



CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017

Dáil and European Parliament Constituencies

TUARASCÁIL AN CHOIMISIÚIN UM
THOGHLAIGH, 2017

Dáilcheantair agus
Toghlaigh Pharlaimint na hEorpa



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1 Introduction and summary of recommendations

1.1 Introduction

The Commission established under the Electoral Act 1997 (as amended) to review the constituencies for Dáil and European Parliament elections in the light of the 2016 Census of Population is pleased to present its report in this volume.

The Commission recommends that the number of members of Dáil Éireann be 160. This is the maximum number of members that the Commission can recommend having regard to its terms of reference, set out in section 6 of the Electoral Act 1997.

The number of Dáil constituencies recommended is 39 in place of 40. The changes recommended in the Dáil constituencies mean that the number of 5 seat constituencies will be 13 instead of 11, the number of 4 seat constituencies will be 17 instead of 16 and the number of 3 seat constituencies will be 9 instead of 13. The changes recommended in Dáil constituencies are summarised below and detailed in Chapter 4. 18 constituencies remain unchanged.

The Commission considers, for the reasons set out in Chapter 5, that no change is necessary in the three existing constituencies for elections to the European Parliament.

The Commission is very grateful to the organisations and individuals who took the time and trouble to make submissions in response to our public notice. A total of 414 were received of which 7 related to the European Parliament constituencies. The Commission considered each of the submissions in drawing up its recommendations.

Many submissions were directed at specific concerns in particular counties or constituencies. The Commission has endeavoured to address such concerns so far as possible within the parameters of the constitutional and statutory terms of reference. There is an inevitable interdependence of viable alternatives between individual constituencies or counties and neighbouring communities. The transfer of electoral divisions to enable or preserve a particular allocation of seats in one constituency, or to provide for all of an administrative county to be in one constituency, may have an immediate knock-on impact on the adjacent constituencies and this can in turn have a more far-reaching domino effect on more distant constituencies.

We consider that the recommended arrangement of constituencies comes closest to achieving the optimum level of parity of representation in circumstances where the total population of the State, at 4,761,865, is very close to the constitutional limitation of 30,000 population per member of the Dáil when the maximum number of members that can be recommended by the Commission is 160.

1.2 Summary of recommendations for Dáil constituencies

- The number of members of Dáil Éireann should be 160.
- There should be 39 constituencies of which 13 will be 5 seat, 17 will be 4 seat and 9 will be 3 seat.
- In the Dublin area the constituencies of Dublin Bay South (4 seat), Dublin Fingal (5 seat), Dublin South-Central (4 seat), Dublin Mid-West (4 seat), Dublin South-West (5 seat) and Dublin West (4 seat) should remain unchanged. Adjustments should be made between Dublin Rathdown (3 seat) and Dún Laoghaire (4 seat), and between Dublin North-West (3 seat), Dublin Bay North (5 seat) and Dublin Central which should change from a 3 seat to a 4 seat constituency.
- The counties of Cavan and Monaghan, with some population from the constituency of Meath East, should form the Cavan-Monaghan constituency which should become a 5 seat constituency. The rest of the constituency of Meath East should remain as a 3 seat constituency. The constituencies of Meath West (3 seat), Louth (5 seat) and Longford-Westmeath (4 seat) should remain unchanged.
- The constituency of Donegal (5 seat) should remain unchanged. The counties of Sligo and Leitrim with some population from south Donegal (with no change) and from county Roscommon should form the 4 seat Sligo-Leitrim constituency. The rest of the Roscommon-Galway constituency, with additional population from Galway East, should remain a 3 seat constituency. The rest of Galway East with some population from Galway West should remain a 3 seat constituency.
- Galway West, less some population transferred to Galway East and some Mayo population transferred to Mayo, should remain a 5 seat constituency. Mayo with some additional population from Galway West should remain a 4 seat constituency.
- The county of Clare should form a 4 seat constituency. The City and County of Limerick should form the 3 seat constituency of Limerick County and the 4 seat Limerick City constituency which should include some population from county Tipperary. The rest of county Tipperary (including the part of county Tipperary that is in the existing Offaly constituency) should form a 5 seat constituency.
- The county of Kildare should form a 4 seat Kildare North constituency and a 4 seat Kildare South constituency which should include some population from county Offaly and some population from county Laois. The rest of the counties of Laois and Offaly should be joined to form a 5 seat constituency.

- The entire county of Carlow with the entire county of Kilkenny should form a 5 seat constituency. The entire county of Wicklow should form a 5 seat constituency.
- There should be no change to the five Cork constituencies; Cork East (4 seat), Cork North-Central (4 seat), Cork North-West (3 seat), Cork South-Central (4 seat), Cork South-West (3 seat).
- The constituencies of Kerry (5 seat), Waterford (4 seat) and Wexford (5 seat) should remain unchanged.

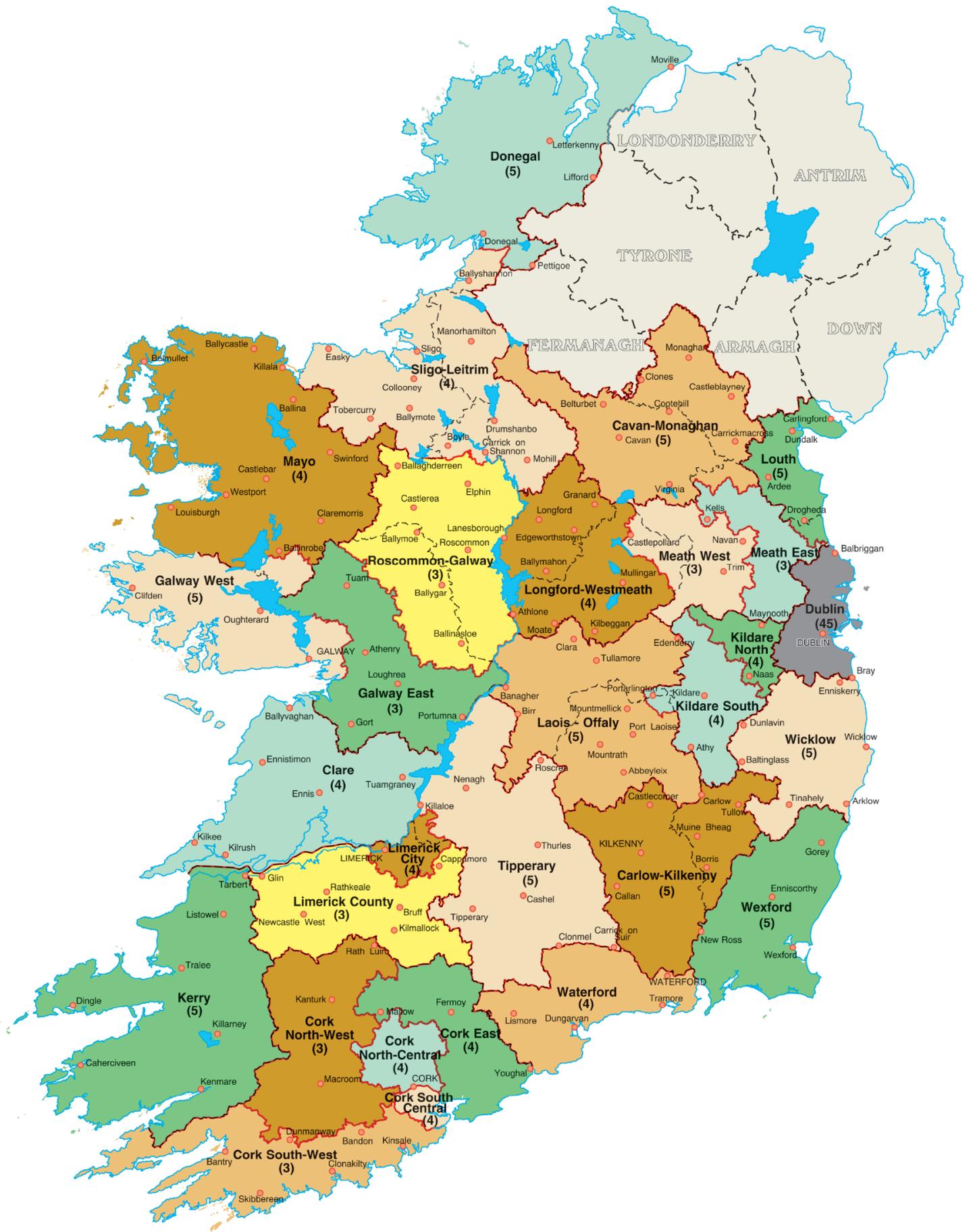
1.3 Summary of recommendations for European Parliament constituencies

There should be no change to the 3 constituencies for the election of the 11 members of the European Parliament; Dublin (3 seat), Midlands-North-West (4 seat) and South (4 seat).

CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017

Recommended Constituencies (39)	Seats (160)	Existing Constituencies (40)	Seats (158)
Carlow-Kilkenny	5	Carlow-Kilkenny	5
Cavan-Monaghan	5	Cavan-Monaghan	4
Clare	4	Clare	4
Cork East	4	Cork East	4
Cork North-Central	4	Cork North-Central	4
Cork North-West	3	Cork North-West	3
Cork South-Central	4	Cork South-Central	4
Cork South-West	3	Cork South-West	3
Donegal	5	Donegal	5
Dublin Bay North	5	Dublin Bay North	5
Dublin Bay South	4	Dublin Bay South	4
Dublin Central	4	Dublin Central	3
Dublin Fingal	5	Dublin Fingal	5
Dublin Mid-West	4	Dublin Mid-West	4
Dublin North-West	3	Dublin North-West	3
Dublin Rathdown	3	Dublin Rathdown	3
Dublin South-Central	4	Dublin South-Central	4
Dublin South-West	5	Dublin South-West	5
Dublin West	4	Dublin West	4
Dún Laoghaire	4	Dún Laoghaire	4
Galway East	3	Galway East	3
Galway West	5	Galway West	5
Kerry	5	Kerry	5
Kildare North	4	Kildare North	4
Kildare South	4	Kildare South	3
Laois-Offaly	5	Laois	3
Limerick City	4	Limerick City	4
Limerick County	3	Limerick County	3
Longford-Westmeath	4	Longford-Westmeath	4
Louth	5	Louth	5
Mayo	4	Mayo	4
Meath East	3	Meath East	3
Meath West	3	Meath West	3
		Offaly	3
Roscommon-Galway	3	Roscommon-Galway	3
Sligo-Leitrim	4	Sligo-Leitrim	4
Tipperary	5	Tipperary	5
Waterford	4	Waterford	4
Wexford	5	Wexford	5
Wicklow	5	Wicklow	5

MAP 1
CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017
IRELAND - RECOMMENDED DÁIL CONSTITUENCIES



CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES ————
COUNTY BOUNDARIES - - - - -

2 Establishment and procedure of Commission

2.1 Establishment and terms of reference

Following publication by the Central Statistics Office on 14 July 2016 of "Census of Population 2016 Preliminary Results", the Constituency Commission was established. The Establishment Order (S.I. No. 374 of 2016) was made by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government on 14 July 2016 under Part II of the Electoral Act 1997 ("the 1997 Act").

The Commission is required to report in relation to the constituencies for the election of members to Dáil Éireann and the election of members of the European Parliament on the basis of the population ascertained in Census 2016.

This Constituency Commission is the fifth commission established under the 1997 Act and is the second statutory Commission established with authority to commence work upon the publication of preliminary census results. The ability to begin the preparatory work greatly facilitated the Commission's timely completion of its mandate. As described in paragraph 3.3 below, the initial work of analysis of the effects of population change was undertaken by reference to the preliminary results. The Commission's recommendations were then formulated and confirmed on the basis of the definitive census outcome, the results of which were published on 6 April 2017. In the event minor but material differences emerged as between the preliminary and final results.

The Commission's terms of reference, set out in section 6 of the 1997 Act (as amended), are as follows:

"...a Constituency Commission shall, in observing the relevant provisions of the Constitution in relation to Dáil constituencies, have regard to the following:

- (a) the total number of members of the Dáil, subject to Article 16.2.2° of the Constitution, shall be not less than 153 and not more than 160;
- (b) each constituency shall return 3, 4 or 5 members;
- (c) the breaching of county boundaries shall be avoided as far as practicable;
- (d) each constituency shall be composed of contiguous areas;
- (e) there shall be regard to geographic considerations including significant physical features and the extent of and the density of population in each constituency; and

- (f) subject to the provisions of this section, the Commission shall endeavour to maintain continuity in relation to the arrangement of constituencies.”.

The reference in (c) above to county boundaries is deemed not to include a reference to the boundary of a city or any boundary between any two of the counties of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin.

In relation to European Parliament constituencies, the Commission shall have regard to the following:

- the total number of members of the European Parliament to be elected in the State shall be such number as may be specified for the time being pursuant to the treaties governing the European Communities – that number stands at 11 in accordance with the decision of the European Council of 28 June 2013¹;
- there shall be reasonable equality of representation as between constituencies; and
- the matters specified at (b) to (f) above.

2.2 Commission membership and meetings

Mr. Justice Robert Haughton, of the High Court, was nominated by the Chief Justice to be chairperson of the Commission. The other members are: Mr. Peter Finnegan, Clerk of the Dáil; Mr. Peter Tyndall, the Ombudsman; Mr. John McCarthy, Secretary General of the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government; and Mr. Martin Groves, Clerk of the Seanad who replaced Ms. Deirdre Lane on the Commission in October 2016. The Commission held 10 meetings.

2.3 Status of the Commission’s recommendations

In accordance with section 9 of the 1997 Act, the Commission is required to present its report to the Chairman of the Dáil as soon as may be and not later than 3 months after publication by the Central Statistics Office of the Census Report setting out the final result of the Census in respect of the total population of the State. The final results of Census 2016 were published by the Central Statistics Office on 6 April 2017.

The Constitution provides, within certain parameters, that the number of members of Dáil Éireann be fixed from time to time by law and that the constituencies for which the members are elected be determined by law. The final determination of the constituencies for both Dáil Éireann and the European Parliament is a matter for the Oireachtas to prescribe in legislation: the Commission’s role is advisory.

¹ European Council Decision 2013/312/EU

2.4 Submissions and statement

The Commission invited written submissions in relation to both Dáil and European Parliament constituencies by way of notices in both official languages published in newspapers in September 2016 and on websites in October 2016. Copies of these notices are in Appendix 4. Reminder notices were published in newspapers in December 2016, and on websites in January 2017, in advance of the closing date for submissions on 10 January 2017. In addition, submissions were invited from members of the Dáil, the Seanad and the European Parliament, from registered political parties and from Returning Officers.

In accordance with section 10 of the 1997 Act, the Commission prepared a statement setting out the constitutional provisions relating to Dáil constituencies. The statement also included population statistics as set out in "Census of Population 2016 Preliminary Results" relating to existing Dáil and European Parliament constituencies. A copy of the statement is in Appendix 5. This statement was published on the Commission's website and was available for issue to interested parties on request.

A list of the 414 organisations and persons who made submissions in response to the public notice is in Appendix 6. Most submissions related to particular constituencies or issues but some presented schemes for constituencies covering the whole country or particular regions. The Commission considered each of the submissions in drawing up its recommendations. The submissions were published on the Commission's website as they were received. They were also available for public inspection at the Custom House, Dublin 1 until the conclusion of the Commission's work.

2.5 Website – www.constituency-commission.ie

The Commission's website was used to facilitate public access to materials relating to its work. These included the text of the 1997 Act as amended, the Commission's Establishment Order and the associated press release; the Commission's statement setting out the constitutional provisions relating to Dáil constituencies together with population statistics relating to Dáil and European Parliament constituencies, as well as the public notice inviting submissions and the 414² submissions received. This report will also be made available on the website.

2.6 Support services

Section 11 of the 1997 Act provides for staff of and assistance to the Commission. The Franchise Section of the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government provided support services to the Commission. The members of the

² 418 submissions were registered and listed; upon examination of these a number were found to be duplicates

Commission are grateful to Róna Ní Fhlanghaile, Ian Stuart-Mills and Eva Callaghan of the secretariat for their support to the Commission. The members also wish to express their appreciation for the assistance received from the Director General of the Central Statistics Office and the Chief Executive Officer of Ordnance Survey Ireland, and from their staff.

2.7 Expenses of the Commission

No travel or other expenses or fees were paid to members of the Commission. Costs relating to setting up and maintaining the website, giving public notice, inviting submissions and printing the report were met by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government. Costs relating to the assistance provided by the Central Statistics Office and Ordnance Survey Ireland were met by those organisations.

3 Dáil Éireann: Constitutional provisions and equality of representation

3.1 Equality of representation

The basic provisions governing membership of Dáil Éireann and the revision of Dáil constituencies are set out in Article 16 of the Constitution, the relevant paragraphs of which provide:

“2.2 The number of members shall from time to time be fixed by law, but the total number of members of Dáil Éireann shall not be fixed at less than one member for each thirty thousand of the population, or at more than one member for each twenty thousand of the population.

2.3 The ratio between the number of members to be elected at any time for each constituency and the population of each constituency, as ascertained at the last preceding census, shall, so far as it is practicable, be the same throughout the country.

2.4 The Oireachtas shall revise the constituencies at least once in every twelve years, with due regard to changes in distribution of the population...” .

These constitutional provisions have been considered in judgments of the High Court and the Supreme Court. The principles and guidance in those cases have been borne in mind by the Commission in the formulation of its recommendations. Information on these cases was provided in the statement prepared by the Commission which is described in paragraph 2.4 above and included in Appendix 5.

It is important to note that the constitutional requirement that the total number of Dáil members be fixed at not less than one member for each 30,000 of the population and not more than one per 20,000 applies to the population of the State as a whole and is not a constraint upon individual constituencies. In its recommended arrangement of constituencies the Commission has endeavoured to minimise the variance from the national average population of 29,762 per TD in each constituency and to keep any variance below 5%. This has been achieved in all but two of the 39 recommended constituencies.

In 22 of the 39 recommended constituencies there is no excess over the 30,000 figure. In the 17 in which there is an excess, the greatest excess is 1,270. That is in Dún Laoghaire where the average population per TD is 31,270, an excess of +5.07% on the national average population of 29,762. At the other extreme the lowest population per TD in a recommended constituency is in Dublin North-West at 28,199, which is a variance of -5.25% from the national average of 29,762.

3.2 Total Dáil membership

The population ascertained at the 2016 census was 4,761,865 and, on this basis, having regard to Article 16.2.2° of the Constitution total Dáil membership could be fixed by legislation at between 159 and 238.

However the 1997 Act, as amended, limits the range to not less than 153 and not more than 160 members which provides for a national average representation of between 31,123 and 29,762. All but the last two points in that range, 159 and 160, would breach the constitutional limit. The Electoral (Amendment) (Dáil Constituencies) Act 2013 currently provides for the total number of members of Dáil Éireann to be 158. The national average population per TD in existing constituencies, before revision, is 30,138.

A table showing constituency size and total Dáil membership since 1923 is given in Appendix 7. Total Dáil membership was under 150 up to 1980. It stood at 166 from the 1980 revision to the 2009 revision, a level determined on the basis of the 1979 population of 3,368,217. The 2016 population at 4,761,865 is 1,393,648 (+41%) greater than in 1979.

The Commission recommends that the total number of members of Dáil Éireann should be 160. This gives more scope for recommending changes in constituency configuration in a number of areas and for responding more comprehensively to the terms of reference and to many of the submissions made. This would mean a national average representation of 29,762 of population per member.

3.3 Overall approach on Dáil constituencies

Constituency size

In complying with the constitutional requirements and the terms of reference, the Commission endeavoured to suit the constituency size to the population and particular circumstances of each locality. It is not a constitutional or statutory criterion that the arrangement of constituencies should seek to achieve any particular number of, or balance between, the three constituency sizes.

In the Commission's recommendations, summarised in paragraph 1.2, the balance in constituency size shifts towards larger constituencies compared to the current arrangement. A number of submissions recommended that there should be more 5 seat constituencies and fewer 3 seat constituencies. In response to those submissions the Commission examined the scope for further increasing the number of 5 seat constituencies but this was not feasible, as outlined in section 4 of this report, having regard to the Commission's terms of reference.

County boundaries

Starting work on the basis of the preliminary results, the Commission first gave consideration to the possibilities of adhering to county boundaries in the drawing of the constituency boundaries. Analysis showed that counties as such did not offer a complete or satisfactory solution. The constitutional requirements and the terms of reference could not be fully met, at the two points in the range (159 and 160) available to the Commission, by adhering to county boundaries alone.

As regards the criterion of avoiding so far as practicable breaches of county boundaries, the Commission has adhered to the view and practice of previous commissions namely that joining two entire counties in a single constituency does not constitute a breach of the boundary between them. This is the case for example in Carlow-Kilkenny, Sligo-Leitrim and Cavan-Monaghan. While the Commission was not required to avoid breaching city boundaries or the boundaries between the local government counties in Dublin, it did endeavour whenever practicable, and having regard to the other terms of reference, to adhere to those Dublin boundaries.

The recommended constituency formations involve new breaches of county boundaries in Laois, Meath, Offaly, Roscommon and Tipperary. The county boundaries of Carlow, Cavan, Clare and Kildare are no longer breached. The north western boundary of county Tipperary is no longer breached. The existing breach of the county boundary of Meath is retained. The existing breach of the county Galway boundary is extended. The existing breach of the county Mayo boundary is reduced.

In many cases county boundary breaches are unavoidable having regard to uneven population distribution and to the constitutional requirement that the ratio of population to the number of members to be elected in a constituency should 'so far as it is practicable, be the same throughout the country'. The Commission has endeavoured, within reason and having regard to the other terms of reference and to the knock-on effects of any alternations on other constituencies in an area, to minimise the extent of any county boundary breach.

Continuity

A further criterion of the terms of reference is that of endeavouring to maintain continuity in relation to the arrangement of constituencies. While this criterion is 'subject to' the other requirements the Commission is of the view that it is nonetheless a very important consideration. The Commission endeavoured to ensure continuity in the arrangement of constituencies in an area wherever it deemed it appropriate and feasible having regard to the other terms of reference and to submissions made. However a continuing growth in population, with a distribution largely across the eastern half of the country, makes changes in constituency arrangements unavoidable.

4 Recommendations for Dáil constituencies

4.1 Dublin

Present position

Constituency	Number of TDs	Population 2016	Population per TD	Variance from National Average Population per TD in a 160 member Dáil	
				Number	%
Dublin Bay North	5	152,943	30,589	+827	+2.78%
Dublin Bay South	4	121,176	30,294	+532	+1.79%
Dublin Central	3	96,307	32,102	+2,340	+7.86%
Dublin Fingal	5	152,086	30,417	+655	+2.20%
Dublin Mid-West	4	117,976	29,494	-268	-0.90%
Dublin North-West	3	96,992	32,331	+2,569	+8.63%
Dublin Rathdown	3	94,472	31,491	+1,729	+5.81%
Dublin South-Central	4	119,469	29,867	+105	+0.35%
Dublin South-West	5	150,495	30,099	+337	+1.13%
Dublin West	4	121,897	30,474	+712	+2.39%
Dún Laoghaire	4	123,546	30,887	+1,125	+3.78%
	44	1,347,359	30,622	+860	+2.89%

The 11 Dublin constituencies, with a total population of 1,347,359, comprise just over 28% of the population of the State. This population is equivalent to an allocation of 45 seats in a 160 member Dáil. As Dublin currently has an allocation of 44 seats there needs to be an increase of 1 seat in the area.

Additional seat to be allocated in the north of Dublin

The six constituencies in the south of the area at present have an allocation of 24 seats. The total population of the six constituencies is 727,134, which is equivalent to 24 seats in a 160 member Dáil. The five constituencies in the north of the area at present have an allocation of 20 seats. The total population of the five constituencies is 620,225, which is equivalent to an allocation of 21 seats in a 160 member Dáil. The additional seat should therefore be allocated to a constituency in the north of the

Dublin area. The two constituencies with the highest population per TD ratio in the country, Dublin Central and Dublin North-West, are in this area.

Approach to county and city boundaries in Dublin

In examining the arrangement of constituencies in Dublin the Commission had regard to the approach of the last Commission to the city and county administrative boundaries in the area. The Commission also had regard in its considerations to the many submissions made about the Dublin constituencies, examining these in considerable detail before coming to conclusions on its recommendations.

The population of the administrative county of Fingal grew by 8.1% between 2011 and 2016. This was the biggest population growth by county in the period. The population of Fingal County, at 296,020, is equivalent to 10 seats in a 160 member Dáil. At present the substantial part of the population of Fingal is contained in the 5 seat Dublin Fingal and the 4 seat Dublin West constituencies.

The Commission examined the alterations to constituencies in the north Dublin area that would be required to achieve an ambition of having the entire county of Fingal contained in these two Dail constituencies, in a two 5 seat formation. Having regard to the good variances in the existing constituencies, to the very significant population transfers that would be required and to the knock-on effects on the other constituencies in the area the Commission decided to recommend no change in Dublin Fingal and Dublin West.

