

Public Notice

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.