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Subject: Online Submission : Waterford Boundary Review (David Gray)

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Area in which you reside. Specific addresses are not needed. Kilkenny

Question 1 How might alteration of the boundary help or hinder the retention or creation of employment and the general economic performance of the area? It would damage the identity of both counties in the eyes of tourists, investors etc as the perception will be of incompetence on the part of both local authorities to work together in order to develop the area in a way that is mutually beneficial as the notion of a necessary boundary change smacks of a poor system of public fund administration rather than anything else

Question 2 How might the alteration of the boundary help or hinder the identity or cohesion of local communities in the area? The traditional boundaries have been in place for generations and so the identity and connectedness of those who reside in the area will have been unnecessarily disrupted and will certainly undermine the status quo in sports (particularly the GAA), social housing, community participation etc

Question 3 How might alteration of the boundary help or hinder delivery of services by local government to ensure that the needs of the local community are met now and in the future? If there is a problem with how local government services are delivered in the area that should first be addressed at a national level as it is speculative at best to assume that a boundary review will automatically improve this. If local authorities and their geographical remit is an issue in terms of good quality service delivery then perhaps the system of service delivery through local government is the problem and other systems need to be considered

Question 4 How might alteration of the administrative boundary help or hinder the need to maximise efficiency and value for money in local government? Again if there is a problem with how local government services are delivered in the area that should first be addressed at a national level as it is speculative at best to assume that a boundary review will automatically improve this. If local authorities and their geographical remit is an issue in terms of good quality service delivery then perhaps the system of service delivery through local government is the problem and other systems need to be considered

Question 5 How might alteration of the boundary help or hinder the Planning and Development needs, as administered by the local authority, of the community? Once again if there is a problem with how local government services are delivered in the area that should first be addressed at a national level as it is speculative at best to assume that a boundary review will automatically improve this. If local authorities and their geographical remit is an issue in terms of good quality service delivery then perhaps the system of service delivery through local government is the problem and other systems need to be considered

Question 6 How might alteration of the boundary help or hinder the delivery of effective and accountable democratic representation? Clearly a significant change in the population of both counties will have an impact on democratic representation that would be a matter for the electoral commission. As it stands Kilkenny and Carlow are the same electoral area on national issues so a report into the population/representation ratio for the

scenario of a change in boundaries should be carried out for the three Counties Waterford, Kilkenny and Carlow

Question 7 What strengths or weaknesses do you see in current local authority administrative boundary arrangements in the area? No Comment

Is there anything else you wish to add ? I would suggest that an independent research report be carried out into the effectiveness and impact on the alteration of county boundaries if this has not already been done.

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