In addition, having regard to the requirement for each constituency to return 3, 4 or 5 members, the distribution of the population of the county of Fingal does not at present lend itself to an alternative arrangement of constituencies that would be satisfactory to the Commission.

This decision means that no alteration is recommended to the existing arrangement whereby some Dublin City population is contained in the Dublin West constituency.

The Commission decided to recommend no change to the constituencies of Dublin Mid-West, Dublin South-West and Dublin South-Central given the very good variances in each and given that the substantial part (over 96%) of the South Dublin County administrative area is contained in the constituencies of Dublin Mid-West and Dublin South-West with the remainder in Dublin South-Central.

No change is recommended to the Dublin Bay South constituency which comprises that part of the city of Dublin south of the river Liffey which is not contained in the Dublin South-Central constituency.

Recommendations for change in Dublin constituencies

The Commission recommends that Dublin Central should become a 4 seat constituency and that population of 12,394 in four electoral divisions from Dublin North-West and population of 5,064 in one electoral division from Dublin Bay North be transferred into the constituency.

The Commission recommends the transfer of population of 1,535, in the electoral division of Glencullen, from Dublin Rathdown to Dún Laoghaire to improve the balance between the variances of these two constituencies which between them comprise the entire administrative area of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

Statistics for the Dublin constituencies where change is recommended are set out in the table below. The recommended Dublin constituencies are shown in the maps in the pouch at the back of this report. The recommended transfers are illustrated on those maps and they are detailed in Appendix 3.

Recommended Constituency	Number of TDs	2016 Population	Population per TD	Variance from National Average Population per TD in a 160 member Dáil	
				Number	%
Dublin Bay North	5	147,879	29,576	-186	-0.62%
Dublin Central	4	113,765	28,441	-1,321	-4.44%
Dublin North-West	3	84,598	28,199	-1,563	-5.25%
Dublin Rathdown	3	92,937	30,979	+1,217	+4.09%
Dún Laoghaire	4	125,081	31,270	+1,508	+5.07%

4.2 Cork

The population of the Cork area, at 542,868, is equivalent to an allocation of 18 seats in a 160 member Dáil. The five Cork constituencies have a total allocation of 18 seats so no change is necessary in seat allocation to the Cork area.

The Cork constituencies present a number of particular difficulties because of the very significant difference in population density across the county. The Commission considered a number of proposals for change in these constituencies. These included transfer of population between Cork North-Central, Cork North-West and Cork South-West with the objective of improving the balance of variances in the Cork constituencies. The Commission examined in detail, having regard to its terms of reference, proposals in submissions for the transfer of population between Cork South-Central and Cork South-West. Having regard to other submissions received the Commission also examined the feasibility of transferring population in the Bishopstown area from Cork North-Central to Cork South-Central. None of these proposals offered an alternative arrangement that would meet the terms of reference to the satisfaction of the Commission.

In addition, having regard to the density and distribution of population in Cork, particularly in those parts of the administrative county of Cork that are either contiguous with the city boundary or close to it, the Commission examined the feasibility of specifying a 5 seat Cork 'urban' constituency.

The population of the City is 125,657, so forming a 5 seat constituency centred on the City itself would require the addition of some 23,000 extra population from the immediate environs. The nine electoral divisions contiguous with the City have a combined population of 80,592, and much of this population is in urban areas adjacent to the City boundary. Selection of some of this population for inclusion in a 5 seat City constituency would leave a considerable population adjacent to the City but excluded from the 5 seat City constituency. The Commission did not consider that such an arrangement would be satisfactory.

The Commission also examined the alternative of two 3 seat, or one 3 seat and one 4 seat, 'urban' constituencies. None of these arrangements would result in all of the urban or metropolitan population being in one or two constituencies to the extent that would merit the consequential extensive alteration that would be needed in all of the Cork constituencies.

Having considered several options for change in the Cork constituencies the Commission decided, having regard to its terms of reference, that on balance the Cork constituencies as they are currently arranged best meet its terms of reference. The Commission therefore recommends no change to the constituencies in Cork.

Statistics for the recommended constituencies for Cork are set out in the table below. They are shown on a large map in the pouch at the back of this report.

Present position – no change recommended

Recommended Constituency	Number of TDs	2016 Population	Population per TD	Variance from National Average Population per TD in a 160 member Dáil	
				Number	%
Cork East	4	121,429	30,357	+595	+2.00%
Cork North-Central	4	124,836	31,209	+1,447	+4.86%
Cork North-West	3	89,080	29,693	-69	-0.23%
Cork South-Central	4	122,221	30,555	+793	+2.66%
Cork South-West	3	85,302	28,434	-1,328	-4.46%
Total	18	542,868	30,159	+397	+1.33%

4.3 Cavan-Donegal-Galway-Leitrim-Longford-Louth-Mayo-Meath-Monaghan-Roscommon-Sligo-Westmeath

The Commission examined the constituencies in these counties together because of the wide consequential effect of any changes.

Present position

Constituency	Number of TDs	2016 Population	Population per TD	Variance from National Average Population per TD in a 160 member Dáil	
				Number	%
Cavan-Monaghan	4	124,412	31,103	+1,341	+4.51%
Donegal	5	150,657	30,131	+369	+1.24%
Galway East	3	93,651	31,217	+1,455	+4.89%
Galway West	5	154,354	30,871	+1,109	+3.73%
Longford-Westmeath	4	120,962	30,241	+479	+1.61%
Louth	5	150,924	30,185	+423	+1.42%
Mayo	4	120,082	30,021	+259	+0.87%
Meath East	3	91,142	30,381	+619	+2.08%
Meath West	3	90,543	30,181	+419	+1.41%
Roscommon-Galway	3	85,022	28,341	-1,421	-4.77%
Sligo-Leitrim	4	119,264	29,816	+54	+0.18%
Total	43	1,301,013	30,256	494	+1.66%

The total population of the 11 constituencies comprising these counties is 1,301,013. This population is equivalent to an allocation of 44 seats in a 160 member Dáil. As there is currently an allocation of 43 seats to these constituencies there needs to be an increase of 1 seat in the area.

In the period 2011-2016 the population of counties Donegal (-1.2%) and Mayo (-0.1%) fell. The population of counties Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon and Monaghan grew by less than 2%. The population of counties Galway and Westmeath grew by less than 4%. The population of Cavan, Longford, Meath and Louth grew by between 4% and 6%.

The Commission recommends that the additional seat be allocated to the east of the area as a whole as it has experienced the greater population growth in the 2011-2016 period. Following from this the Commission examined the wider area in two parts and makes recommendations accordingly.

Recommended constituencies for Cavan-Meath-Longford-Louth-Monaghan-Westmeath

The population of these 6 counties, at 591,133, is equivalent to an allocation of 20 seats in a 160 member Dáil. The constituencies in the area have, at present, an allocation of 19 seats. The Commission recommends that the constituencies in the area be altered to provide for the election of 20 TDs. In the first instance this requires the transfer of the county Cavan population that is in the Sligo-Leitrim constituency to the area. The Commission recommends that the 13,150 county Cavan population, in 36 electoral divisions, be transferred to Cavan-Monaghan from Sligo-Leitrim. This accords with the many submissions that unanimously advocated that all of county Cavan be placed within the Cavan-Monaghan constituency.

Other considerations of the Commission

Before settling on its final recommendations for constituencies the Commission examined and considered a number of options for alterations to constituencies in this area.

One was the proposal in some submissions to use the River Boyne as a constituency boundary within county Meath. This is not feasible having regard to the geography of the county, in particular the location of the towns of Navan and Trim both of which are divided by the river.

The Commission considered proposals in a number of submissions for the transfer out of the Louth constituency of the two county Meath electoral divisions contained in that constituency. Having regard to the very good variance in the existing Louth constituency and to the general proximity of those electoral divisions to Drogheda the Commission decided to recommend no change to the Louth constituency.

Another option considered was to transfer about 6,000 population in eighteen electoral divisions from county Longford to Cavan-Monaghan to give that constituency enough population to form a 5 seat constituency. This would also require the transfer of county Westmeath population of over 8,600 in nineteen electoral divisions from Meath West to Longford-Westmeath. This arrangement would restore the breach of the Westmeath county boundary but it would introduce a new breach of the Longford county boundary. Consequential transfers between Meath East and Meath West would be required to achieve acceptable variances in both these constituencies. Overall this arrangement was not acceptable to the Commission. The Commission decided to recommend no change to the Longford-Westmeath and Meath West constituencies.

Noting that the combined population of the constituencies of Longford-Westmeath, Meath West and Meath East at 302,647 is equivalent to an allocation of 10 seats in a 160 member Dáil the Commission considered making a recommendation to divide this area into two 5 seat constituencies. This would involve transferring a large part of Meath West to Longford-Westmeath and the joining together of the remainder of Meath West with Meath East. The Commission decided against making such a recommendation because of the extent of the county boundary breach and loss of continuity in relation to the arrangement of constituencies in the area.

Recommendations of the Commission

The Commission recommends that the constituencies of Longford-Westmeath, Louth and Meath West should remain unchanged.

The 124,412 population of the existing 4 seat Cavan-Monaghan constituency will increase to 137,562 when the thirty six county Cavan electoral divisions are transferred into it from Sligo-Leitrim. That population is equivalent to 4.6 seats in a 160 member Dáil. The Commission recommends that Cavan-Monaghan should become a 5 seat constituency and that population of 3,973, in seven electoral divisions, be transferred from Meath East to Cavan-Monaghan. This would bring the total population to 141,535, giving a variance of -4.89% in a 5 seat constituency.

The constituency of Meath East should otherwise remain as a 3 seat constituency.

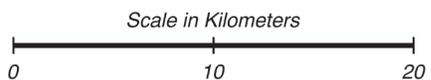
Statistics for the recommended constituencies of Cavan-Monaghan and Meath East are set out in the table below. The details of the population transfers are set out in Appendix 3. The recommended constituencies of Cavan-Monaghan, Longford-Westmeath, Louth, Meath East and Meath West are shown in the maps on the following pages.

Recommended Constituency	Number of TDs	2016 Population	Population per TD	Variance from National Average Population per TD in a 160 member Dáil	
				Number	%
Cavan-Monaghan	5	141,535	28,307	-1,455	-4.89%
Meath East	3	87,169	29,056	-706	-2.37%

MAP 3
 CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017
 LONGFORD-WESTMEATH CONSTITUENCY



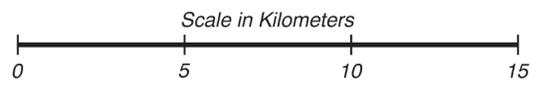
RECOMMENDED DÁIL
 CONSTITUENCY
 BOUNDARIES ———
 COUNTY BOUNDARIES - - - - -



MAP 4
 CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017
 LOUTH CONSTITUENCY

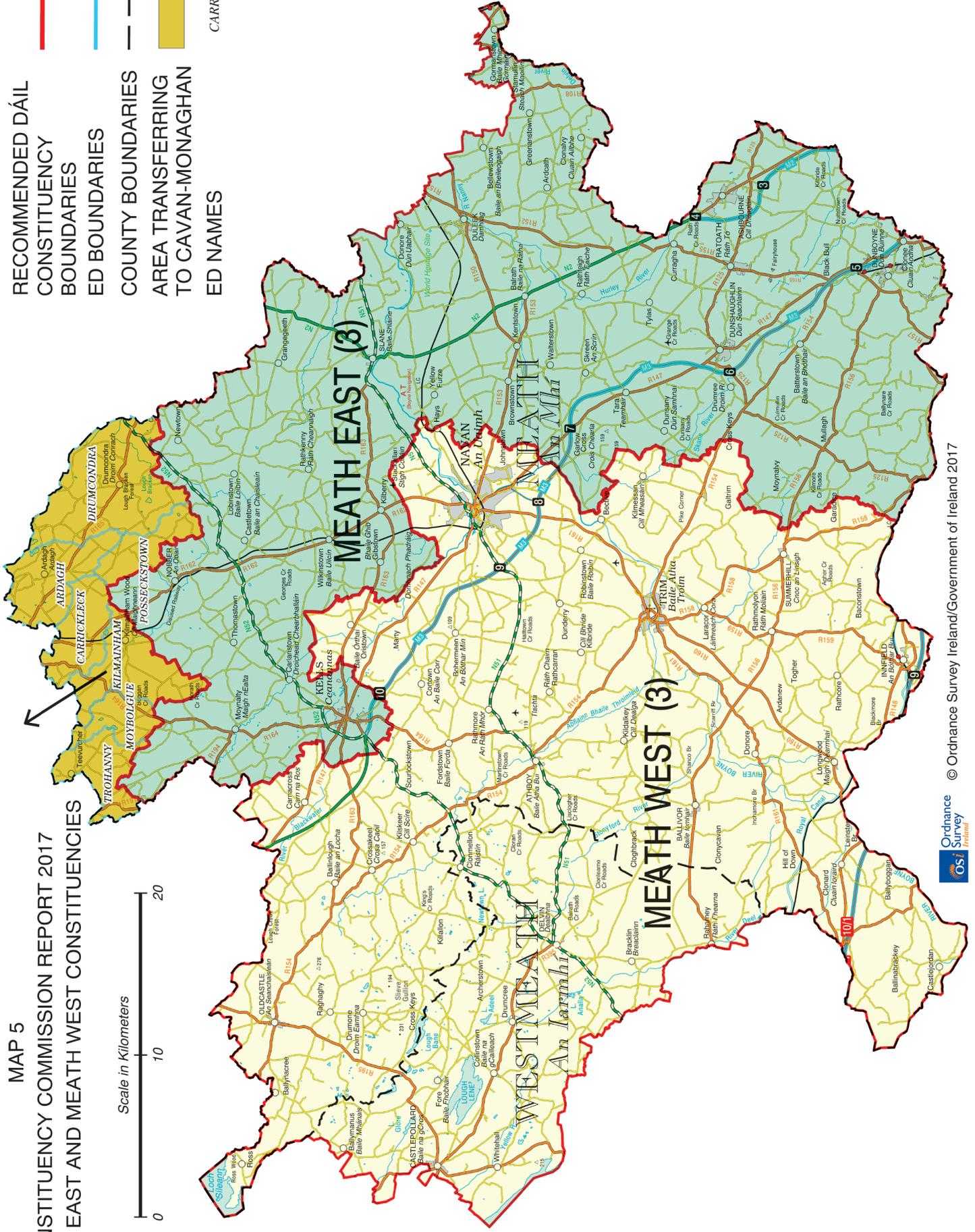
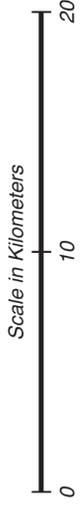


RECOMMENDED DÁIL
 CONSTITUENCY
 BOUNDARIES ———
 COUNTY BOUNDARIES



MAP 5
 CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017
 MEATH EAST AND MEATH WEST CONSTITUENCIES

- RECOMMENDED DÁIL CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES
- ED BOUNDARIES
- COUNTY BOUNDARIES
- AREA TRANSFERRING TO CAVAN-MONAGHAN ED NAMES
- CARRICKLECK



Recommended constituencies for Donegal-Galway-Leitrim-Mayo-Roscommon-Sligo

The population of these 6 counties, including Galway City, at 709,880, is equivalent to an allocation of 24 seats in a 160 member Dáil. As the constituencies in the area have, at present, an allocation of 24 seats no change in overall seat numbers is required. However as the Commission recommends that the county Cavan population that is in the Sligo-Leitrim constituency be transferred to Cavan-Monaghan alteration of the constituencies in the area is required to address the resulting high variance in the 4 seat Sligo-Leitrim constituency.

Considerations of the Commission

Before settling on its final recommendations for constituencies the Commission examined and considered a number of options for alterations to constituencies in this area.

To address the high variance, -10.9%, in the Sligo-Leitrim constituency following the transfer of county Cavan population to Cavan-Monaghan the Commission considered transferring Mayo population to Sligo-Leitrim. The Commission examined two options, each combined with the transfer to the county Mayo constituency of the county Mayo population that is in the existing Galway West constituency. One option was the transfer of population of over 8,400 in the Swinford Charlestown area, another was the transfer of population of over 14,800 in the Ballina area. The Commission decided against both, preferring the alternative of transferring population from county Roscommon to Sligo-Leitrim, as detailed below.

The Commission considered reducing the extent of the Donegal population that is in the Sligo-Leitrim constituency but decided against this as the variance in the existing Donegal constituency, at +1.24%, is very good and any reduction would create further imbalance in Sligo-Leitrim.

The Commission examined the feasibility of other proposals in the submissions received, including allowing the counties of Sligo and Leitrim to stand alone as a 3 seat or a 4 seat constituency. With a combined population of 97,579 neither of these options is feasible having regard in particular to the requirement for equality of representation as outlined in paragraph 3.1 of this report.

Noting that the combined population of the constituencies of Galway East, Galway West, Mayo and Roscommon-Galway, not including the part recommended below for transfer to Sligo-Leitrim, at 445,303 is equivalent to an allocation of 15 seats in a 160 member Dáil the Commission considered making a recommendation to divide this area into three 5 seat constituencies. This would involve transferring a large part of county Roscommon to Mayo and the joining together of the remainder of Roscommon-Galway with Galway East. The Commission decided against making such a recommendation because of the very large areas of a new 5 seat Mayo

constituency and a new 5 seat Galway-Roscommon constituency and because of the significant loss of continuity in relation to the arrangement of constituencies in the area.

Recommendations of the Commission

The Commission recommends the transfer of 7,806 population in county Roscommon from Roscommon-Galway to Sligo-Leitrim. This population is in eighteen electoral divisions in the north of the county around Boyle and west of Carrick-on-Shannon.

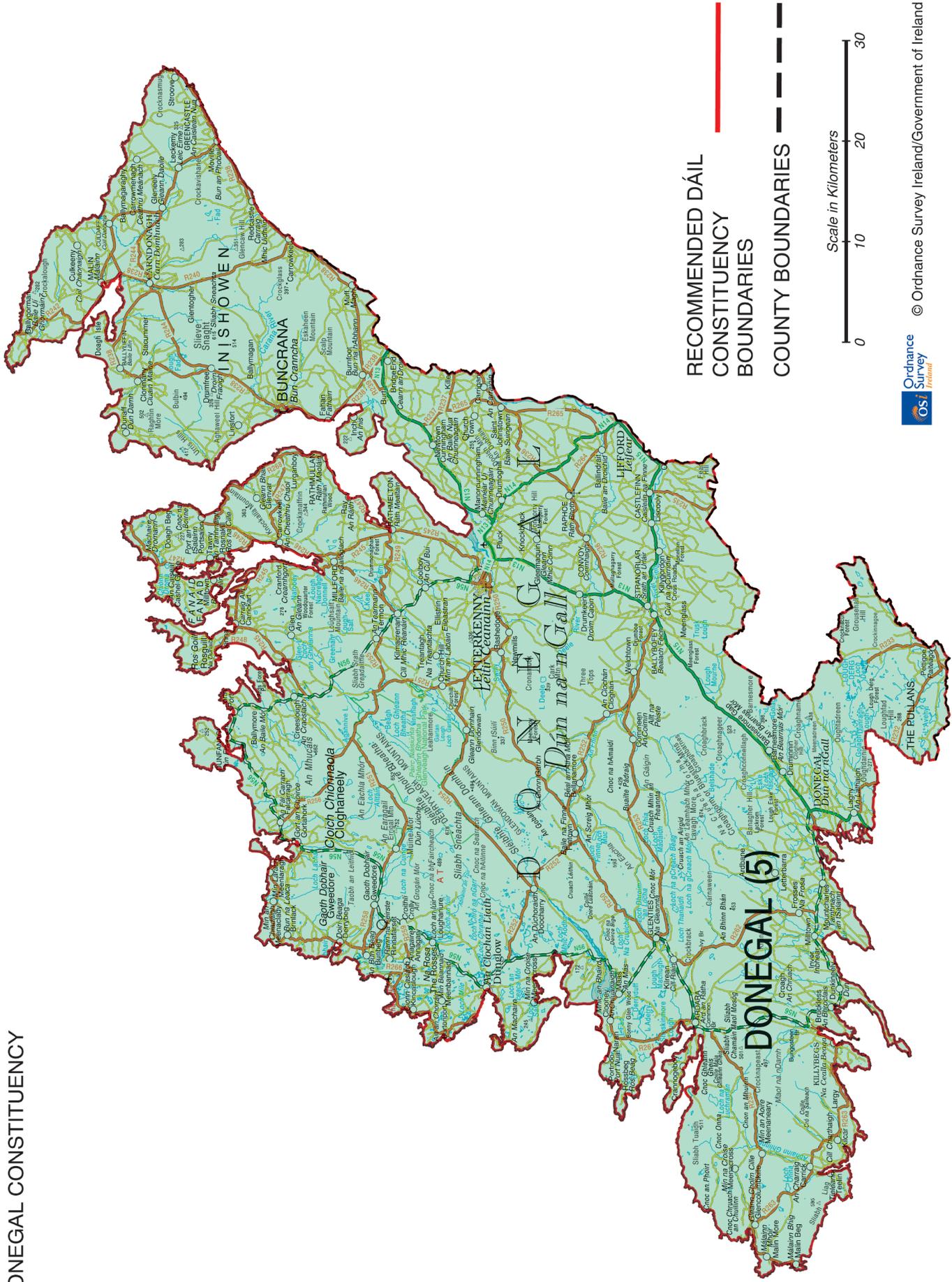
The Commission recommends the transfer of 8,650 population from Galway East to Roscommon-Galway and the transfer of 4,547 population from Galway West to Galway East.

The Commission recommends the transfer of 4,893 county Mayo population from Galway West to Mayo. This reduces in size the existing breach of the Mayo county boundary. It responds, in so far as is feasible having regard to the Commission's terms of reference, to the proposals in many submissions for the entire county of Mayo to be contained in one constituency.

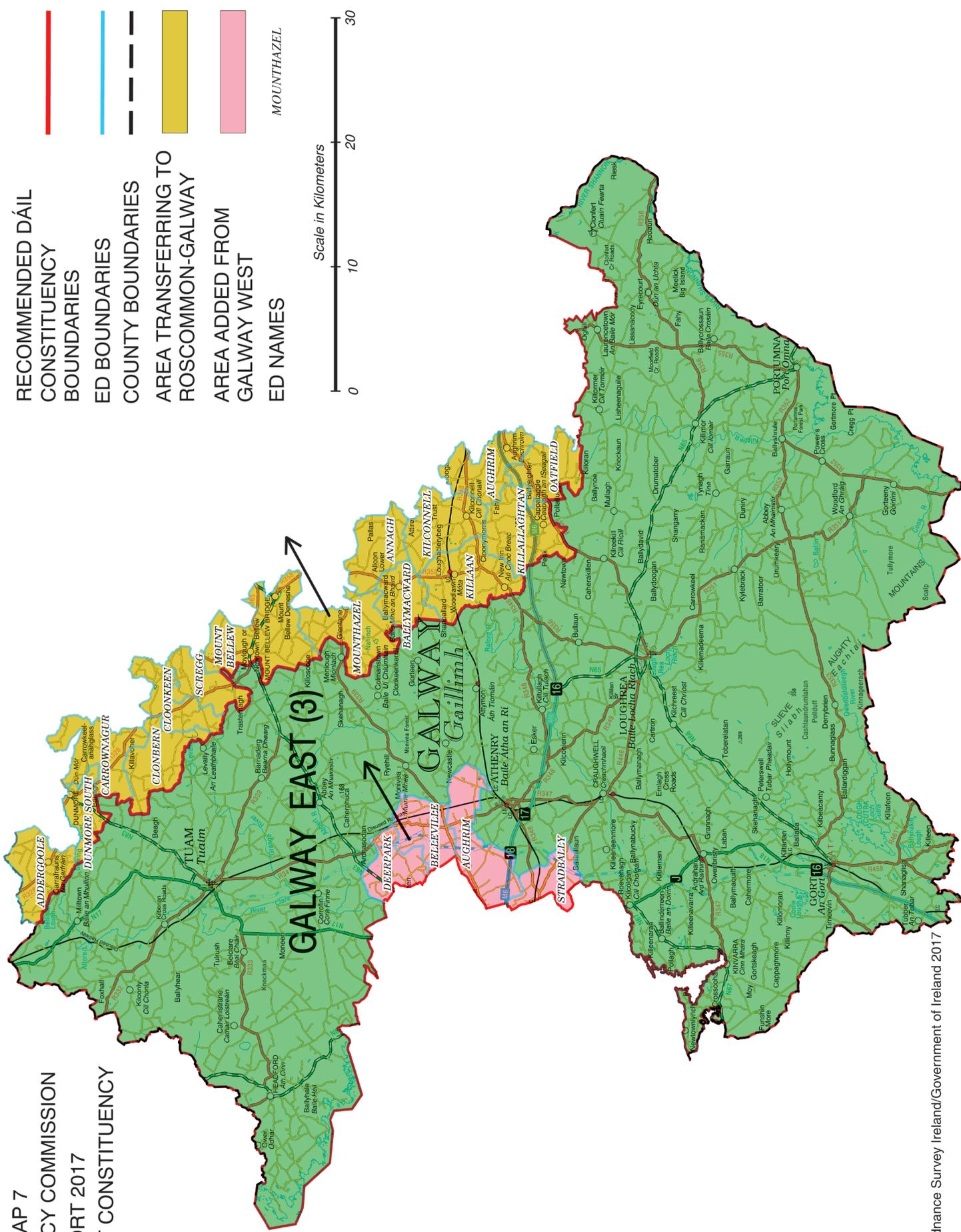
Statistics for the recommended constituencies of Galway East, Galway West, Mayo, Roscommon-Galway and Sligo-Leitrim are set out in the table below. The details of the population transfers are set out in Appendix 3. The recommended Donegal constituency and these constituencies are shown on the maps on the following pages.

