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From: Ger Buggy [redacted]
Sent: 15 January 2016 19:27
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Online Submission : Waterford Boundary Review (Ger Buggy)

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

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? Having lived in Ferrybank/Slieverue for over 50 years there is not much evidence of Waterford Co. Co. creating jobs in the area. Having once been a thriving port area the North Quays have been vacant for over 20 years and are a constant eyesore. Why do Waterford Council not concentrate on the areas within their control rather than trying to steal land from Kilkenny. Kilkenny County Council however have created the conditions and supports for a series of employers to set up at Belview eg. Port activities, IT Mima, Glanbia, Storeall etc. Kilkenny Co. Co. clearly has a superior record for assisting employment in the area.

Question 2 How might the alteration of the boundary help or hinder the identity or cohesion of local communities in the area? A person's identity is critical to their well being. The first question you are asked by a stranger is who you are and where you are from. Having grown up within the Waterford boundary to Kilkenny parents I was always a Kilkenny man. As a boy I played a lot of sport and other youth activities travelling all around Ireland and abroad. On being asked who I was and where I was from I always said my name and Kilkenny as my home. When saying this you would always be wary of being contracted and embarrassed by someone saying that he's not from Kilkenny, he's from Waterford. This always effected me as a young man and I do not want future generations of my family to be in the same position. In order to ensure this did not happen I moved to Slieverue in Co. Kilkenny, only to now have this unwarranted boundary review crop up its ugly head again.

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? No effect. Most services by both authorities are now being provided by 3rd party subcontractors who are more than capable of providing services on either side of county boundary.

Question 4 How might alteration of the administrative boundary help or hinder the need to maximise efficiency and value for money in local government? I believe this can only hinder value in local govt. In excess of 2 million euro would change hands fro KK to WD Co. Councils with KK having to be compensated for a period of time, costing the tax payer more money. I believe WD Co. Co. is struggling to successfully integrate what was 2 authorities in WD City Co. and WD Co. Council. If a large area of KK was thrown into this mix I believe that particular area would be very poorly served by WD Council.

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? Should have no effect. there are already plans in place for future development of this area and KK Co. Council have stated on many occasions that they wish to develop the area in co-operation with WD Council. This approach is the most appropriate development plan for both communities

Question 6 How might alteration of the boundary help or hinder the delivery of effective and accountable democratic representation? South KK has always been ably represented by the Piltown area elected representatives. The only consequence of a boundary extension would be to divide both communities who will become polarised by the issue. At present the Ferrybank/Slieverue communities are quite comfortable with each others positions and their identities, to change the status quo will lead to much ill-will and could have negative consequences in future.

Question 7 What strengths or weaknesses do you see in current local authority administrative boundary arrangements in the area? KK Co. Council have looked after the people in the area quite well. The library service is second to none, the Council office is centrally located and access to services is good. Community groups are in the fortunate position of having support from both authorities. I believe WD Council has had a negative effect on the area in recent years. The amount of social housing they have created, particularly in Co. KK is totally disproportionate. My understanding is that planning guidelines suggest housing estates should contain 10% social housing. in the Ferrybank area WD Council have created a number of estates which are entirely filled with social houses. I believe WD Council's intention is to use the area for many more social housing developments.

Is there anything else you wish to add ? This proposed boundary change shows Irish politics at its absolute worst. Junior Minister Coffey believe their is some political gain for him in Waterford by bringing this proposal to fruition. What happens in the next Dail if a Wexford minister decides he needs part of KK near New Ross, where will it end. In 1995 Ireland and UK governments signed the Good Friday agreement for Northern Ireland. Part of the agreement enshrined the right of the NI people to decide their future themselves. There can be no change to the status of NI ans its people without majority agreement. In South Kilkenny we have a situation where our futures and our identity will be decided by politicians without us having a direct say in the matter. this is completely undemocratic and should not be allowed under any circumstances.

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