

From: John Brennan
Sent: 15 January 2016 14:31
To: Boundary Review
Subject: proposed Waterford boundary extension

Dear Sirs,

As a long time Waterford resident, with lots of family on both sides of the river, I simply cannot see any rationale for the proposed Waterford boundary extension.

A persons address and the townland, parish and indeed county they belong to is such a part of their sense of identity, sense of belonging, sense of security and sense of community from their earliest years, that a change to all of these by the simple stroke of a pen would be devastating to a great number of the people living in the area under consideration. The loss of their sense of cultural association in such a situation would cause a great degree of alienation and bitterness among large swathes of the people affected.

The progression of the regions Spatial Strategy requires the buy in of all in the South-East, where all sides feel they have a say in the decisions, all can make their contribution and all can potentially benefit from those decisions. There is a serious danger of loosing this cooperation if one group feel their aspirations are being ignored.

The best interests of the planning and development of the greater Waterford metropolitan area can surely be best served by a cooperative body of representatives of all in the region drawing up a common plan. This shouldn't require any alteration of county boundaries, indeed any shifting of the boundaries would only shift the location of the very same issues of disagreement without any such cooperative body.

Indeed the attraction of the South East to Foreign Direct Investment, its attraction as a tourist destination and the case it's making for the expansion of WIT all require the region working together, not one cannibalizing the other.

The precedent of cities' metropolitan areas spilling out of their original administrative areas is to be seen everywhere, but it hasn't required changes of county boundaries elsewhere. Dublin doesn't regularly need to annex portions of Kildare, Wicklow or Meath. The greater Derry city even spills out across the state boundaries etc.

What precedent would be being set in this the centenary of the 1916 rising if one large region in this state could acquire tracts of a neighbour's region without the neighbour's consent.

Surely the example EU wide and indeed the example in Northern Ireland is that solutions are best reached by inter-community cooperation and not annexation.

It can't be beyond our imagination to come up with the design of a body to make decisions for the northern boundaries of the greater Waterford Metropolitan Area in the best interests of that whole area without the need for county boundary changes. Some body of representatives from the areas involved that can enforce plans and build infrastructure etc irrespective of which county's council they represent.

Yours in anticipation of a cooperative solution being found,
John Brennan.