Recommended Constituency	Number of TDs	2016 Population	Population per TD	Variance from National Average Population per TD in a 160 member Dáil	
				Number	%
Galway East	3	89,548	29,849	+87	+0.29%
Galway West	5	144,914	28,983	-779	-2.62%
Mayo	4	124,975	31,244	+1,482	+4.98%
Roscommon-Galway	3	85,866	28,622	-1,140	-3.83%
Sligo-Leitrim	4	113,920	28,480	-1,282	-4.31%

MAP 6
 CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017
 DONEGAL CONSTITUENCY



MAP 7
 CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION
 REPORT 2017
 GALWAY EAST CONSTITUENCY



RECOMMENDED DÁIL
 CONSTITUENCY
 BOUNDARIES

ED BOUNDARIES

COUNTY BOUNDARIES

AREA TRANSFERRING TO
 ROSCOMMON-GALWAY

AREA ADDED FROM
 GALWAY WEST

ED NAMES

MOUNTHAZEL

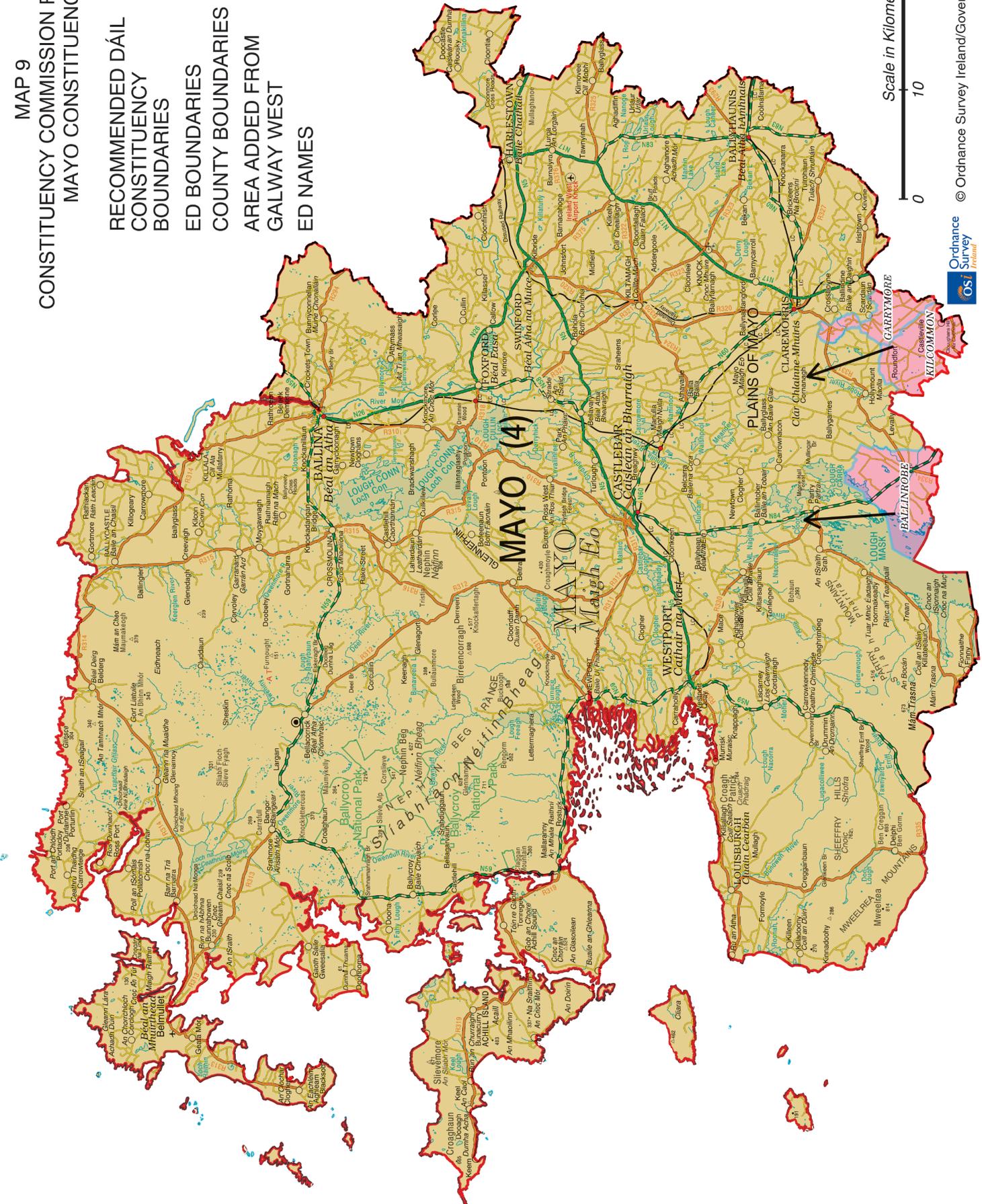
Scale in Kilometers

0 10 20 30

MAP 9
 CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017
 MAYO CONSTITUENCY

- RECOMMENDED DÁIL CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES
- ED BOUNDARIES
- COUNTY BOUNDARIES
- AREA ADDED FROM GALWAY WEST
- ED NAMES

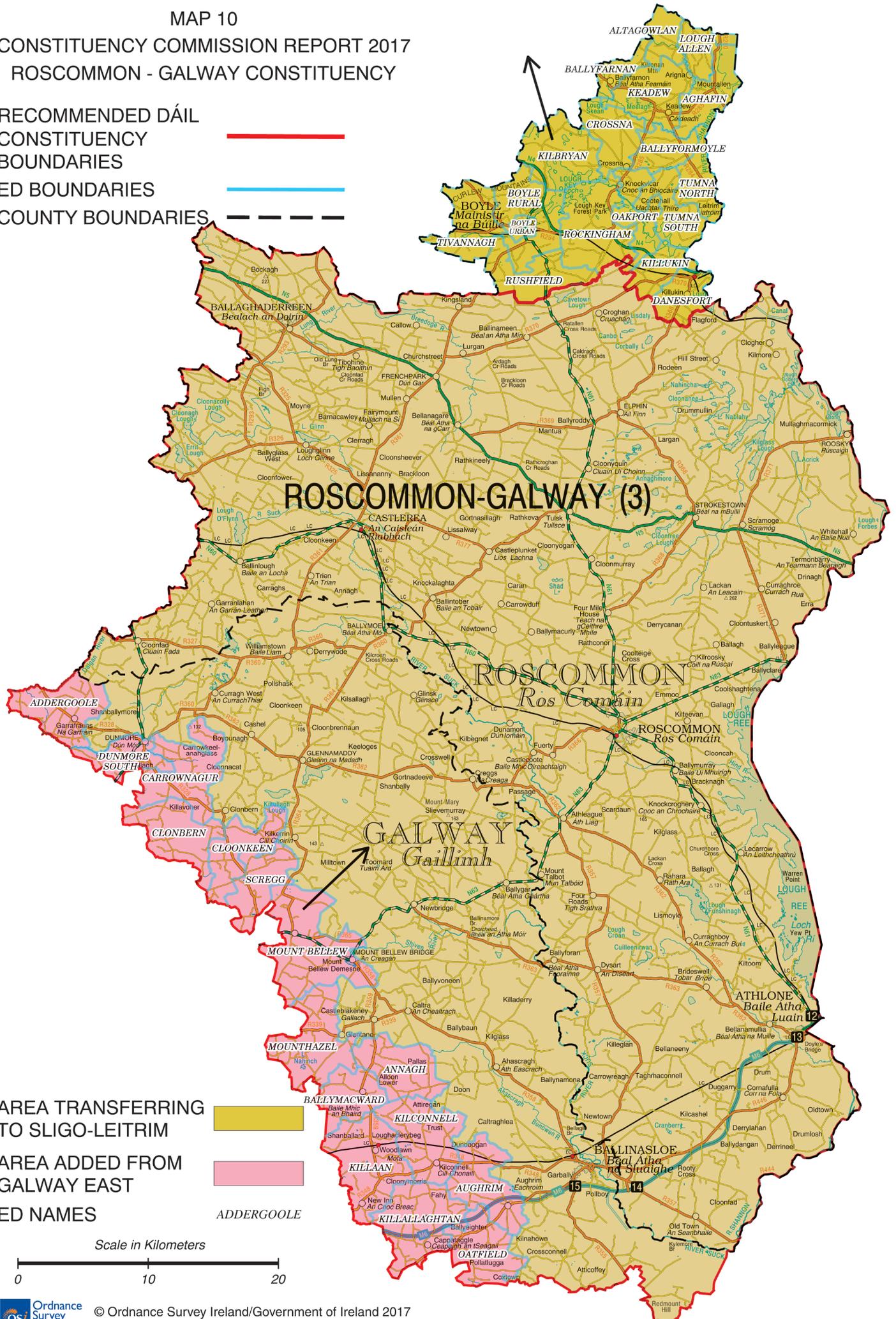
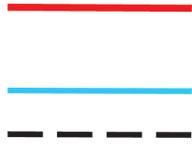
BALLINROBE



MAP 10

CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017
 ROSCOMMON - GALWAY CONSTITUENCY

RECOMMENDED DÁIL
 CONSTITUENCY
 BOUNDARIES
 ED BOUNDARIES
 COUNTY BOUNDARIES

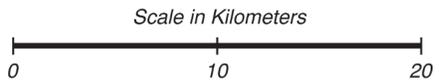


AREA TRANSFERRING
 TO SLIGO-LEITRIM

AREA ADDED FROM
 GALWAY EAST

ED NAMES

ADDERGOOLE



CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017
SLIGO-LEITRIM CONSTITUENCY

RECOMMENDED DÁIL
CONSTITUENCY
BOUNDARIES



ED BOUNDARIES



COUNTY BOUNDARIES



AREA TRANSFERRING
TO CAVAN-MONAGHAN



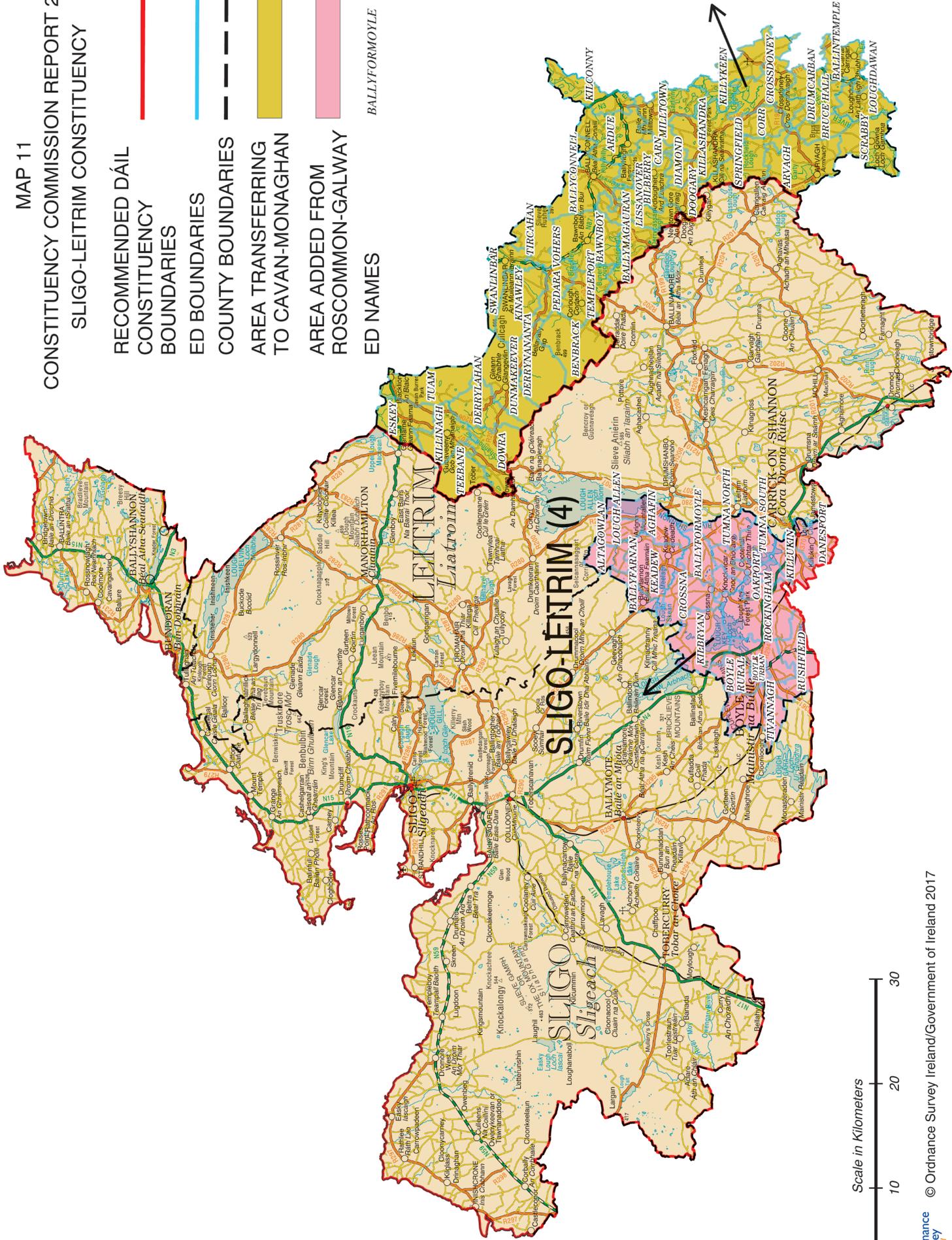
AREA ADDED FROM
ROSCOMMON-GALWAY



ED NAMES



BALLYFORMYLE



4.4 Clare-Limerick-Tipperary-Offaly-Laois-Kildare

The Commission first looked at these six counties as a whole, given that part of county Tipperary is in the Offaly constituency and part of county Kildare is in the Laois constituency.

At present these six counties form 8 constituencies for the election of 29 members of the Dáil.

The total population of the six counties is 858,431, equivalent to 29 seats in a 160 member Dáil. No change is needed therefore in the total number of seats to be allocated to the wider area. Data for the current arrangement of constituencies is set out in the table below.

Present position

Constituency	Number of TDs	2016 Population	Population per TD	Variance from National Average Population per TD in a 160 member Dáil	
				Number	%
Clare	4	112,823	28,206	-1,556	-5.23%
Limerick City	4	117,048	29,262	-500	-1.68%
Limerick County	3	83,845	27,948	-1,814	-6.10%
Tipperary	5	148,706	29,741	-21	-0.07%
Offaly	3	88,808	29,603	-159	-0.53%
Laois	3	92,589	30,863	+1,101	+3.70%
Kildare North	4	122,774	30,694	+932	+3.13%
Kildare South	3	91,838	30,613	+851	+2.86%
Total	29	858,431	29,601	-161	-0.54%

In two of the constituencies, Clare and Limerick County, the variance from the national average population per TD is greater than 5%. County boundaries are breached in Clare, Tipperary and Kildare. Limerick, Clare and Offaly had population growth of less than 2% between 2011 and 2016. The Tipperary population grew by 0.5%. The population of Laois grew by 5.1% and the population of Kildare by 5.8%. Having regard to these population changes and to the variances in the existing constituencies some alteration of constituency boundaries is necessary to meet the constitutional and statutory requirements for constituency formation.

Having regard in the first instance to the submissions received recommending that that part of county Tipperary that is in the Offaly constituency be transferred to the Tipperary constituency the Commission examined the constituencies in the area in two separate groups and makes recommendations accordingly.

Recommended constituencies for Clare-Limerick-Tipperary

The Commission recommends that the high variance in the Clare constituency be addressed by the transfer of the 5,994 Clare population in the electoral division of Ballyglass, that is in the Limerick City constituency, to the Clare constituency. This will restore the breach of the Clare county boundary.

The transfer to the Tipperary constituency of the 10,847 Tipperary population that is in the Offaly constituency is recommended. This will restore the breach of the Tipperary county boundary in that area and it will respond to the many submissions received recommending such a transfer. The transfer would result in the Tipperary constituency having a variance of +7.22%. While this would mean that the entire county of Tipperary would be contained in one constituency the high variance is not acceptable to the Commission. To address it a transfer of 4,375 Tipperary population to the Limerick City constituency is recommended. This will result in a new breach of the Tipperary county boundary, one that the Commission considers fits geographically given the close proximity to Limerick City of the three electoral divisions to be transferred.

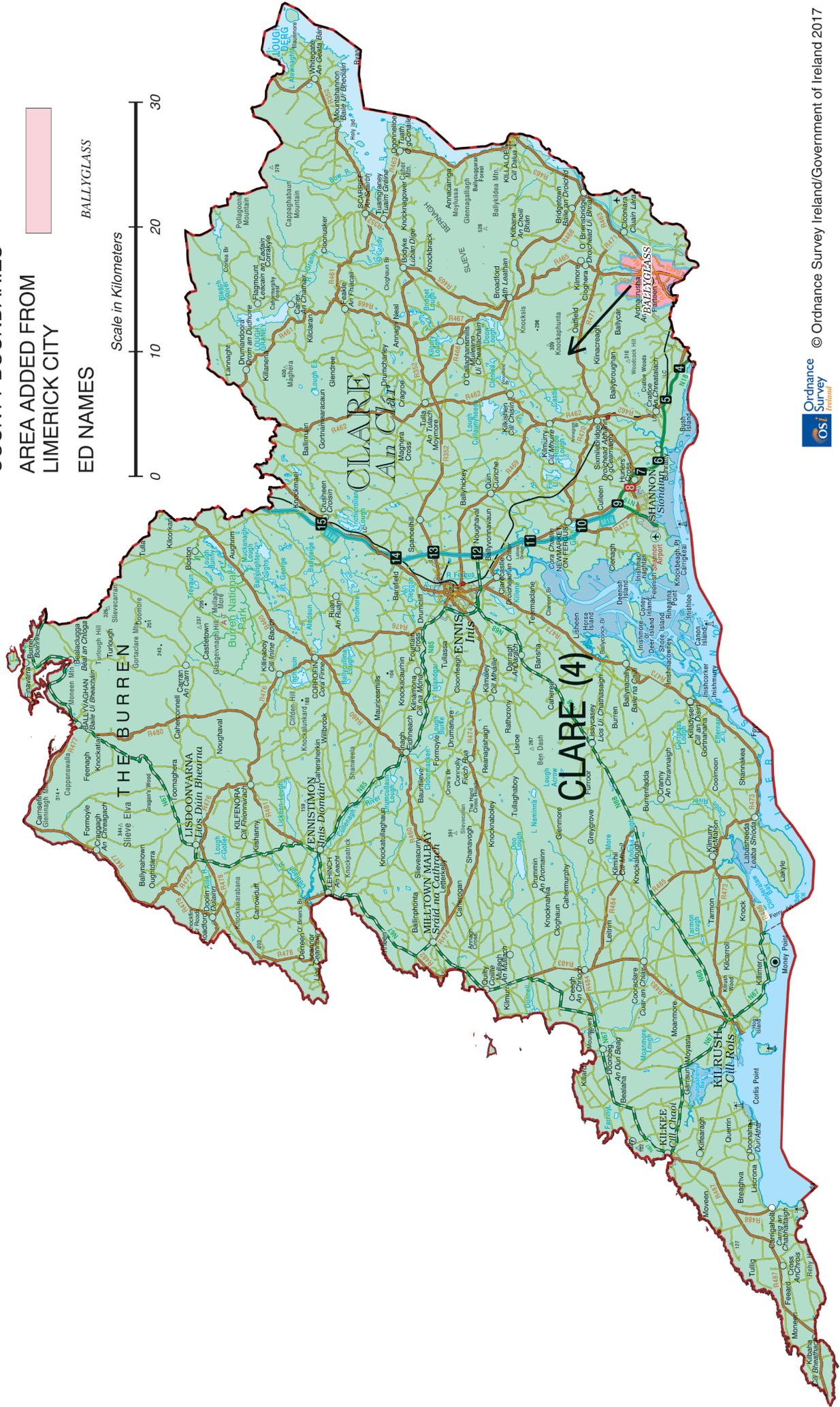
The transfer of population of 2,008 from the constituency of Limerick City to Limerick County is recommended to address the high variance in the Limerick County constituency and to better balance the variances between the two constituencies following the recommended changes to the Clare and Tipperary constituencies.

Statistics for the recommended constituencies of Clare, Limerick City, Limerick County and Tipperary are detailed in the table below. The constituencies are shown on the maps on the following pages. The details of the recommended population transfers are set out in Appendix 3.

