

Boundary Review –submission before 15th January 2016

To: The Secretariat,
Waterford Boundary Review,
C/o Kilkenny County Council,
County Hall,
John Street,
Kilkenny

Review of the Administrative Boundary between Waterford City and County Council and Kilkenny County Council

With reference to the above, I wish to make the following submission in relation to the Boundary Review.

I would like firstly to know why this Boundary Review has been resurrected again having been overwhelmingly rejected by the last Boundary Review Committee and the people of Kilkenny 10 years ago.

I would like to object to the proposal for the following reasons:

1. Kilkenny County Council have made substantial investment in roads, water, wastewater and other services which has led directly to Industrial, Commercial, Agricultural and Housing development in the area under review. If this review is approved by the Boundary Review Committee then this will lead to a huge financial windfall for Waterford City and County Council without any capital investment and a consequential loss in revenue to Kilkenny County Council.
2. Revenue from developments such as Bellview Port, Glanbia, Smartply etc will be lost to Waterford City and County Council. There will also be significant loss of rates, LPT tax, planning and development contributions and other fees and charges to County Kilkenny.
3. Every county has its own individual identity. Extension of the boundary will take away that sense of belonging to County Kilkenny which all of us living in the county feel strongly about and this is replicated across every county in Ireland. If you go to Australia, Canada, USA etc and if you state that you are Irish the inevitable question will be 'what county', and everyone identifies with and is proud to state their county. This is also very evident when there are 'jersey days' in work or in schools where you will not see anyone 'donning' the jersey of another county.
4. Kilkenny has a unique sporting identity and particularly so in relation to the GAA where Kilkenny roll of honour in relation to Senior and minor hurling All-Ireland and Club All-Irelands won. There are GAA clubs in south Kilkenny which are directly affected by this

proposal with part or the entire parish being annexed to Waterford. These clubs have been taking part in GAA competitions in Kilkenny since the foundation of the GAA.

5. Size of county. Kilkenny is a relatively small County being 16th in terms of area.
6. If by any chance this proposal was to receive favourable consideration then approximately 7,000 Kilkenny people would become Waterford people overnight. These are families that can be 5, 6, 7 or more generations in the same townland, parish and county. This is going to disaffect a large number of people and can only lead to problems in the future. You can compare this proposal to international situations where countries have been colonised or part taken over during wars etc and leading to the current unrest in the world e.g. Middle East.

Conclusion:

There have already been 2 previous Boundary Reviews in 1937 and 1955 which severed parts of County Kilkenny and annexed to Waterford City each time. How much more do they want. Will this be the last time or will Waterford keep coming looking for more. Why can they not expand out west from Waterford City into County Waterford.

I think Kilkenny should put in a counter proposal to regain what was conceded in the previous Boundary changes and go back to the River Suir as the natural and geographical boundary.

This proposal will alter the community, cultural and sporting identity of the area and is unacceptable to me and my family as citizens of County Kilkenny.

Signed: Michael Bergin ~~Michael Bergin~~ Castlecomer Co Kilkenny

Date: 6/1/16