

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 to 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 164 and not more than 168;
 - (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 2 of the local government counties of Dun 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.
2. In relation to European constituencies, the Commission shall have regard to the following:
 - (a) in accordance with the provisions of the Nice Treaty, the total number of members to be elected in the State to the European Parliament shall be 12 (13 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, or by email to constituency_commission@environ.ie.

The closing date for submissions relating to Dáil constituencies is **Tuesday 31 July 2007** and for European constituencies is **Friday 31 August 2007**.

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 01-8882339) 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 6 months after its establishment (which was on 26 April 2007).

The Commission has prepared a statement of the constitutional provisions relating to Dáil constituencies and tables showing relevant statistics based on Census 2006 for the existing Dáil and European Parliament constituencies. This statement and tables are available on request from the Commission and on the Commission's website.