Recommended Constituency	Number of TDs	2016 population	Population per TD	Variance from National Average Population per TD in a 160 member Dáil	
				Number	%
Clare	4	118,817	29,704	-58	-0.19%
Limerick City	4	113,421	28,355	-1,407	-4.73%
Limerick County	3	85,853	28,618	-1,144	-3.84%
Tipperary	5	155,178	31,036	+1,274	+4.28%

MAP 12
 CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017
 CLARE CONSTITUENCY

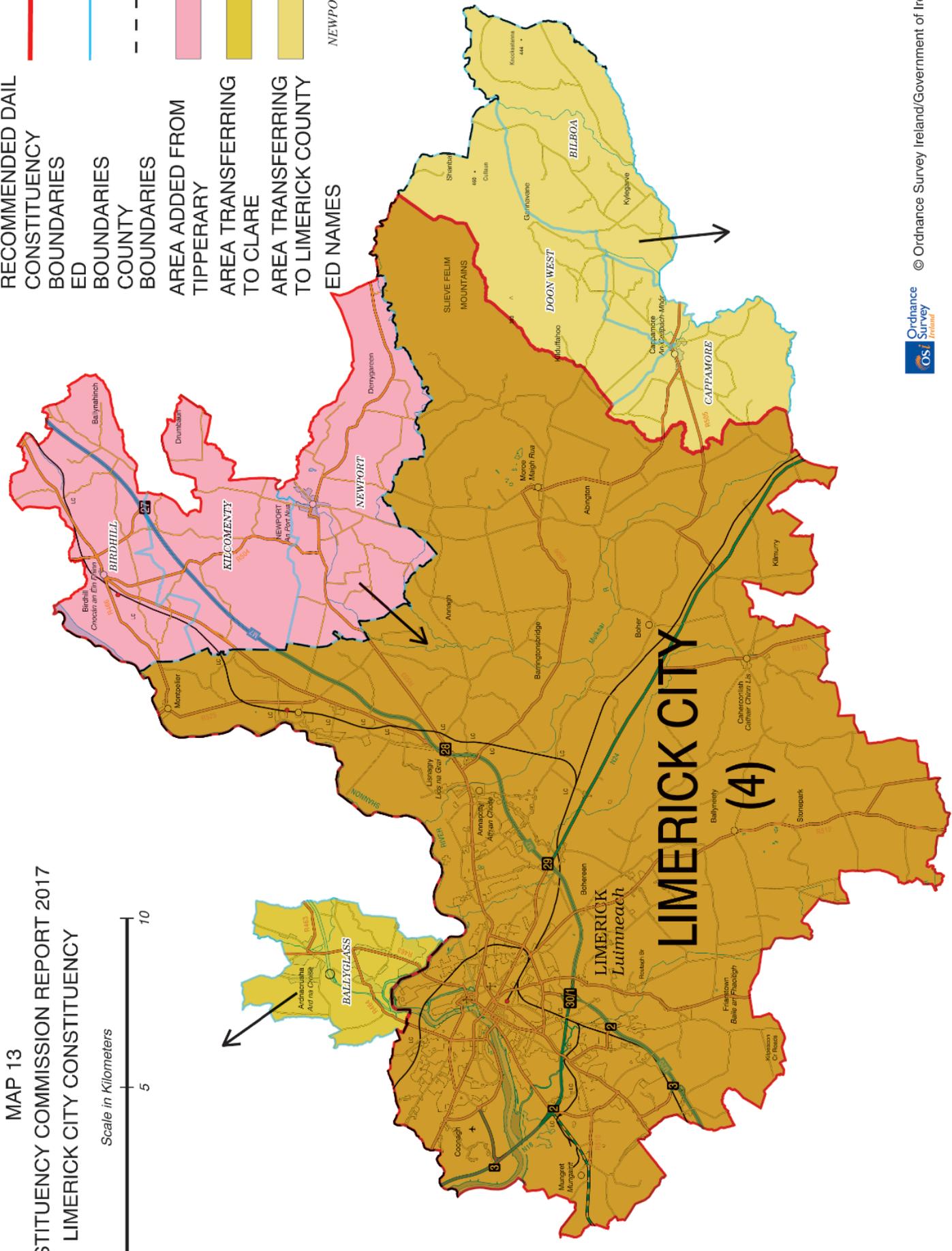
- RECOMMENDED DÁIL CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES
- ED BOUNDARIES
- COUNTY BOUNDARIES
- AREA ADDED FROM LIMERICK CITY
- ED NAMES



MAP 13
 CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017
 LIMERICK CITY CONSTITUENCY

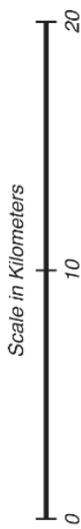
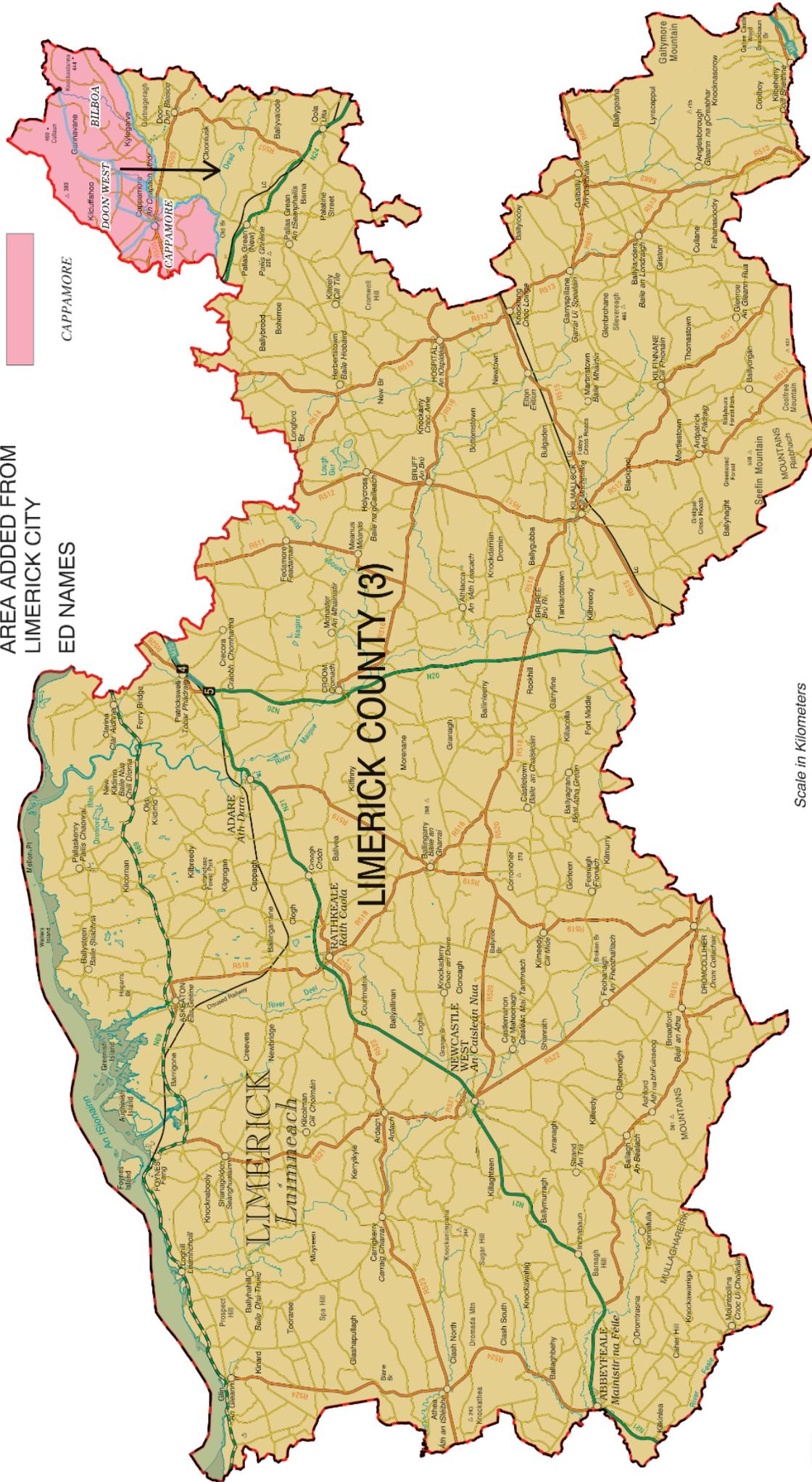
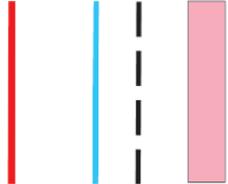


- RECOMMENDED DÁIL CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES
- BOUNDARIES ED
- BOUNDARIES COUNTY
- BOUNDARIES COUNTY
- AREA ADDED FROM TIPPERARY
- AREA TRANSFERRING TO CLARE
- AREA TRANSFERRING TO LIMERICK COUNTY
- ED NAMES



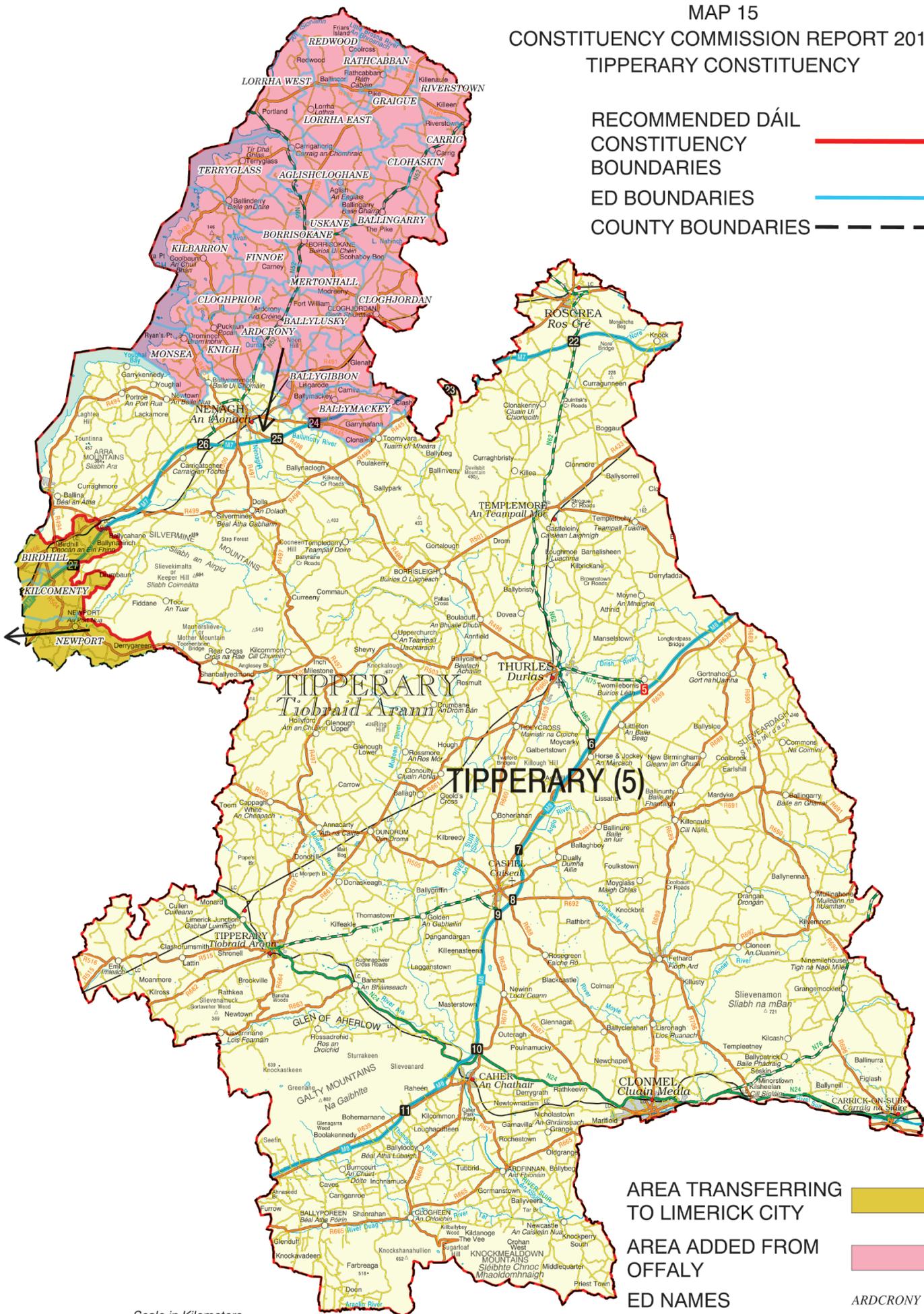
MAP 14
 CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION
 REPORT 2017
 LIMERICK COUNTY CONSTITUENCY

RECOMMENDED DÁIL
 CONSTITUENCY
 BOUNDARIES
 ED BOUNDARIES
 COUNTY BOUNDARIES
 AREA ADDED FROM
 LIMERICK CITY
 ED NAMES



MAP 15
 CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017
 TIPPERRARY CONSTITUENCY

RECOMMENDED DÁIL
 CONSTITUENCY
 BOUNDARIES ———
 ED BOUNDARIES ———
 COUNTY BOUNDARIES - - - - -



Scale in Kilometers



Recommended constituencies for Offaly-Laois-Kildare

Following the transfer of Tipperary population, recommended above, the 3 seat Offaly constituency, comprising the entire county of Offaly with a population of 77,961, would have a population per TD of 25,987 giving a variance of -12.68%. This is not acceptable to the Commission. While the Laois and Kildare constituencies have acceptable variances it is necessary to alter these to address the high variance in the Offaly constituency.

The Commission considered the proposals made in submissions for the alteration of constituencies in the area. These included proposals for alteration in Kildare North that would breach the boundary with Dublin, other proposals that would breach the boundary with Wicklow and a number of proposals for alteration of the boundary between Kildare North and South. While the recommendations of the Commission respond to some of the proposals, at least in part, generally the proposals were not acceptable to the Commission having regard to its terms of reference, in particular in relation to avoiding breaches of county boundaries and continuity.

The Commission recommends that the counties of Laois and Offaly should be joined to form a 5 seat constituency, an arrangement that was in place from 1923 to 2013. However as the total population of the two counties, at 162,658, is too great for a 5 seat constituency – it gives a variance of +9.3% – a transfer of 11,854 population to Kildare South is recommended, as detailed below.

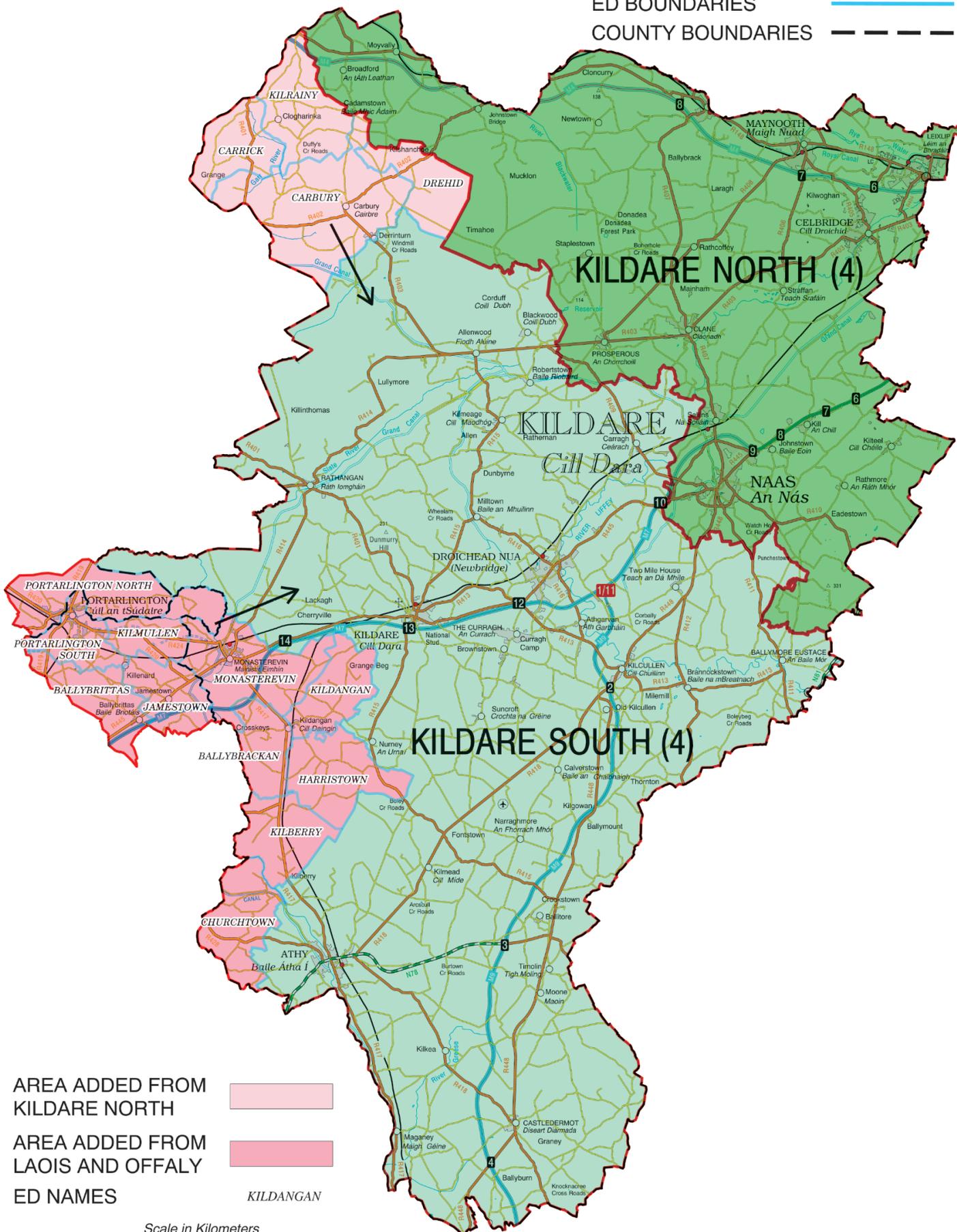
The Commission recommends that Kildare South become a 4 seat constituency and that population be transferred as follows into the constituency: the 7,892 county Kildare population that is in the existing Laois constituency; population in the Portarlington area, 9,450 from Laois and 2,404 from Offaly; and 3,226 population from Kildare North. These transfers will improve the balance of variances between the constituencies in the area and there will no longer be a breach of the Kildare county boundary.

The following table sets out the relevant statistics for the recommended constituencies of Kildare North, Kildare South and Laois-Offaly which are shown on the maps on the following pages. Details of the transfers are given in Appendix 3.

Recommended Constituency	Number of TDs	2016 Population	Population per TD	Variance from National Average Population per TD in a 160 member Dáil	
				Number	%
Kildare North	4	119,548	29,887	+125	+0.42%
Kildare South	4	114,810	28,703	-1,059	-3.56%
Laois-Offaly	5	150,804	30,161	+399	+1.34%

MAP 16
 CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017
 KILDARE NORTH AND KILDARE SOUTH CONSTITUENCIES

RECOMMENDED DÁIL
 CONSTITUENCY
 BOUNDARIES
 ED BOUNDARIES
 COUNTY BOUNDARIES

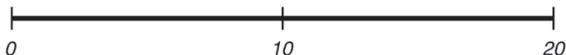


AREA ADDED FROM
 KILDARE NORTH

AREA ADDED FROM
 LAOIS AND OFFALY
 ED NAMES

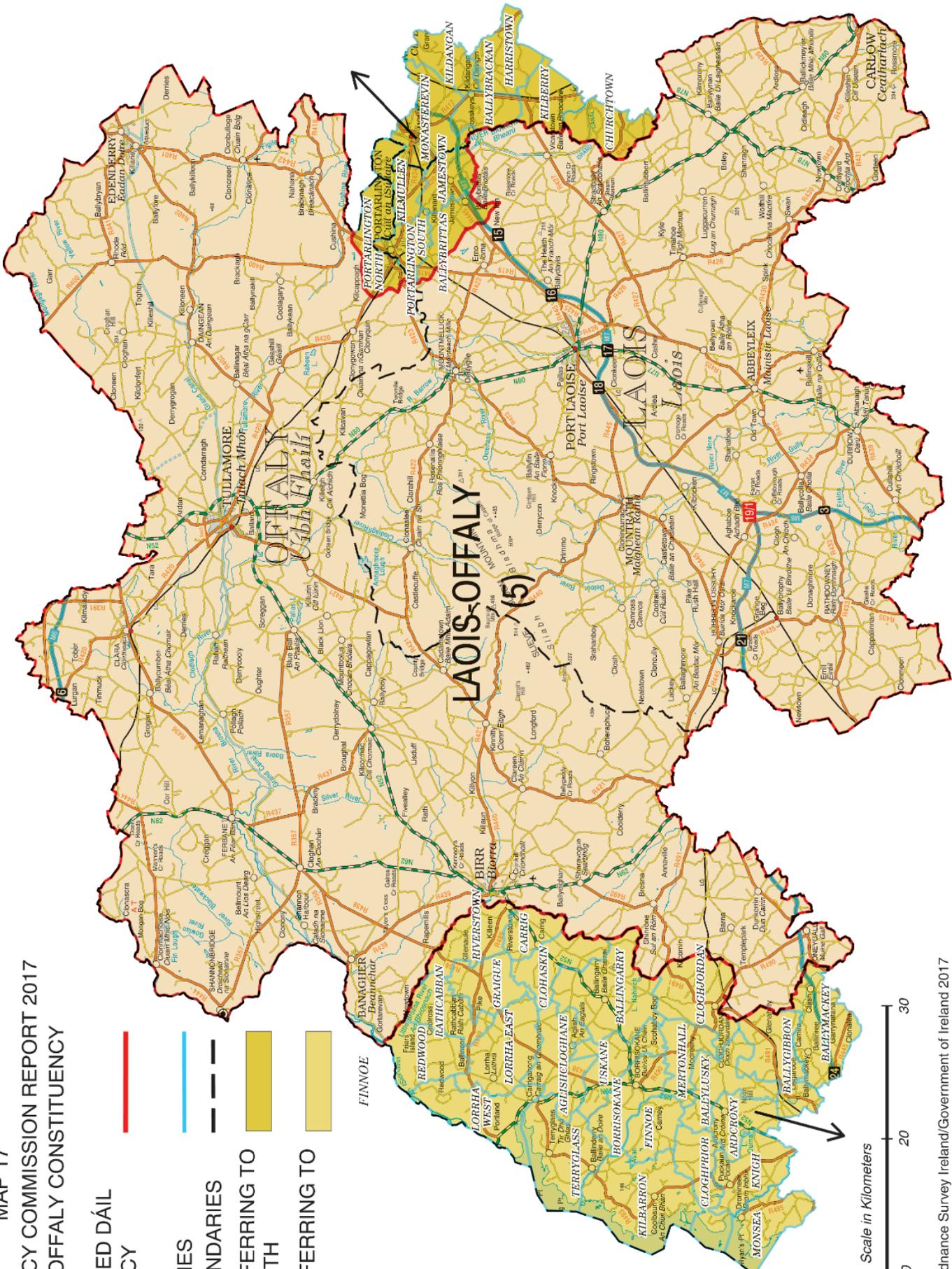
KILDANGAN

Scale in Kilometers



MAP 17
 CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017
 LAOIS-OFFALY CONSTITUENCY

- RECOMMENDED DÁIL CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES
- ED BOUNDARIES
- COUNTY BOUNDARIES
- AREA TRANSFERRING TO KILDARE SOUTH
- AREA TRANSFERRING TO TIPPERARY
- ED NAMES



4.5 Carlow-Kilkenny-Wicklow

Present position

Constituency	Number of TDs	2016 Population	Population per TD	Variance from National Average Population per TD in a 160 member Dáil	
				Number	%
Carlow-Kilkenny	5	151,663	30,333	+571	-1.92%
Wicklow	5	146,926	29,385	-377	-1.27%
Total	10	298,589	29,859	+97	+0.33%

These three counties, with a total population of 298,589, would be due 10 seats in a 160 member Dáil. No change is needed therefore in the allocation of seats to the area. The variances in both constituencies are very good so change is not needed to address equality of representation in the area.

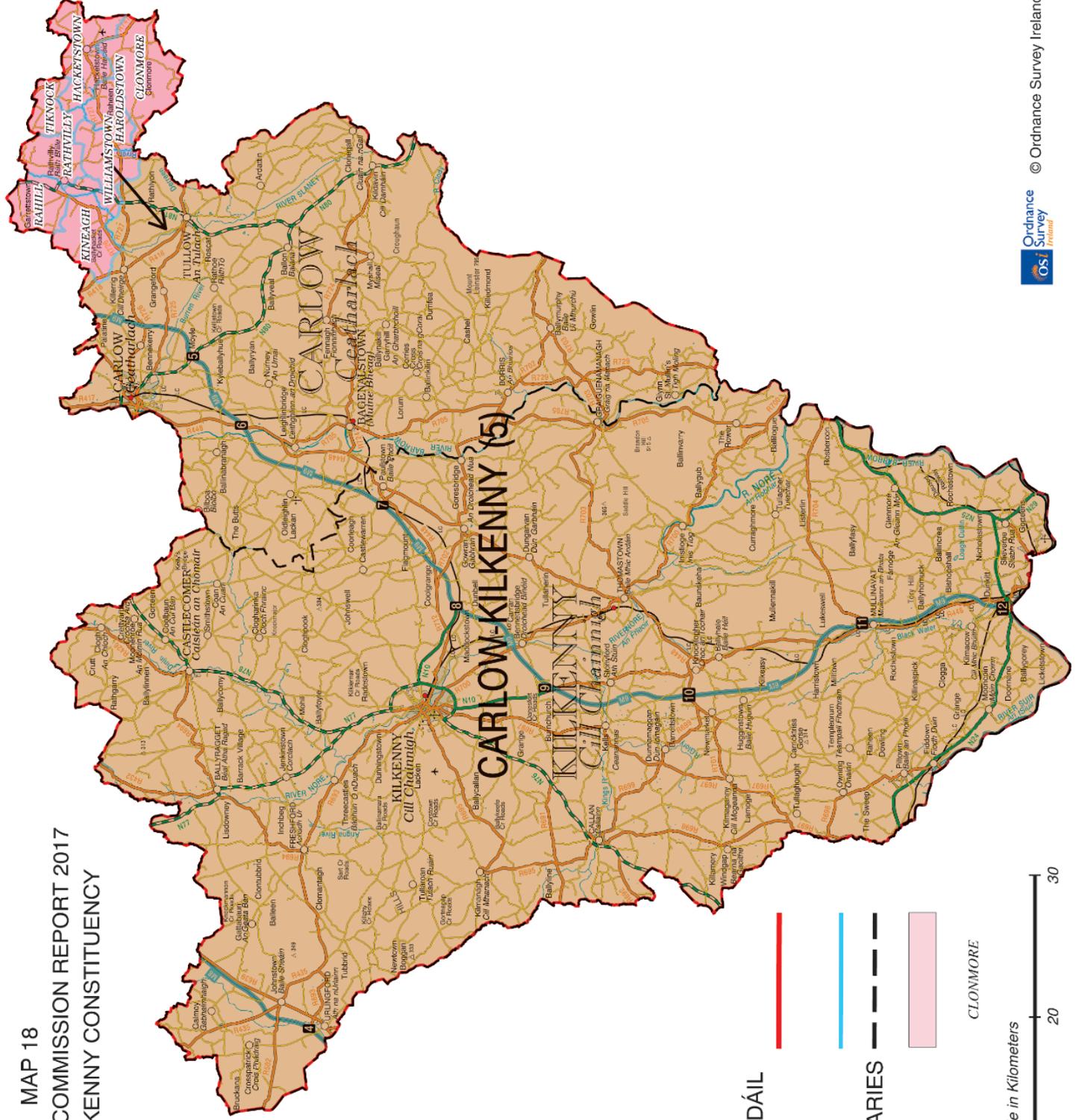
There is however a breach of the Carlow county boundary which has been in place since the revision of constituencies in 1995. This breach was the subject of a number of submissions to the Commission. In the majority of the submissions it was proposed that the county Carlow electoral divisions which are in the Wicklow constituency should be transferred to the Carlow-Kilkenny constituency. This would bring the entire county of Carlow within the one constituency.

The eight electoral divisions concerned have a total population of 4,501. While higher variances in both constituencies would result from the transfer of this population from Wicklow to Carlow-Kilkenny the variance in both from the national average population per TD would be less than 5%.

