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From: John James Connolly [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 January 2016 14:46
To: [REDACTED]
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Subject: Online Submission : Waterford Boundary Review (John James Connolly)

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

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? An alteration of the current boundary will not create local employment, it may hinder confidence with multi national employers coming to the area such as the IDA or foreign direct investment, such companies could as a direct decision choose to invest in other regions of the the country instead.

Question 2 How might the alteration of the boundary help or hinder the identity or cohesion of local communities in the area? A large element of a person's identity, is a connection to the local parish, local sporting organisations such as the GAA. Local people will straight away let an visitor know, that this is the area in which they grew up and went to local and attended local school. The local parish church in Ferrybank is in the Catholic diocese of Ossory which also includes the many other parishes in Co. Kilkenny including Kilkenny city. Whilst the Waterford is under the dicese of Waterford and Lismore. Any change is this instance could possibly also divide the local parishes along withe the county boundary.

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 the boundary application were to be altered in favour of Waterford City and Council, they would incur additional financial costs and this would have a massive impact on the County Council budget when it comes to the provision of local services. The services provision in many areas of Co Waterford is already finding it difficult like most local authority areas across the country, would more areas be of a hinder to Waterford City & County Council. My answer would be YES...

Question 4 How might alteration of the administrative boundary help or hinder the need to maximise efficiency and value for money in local government? The Ferrybank area and its hinterland draws down four stands of funding as is the present situation; Kilkenny County Council, Kilkenny Leadership Partnership, along with Waterford City & County Council & Waterford Area Partnership, all of which is vital revenue to the local area. Much op-operation between both County Councils has delivered many projects in the past, however Waterford City and County Council has also made many objection to area plans drawn up by Kilkenny County Council which has been a hinder. The local area could be dealt a massive blow in terms of financial loss if the existing county boundary arrangements were to be changed as the area would only recieve funding from only one local authority and not two which is the present situation.

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? At present there are many regional bodies in place to see the development of the South-East in a coordinated and joint manner. These bodies already allow for progress to be made whilst also respecting traditional County boundaries and the people living within this area of concern. The area will develop one way or the other, it is simply not about creating new

boundary lines on maps, and it will instead come down to good management and organisational structures being put in place.

Question 6 How might alteration of the boundary help or hinder the delivery of effective and accountable democratic representation? Kilkenny County Council has at present 24 seating members representing on average 4,000 people. The loss of this area in question to Kilkenny County Council would see a reduction of the overall representation to 22 members and a reconfiguration to the local authority and lead to confusion to local people. The population that would be disenfranchised from County Kilkenny would for the very first time find themselves in electoral area to which they have no common cause or allegiance.

Question 7 What strengths or weaknesses do you see in current local authority administrative boundary arrangements in the area? The two local authorities have shown some willingness to achieve much needed service provision which have delivered some much needed projects in the past. However Waterford City and County Council have also lodged many objections to plans often produced by Kilkenny County Council which has seen many negative impacts. An objection was lodged against the construction of the Ferrybank shopping complex by Waterford City Council some years back whilst preventing local employment to take place and to create confidence in the local economy of the area, this was a huge hindrance. The shopping complex which has since been built and is currently vacant, offers vital services both of which are provided under the remit of Kilkenny County Council, a local area office, a state of the art local library, which is now widely used by residents of South Kilkenny

and all local people want to see local employment being created when the shopping complex is fully functional.

Is there anything else you wish to add ? If the current boundary must be moved it should be back the way in favour of Kilkenny County Council and to reunite the whole village of Ferrybank under the control and remit of Kilkenny County Council.

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