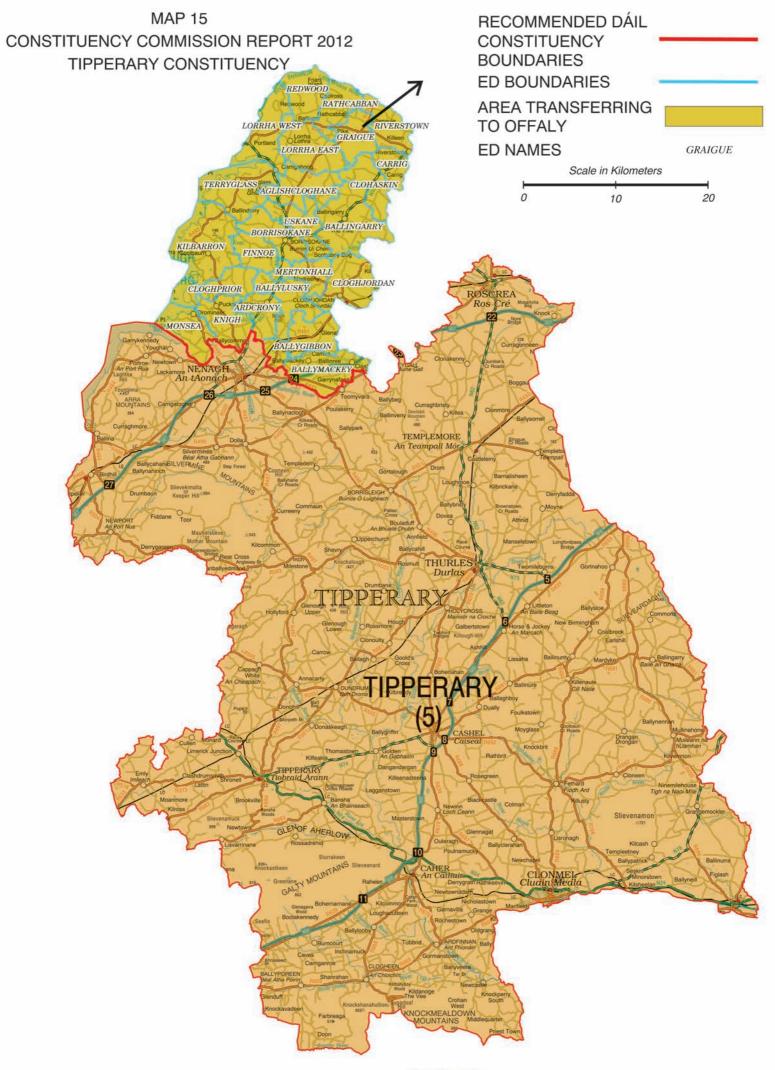
Details of the transfers are given in Appendix 3. The following table sets out the relevant statistics for the recommended constituencies in the area.

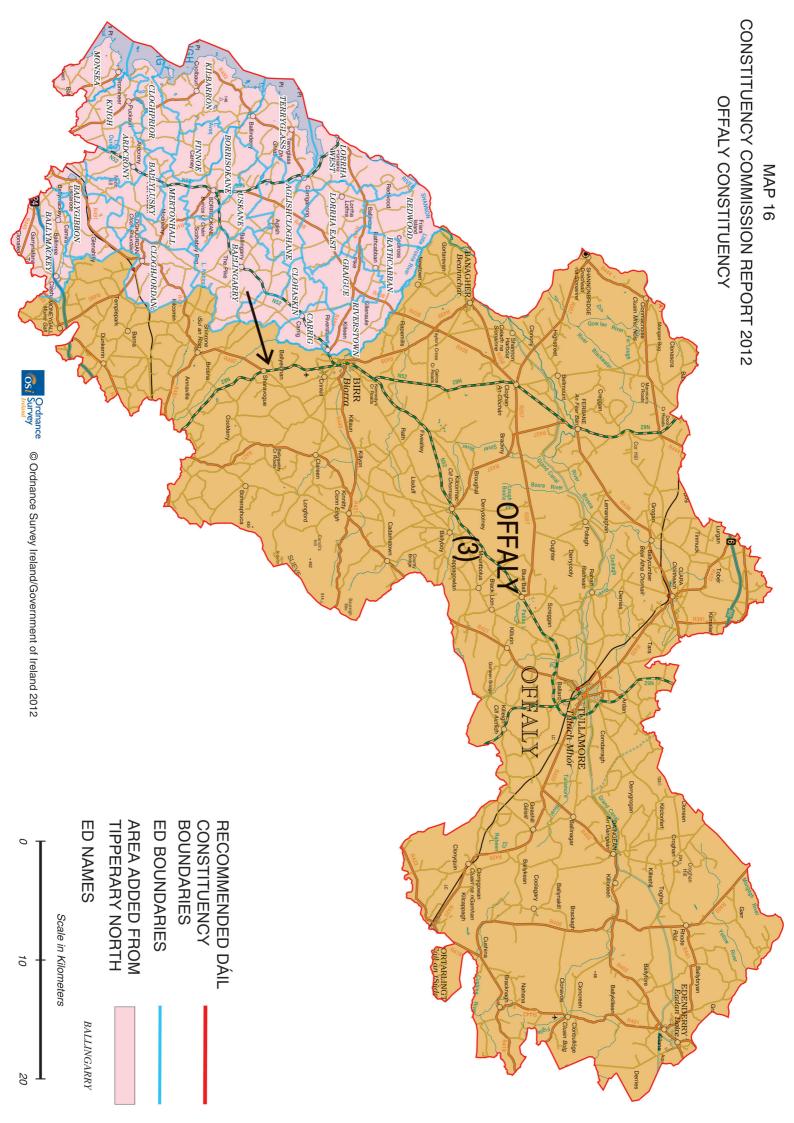
Recommended Constituency	Number of TDs	2011 Population	Population per TD	Variance from National Average Population per TD (29,040)	
				Number	%
Kildare North	4	115,350	28,838	-203	-0.70
Kildare South	3	87,776	29,259	+219	+0.75
Laois	3	87,745	29,248	+208	+0.72
Offaly	3	87,640	29,213	+173	+0.60
Tipperary	5	147,801	29,560	+520	+1.79
Waterford	4	113,795	28,449	-591	-2.04

The recommended constituencies of Kildare North, Kildare South, Laois, Tipperary, Offaly and Waterford are shown on Maps 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 on pages 43, 44, 45, 46 and 47.











Scale in Kilometers