The Commission therefore recommends that that part of county Carlow that is in the Wicklow constituency should be transferred to the Carlow-Kilkenny constituency thereby restoring the breach of the Carlow county boundary. Details of the transfers are given in Appendix 3. The following table sets out the relevant statistics for the recommended constituencies of Carlow-Kilkenny and Wicklow which are shown on the maps on the following pages.

Recommended Constituency	Number of TDs	2016 Population	Population per TD	Variance from National Average Population per TD in a 160 member Dáil	
				Number	%
Carlow-Kilkenny	5	156,164	31,233	+1,471	+4.94%
Wicklow	5	142,425	28,485	-1,277	-4.29%

MAP 18
 CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017
 CARLOW-KILKENNY CONSTITUENCY



- RECOMMENDED DÁIL CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES
- ED BOUNDARIES
- COUNTY BOUNDARIES
- AREA ADDED FROM WICKLOW
- ED NAMES



MAP 19
 CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017
 WICKLOW CONSTITUENCY

RECOMMENDED DÁIL
 CONSTITUENCY
 BOUNDARIES 
 ED BOUNDARIES 
 COUNTY BOUNDARIES 



4.6 Kerry-Waterford-Wexford

Each of these constituencies comprises an entire county. They provide for very good equality of representation. No alteration is needed to any of the three constituencies consequent on changes in adjoining constituencies.

Very few submissions were received about these constituencies. One submission suggested that Kerry should form two 3 seat constituencies. This would not be feasible as the population of the county of Kerry is equivalent to an allocation of 5 seats in a 160 member Dáil.

Having regard to its terms of reference the Commission recommends no change to these constituencies. They are shown in Map 1 on page 9 and in the Ireland map in the pouch at the back of the report.

Present position – no change recommended

Recommended Constituency	Number of TDs	2016 Population	Population per TD	Variance from National Average Population per TD in a 160 member Dáil	
				Number	%
Kerry	5	147,707	29,541	-221	-0.74%
Waterford	4	116,176	29,044	-718	-2.41%
Wexford	5	149,722	29,944	+182	+0.61%

5 European Parliament constituencies

5.1 The Commission's terms of reference and role

This chapter contains the Commission's recommendations for the constituencies for the election of members to the European Parliament. As regards this part of its work, the Commission's terms of reference, set out in section 6 of the 1997 Act, require it to have regard to the following:

- the total number of members of the European Parliament to be elected in the State shall be such number as may be specified for the time being pursuant to the treaties governing the European Communities. (That number stands at 11 in accordance with the decision of the European Council of 28 June 2013 which at the time of conclusion of the Commission's work has not been revised in accordance with Article 4 of the decision);
- there shall be reasonable equality of representation as between constituencies;
- each constituency shall return 3, 4 or 5 members;
- the breaching of county boundaries shall be avoided as far as practicable; this is deemed not to include a reference to the boundary of a city or any boundary between any two of the counties of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin;
- each constituency shall be composed of contiguous areas;
- there shall be regard to geographic considerations including significant physical features and the extent of and the density of population in each constituency; and
- subject to the above provisions, the Commission shall endeavour to maintain continuity in relation to the arrangement of constituencies.

In the Statement issued in September 2016 (Appendix 5) the Commission noted that should the number of members to be elected change after the Commission presents its report the Minister can under Section 5(1A) of the Electoral Act 1997 establish a committee to make a report.

As with the Dáil constituencies, the Commission's role is advisory. The final determination of the constituencies for the European Parliament is a matter for the Oireachtas to prescribe in legislation.

5.2 Irish legislation

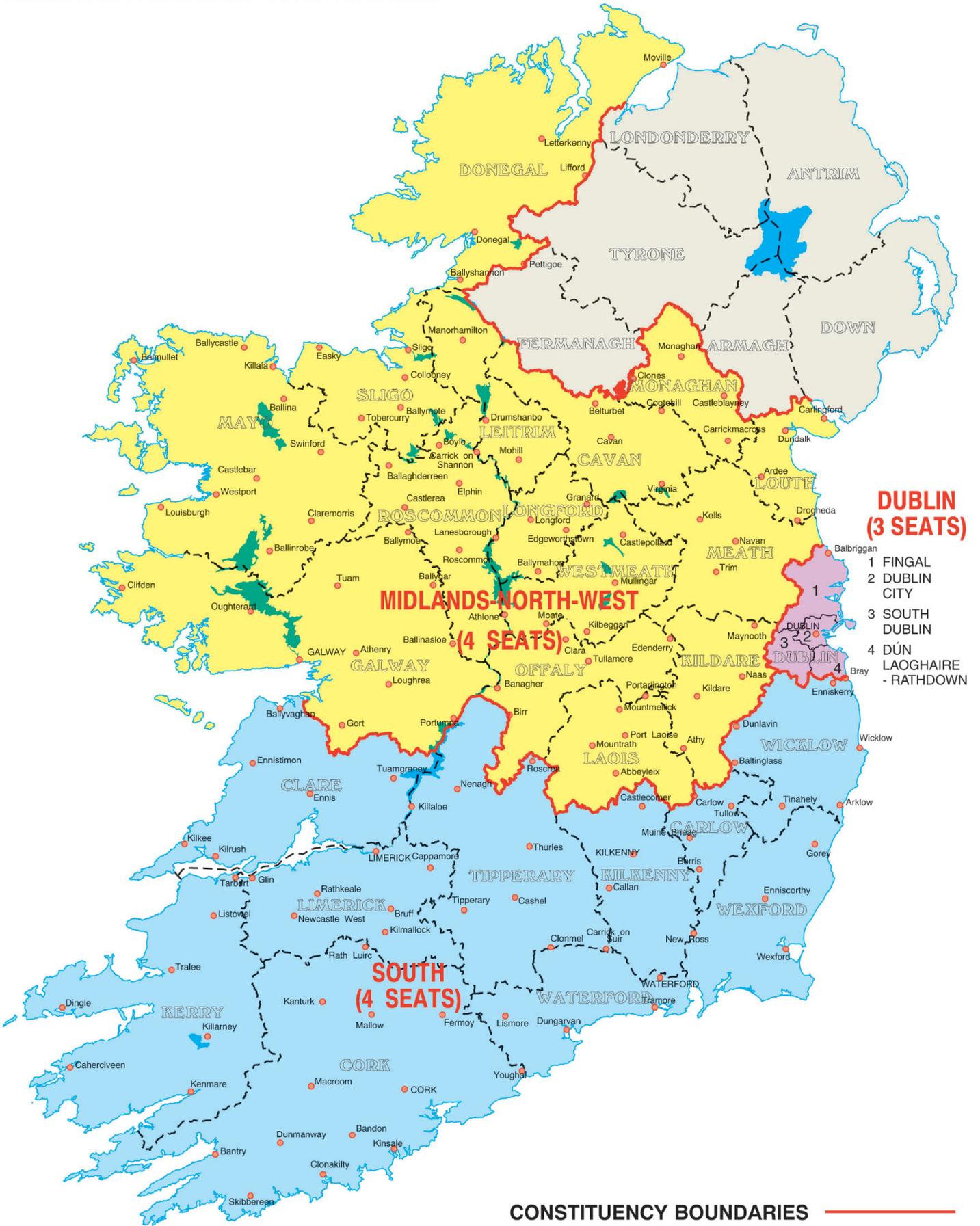
Elections in Ireland to the European Parliament are governed by the European Parliament Elections Acts 1992 to 2014 which provide for elections on the single transferable vote system in multi-member constituencies. Section 15(2) of the European Parliament Elections Act 1997 provides for the revision of constituencies as follows:-

“The Minister shall, having considered any report presented on statutory authority to each House of the Oireachtas recommending any alteration in the constituencies for which candidates shall be elected under this Act to be representatives in the Parliament, and not later than the first day of December, 2003 and at least once in every ten years thereafter, submit to the Oireachtas proposals for a review of the said constituencies.”

The existing European constituencies, as set out below, are specified in the Third Schedule to the European Parliament Elections Act 1997, as substituted by the European Parliament Elections (Amendment) Act 2014. They are shown in the map below.

Constituency	Area	Number of Members
Dublin	The counties of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin; and the city of Dublin.	3
Midlands-North-West	The counties of Cavan, Donegal, Galway, Kildare, Laois, Leitrim, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo and Westmeath; and the city of Galway.	4
South	The counties of Carlow, Clare, Cork, Kerry, Kilkenny, Limerick, North Tipperary, South Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford and Wicklow; and the cities of Cork, Limerick and Waterford.	4

MAP 20
CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CONSTITUENCIES



5.3 Submissions

Seven of the submissions received by the Commission, in response to its public notice inviting submissions, related to European Parliament constituencies. The organisations and persons who made submissions are listed in Appendix 6. The Commission examined and considered all of the submissions. Two of the submissions recommended no change. The proposals for change made in the other submissions were not feasible having regard to the Commission's terms of reference.

5.4 Equality of representation

The Commission's terms of reference require that there should be reasonable equality of representation as between constituencies. The degree of equality that can reasonably be achieved is limited by practical considerations, notably the small number of seats available for distribution (11) and the comparatively large blocks (primarily the counties) which are used for adjustment purposes. This is consistent with the criterion in the terms of reference to the effect that breaches of county boundaries shall be avoided as far as practicable.

This Commission noted that in the recommendations of previous Commissions, European Parliament constituencies have involved a range of variances from the national average population per member, as set out in the table below.

Year of Review	Variance from National Average	
	Highest	Lowest
1977	+8.44 %	-11.16 %
1993	+9.05 %	-11.12 %
1998	+9.44 %	-10.39%
2003	+10.33 %	-9.92 %
2007	+12.00 %	-6.20 %
2012	+10.99 %	-5.87 %
2013	+1.74 %	-1.88 %

5.5 Recommendations for constituencies

Based on numerical equality of representation between constituencies, each of the 11 MEPs to be next elected should represent an average population of 432,897 based on the 2016 Census. Applying this national average to the existing constituencies the range of variance, as detailed in the table below, while greater than the range recommended in the Report on European Parliament Constituencies 2013, is considerably narrower than the ranges previously recommended by Commissions.

Recommended Constituency	Number of MEPs	2016 Population	Population per MEP	Variance from National Average Population per MEP	
Dublin	3	1,347,359	449,120	+16,223	+3.75%
Midlands-North-West	4	1,686,175	421,544	-11,353	-2.62%
South	4	1,728,331	432,083	-814	-0.19%
Total	11	4,761,865	432,897		

Having regard to these figures the Commission considered options for alteration of the existing constituencies. These included:

- no change to the 3 seat Dublin constituency with the rest of the country divided between a 4 seat East and a 4 seat West constituency;
- a 5 seat East constituency comprising Louth, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow, Wexford and Dublin with the rest of the country divided between a 3 seat North-West and a 3 seat South constituency;
- no change to the 3 seat Dublin constituency with the rest of the country divided between a 3 seat East constituency and a 5 seat West constituency.

Having considered these options, and the submissions made to it, the Commission recommends that the arrangement most in keeping with its terms of reference and in particular providing continuity would be that of maintenance of the existing arrangement of constituencies for the election of members to the European Parliament.

ROBERT HAUGHTON, Chairman
 PETER FINNEGAN
 MARTIN GROVES
 PETER TYNDALL
 JOHN MCCARTHY

Ríona Ní Fhlanghaile, Secretary to the Commission
 June 2017

APPENDICES

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: Specification of recommended Dáil constituencies
- Appendix 2: Statistics relating to recommended Dáil constituencies
- Appendix 3: Electoral divisions recommended for transfer between Dáil constituencies
- Appendix 4: Public Notice issued by the Commission/Fógra Poiblí an Choimisiúin
- Appendix 5: Commission Statement/Ráiteas an Choimisiúin
- Appendix 6: Organisations and persons who made submissions
- Appendix 7: Constituency size and total Dáil membership since 1923
- Appendix 8: 2016 Population of each County, City and City and County

APPENDIX 1

Specification of recommended Dáil constituencies

Existing Dáil constituencies are specified in the Electoral (Amendment)(Dáil Constituencies) Act 2013 (No. 7 of 2013)

Name of Proposed Constituency	Area	Number of Members
Carlow-Kilkenny	The county of Carlow and the county of Kilkenny.	Five
Cavan-Monaghan	The county of Cavan and the county of Monaghan; and, in the county of Meath, the electoral divisions of: Drumcondra, in the former <i>Rural District of Ardee No. 2</i> ; Ardagh, Carrickleck, Kilmainham, Moybolgue, Posseckstown and Trohanny in the former <i>Rural District of Kells</i> .	Five
Clare	The county of Clare.	Four
Cork East	In the county of Cork the electoral divisions of: Cobh Rural, Knockraha, in the former <i>Rural District of Cork</i> ; Aghern, Ballyhooly, Ballynoe, Castlecooke, Castle Hyde, Castlelyons, Castletownroche, Coole, Curraglass, Fermoy Rural, Glanworth East, Glanworth West, Gortnaskehy, Gortroe, Kilcor, Kilcummer, Killathy, Kilworth, Knockmourne, Leitrim, Rathcormack, in the former <i>Rural District of Fermoy</i> ; Ballyclogh, Buttevant, Caherduggan, Carrig, Clenor, Doneraile, Kilmaclenine, Mallow Rural, Monanimy, Shanballymore, Skahanagh, Wallstown, in the former <i>Rural District of Mallow</i> ; Ballintemple, Ballycottin, Ballyspillane, Carrigtohill, Castlemartyr, Clonmult, Cloyne, Corkbeg, Dangan, Dungourney, Garryvoe, Ightermurragh, Inch, Lisgoold, Midleton Rural, Mogeely, Rostellan, Templebodan, Templenacarriga, in the former <i>Rural District of Midleton</i> ; Ballyarthur, Derryvillane, Farahy, Kildorrery, Kilgullane, Kilphelan, Marshalstown, Mitchelstown, Templemolaga, in the former <i>Rural District of Mitchelstown No. 1</i> ; Ardagh, Clonpriest, Kilcronat, Killeagh, Kilmacdonagh, Youghal Rural, in the former <i>Rural District of Youghal No. 1</i> ; and Cobh Urban, Fermoy Urban, Mallow North Urban, Mallow South Urban, Midleton Urban and Youghal Urban.	Four

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Name of Proposed Constituency	Area	Number of Members
Cork North-Central	<p>In the city of Cork the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Bishopstown A, Bishopstown B, Bishopstown C, Blackpool A, Blackpool B, Centre A, Centre B, Churchfield, Commons, Fair Hill A, Fair Hill B, Fair Hill C, Farranferris A, Farranferris B, Farranferris C, Gillabbey A, Gillabbey B, Gillabbey C, Glasheen A, Glasheen B, Gurranebraher A, Gurranebraher B, Gurranebraher C, Gurranebraher D, Gurranebraher E, Knocknaheeny, Mardyke, Mayfield, Montenotte A, Montenotte B, St. Patrick's A, St. Patrick's B, St. Patrick's C, Shanakiel, Shandon A, Shandon B, Sunday's Well A, Sunday's Well B, The Glen A, The Glen B, Tivoli A, Tivoli B;</p> <p>and, in the county of Cork, the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Ballynaglogh, Blackpool, Blarney, Caherlag, Carrignavar, Carrigrohane Beg, Dripsey, Firmount, Glenville, Greenfort, Killeagh, Knockantota, Matehy, Rathcooney, Riverstown, St. Mary's, Whitechurch, and the townland of Inchigaggin in the electoral division of Bishopstown (part), in the former <i>Rural District of Cork</i>;</p> <p>Carrig, Kildinan, Watergrasshill, in the former <i>Rural District of Fermoy</i>;</p> <p>Gowlane, in the former <i>Rural District of Macroom</i>;</p> <p>Ballynamona, Rahan, in the former <i>Rural District of Mallow</i>.</p>	Four
Cork North-West	<p>In the county of Cork the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Ballygroman, Ballymurphy, Bengour, Brinny, Kilbonane, Knockavilly, Moviddy, Murragh, Teadies, Templemartin, in the former <i>Rural District of Bandon</i>;</p> <p>Ballincollig, Ovens, in the former <i>Rural District of Cork</i></p> <p>Aultagh, Bealock, Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh, Carrigboy, Castletown, Coolmountain, Garrown, Kinneigh, Manch, Teerelton, in the former <i>Rural District of Dunmanway</i>;</p> <p>Allow, Ballyhoolahan, Banteer, Barleyhill, Barnacurra, Bawncross, Boherboy, Castlecour, Castlemagner, Clonfert East, Clonfert West, Clonmeen, Coolclogh, Dromina, Glenlara, Gortmore, Greenane, Kanturk, Kilbrin, Kilmeen, Knockatooan, Knocktemple, Meens, Milford, Nad, Newmarket, Newtown, Roskeen, Rosnalee, Rows, Tincoora, Tullylease, Williamstown, in the former <i>Rural District of Kanturk</i>;</p> <p>Aghinagh, AGLISH, An Sliabh Riabhach, Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh, Cannaway, Ceann Droma, Cill na Martra, Claonráth, Clondrohid, Clonmoyle, Doire Fhínín, Gort na Tiobratán, Greenville, Inchigeelagh, Kilberriherth, Kilcullen, Macloneigh, Magourney, Mashanaglass, Mountrivers, Na hUláin, Rahalisk, Warrenscourt, in the former <i>Rural District of Macroom</i>;</p> <p>Ardskeagh, Churchtown, Dromore, Imphrick, Kilshannig, Liscarroll, Milltown, Rathluirc, Springfort, Streamhill, Templemary, in the former <i>Rural District of Mallow</i>;</p> <p>Caherbarnagh, Coomlogane, Crinnaloo, Cullen, Derragh, Doonasleen, Drishane, Keale, Kilcorney, Knocknagree, Rathcool, Skagh, in the former <i>Rural District of Millstreet</i>;</p> <p>and Macroom Urban.</p>	Three

CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017

Name of Proposed Constituency	Area	Number of Members
Cork South-Central	<p>The city of Cork, except the part thereof which is comprised in the constituency of Cork North-Central;</p> <p>and, in the county of Cork, the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Ballygarvan, Carrigaline, Douglas, Iniskenny, Lehenagh, Monkstown Rural, Monkstown Urban, and the townland of Ballinaspig More in the electoral division of Bishopstown (part) in the former <i>Rural District of Cork</i>;</p> <p>Carrigaline, Kilpatrick, Liscleary, Templebreedy, in the former <i>Rural District of Kinsale</i>.</p>	Four
Cork South-West	<p>The county of Cork, except the parts thereof which are comprised in the constituencies of Cork East, Cork North-Central, Cork North-West and Cork South-Central.</p>	Three
Donegal	<p>The county of Donegal, except the part thereof which is comprised in the constituency of Sligo-Leitrim.</p>	Five
Dublin Bay North	<p>In the city of Dublin the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Ayrfield, Beaumont B, Beaumont C, Beaumont D, Beaumont E, Beaumont F, Clontarf East A, Clontarf East B, Clontarf East C, Clontarf East D, Clontarf East E, Clontarf West A, Clontarf West B, Clontarf West C, Clontarf West D, Clontarf West E, Edenmore, Grace Park, Grange A, Grange B, Grange C, Grange D, Grange E, Harmonstown A, Harmonstown B, Kilmore A, Kilmore B, Kilmore C, Kilmore D, Priorswood A, Priorswood B, Priorswood C, Priorswood D, Priorswood E, Raheny-Foxfield, Raheny-Greendale, Raheny-St. Assam;</p> <p>and, in the county of Fingal, the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Baldoyle, Howth, Sutton.</p>	Five
Dublin Bay South	<p>In the city of Dublin the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Kimmage C, Mansion House A, Mansion House B, Pembroke East A, Pembroke East B, Pembroke East C, Pembroke East D, Pembroke East E, Pembroke West A, Pembroke West B, Pembroke West C, Rathfarnham, Rathmines East A, Rathmines East B, Rathmines East C, Rathmines East D, Rathmines West A, Rathmines West B, Rathmines West C, Rathmines West D, Rathmines West E, Rathmines West F, Royal Exchange A, Royal Exchange B, St. Kevin's, South Dock, Terenure A, Terenure B, Terenure C, Terenure D, Wood Quay A, Wood Quay B.</p>	Four
Dublin Central	<p>In the city of Dublin the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Arran Quay A, Arran Quay B, Arran Quay C, Arran Quay D, Arran Quay E, Ballybough A, Ballybough B, Botanic A, Botanic B, Botanic C, Cabra East A, Cabra East B, Cabra East C, Cabra West A, Cabra West B, Cabra West C, Cabra West D, Drumcondra South A, Drumcondra South B, Drumcondra South C, Inns Quay A, Inns Quay B, Inns Quay C, Mountjoy A, Mountjoy B, North City, North Dock A, North Dock B, North Dock C, Rotunda A, Rotunda B.</p>	Four

CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017

Name of Proposed Constituency	Area	Number of Members
Dublin Fingal	<p>In the county of Fingal the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Balbriggan Rural, Balbriggan Urban, Balgriffin, Ballyboghil, Bascadden, Clonmethan, Donabate, Garristown, Hollywood, Holmpatrick, Kilsallaghan, Kinsaley, Lusk, Malahide East, Malahide West, Portmarnock North, Portmarnock South, Rush, Skerries, Swords-Forrest, Swords-Glasmore, Swords-Lissenhall, Swords-Seatown, Swords Village;</p> <p>and those parts of the electoral divisions of Airport, Dubber and Turnapin situated north of a line drawn along the Northern Cross Route (M50), passing in a clockwise direction around and excluding roundabout No. 3 at the junction of the Northern Cross Route (M50) with the M1 motorway.</p>	Five
Dublin Mid-West	<p>In the county of South Dublin the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Clondalkin-Cappaghmore, Clondalkin-Dunawley, Clondalkin-Moorfield, Clondalkin-Rowlagh, Clondalkin Village, Lucan-Esker, Lucan Heights, Lucan-St. Helens, Newcastle, Palmerston Village, Palmerston West, Rathcoole, Saggart;</p> <p>and that part of the electoral division of Clondalkin-Monastery situated west of a line drawn along the M50 Western Parkway.</p>	Four
Dublin North-West	<p>In the city of Dublin the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Ballygall A, Ballygall B, Ballygall C, Ballygall D, Ballymun A, Ballymun B, Ballymun C, Ballymun D, Ballymun E, Ballymun F, Beaumont A, Finglas North A, Finglas North B, Finglas North C, Finglas South A, Finglas South B, Finglas South C, Finglas South D, Whitehall A, Whitehall B, Whitehall C, Whitehall D;</p> <p>and, in the county of Fingal, those parts of the electoral divisions of Airport, Blanchardstown-Abbotstown, Dubber, The Ward and Turnapin situated south of a line drawn along the Northern Cross Route (M50), passing in a clockwise direction around and including roundabout No. 3 at the junction of the Northern Cross Route (M50) with the M1 Motorway.</p>	Three
Dublin Rathdown	<p>In the county of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Ballinteer-Broadford, Ballinteer-Ludford, Ballinteer-Marley, Ballinteer-Meadowbroads, Ballinteer-Meadowmount, Ballinteer-Woodpark, Churchtown-Castle, Churchtown-Landscape, Churchtown-Nutgrove, Churchtown-Orwell, Churchtown-Woodlawn, Clonskeagh-Belfield, Clonskeagh-Farranboley, Clonskeagh-Milltown, Clonskeagh-Roebuck, Clonskeagh-Windy Arbour, Dundrum-Balally, Dundrum-Kilmacud, Dundrum-Sandyford, Dundrum-Sweetmount, Dundrum-Taney, Stillorgan-Deerpark, Stillorgan-Kilmacud, Stillorgan-Merville, Stillorgan-Mount Merrion, Tibbradden;</p> <p>and the electoral division of Glencullen except for that part that is in the constituency of Dún Laoghaire.</p>	Three

CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017

Name of Proposed Constituency	Area	Number of Members
Dublin South-Central	<p>In the city of Dublin the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Carna, Chapelizod, Cherry-Orchard A, Cherry-Orchard C, Crumlin A, Crumlin B, Crumlin C, Crumlin D, Crumlin E, Crumlin F, Decies, Drumfinn, Inchicore A, Inchicore B, Kilmainham A, Kilmainham B, Kilmainham C, Kimmage A, Kimmage B, Kimmage D, Kimmage E, Kylemore, Merchants Quay A, Merchants Quay B, Merchants Quay C, Merchants Quay D, Merchants Quay E, Merchants Quay F, Ushers A, Ushers B, Ushers C, Ushers D, Ushers E, Ushers F, Walkinstown A, Walkinstown B, Walkinstown C;</p> <p>and that part of the electoral division of Phoenix Park situated south of a line drawn along Chapelizod Road, Conyngham Road and Parkgate Street;</p> <p>and, in the county of South Dublin, the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Templeogue-Kimmage Manor, Terenure-Cherryfield, Terenure-Greentrees;</p> <p>and those parts of the electoral divisions of Clondalkin-Ballymount, Clondalkin-Monastery and Tallaght-Kilnamanagh situated east of a line drawn along the M50 Western Parkway.</p>	Four
Dublin South-West	<p>In the county of South Dublin the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Ballinascorney, Ballyboden, Bohernabreena, Edmondstown, Firhouse-Ballycullen, Firhouse-Knocklyon, Firhouse Village, Rathfarnham-Ballyroan, Rathfarnham-Butterfield, Rathfarnham-Hermitage, Rathfarnham-St. Enda's, Rathfarnham Village, Tallaght-Avonbeg, Tallaght-Belgard, Tallaght-Fettercairn, Tallaght-Glenview, Tallaght-Jobstown, Tallaght-Killinardan, Tallaght-Kiltipper, Tallaght-Kingswood, Tallaght-Millbrook, Tallaght-Oldbawn, Tallaght-Springfield, Tallaght-Tymon, Templeogue-Cypress, Templeogue-Limekiln, Templeogue-Orwell, Templeogue-Osprey, Templeogue Village, Terenure-St. James;</p> <p>and those parts of the electoral divisions of Clondalkin-Ballymount and Tallaght-Kilnamanagh situated west of a line drawn along the M50 Western Parkway.</p>	Five
Dublin West	<p>In the county of Fingal the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Blanchardstown-Blakestown, Blanchardstown-Coolmine, Blanchardstown-Corduff, Blanchardstown-Delwood, Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart, Blanchardstown-Roselawn, Blanchardstown-Tyrrelstown, Castleknock-Knockmaroon, Castleknock-Park, Lucan North;</p> <p>and those parts of the electoral divisions of Blanchardstown-Abbotstown, and The Ward situated north of a line drawn along the Northern Cross Route (M50);</p> <p>and in the city of Dublin the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Ashtown A, Ashtown B;</p> <p>and that part of the electoral division of Phoenix Park situated north of a line drawn along Chapelizod Road, Conyngham Road and Parkgate Street.</p>	Four

CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017

Name of Proposed Constituency	Area	Number of Members
Dún Laoghaire	<p>In the county of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Ballybrack, Blackrock-Boosterstown, Blackrock-Carysfort, Blackrock-Central, Blackrock-Glenomena, Blackrock-Monkstown, Blackrock-Newpark, Blackrock-Seapoint, Blackrock-Stradbroom, Blackrock-Templehill, Blackrock-Williamstown, Cabinteely-Granitefield, Cabinteely-Kilbogget, Cabinteely-Loughlinstown, Cabinteely-Pottery, Dalkey-Avondale, Dalkey-Bullock, Dalkey-Coliemore, Dalkey Hill, Dalkey Upper, Dún Laoghaire-East Central, Dún Laoghaire-Glasthule, Dún Laoghaire-Glenageary, Dún Laoghaire-Monkstown Farm, Dún Laoghaire-Mount Town, Dún Laoghaire-Sallynoggin East, Dún Laoghaire-Sallynoggin South, Dún Laoghaire-Sallynoggin West, Dún Laoghaire-Salthill, Dún Laoghaire-Sandycove, Dún Laoghaire-West Central, Foxrock-Beechpark, Foxrock-Carrickmines, Foxrock-Deansgrange, Foxrock-Torquay, Killiney North, Killiney South, Shankill-Rathmichael, Shankill-Rathsallagh, Shankill-Shanganagh, Stillorgan-Leopardstown, Stillorgan-Priory;</p> <p>and that part of the electoral division of Glencullen that lies to the east of the M50 motorway and to the south of the N31 and the Leopardstown Road.</p>	Four
Galway East	<p>In the county of Galway the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Abbeygormacan, Clonfert, Killoran, Kilmacshane, Kiltormer, Laurencetown, in the former <i>Rural District of Ballinasloe No. 1</i>;</p> <p>Aughrim, Belleville, Deerpark, Stradbally in the former <i>Rural District of Galway</i>;</p> <p>Ardamullivan, Ardrahan, Ballycahalan, Beagh, Cahermore, Cappard, Castletaylor, Doorus, Drumacoo, Gort, Kilbeacanty, Killeely, Killeenavarra, Killinny, Kiltartan, Kiltomas, Kinvarra, Rahasane, Skehanagh, in the former <i>Rural District of Gort</i>;</p> <p>Aille, Athenry, Ballynagar, Bracklagh, Bullaun, Cappalus, Castleboy, Cloonkeen, Colmanstown, Craughwell, Derrylaur, Drumkeary, Graigabbey, Grange, Greethill, Kilchreest, Kilconickny, Kilconierin, Killimor, Killogilleen, Kilmeen, Kilreekill, Kiltesskill, Kiltullagh, Lackalea, Leitrim, Loughatorick, Loughrea Rural, Loughrea Urban, Marblehill, Mountain, Movode, Raford, Tiaquin, Woodford, in the former <i>Rural District of Loughrea</i>;</p> <p>Cooloo, Derryglassaun, in the former <i>Rural District of Mount Bellew</i>;</p> <p>Abbeyville, Ballyglass, Coos, Derrew, Drummin, Eyrecourt, Killimor, Kilmalinoge, Kilquain, Meelick, Moat, Pallas, Portumna, Tiranascragh, Tynagh, in the former <i>Rural District of Portumna</i>;</p> <p>Abbey East, Abbey West, Annaghdown, Ballinderry, Ballinduff, Ballynapark, Beaghmore, Belclare, Carrowevagh, Claretuam, Cummer, Donaghpatrick, Doonbally, Foxhall, Headford, Hillsbrook, Kilbennan, Kilcoona, Killeany, Killeen, Killierin, Killower, Killursa, Kilmoylan, Kilshanvy, Levally, Milltown, Monivea, Moyne, Ryehill, Tuam Rural, Tuam Urban, in the former <i>Rural District of Tuam</i>.</p>	Three

CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017

Name of Proposed Constituency	Area	Number of Members
Galway West	<p>The city of Galway;</p> <p>and in the county of Galway the electoral divisions of :</p> <p>Abhainn Ghabhla, An Cnoc Buí, An Uillinn, Ballynakill, Binn an Choire, Bunowen, Cleggan, Clifden, Cloch na Rón, Cushkilly, Derrycunlagh, Derrylea, Doonloughan, Errislannan, Inishbofin, Maíros, Rinvyle, Scainimh, Sillerna, in the former <i>Rural District of Clifden</i>;</p> <p>An Carn Mór, An Spidéal, Árainn, Baile Chláir, Baile an Teampaill, Ballynacourty, Bearna, Ceathrú an Bhrúnaigh, Cill Aithnín, Clarinbridge, Eanach Dhúin, Galway Rural (part), Kilcummin, Leacach Beag, Liscananaun, Lisín an Bhealaigh, Maigh Cuilinn, Na Forbacha, Oranmore, Sailearna, Sliabh an Aonaigh, Tulaigh Mhic Aodháin, in the former <i>Rural District of Galway</i>;</p> <p>An Chorr, An Cromptán, An Fhairche, An Ros, An Turlach, Camas, Cill Chuimín, Conga, Garmna, Leitir Breacáin, Leitir Móir, Letterfore, Oughterard, Wormhole, in the former <i>Rural District of Oughterard</i>;</p> <p>and in the county of Mayo the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Cong, Dalgan, Houndswood, Kilmaine, Neale, Shrule, in the former <i>Rural District of Ballinrobe</i>.</p>	Five
Kerry	The county of Kerry.	Five
Kildare North	<p>In the county of Kildare the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Balraheen, Celbridge, Cloncurry, Donadea, Donaghcumper, Kilcock, Leixlip, Maynooth, Straffan, in the former <i>Rural District of Celbridge No. 1</i>;</p> <p>Ballynadrumny, Cadamstown, Dunferth, in the former <i>Rural District of Edenderry No. 2</i>;</p> <p>Bodenstown, Clane, Downings, Kill, Killeel, Naas Rural, Newtown, Oughterard, Rathmore, Timahoe North, in the former <i>Rural District of Naas No. 1</i>;</p> <p>and Naas Urban.</p>	Four
Kildare South	<p>The county of Kildare, except the part thereof which is comprised in the constituency of Kildare North;</p> <p>and in the county of Laois, the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Ballybrittas, Jamestown, Kilmullen, Portarlinton South, in the former <i>Rural District of Mountmellick</i>;</p> <p>and in the county of Offaly, the electoral division of:</p> <p>Portarlinton North, in the former <i>Rural District of Tullamore</i>.</p>	Four
Laois-Offaly	<p>The county of Laois except those parts that are comprised within the constituency of Kildare South,</p> <p>and the county of Offaly except those parts that are comprised within the constituency of Kildare South.</p>	Five

CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017

Name of Proposed Constituency	Area	Number of Members
Limerick City	<p>In the City and County of Limerick the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Abbey A, Abbey B, Abbey C, Abbey D, Ballinacurra A, Ballinacurra B, Ballynanty, Castle A, Castle B, Castle C, Castle D, Coolraine, Custom House, Dock A, Dock B, Dock C, Dock D, Farranshone, Galvone A, Galvone B, Glentworth A, Glentworth B, Glentworth C, John's A, John's B, John's C, Kilkeely A, Kilkeely B, Market, Prospect A, Prospect B, Rathbane, Shannon A, Shannon B, Singland A, Singland B, St. Laurence, in the former <i>City of Limerick</i>;</p> <p>Abington, Ballybricken, Ballycummin, Ballysimon, Ballyvarra, Caherconlish East, Caherconlish West, Castleconnell, Clonkeen, Glenstal, Limerick North Rural, Limerick South Rural, Roxborough, in the former <i>Rural District of Limerick No. 1</i>;</p> <p>and in the county of Tipperary, the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Birdhill, Kilcomenty, Newport, in the former <i>Rural District of Nenagh</i>.</p>	Four
Limerick County	The City and County of Limerick, except the parts thereof which are comprised in the constituency of Limerick City.	Three
Longford-Westmeath	<p>The county of Longford;</p> <p>and, in the county of Westmeath, the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Athlone East Rural, Auburn, Ballybroder, Bellanalack, Carn, Castledaly, Glassan, Kilcumreragh, Killinure, Moate, Mount Temple, Moydrum, Muckanagh, Tubbrit, Umma, in the former <i>Rural District of Athlone No. 1</i>;</p> <p>Ardnagrah, Ballymore, Doonis, Drumraney, Noughaval, Piercetown, Templepatrick, Winetown, in the former <i>Rural District of Ballymore</i>;</p> <p>Boherquill, Coole, Coolure, Finnea, Glore, Knockarrow, Rathowen, Street, in the former <i>Rural District of Coole</i>;</p> <p>Ardnaglew, Ballinalack, Ballykilmore, Ballymorin, Ballynagore, Belvidere, Carrick, Castle, Castlelost, Castletown, Churchtown, Cloghan, Clonfad, Clonlost, Derrymore, Dysart, Emper, Enniscoffey, Gaybrook, Glenlough, Greenpark, Griffinstown, Heathstown, Hopestown, Huntingdon, Jamestown, Kilbeggan, Kilbixy, Killare, Killucan, Kinnegad, Knockdrin, Lackan, Lauree, Middleton, Milltown, Mullingar Rural, Mullingar North Urban, Mullingar South Urban, Multyfarnham, Newtown, Owel, Portloman, Raharney, Rahugh, Rathconrath, Russellstown, Skeagh, Sonna, Stonehall, Streamstown, Taghmon, Tullaghan, Woodland, in the former <i>Rural District of Mullingar</i>;</p> <p>and Athlone East Urban, Athlone West Urban.</p>	Four
Louth	<p>The county of Louth;</p> <p>and, in the county of Meath, the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Julianstown, St. Mary's (part), in the former <i>Rural District of Meath</i>.</p>	Five
Mayo	The county of Mayo, except the part thereof which is comprised in the constituency of Galway West.	Four

CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION REPORT 2017

Name of Proposed Constituency	Area	Number of Members
Meath East	<p>In the county of Meath the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Grangegeeth, Killary, in the former <i>Rural District of Ardee No. 2</i>;</p> <p>Culmullin, Donaghmore, Dunboyne, Dunshaughlin, Kilbrew, Killeen, Kilmore, Rathfeigh, Ratoath, Rodanstown, Skreen, in the former <i>Rural District of Dunshaughlin</i>;</p> <p>Ceanannas Mór Rural, Cruicetown, Maperath, Moynalty, Newcastle, Newtown, Nobber, Staholmog, in the former <i>Rural District of Kells</i>;</p> <p>Ardcath, Duleek, Mellifont, Stamullin, in the former <i>Rural District of Meath</i>;</p> <p>Ardmulchan, Castletown, Domhnach Phádraig, Kentstown, Painestown, Rathkenny, Slane, Stackallan, Tara, in the former <i>Rural District of Navan</i>;</p> <p>and Ceannanas Mór Urban.</p>	Three
Meath West	<p>The county of Meath, except the parts thereof which are comprised in the constituencies of Cavan-Monaghan, Louth and Meath East;</p> <p>and the county of Westmeath, except the part thereof which is comprised in the constituency of Longford-Westmeath.</p>	Three
Roscommon-Galway	<p>The county of Roscommon, except the part thereof which is comprised in the constituency of Sligo-Leitrim;</p> <p>and the county of Galway except the part thereof which is comprised in the constituencies of Galway East and Galway West.</p>	Three
Sligo-Leitrim	<p>The county of Sligo;</p> <p>and the county of Leitrim;</p> <p>and in the county of Donegal, the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Ballintra, Ballyshannon Rural, Ballyshannon Urban, Bundoran Rural, Carrickboy, Cavangarden, Cliff, in the former <i>Rural District of Ballyshannon</i>;</p> <p>Ballintra in the former <i>Rural District of Donegal</i>;</p> <p>and Bundoran Urban;</p> <p>and in the county of Roscommon, the electoral divisions of:</p> <p>Aghafin, Altagowlan, Ballyfarnan, Ballyformoye, Boyle Rural, Boyle Urban, Crossna, Danesfort, Keadew, Kilbryan, Killukin, Lough Allen, Oakport, Rockingham, Rushfield, Tivannagh, Tumna North, Tumna South, in the former <i>Rural District of Boyle No. 1</i>.</p>	Four
Tipperary	<p>The county of Tipperary except the part thereof which is comprised in the constituency of Limerick City.</p>	Five
Waterford	<p>The City and County of Waterford.</p>	Four
Wexford	<p>The county of Wexford.</p>	Five
Wicklow	<p>The county of Wicklow.</p>	Five

APPENDIX 2

Statistics relating to recommended Dáil constituencies

Recommended Constituency	Number of TDs	Population 2016	Population per TD	% variance from National Average Population per TD
Carlow-Kilkenny	5	156,164	31,233	+4.94
Cavan-Monaghan	5	141,535	28,307	-4.89
Clare	4	118,817	29,704	-0.19
Cork East	4	121,429	30,357	+2.00
Cork North-Central	4	124,836	31,209	+4.86
Cork North-West	3	89,080	29,693	-0.23
Cork South-Central	4	122,221	30,555	+2.66
Cork South-West	3	85,302	28,434	-4.46
Donegal	5	150,657	30,131	+1.24
Dublin Bay North	5	147,879	29,576	-0.62
Dublin Bay South	4	121,176	30,294	+1.79
Dublin Central	4	113,765	28,441	-4.44
Dublin Fingal	5	152,086	30,417	+2.20
Dublin Mid-West	4	117,976	29,494	-0.90
Dublin North-West	3	84,598	28,199	-5.25
Dublin Rathdown	3	92,937	30,979	+4.09
Dublin South-Central	4	119,469	29,867	+0.35
Dublin South-West	5	150,495	30,099	+1.13
Dublin West	4	121,897	30,474	+2.39
Dún Laoghaire	4	125,081	31,270	+5.07
Galway East	3	89,548	29,849	+0.29
Galway West	5	144,914	28,983	-2.62
Kerry	5	147,707	29,541	-0.74
Kildare North	4	119,548	29,887	+0.42
Kildare South	4	114,810	28,703	-3.56
Laois-Offaly	5	150,804	30,161	+1.34
Limerick City	4	113,421	28,355	-4.73
Limerick County	3	85,853	28,618	-3.84
Longford-Westmeath	4	120,962	30,241	+1.61
Louth	5	150,924	30,185	+1.42
Mayo	4	124,975	31,244	+4.98
Meath East	3	87,169	29,056	-2.37
Meath West	3	90,543	30,181	+1.41
Roscommon-Galway	3	85,866	28,622	-3.83
Sligo-Leitrim	4	113,920	28,480	-4.31
Tipperary	5	155,178	31,036	+4.28
Waterford	4	116,176	29,044	-2.41
Wexford	5	149,722	29,944	+0.61
Wicklow	5	142,425	28,485	-4.29
Total	160	4,761,865	29,762	

APPENDIX 3

Electoral divisions recommended for transfer between Dáil constituencies

1. Dublin

Electoral Division	2016 Population
Transfer in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County from Dublin Rathdown to Dún Laoghaire that part of the electoral division of Glencullen which lies to the east of the M50 motorway and to the south of the N31 and the Leopardstown Road	1,535
Total	1,535
Transfer in Dublin City from Dublin North-West to Dublin Central	
Botanic A	3,174
Botanic B	3,481
Botanic C	2,222
Drumcondra South C	3,517
Total	12,394
Transfer in Dublin City from Dublin Bay North to Dublin Central	
Drumcondra South A	5,064
Total	5,064

2. Cavan – Monaghan – Meath

Electoral Division	2016 Population
Transfer in County Cavan from Sligo-Leitrim to Cavan-Monaghan	
<i>Former Bawnboy Rural District:</i>	
Ballyconnell	1,553
Ballymagauran	245
Bawnboy	587
Benbrack	70
Bilberry	165
Carn	211
Diamond	130
Doogary	142
Kinawley	111
Lissanover	291
Pedara Vohers	148
Swanlinbar	375
Templeport	262
Tircahan	37
<i>Former Cavan Rural District:</i>	
Ardue	866
Arvagh	959
Ballintemple	434
Bruce Hall	212
Corr	267
Crossdoney	541
Drumcarban	612
Kilconny	546
Killashandra	1,153
Killykeen	602
Milltown	351
Springfield	165
<i>Former Enniskillen No. 2 Rural District:</i>	
Derrylahan	85
Derrynananta	38
Dowra	154
Dunmakeever	104
Eskey	319
Killinagh	114
Teebane	23
Tuam	331
<i>Former Mullagheran Rural District:</i>	
Loughdawan	338
Scrabby	609
Total	13,150

2. Cavan – Monaghan – Meath *(continued)*

Electoral Division	2016 Population
Transfer in County Meath from Meath East to Cavan-Monaghan	
<i>Former Kells Rural District:</i>	
Ardagh	644
Carrickleck	458
Kilmainham	778
Moybolgue	245
Posseckstown	222
Trohanny	323
 <i>Former Ardee No. 2 Rural District:</i>	
Drumcondra	1,303
Total	3,973

3. Sligo – Leitrim – Roscommon – Mayo – Galway

Electoral Division	2016 Population
Transfer in County Roscommon from Roscommon-Galway to Sligo-Leitrim	
<i>Former Boyle No. 1 Rural District:</i>	
Aghafin	142
Atlagowlan	49
Ballyfarnan	234
Ballyformoyle	164
Boyle Rural	1,599
Boyle Urban	1,501
Crossna	187
Danesfort	827
Keadew	535
Kilbryan	325
Killukin	274
Lough Allen	227
Oakport	413
Rockingham	337
Rushfield	376
Tivannagh	259
Tumna North	166
Tumna South	191
Total	7,806
Transfer in County Mayo from Galway West to Mayo	
<i>Former Ballinrobe Rural District:</i>	
Ballinrobe	3,770
Kilcommon	663
<i>Former Claremorris Rural District:</i>	
Garrymore	460
Total	4,893

3. Sligo – Leitrim – Roscommon – Mayo – Galway (continued)

Electoral Division	2016 Population
Transfer in County Galway from Galway East to Roscommon-Galway	
<i>Former Ballinasloe No. 1 Rural District:</i>	
Aughrim	576
Ballymacward	310
Kilconnell	670
Killaan	527
Killallaghtan	458
Oatfield	434
<i>Former Glennamaddy Rural District:</i>	
Scregg	229
<i>Former Mount Bellew Rural District:</i>	
Annagh	369
Mount Bellew	1,913
Mounthazel	515
<i>Former Tuam Rural District:</i>	
Addergoole	547
Carrownagur	441
Clonbern	363
Cloonkeen	461
Dunmore South	837
Total	8,650
Transfer in County Galway from Galway West to Galway East	
<i>Former Galway Rural District:</i>	
Aughrim	1,296
Belleville	620
Deerpark	1,413
Stradbally	1,218
Total	4,547

4. Clare – Limerick – Tipperary

Electoral Division	2016 Population
Transfer in Limerick City and County from Limerick City to Limerick County	
<i>Former Limerick No. 1 Rural District:</i>	
Cappamore	1,362
Doon West	237
<i>Former Tipperary No. 2 Rural District:</i>	
Bilboa	409
Total	2,008
Transfer in County Clare from Limerick City to Clare	
<i>Former Meelick Rural District:</i>	
Ballyglass	5,994
Total	5,994
Transfer in County Tipperary from Tipperary to Limerick City	
<i>Former Nenagh Rural District:</i>	
Birdhill	733
Kilcomenty	693
Newport	2,949
Total	4,375

4. Clare – Limerick – Tipperary (continued)

Electoral Division	2016 Population
Transfer in County Tipperary from existing Offaly to Tipperary	
<i>Former Borrisokane Rural District:</i>	
Aglislcloghane	267
Ballingary	503
Ballylusky	337
Borrisokane	1,254
Carrig	177
CloghJordan	1,055
Cloghprior	300
Clohaskin	230
Finnoe	201
Graigue	279
Kilbarron	604
Lorrha East	296
Lorrha West	310
Mertonhall	172
Rathcabban	304
Redwood	139
Riverstown	555
Terryglass	479
Uskane	250
<i>Former Nenagh Rural District:</i>	
Ardcrony	558
Ballygibbon	616
Ballymackey	547
Knigh	772
Monsea	642
Total	10,847

5. Laois – Offaly¹ – Kildare

Electoral Division	2016 Population
Transfer in County Kildare from existing Laois to Kildare South	
<i>Former Athy No. 1 Rural District:</i>	
Ballybrackan	614
Churchtown	528
Harristown	477
Kilberry	634
Kildangan	742
Monasterevin	4,897
Total	7,892
Transfer in County Laois from existing Laois to Kildare South	
<i>Former Mountmellick Rural District:</i>	
Ballybrittas	1,283
Jamestown	465
Kilmullen	564
Portarlinton South	7,138
Total	9,450
Transfer in County Offaly from existing Offaly to Kildare South	
<i>Former Tullamore Rural District:</i>	
Portarlinton North	2,404
Total	2,404
Transfer in County Kildare from Kildare North to Kildare South	
<i>Former Edenderry No. 2 Rural District:</i>	
Carbury	1,913
Carrick	290
Drehid	270
Kilrainy	753
Total	3,226

¹ The joining of the two existing constituencies of Laois and Offaly is not viewed as a transfer of electoral divisions as such

6. Wicklow – Carlow – Kilkenny

Electoral Division	2016 Population
Transfer in County Carlow from Wicklow to Carlow-Kilkenny	
<i>Former Baltinglass No. 2 Rural District:</i>	
Clonmore	526
Hacketstown	1,117
Haroldstown	296
Kineagh	343
Rahill	729
Rathvilly	875
Tiknock	332
Williamstown	283
Total	4,501

APPENDIX 4

Public Notice issued by the Commission

The following Public Notice was published in newspapers in September 2016:

CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION

A Constituency Commission has been established under section 5 of the Electoral Act 1997 to report in relation to the constituencies for (a) the election of members to the Dáil and (b) the election of members of the European Parliament.

1. In relation to Dáil constituencies, the Commission is required, in observing the relevant provisions of the Constitution, to have regard to the following:
 - (a) the total number of members of the Dáil, subject to Article 16.2.2° of the Constitution, shall be not less than 153 and not more than 160*;
 - (b) each constituency shall return 3, 4 or 5 members;
 - (c) the breaching of county boundaries shall be avoided as far as practicable. The reference to county boundaries shall be deemed not to include a reference to the boundary of a city or any boundary between any two of the local government counties of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin;
 - (d) each constituency shall be composed of contiguous areas;
 - (e) there shall be regard to geographic considerations including significant physical features and the extent of and the density of population in each constituency; and
 - (f) subject to the above matters, the Commission shall endeavour to maintain continuity in relation to the arrangement of constituencies.

*The number presently stands at 158. Under Article 16.2.2° of the Constitution the total number of members of Dáil Éireann cannot be fixed at less than one member per 30,000 of the population or at more than one member per 20,000 of the population.

2. In relation to European Parliament constituencies, the Commission shall have regard to the following:
 - (a) the total number of members to be elected in the State to the European Parliament shall be such as may be specified pursuant to the Treaties governing the European Communities, (the number stands at 11 at present);

- (b) there shall be reasonable equality of representation as between constituencies; and
- (c) the matters specified at (b) to (f) of paragraph 1 above.

The Commission invites written submissions in relation to matters which should be considered in reporting on constituencies. Submissions should be addressed to The Secretary, Constituency Commission, Room 1.65, Custom House, Dublin 1, D01 W6X0, or by email to constituency.commission@housing.gov.ie

The closing date for submissions is Tuesday 10 January 2017.

Submissions received by the Commission will be published on the Commission's website at www.constituency-commission.ie and may be inspected by prior arrangement with the Commission in the Custom House, Dublin 1 (telephone 01-888-2769) during the hours of 10.00am to 4.30pm (Monday to Friday), until the conclusion of the Commission's work. The Commission is required to report not later than three months after the publication by the Central Statistics Office of the final result of the Census in respect of the total population of the State. The Central Statistics Office expect to publish the relevant report in March 2017.

In accordance with section 10 of the Electoral Act 1997 the Commission has prepared a statement of the constitutional provisions relating to Dáil constituencies and tables showing relevant statistics based on Census 2016 Preliminary Results for the existing Dáil and European Parliament constituencies. This statement and tables are available on the Commission's website or on request from the Commission.

[This web banner was published on a number of websites in October 2016:](#)



Fógra Poiblí an Choimisiúin

Foilsíodh an Fógra Poiblí thíos i nuachtáin i Meán Fomhair 2016:

COIMISIÚN UM THOGLAIGH

Bunaíodh Coimisiún um Thoghlaigh faoi alt 5 den Acht Toghcháin, 1997, chun tuairisciú a dhéanamh maidir leis (a) na dáilcheantair a bhaineann le comhaltaí a thoghadh chun na Dála agus (b) na toghlaigh a bhaineann le comhaltaí a thoghadh chun Parlaimint na hEorpa.

1. Maidir le dailcheantair Dhála, is gá don Choimisiún agus forálacha ábhartha Bhunreacht na hÉireann á mbreathnú aige, aird a thabhairt ar an méid seo a leanas:

- (a) ní bheidh líon iomlán na gcomhaltaí sa Dáil, faoi réir Airteagal 16.2.2° den Bhunreacht, níos lú ná 153 ná níos mó ná 160*;
- (b) 3, 4, nó 5 chomhalta a thoghfad do gach dailcheantar;
- (c) seachnófar sárú teorainneacha contae chomh fada agus is indéanta. Measfar nach gcumhdaíonn an tagairt do theorainneacha contae tagairt do theorainn cathrach ná d'aon teorainn idir aon dá cheann de chontaetha rialtais áitiúil Dhún Laoghaire-Ráth an Dúin, Fhine Gall agus Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas;
- (d) beidh gach dailcheantar comhdhéanta de limistéir a thadhlaíonn lena chéile;
- (e) tabharfar aird ar thosca tíreolaíochta, lena n-áirítear gnéithe suntasacha fisiciúla, méid agus dlús an daonra i ngach dailcheantar; agus
- (f) faoi réir na nithe thuas, féachfaidh an Coimisiún le leanúnachas a choinneáil maidir le socrú dailcheantar.

*Is é an líon atá ann faoi láthair ná 158. Faoi Airteagal 16.2.2° den Bhunreacht, ní féidir líon iomlán na gcomhaltaí i nDáil Éireann a shocrú a bheith níos lú ná comhalta an 30,000 duine den daonra ná a bheith níos mó ná comhalta an 20,000 duine den daonra.

2. Maidir le toghlaigh Pharlaimint na hEorpa, beidh aird ag an gCoimisiún ar an méid seo a leanas:

- (a) beidh líon iomlán na gcomhaltaí atá le toghadh sa Stát chun Parlaimint na hEorpa de réir mar a shonrófar de bhun na gConarthaí a rialaíonn na Pobail Eorpacha, (11 atá ann faoi láthair);

(b) beidh comhionannas réasúnta ionadaíochta ann idir thoghlaigh; agus

(c) na nithe a shonraítear ó (b) go (f) in alt 1 thuas.

Tugann an Coimisiún cuireadh don phobal aighneachtaí scríofa a chur chugainn maidir le nithe ba cheart a bhreithniú agus sinn ag tuairisciú ar dháilcheantair agus ar thoghlaigh. Ba cheart aighneachtaí a sheoladh chuig An Rúnaí, An Coimisiún um Thoghlaigh, Seomra 1.65, Teach an Chustaim, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 W6X0, nó trí ríomhphost a sheoladh chuig constituency.commission@housing.gov.ie

Dé Máirt an 10 Eanáir 2017 an dáta deiridh a nglacfar le haighneachtaí.

Foilseofar aighneachtaí a gheobhaidh an Coimisiún ar láithreán gréasáin an Choimisiúin www.constituency-commission.ie agus féadfar iad a scrúdú ach socrú a dhéanamh roimh ré leis an gCoimisiún i dTeach an Chustaim, Baile Átha Cliath 1 (teileafón 01-888-2769) idir 10.00am agus 4.30pm (Luan go hAoine), nó go gcuirfear obair an Choimisiúin i gcrích. Is gá don Choimisiún tuairisciú a dhéanamh tráth nach déanaí ná trí mhí tar éis fhoilsiú thoradh deiridh an Daonáirimh ag an bPríomh-Oifig Staidrimh i leith dhaonra iomlán an Stáit. Tá súil ag an bPríomh-Oifig Staidrimh an tuairisc ábhartha a fhoilsiú i Márta na bliana 2017.

I gcomhréir le halt 10 den Acht Toghcháin, 1997, tá ráiteas ullmhaithe ag an gCoimisiún ar na forálacha bunreachtacha a bhaineann le dáilcheantair Dhála, mar aon le táblaí a thaispeánann staitisticí ábhartha bunaithe ar Réamhthorthaí Dhaonáireamh 2016 do na dáilcheantair Dhála agus do thoghlaigh Pharlaimint na hEorpa atá ann faoi láthair. Tá an ráiteas seo agus na táblaí seo ar fáil ar láithreán gréasáin an Choimisiúin nó is féidir iad a iarraidh ón gCoimisiún.

Foilsíodh an fógra thíos ar suíomh idirlín i mí Deireadh Fomhair 2016:



APPENDIX 5

CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION

Statement on relevant provisions of the Constitution in relation to Dáil constituencies and on population statistics relating to Dáil and European Parliament constituencies

Introduction

Section 10(2) of the Electoral Act 1997 requires a Constituency Commission to prepare a statement setting out the relevant provisions of the Constitution in relation to Dáil constituencies to which the Commission is required to have regard in preparing its report. Section 10(2) also requires the Commission to prepare statements, based on the population in the Census Preliminary Results report, for the Dáil and European Parliament constituencies currently in force. The Commission has prepared this statement in line with the requirements of the 1997 Act. Section 6 of the Electoral Act 1997 detailing the function and terms of reference of the Commission is on page 8 of this statement.

Dáil constituencies

The Dáil constituencies currently in force are set out in the Electoral (Amendment) (Dáil Constituencies) Act 2013 which was enacted following on from the Constituency Commission Report 2012.

Constitutional provisions in relation to Dáil Constituencies

Article 16.2.2° of the Constitution provides that:

“The number of members shall from time to time be fixed by law, but the total number of members of Dáil Éireann shall not be fixed at less than one member for each thirty thousand of the population, or at more than one member for each twenty thousand of the population.”

Article 16.2.3° of the Constitution provides that:

“The ratio between the number of members to be elected at any time for each constituency and the population of each constituency, as ascertained at the last preceding census, shall, so far as it is practicable, be the same throughout the country.”

Article 16.2.4° of the Constitution provides that:

“The Oireachtas shall revise the constituencies at least once in every twelve years, with due regard to changes in distribution of the population.....”

The text of Article 16.2 of the Constitution is set out in full on page 7 of this statement.

Equality of representation – Court cases

The issue of equality of representation across constituencies has been considered by the courts on a number of occasions.

In *O'Donovan v. The Attorney General* [1961] I.R. 114 the court found that the Electoral (Amendment) Act 1959 was unconstitutional because the ratio of members to population was not, so far as was practicable, the same throughout the country and because due regard had not been had to changes in the distribution of the population. Budd J. held that the dominant principle of Article 16.2.3^o is "the achievement of as near an equality of the parliamentary representation of the population as can be attained, paying due regard to practical difficulties." In *O'Donovan* the highest deviation from the average per constituency was in the order of 25%. The Court did not lay down what variation from the national average would be regarded as permissible but did say that-

"Attention should be paid to one important point. It is not the rise or fall of population in any particular constituency to which 'due' regard is to be had. It is something much wider than that. It is the constituencies themselves which have to be revised so as to give effect to the contemplated changes in the distribution of population. They, the constituencies, must be so formed and revised as to give effect to the changes."

This was followed by the passing by the Oireachtas of the Electoral (Amendment) Bill 1961. The variances from national average representation in the constituencies set out in the Bill were all within a 1,000 population of the average population per member. Pursuant to Article 26 of the Constitution, the President referred the Bill to the Supreme Court for its decision on whether the Bill was repugnant to the Constitution or to any provision thereof. In its decision, reported at [1961] I.R. 169, the Court said, at p.183:

"The subclause [i.e. Article 16.2.3^o] recognises that exact parity in the ratio between members and the population of each constituency is unlikely to be obtained and is not required. The decision as to what is practicable is within the jurisdiction of the Oireachtas. It may reasonably take into consideration a variety of factors, such as the desirability so far as possible to adhere to well-known boundaries such as those of counties, townlands and electoral divisions. The existence of divisions created by such physical features as rivers, lakes and mountains may also have to be reckoned with. The problem of what is practicable is primarily one for the Oireachtas, whose members have knowledge of the problems and difficulties to be solved which this Court cannot have. Its decision should not be reviewed by this Court unless there is a manifest infringement of the Article. This Court cannot, as is suggested, lay down a figure above or below which a variation from what is called the national average is not permitted."

Legal textbooks and the reports of a number of constituency commissions over the years made reference to a standard of 5% variance as having been regarded in the *O'Donovan* case as being acceptable, having regard to Article 16.2.3^o of the Constitution. However, Clarke J., in the joined cases of *Murphy v. The Minister for the Environment and Molloy*

v. *Minister for the Environment* [2007] IEHC 185 took the view that it was not possible to establish any such universal threshold, and he followed the guidance given by the Supreme Court quoted above. He pointed out that the figures referred to by Budd J. in *O'Donovan* represented not a variance of 5% but rather a variance of between 1% and 1.66%. He stated–

“That is not to say that, in general terms, a margin of 5% is, or is not, an appropriate consideration. The true answer is that it may depend on the extent to which all of the other relevant factors can properly be met within that or a smaller margin. I merely note these matters for the purpose of identifying that there does not appear to be justification for the assertion that O'Donovan is authority for the acceptability of a 5% margin.”

European Parliament Constituencies

The European Parliament constituencies currently in force are set out in the European Parliament Elections (Amendment) Act 2014, following the recommendations in the Report on European Parliament Constituencies 2013.

Under the provisions of the Treaty on European Union and European Council decision of 28 June 2013 establishing the composition of the European Parliament, the total number of members to be elected in the State to the European Parliament for the 2014 – 2019 term was 11. In accordance with the 2013 Council Decision, that number is to be reviewed on the basis of an initiative of the European Parliament to be presented before the end of 2016. The Constituency Commission is required to report on the election of members to the European Parliament on the basis of the current allocation to the State of 11 members. Should this be altered after the Commission presents its report the Minister can under Section 5(1A) of the Electoral Act, 1997 establish a committee to make a report.

Population statistics for constituencies

The tables below contain the following details in relation to each Dáil constituency and to each European Parliament constituency, based on the population data taken from Census 2016 Preliminary Results (published by the Central Statistics Office on 14 July 2016). These show an overall increase in population in the order of 169,724, mostly in the Dublin region.

Dáil constituencies

- the population of the constituency in 2016;
- the number of TDs established for the constituency under the Electoral (Amendment) (Dáil Constituencies) Act 2013;
- the population per TD in 2016; and
- the percentage variance of population per TD in the constituency from the national average population per TD, in 2016.

The Census Preliminary Results show that for 158 TDs the average population per TD is in excess of 30,000. If the Census Final Results are to the same effect, in order to comply with Article 16.2.2 ° the number of TDs would need to be increased. In these circumstances the

effect of s.6(2) of the Electoral Act, 1997 (as amended in 2011) would be that the number of TDs would be increased to 159 or 160.

European Parliament constituencies

- the population of the constituency in 2016;
- the number of MEPs established for the constituency under the European Parliament Elections (Amendment) Act 2014;
- the population per MEP in 2016; and
- the percentage variance of population per MEP in the constituency from the national average population per MEP, in 2016.

Existing Dáil Constituencies

Constituency	2016 Population (preliminary)	Number of TDs	Population per TD	% Variance
Carlow-Kilkenny	151,492	5	30,298	0.61
Cavan-Monaghan	124,289	4	31,072	3.18
Clare	112,702	4	28,176	-6.44
Cork East	121,269	4	30,317	0.68
Cork North-Central	124,699	4	31,175	3.52
Cork North-West	89,187	3	29,729	-1.28
Cork South-Central	122,013	4	30,503	1.29
Cork South-West	85,028	3	28,343	-5.88
Donegal	150,342	5	30,068	-0.15
Dublin Bay North	152,830	5	30,566	1.50
Dublin Bay South	120,562	4	30,141	0.09
Dublin Central	96,048	3	32,016	6.32
Dublin Fingal	151,758	5	30,352	0.79
Dublin Mid-West	117,588	4	29,397	-2.38
Dublin North-West	96,898	3	32,299	7.26
Dublin Rathdown	94,125	3	31,375	4.19
Dublin South-Central	119,121	4	29,780	-1.11
Dublin South-West	150,816	5	30,163	0.16
Dublin West	122,507	4	30,627	1.70
Dún Laoghaire	123,149	4	30,787	2.24
Galway East	93,604	3	31,201	3.61
Galway West	154,816	5	30,963	2.82
Kerry	147,554	5	29,511	-2.00
Kildare North	122,248	4	30,562	1.49
Kildare South	91,989	3	30,663	1.82
Laois	92,625	3	30,875	2.53
Limerick City	117,352	4	29,338	-2.58
Limerick County	83,748	3	27,916	-7.30
Longford-Westmeath	120,533	4	30,133	0.06
Louth	150,481	5	30,096	-0.06
Mayo	120,092	4	30,023	-0.30
Meath East	91,151	3	30,384	0.90
Meath West	90,358	3	30,119	0.02
Offaly	88,851	3	29,617	-1.65
Roscommon-Galway	84,901	3	28,300	-6.02
Sligo-Leitrim	118,818	4	29,705	-1.36
Tipperary	149,593	5	29,919	-0.65
Waterford	116,401	4	29,100	-3.37
Wexford	149,605	5	29,921	-0.64
Wicklow	146,833	5	29,367	-2.48
Total	4,757,976	158	30,114	

Existing European Parliament Constituencies

Constituency	2016 Population (preliminary)	No. of MEPs	Population per MEP	% Variance from National Average Population per MEP
Dublin	1,345,402	3	448,467	3.68
Midlands-North-West	1,684,250	4	421,063	-2.65
South	1,728,324	4	432,081	-0.11
Total	4,757,976	11	432,543	

CONSTITUTION OF IRELAND

Article 16

THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT

16. 2. 1° Dáil Éireann shall be composed of members who represent constituencies determined by law.
- 2° The number of members shall from time to time be fixed by law, but the total number of members of Dáil Éireann shall not be fixed at less than one member for each thirty thousand of the population, or at more than one member for each twenty thousand of the population.
- 3° The ratio between the number of members to be elected at any time for each constituency and the population of each constituency, as ascertained at the last preceding census, shall, so far as it is practicable, be the same throughout the country.
- 4° The Oireachtas shall revise the constituencies at least once in every twelve years, with due regard to changes in distribution of the population, but any alterations in the constituencies shall not take effect during the life of Dáil Éireann sitting when such revision is made.
- 5° The members shall be elected on the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.
- 6° No law shall be enacted whereby the number of members to be returned for any constituency shall be less than three.

Electoral Act, 1997 (as amended)

Part II

Constituency Commission

6. (1) It shall be the function of a Constituency Commission to make a report in relation to the constituencies for—
 - (a) the election of members to the Dáil, and
 - (b) the election of members of the European Parliament.
- (2) In preparing a report under subsection (1)(a) a Constituency Commission shall, in observing the relevant provisions of the Constitution in relation to Dáil constituencies, have regard to the following:
 - (a) the total number of members of the Dáil, subject to Article 16.2.2° of the Constitution, shall be not less than 153 and not more than 160;
 - (b) each constituency shall return 3, 4 or 5 members;
 - (c) the breaching of county boundaries shall be avoided as far as practicable;
 - (d) each constituency shall be composed of contiguous areas;
 - (e) there shall be regard to geographic considerations including significant physical features and the extent of and the density of population in each constituency; and
 - (f) subject to the provisions of this section, the Commission shall endeavour to maintain continuity in relation to the arrangement of constituencies.
- (3) In preparing a report under subsection (1)(b) a Commission shall have regard to the following:
 - (a) the total number of members of the European Parliament to be elected in the State shall be such number* as may be specified for the time being pursuant to the treaties governing the European Communities;
 - (b) there shall be reasonable equality of representation as between constituencies; and
 - (c) the matters specified in paragraphs (b) to (f) of subsection (2).
- (4) The reference in subsection (2)(c) to county boundaries shall be deemed not to include a reference to the boundary of a city or any boundary between any two of the counties of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin.

*Note: The number stands at 11.

AN COIMISIÚN UM THOGLAIGH

Ráiteas maidir leis na forálacha iomchuí den Bhunreacht i ndáil le dáilcheantair Dhála agus maidir le staidreamh daonra a bhaineann le dáilcheantair Dhála agus le toghlaigh Pharlaimint na hEorpa

Réamhrá

Le halt 10(2) den Acht Toghcháin 1997 ceanglaítear ar an gCoimisiún um Thoghlaigh ráiteas a ullmhú ina leagfar amach na forálacha iomchuí den Bhunreacht i ndáil le dáilcheantair Dhála a gceanglaítear ar an gCoimisiún aird a thabhairt orthu le linn a thuarascáil a ullmhú. Le halt 10(2) freisin, ceanglaítear ar an gCoimisiún ráitis a ullmhú atá bunaithe ar an daonra arna leagan amach sa Tuarascáil Daonáirimh ina leagtar amach réamhthorthaí an Daonáirimh maidir le dáilcheantair Dhála agus toghlaigh Pharlaimint na hEorpa atá i bhfeidhm de thuras na huair. Tá an ráiteas seo ullmhaithe ag an gCoimisiún i gcomhréir le ceanglais Acht 1997. Tá Alt 6 den Acht Toghcháin 1997, ina dtugtar mionsonraí faoi fheidhm agus faoi théarmaí tagartha an Choimisiúin, leagtha amach ar leathanach 8 den ráiteas seo.

Dáilcheantair Dhála

Tá na dáilcheantair Dhála atá i bhfeidhm faoi láthair leagtha amach san Acht Toghcháin (Leasú) (Dáilcheantair) 2013 a achtaíodh mar thoradh ar Thuarascáil an Choimisiúin um Thoghlaigh 2012.

Forálacha Bunreachta a bhaineann le Dáilcheantair Dhála

Foráiltear mar a leanas le hAirteagal 16.2.2^o den Bhunreacht:

“Socrófar líon comhaltaí Dháil Éireann le dlí ó am go ham ach ní cead a lánlíon a bheith faoi bhun comhalta in aghaidh gach tríocha míle den daonra, ná os cionn comhalta in aghaidh gach fiche míle den daonra.”

Foráiltear mar a leanas le hAirteagal 16.2.3^o den Bhunreacht:

“An chomhréir a bheas idir an líon comhaltaí a bheas le toghadh aon tráth le haghaidh gach dáilcheantair ar leith agus daonra gach dáilcheantair ar leith, de réir an daonáirimh is déanaí dá ndearnadh roimhe sin, ní foláir í a bheith ar cothrom, sa mhéid gur féidir é, ar fud na dúiche uile.”

Foráiltear mar a leanas le hAirteagal 16.2.4^o den Bhunreacht:

“Ní foláir don Oireachtas na dáilcheantair a athmheas uair ar a laghad sa dá bhliain déag ag féachaint go cuí d'aon athruithe ar shuíomh an daonra.....”

Tá téacs Airteagal 16.2 den Bhunreacht leagtha amach ina iomláine ar leathanach 7 den ráiteas seo.

Comhionannas ionadaíochta – Cásanna cúirte

Tá comhionannas ionadaíochta thar na dailcheantair go léir breithnithe ag na cúirteanna roinnt uaireanta.

In *O'Donovan v. An tArd-Aighne* [1961] I.R. 114, chinn an chúirt go raibh an tAcht Toghcháin (Leasú) 1959 neamhbhunreachtúil toisc nach raibh an chomhréir idir comhaltaí agus an daonra, a mhéid ab indéanta, mar a chéile ar fud na tíre agus toisc nár tugadh aird chúí ar na hathruithe ar shuíomh an daonra. Chinn Budd J. gurb é atá i mórphrionsabal Airteagal 16.2.3 ° ná *“the achievement of as near an equality of the parliamentary representation of the population as can be attained, paying due regard to practical difficulties.”* In *O'Donovan*, ba é a bhí san athrú ab airde ón meán in aghaidh an dailcheantair ná figiúr thart ar 25%. Níor leag an Chúirt síos cén t-athrú ón meán náisiúnta a mheasfaí a bheith ceadaithe ach dúirt an chúirt an méid seo a leanas:

“Attention should be paid to one important point. It is not the rise or fall of population in any particular constituency to which ‘due’ regard is to be had. It is something much wider than that. It is the constituencies themselves which have to be revised so as to give effect to the contemplated changes in the distribution of population. They, the constituencies, must be so formed and revised as to give effect to the changes.”

Ina dhiaidh sin, rith an tOireachtas an Bille Toghcháin (Leasú) 1961. Bhí na hathruithe go léir ón meánionadaíocht náisiúnta sna dailcheantair, mar a bhí leagtha amach sa Bhille, laistigh de 1,000 ón meándaonra in aghaidh an chomhalta. De bhun Airteagal 26 den Bhunreacht, chuir an tUachtarán an Bille sin faoi bhreith na Cúirte Uachtaraí féachaint an raibh an Bille in aghaidh an Bhunreacht nó in aghaidh aon fhorála de. Ina breith, a tuairiscíodh i [1961] I.R. 169, dúirt an Chúirt an méid seo a leanas ar leathanach 183:

“The subclause [i.e. Article 16.2.3°] recognises that exact parity in the ratio between members and the population of each constituency is unlikely to be obtained and is not required. The decision as to what is practicable is within the jurisdiction of the Oireachtas. It may reasonably take into consideration a variety of factors, such as the desirability so far as possible to adhere to well-known boundaries such as those of counties, townlands and electoral divisions. The existence of divisions created by such physical features as rivers, lakes and mountains may also have to be reckoned with. The problem of what is practicable is primarily one for the Oireachtas, whose members have knowledge of the problems and difficulties to be solved which this Court cannot have. Its decision should not be reviewed by this Court unless there is a manifest infringement of the Article. This Court cannot, as is suggested, lay down a figure above or below which a variation from what is called the national average is not permitted.”

I dtéacsleabhair dlí agus i dtuarascálacha ó roinnt Choimisiúin um Thoghlaigh thar na blianta, tá tagairt déanta do dhifear caighdeánach 5% mar difear a measadh ina leith i gcás *O'Donovan* gur difear inghlactha é, ag féachaint d'Airteagal 16.2.3 ° den Bhunreacht. Ach, i gcásanna uamtha *Murphy v. An tAire Comhshaoil* agus *Molloy v. An tAire Comhshaoil* [2007]

IEHC 185, bhí Clarke J. den tuairim nárbh fhéidir aon tairseach uilechoiteann den sórt sin a bhunú agus lean sé an treoir a bhí tugtha ag an gCúirt Uachtarach agus atá luaite thuas. Luaigh sé nárbh ionann na figiúirí a ndearna Budd J. dóibh in *O'Donovan* agus difear 5% ach, seachas sin, gur difear idir 1% agus 1.66% a bhí ann. Dúirt sé an méid seo a leanas:

"That is not to say that, in general terms, a margin of 5% is, or is not, an appropriate consideration. The true answer is that it may depend on the extent to which all of the other relevant factors can properly be met within that or a smaller margin. I merely note these matters for the purpose of identifying that there does not appear to be justification for the assertion that O'Donovan is authority for the acceptability of a 5% margin."

Toghlaigh Pharlaimint na hEorpa

Tá toghlaigh Pharlaimint na hEorpa atá i bhfeidhm faoi láthair leagtha amach san Acht um Thoghcháin do Pharlaimint na hEorpa (Leasú) 2014, i gcomhréir leis na moltaí atá ann sa Tuarascáil maidir le Toghlaigh Pharlaimint na hEorpa 2013.

Faoi fhorálacha an Chonartha ar an Aontas Eorpach agus chinneadh na Comhairle Eorpaí an 28 Meitheamh 2013 lena mbunaítear comhdhéanamh Pharlaimint na hEorpa, ba é a bhí sa líon iomlán comhaltáí a bheidh le toghadh sa Stát do Pharlaimint na hEorpa don téarma 2014-2019 ná 11. De réir Chinneadh na bliana 2013 ón gComhairle, tá an líon sin le hathbhreithniú ar bhonn thionscnamh de chuid Pharlaimint na hEorpa atá le tíolacadh roimh dheireadh na bliana 2016. Tá sé de cheangal ar an gCoimisiún um Thoghlaigh tuarascáil a thabhairt faoi thoghadh comhaltáí do Pharlaimint na hEorpa ar bhonn an líon reatha comhaltáí atá leithroinnte don Stát, is é sin, 11 chomhaltá. I gcás ina n-athraítear an líon sin tar éis don Choimisiún a thuarascáil, is féidir leis an Aire, faoi Alt 5(1A) den Acht Toghcháin 1997 coiste a bhunú chun tuarascáil a ullmhú.

Staitisticí daonra do dháilcheantair Dhála agus do thoghlaigh Pharlaimint na hEorpa

Sna táblaí thíos, tá na mionsonraí sin ina dhiaidh seo le fáil i ndáil le gach dáilcheantar Dála agus i ndáil le gach toghlach de chuid Pharlaimint na hEorpa, ar bhonn na sonraí daonra atá faighte ó Dhaonáireamh 2016 – Réamhthorthaí (a d'fhoilsigh an Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh ar an 14 Iúil 2016). Léiríonn na sonraí sin méadú foriomlán thart ar 169,724 ar an daonra, an mórchuid i réigiún Bhaile Átha Cliath.

Dáilcheantair Dhála

- an daonra in aghaidh an dáilcheantair sa bhliain 2016;
- an líon Teachtaí Dála atá socraithe in aghaidh an dáilcheantair faoin Acht Toghcháin (Leasú) (Dáilcheantair), 2013;
- an daonra in aghaidh an Teachta Dála sa bhliain 2016; agus
- an difear daonra céatadánach in aghaidh an Teachta Dála sa dáilcheantar lena mbaineann i gcomparáid leis an meándaonra náisiúnta in aghaidh an Teachta Dála sa bhliain 2016.

Léiríonn Réamhthorthaí an Daonáirimh gurb é atá sa mheándaonra in aghaidh an TD, i gcás 158 Teachta Dála, ná figiúr níos airde ná 30,000. Má bhíonn Torthaí Deiridh an Daonáirimh mar an gcéanna, bheadh gá le méadú ar an líon Teachtaí Dála chun Airteagal 16.2.2 ° a chomhlíonadh. Sna himthosca sin, ba é ab éifeacht d'alt 6(2) den Acht Toghcháin 1997 (leasaithe in 2011) ná an líon Teachtaí Dála a mhéadú go 159 nó 160.

Toghlaigh Parlaimint na hEorpa

- an daonra in aghaidh an dáilcheantair sa bhliain 2016;
- an líon comhaltaí de Parlaimint na hEorpa atá socraithe faoin Acht um Thoghcháin do Parlaimint na hEorpa (Leasú) 2014;
- an daonra in aghaidh an Chomhalta de Parlaimint na hEorpa sa bhliain 2016; agus
- an difear daonra céatadánach in aghaidh an Chomhalta de Parlaimint na hEorpa sa toghlach lena mbaineann i gcomparáid leis an meándaonra náisiúnta in aghaidh an Chomhalta de Parlaimint na hEorpa sa bhliain 2016.

Dáilcheantair Dhála Reatha

Dáilcheantar	Daonra 2016 (réamhfhigiúirí)	An Líon TD	Daonra in aghaidh an TD	Difear mar %
Ceatharlach-Cill Chainnigh	151,492	5	30,298	0.61
An Cabhán-Muineachán	124,289	4	31,072	3.18
An Clár	112,702	4	28,176	-6.44
Corcaigh Thoir	121,269	4	30,317	0.68
Corcaigh Thuaidh-Lár	124,699	4	31,175	3.52
Corcaigh Thiar Thuaidh	89,187	3	29,729	-1.28
Corcaigh Theas-Lár	122,013	4	30,503	1.29
Corcaigh Thiar Theas	85,028	3	28,343	-5.88
Dún na nGall	150,342	5	30,068	-0.15
Cuan Bhaile Átha Cliath Thuaidh	152,830	5	30,566	1.50
Cuan Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas	120,562	4	30,141	0.09
Baile Átha Cliath Láir	96,048	3	32,016	6.32
Baile Átha Cliath – Fine Gall	151,758	5	30,352	0.79
Baile Átha Cliath Thiar-Meán	117,588	4	29,397	-2.38
Baile Átha Cliath Thiar Thuaidh	96,898	3	32,299	7.26
Baile Átha Cliath – Ráth an Dúin	94,125	3	31,375	4.19
Baile Átha Cliath Theas-Lár	119,121	4	29,780	-1.11
Baile Átha Cliath Thiar Theas	150,816	5	30,163	0.16
Baile Átha Cliath Thiar	122,507	4	30,627	1.70
Dún Laoghaire	123,149	4	30,787	2.24
Gaillimh Thoir	93,604	3	31,201	3.61
Gaillimh Thiar	154,816	5	30,963	2.82
Ciarraí	147,554	5	29,511	-2.00
Cill Dara Thuaidh	122,248	4	30,562	1.49
Cill Dara Theas	91,989	3	30,663	1.82
Laois	92,625	3	30,875	2.53
Cathair Luimnigh	117,352	4	29,338	-2.58
Contae Luimnigh	83,748	3	27,916	-7.30
An Longfort-An Iarmhí	120,533	4	30,133	0.06
Lú	150,481	5	30,096	-0.06
Maigh Eo	120,092	4	30,023	-0.30
An Mhí Thoir	91,151	3	30,384	0.90
An Mhí Thiar	90,358	3	30,119	0.02
Uíbh Fhailí	88,851	3	29,617	-1.65
Ros Comáin-Gaillimh	84,901	3	28,300	-6.02
Sligeach-Liatroim	118,818	4	29,705	-1.36
Tiobraid Árann	149,593	5	29,919	-0.65
Port Láirge	116,401	4	29,100	-3.37
Loch Garman	149,605	5	29,921	-0.64
Cill Mhantáin	146,833	5	29,367	-2.48
Iomlán	4,757,976	158	30,114	

Toghlach Pharlaimint na hEorpa Reatha

Toghlach	Daonra 2016 (réamhfhigiúirí)	An Líon Comhaltáí de Pharlaimint na hEorpa	Daonra in aghaidh an Chomhalta de Pharlaimint na hEorpa	Difear mar % ón Meándaonra Náisiúnta in aghaidh an Chomhalta de Pharlaimint na hEorpa
Baile Átha Cliath	1,345,402	3	448,467	3.68
An Lár Tíre-An Iarthuaisceart	1,684,250	4	421,063	-2.65
An Deisceart	1,728,324	4	432,081	-0.11
Iomlán	4,757,976	11	432,543	

BUNREACT NA hÉIREANN

Airteagal 16 AN PHARLAIMINT NÁISIÚNTA

16. 2. 1° Ionadóirí do dháilcheantair a shocraítear le dlí comhaltas Dháil Éireann.
- 2° Socrófar líon comhaltaí Dháil Éireann le dlí ó am go ham ach ní cead a lánlíon a bheith faoi bhun comhalta in aghaidh gach tríocha míle den daonra, ná os cionn comhalta in aghaidh gach fiche míle den daonra.
- 3° An chomhréir a bheas idir an líon comhaltaí a bheas le toghadh aon tráth le haghaidh gach dáilcheantair ar leith agus daonra gach dáilcheantair ar leith, de réir an daonáirimh is déanaí dá ndearnadh roimhe sin, ní foláir í a bheith ar cothrom, sa mhéid gur féidir é, ar fud na dúiche uile.
- 4° Ní foláir don Oireachtas na dáilcheantair a athmheas uair ar a laghad sa dá bhliain déag ag féachaint go cuí d'aon athruithe ar shuíomh an daonra; ach athruithe ar bith dá ndéanfar ar na dáilcheantair ní thiocfaid i bhfeidhm i rith ré na Dála a bheas ina suí le linn an athmheasta sin.
- 5° Is de réir na hionadaíochta cionúire agus ar mhodh an aonghutha inaistrithe a thoghfad na comhaltaí.
- 6° Ní cead dlí a achtú a bhéarfadh faoi bhun triúir an líon comhaltaí a bheas le toghadh d'aon dáilcheantar.

An tAcht Toghcháin 1997 (arna leasú)

Cuid II

An Coimisiún um Thoghlaigh

6. (1) Beidh sé d'fheidhm ag Coimisiún um Thoghlaigh tuarascáil a thabhairt i ndáil leis na nithe seo a leanas—
- (a) dáilcheantair chun comhaltaí a thoghadh chun na Dála, agus
- (b) toghlaigh chun comhaltaí a thoghadh chun Parlaimint na hEorpa.
- (2) Le linn tuarascáil faoi fho-alt (1)(a) a ullmhú, déanfaidh Coimisiún um Thoghlaigh, le linn forálacha iomchuí an Bhunreacht a i ndáil le dáilcheantair Dhála a urramú, aird a thabhairt ar an méid seo a leanas:
- (a) ní lú ná 153 agus ní mó ná 160 an líon iomlán comhaltaí den Dáil, faoi réir Airteagal 16.2.2 ° den Bhunreacht;
- (b) toghfaidh gach dáilcheantar 3, 4 nó 5 chomhalta;
- (c) a mhéid is indéanta, seachnófar sárú teorainneacha contae;
- (d) beidh gach dáilcheantar comhdhéanta de limistéir thadhlaigh;
- (e) tabharfar aird ar chúinsí geografacha lena n-áirítear sainghnéithe fisiceacha suntasacha agus méid agus dlús an daonra i ngach dáilcheantar; agus
- (f) faoi réir fhorálacha an ailt seo, féachfaidh an Coimisiún le leanúnachas a chothabháil i ndáil le cóiriú dáilcheantar.
- (3) Le linn tuarascáil faoi fho-alt (1)(b) a ullmhú, beidh aird ag Coimisiún um Thoghlaigh ar na nithe seo a leanas:
- (a) is é líon iomlán na gcomhaltaí de Pharlaimint na hEorpa a bheidh le toghadh sa Stát cibé líon* a bheidh sonraithe de thuras na huaire de bhun na gconarthaí a rialaíonn na Comhphobail Eorpacha;
- (b) beidh comhionannas réasúnach ionadaíochta amhail idir toghlaigh; agus
- (c) na nithe a shonraítear i míreanna (b) go (f) d'fho-alt (2).
- (4) Measfar nach bhfolaíonn an tagairt i bhfo-alt (2)(c) do theorainneacha contae tagairt do theorainn cathrach ná d'aon teorainn idir aon 2 cheann de chontaetha Dhún Laoghaire-Ráth an Dúin, Fhine Gall agus Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas.

* Nóta: 11 an líon comhaltaí atá ann faoi láthair.

APPENDIX 6

Organisations and persons who made submissions*

Submissions on Dáil constituencies

Political Parties

Fianna Fáil, Ballinasloe
Fianna Fáil, Cavan
Fianna Fáil, Cavan-Monaghan
Fianna Fáil, Dublin North-West
Fianna Fáil, Dublin Rathdown
Fianna Fáil, Dún Laoghaire
Fianna Fáil, Erskine Childers Cumann, Dublin Central
Fianna Fáil, Galway East
Fianna Fáil, Laois
Fianna Fáil, Loughlinstown
Fianna Fáil, Offaly
Fianna Fáil, Sligo
Fianna Fáil, Wexford
Fine Gael, Ballinrobe
Fine Gael, Ballygarvan
Fine Gael, Bishopstown
Fine Gael, Cavan-Monaghan
Fine Gael, Carrigaline, Cork South-Central
Fine Gael, Cork South-Central
Fine Gael, Dublin Bay North
Fine Gael, Dublin Central
Fine Gael, Dublin Mid-West
Fine Gael, Headquarters
Fine Gael, Kildare South
Fine Gael, South Mayo District
The Labour Party
The Labour Party, Dublin Central
The Labour Party, Louth
Green Party
Social Democrats, Cork North-Central
Social Democrats, Galway East
The Workers' Party, Dublin Central and Dublin North-West
Cumann Caoimhín de Barra, NUI Galway

* Some organisations and persons made more than one submission.

Public Representatives

TDs

Maria Bailey TD

Peter Burke TD

Tommy Broughan TD

Sean Canney TD

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin TD

Lisa Chambers TD

Michael Creed TD

Pat Deering TD

Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform

Frances Fitzgerald TD, Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality

Charlie Flanagan TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade

Pat the Cope Gallagher TD

Martin Heydon TD

Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

James Lawless TD

Marc MacSharry TD

Tony McLoughlin TD

Kevin 'Boxer' Moran TD

Denis Naughten TD

Darragh O'Brien TD

Patrick O'Donovan TD, Minister of State for Tourism and Transport

Fiona O'Loughlin TD

Louise O'Reilly TD

Willie Penrose TD

John Paul Phelan TD

Anne Rabbitte TD

Michael Ring TD

Noel Rock TD

Eamonn Scanlon TD

Brendan Smith TD

Niamh Smyth TD

Senators

Senator Jerry Buttimer

Senator Robbie Gallagher

Senator Tim Lombard

Senator Jennifer Murnane O'Connor

Senator Joe O'Reilly

Senator Diarmuid Wilson

Councillors

Councillor Ann Ahern, Carlow County Council
Councillor Philip Brady, Cavan County Council
Councillor Fergal Browne, Carlow County Council
Councillor Darragh Butler, Fingal County Council
Councillor John Buttimer, Cork City
Councillor Brendan Carr, Dublin City
Councillors Michael Creaton and Liam Callaghan, Roscommon County Council
Councillor Gerard Darcy, Tipperary County Council
Councillor Gerard Darcy for Fine Gael Councillors, Tipperary County Council
Councillor Fidelis Doherty, Kilkenny County Council
Councillor Aidan Donohue, Galway County Council
Councillor John Paul Feeley, Cavan County Council
Councillor Eimear Ferguson, Meath County Council
Councillor Eddie Fitzpatrick, Offaly County Council
Councillor Michael Gleeson, Kerry County Council
Councillor P. J. Hourican, Cork County Council
Councillor Tom Kelly, Meath County Council
Councillor Walter Lacey, Carlow County Council
Councillor Mark Lynch, Kildare County Council
Councillor Ray McAdam, Dublin City
Councillor Paul McAuliffe, Dublin City Council
Councillor Brian McDonagh, Fingal County Council
Councillor Peter McVitty, Cavan County Council
Councillor Andrew Montague, Dublin City
Councillor Jarlath E. Munnely for Fine Gael Councillors, Mayo County Council
Councillor Ken Murnane, Carlow County Council
Councillor Patsy O'Brien, Mayo County Council
Councillor Brian O'Donoghue, Carlow County Council
Councillor Sarah O'Reilly, Cavan County Council
Councillor Shane O'Reilly, Cavan County Council
Councillor Paddy O'Rourke, Leitrim County Council
Councillor Cieran Perry, Dublin City
Councillor Fintan Phelan, Carlow County Council
Councillor Nial Ring, Dublin City Council
Councillor Norma Sammon, Dublin City Council
Councillor Duncan Smith, Fingal County Council
Councillor Michael Smith, Tipperary County Council
Councillor Sean Smith, Cavan County Council
Councillor Alan Tobin, Meath County Council
Councillor Sharon Tolan for Fine Gael Councillors, Meath County Council
Councillor Mark Wall, Kildare County Council
Councillor Paul Ward, Kildare County Council

Local Authorities

Carlow County Council
Cavan County Council
Tipperary County Council

Organisations

An Geagain Residents Committee, Ballinrobe, County Mayo
Ardcroney Community Development Committee, County Tipperary
Association of Irish Local Government
Ballinrobe Town Management Committee, County Mayo
Bishopstown Community Association, Cork City
Bishopstown GAA Club, Cork City
Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board
Claremorris Chamber of Commerce, County Mayo
Clonmore GFC, Woodside, Hacketstown, County Carlow
Cloughjordan Community Development Committee, County Tipperary
Drogheda City Status Group, County Louth
Hacketstown IFA, County Carlow
Irish Farmers Association, Carlow
Killinagh Community Council, Blacklion, County Cavan
Local Hall Committee, Clonmore, Hacketstown, County Carlow
Navan Road Community Council, Dublin
Neale Heritage and Development Association, Mayo
Rathbourne Community Association, Dublin West
Rathvilly Community Development Group, Carlow
Rathvilly Community Alert, Rathvilly, County Carlow
Royal Canal Park Community Association, Dublin
St. Margaret's Concerned Resident's Group, Dublin
Terenure West Residents Association, Dublin

Individuals

Declan Alcock
Patricia Allison
Fiona Belton
Colm Bodkin
Cormac Bohan
Carol and Des Bradford
Jennifer Brady
Derek Brennan
Gary Brennan
Keith Brennan-Radford
Melissa Broderick
Liam Browne
William and Hazel Burgess

Pat Burke
Brian Butler
Deirdre Butler
Brendan Byrne
Dr. Kevin Byrne
Ray Byrne
David Cahill
Jack Callan
Paul Carey
Michael Cawe
Aine Coakley
Deirdre Coakley
Michael Coates
Noel Cocoman
Michael Coffey
Deirdre Coleman
John and Susan Collison
Jim and Mary Connolly
Claire Conroy
Josie Conway
Kevin Cooney
Mike Cooney
Gavan Cooper
Aoife Corcoran
Carmel Corcoran
Eimear Corcoran
Anthony James Costello
Declan Costello
Joe Costello
Laura Costello Flannery
Michael Cotter
Barry Coughlan
Conor Coughlan
Enda Coughlan
Vincent Coyle
Mary Crawford
Elizabeth Cullen
Seamus Cunningham
Thomas Cunningham
Fidelma Curran
Martin Daly
Maureen Davis
Michael J. Deane
Mary Dent

Ronan Dillon
Mary C. Dolan
Francis Donegan
Patrick Donnellan
Elizabeth Donovan
James Doorley
David Doran
Marion Downey
James Doyle
Patricia Doyle
Suzanne Doyle
Richard Drew
Gavin Duffy
Patrick J. Duffy
Stephen Duignan
Ciaran Dunleavy
Colm Dunleavy
Patricia Dunleavy
William Durkan
Mary Dwyer
Sean Farrell
Rosie Feeney
Orla Feerick
James Fitzgerald
Marian Fitzpatrick and Tina Robinson
Eamonn Flanagan
Tracey Flanagan
Colm Flynn
David Flynn
Gerald Flynn
Gerry Flynn
Margaret Fogarty
Donal Foley
Ellmary Forde
Andrew Fox
Peter and Catherine Fox
Edward Gaffney
Maria Gallagher
Marianna Gasparette
Patrick Gilna
Frank Glackin
Liam Gleeson
Patrick Grant
Guest Family

Des Gunning
Stephen Hall
Jimmy Hanty
Laurie Harney
Niamh Hayde
Healy Family
Brendan Heneghan
Aiden Patrick Hennigan
David Hewitt
David Higgins
Liam Hogan
Marie Therese Hogan
Richie Hogan
Matthew Holmes
Nancy Horan
Tom Horrigan
Ray Hourigan
Irene Hurst
David Hyde
Niamh and Paul Ibbotson
Thomas Jennings
Adrian Kavanagh
Pat Keane
Frank and Mary Keeling
Martin and Mary Keenan and Thomas and Geraldine Doyle
Steven Keenan
John Kehoe
John and Sinead Kehoe
Julie Kehoe
Alan Kelly
Ann Kelly
Clifford Kelly
David Kelly
Edward Kelly
Eoin Kelly
Joseph Francis Kelly
Mary Ann Kelly
Tony Kelly
Darly and Noeleen Kennedy
Kennedy Family
Sharon Keogan
Niamh Kernan
Mary L
Mick Lally
Kevin M. Lamoreau

Geraldine Lane Gregan
P. J. Lennon
Marian Loftus
Bridie Lydon
Martin Lydon
Noreen Lydon
Martin Lynch
Aoibheann Mahony
Noirin Mahony
Cormac Manning
David Manning
Audrey Martin
Eyre Massy
Kevin May
Michael and Sharon McCaffrey
Gary McCloskey
Carol McCormack
Andrew McCrae
Conor McGarry
Marian McGeeney
Ken McGowan
Kara Summer McGrane
Tom McGrath
Simon McGuinness
Johnny McHugh
Michael McHugh
Monica McKenna
Declan McKeown
Conor McManus
Glenn and Grainne McManus
Thomas McMenamin
Valerie McNulty
Patrick Meehan
Aisling Menton
Caroline Molloy
Eithne Molloy
D. J. Moore
Sally Mounsey
Donnacha Mulcahy
Joseph Francis Murphy
Patrick Murray
Cathy Nevin
Mike Norris
Marie Therese Nuytten
Mícheál Ó Faoláin

Donach O Lonargáin
Dónall Ó Mearáin
Corman O Murchú
Cormac O Suilleabhain
Sean Ó Súilleabháin
Una O'Brien
Ted O'Connell
Clare O'Connor
Donall O'Donoghue
Greg O'Dwyer
Bosco O'Farrell
Rebekah O'Hare
Eoin O'Liathain
O'Meara Family
Derek O'Neill
Margaret O'Neill
Michael O'Neill
Eamonn O'Reilly
Michael O'Reilly
Shane O'Reilly
Eimer O'Reilly Gilna
Fergus O'Rourke
Mary O'Shea
Stephen O'Shea
James O'Sullivan
Rachel O'Sullivan
Annette O'Toole and Alan Kelly
Sinead Owens
William Paton
Austin Payne
Anthony Quinlan
Gavin Radford
Andrew Ralph
Albert Rattigan and Catherine O'Donovan
Stephen Rea
Aileen and Lynda Regan
Mick Reidy
Jack Reynolds
Catherine Rogers
David Rouse
Martin Sadlier
Dr. Marty Sanders
Cernega Serghei
Alan Shatter
Doreen Sheridan

Seamus Sheridan
Karen Sinnott
Bridie Smith
Gabrielle Smyth
Charles Stanley-Smith
Sean Stephens
Deborah Sweeney
Carol Synnott
David L. Timlin
Billy Timmins
Yvonne Toner
Joanna Tuffy
Michael Twomey
Ann Walsh
Aron Walsh
Ethna Walsh
Katie Walsh
Oliver Walsh
Aidan Ward
Marie Wheelan
Claudia Whelan
Donal K. Whelan
Naomi Whelan
Alex White
Michael Wickham Moriarty
Brian Williams
Gary Woods
Noreen Wright

Petitions

Alan Kelly, TD, Tipperary, circa 1,400 signatures
Linda O'Reilly, Editor, The Anglo Celt, Cavan, circa 4,461 signatures
North Westmeath History Society, circa 333 signatures
Valerie McNulty, Donegal, circa 202 signatures

Submissions on European Parliament constituencies

Frances Fitzgerald TD, Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality
Galway East CDC, Fianna Fáil
Green Party
Joseph Francis Kelly
Kevin M. Lamoreau
Terry Murphy, Fine Gael
Mike Norris

APPENDIX 7

Constituency size and total Dáil membership since 1923

Year of Revision	Number of TDs in constituency						Total number of constituencies	Total Number of TDs
	3	4	5	7	8	9		
1923	6	4	9	5	3	1	28 ¹	147 ¹
1935	15	8	8	3			34	138
1947	22	9	9				40	147
1959 ²	21	9	9				39	144
1961	17	12	9				38	144
1969	26	14	2				42	144
1974	26	10	6				42	148
1980	13	13	15				41	166
1983	13	13	15				41	166
1990	12	15	14				41	166
1995	12	15	14				41	166
1998	16	12	14				42	166
2005	18	13	12				43	166
2009	17	15	11				43	166
2012	13	16	11				40	158
2017 (recommended)	9	17	13				39	160

1 Excludes 6 university members returned for 2 constituencies of 3 members each.

2 This revision was found to be unconstitutional by the High Court.

APPENDIX 8

2016 population of each County, City and City and County

Local Government Area	2016 Population
County	
Carlow	56,932
Cavan	76,176
Clare	118,817
Cork	417,211
Donegal	159,192
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	218,018
Fingal	296,020
Galway	179,390
Kerry	147,707
Kildare	222,504
Kilkenny	99,232
Laois	84,697
Leitrim	32,044
Longford	40,873
Louth	128,884
Mayo	130,507
Meath	195,044
Monaghan	61,386
Tipperary	159,553
Offaly	77,961
Roscommon	64,544
Sligo	65,535
South Dublin	278,767
Westmeath	88,770
Wexford	149,722
Wicklow	142,425
City	
Cork	125,657
Dublin	554,554
Galway	78,668
City and County	
Limerick	194,899
Waterford	116,176
Total	4,761,865

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