



Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

24 November 2016

Mr Eamonn McConville  
Secretary to the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland  
The Bungalow  
Stormont House  
Stormont Estate  
BELFAST BT4 3SH

Dear Mr McConville

**Response to Boundary Commission Provisional Proposals Report**

I refer to the Boundary Commission's Provisional Proposals identified to inform the 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies. In making reference to the Commission's Report the council makes the following commentary as a corporate response in so far as the proposals affect its district.

This response is not intended to offer an alternative to the proposals presented by the Commission but rather identifies issues which the Council consider to be a potential barrier to seamlessly deliver its services to all residents across the district.

The council notes that the provisional proposals if implemented would see its 40 Electoral Wards being positioned across 4 parliamentary constituencies rather than 2 under current arrangements. This is further reinforced by the council now sharing the 4 parliamentary constituencies with 4 councils (Fermanagh & Omagh, Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon, Derry & Strabane and Causeway Coast and Glens) under the proposals, rather than with 1 other council (Fermanagh and Omagh) as it is at present. On considering the proposals the council observes that:

- They appear to be counter to the principle of coterminosity which have developed in recent years in response to the need to deliver services in a joined up manner across government for the benefit of all residents. They have the potential to dilute the principle of coterminosity.
- The proposals will bond areas and communities which traditionally have not had a natural affiliation nor connection.
- Mid Ulster Local Government District is a boundary which is synonymous with local communities and broadly co-terminus with the existing Mid Ulster and Fermanagh & South Tyrone parliamentary constituencies.

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- The names of the existing parliamentary constituencies where the council's 40 Electoral Wards are positioned (Mid Ulster and Fermanagh & South Tyrone) resonate with local communities as they have been established from county names and have a geographical basis. Proposed boundaries and the naming convention for same do not give recognition to the newly established local government administrative boundaries which communities are becoming accustomed to.
- The council relies upon its close liaison and working relationships with its NI Assembly and Westminster Parliamentary representatives to progress matters to the benefit of its residents. The proposals offer an opportunity for the Council to work with a greater number of elected representatives but they would represent a smaller proportion of the council's area lessening impact and stake within the district.
- Proposals have potential to stretch and thinly spread NI Assembly and Westminster Parliamentary representatives, and that of council officials, to progress matters of mutual benefit due to their requirement to work with a greater number of local government districts and other bodies. This is demonstrated with the council's electoral wards being positioned across 4 parliamentary constituencies rather than 2 as is at present. For example, under proposals:
  - 5 wards would fall under Fermanagh & South Tyrone
  - 15 wards would fall under Glenshane
  - 11 wards would fall under North Tyrone
  - 9 wards would fall under Upper Bann & Blackwater
- Dungannon, under the proposals, would be split across two parliamentary constituencies. Council however requests that in instances where towns and villages are split across more than one constituency that they be placed in their entirety within one constituency, the Dungannon situation being one such example.

In summary, the changing of established constituencies where a broad level of coterminosity has been experienced allowing council elected representatives to strategically work with their NI Assembly and Westminster Parliamentary representatives will make it difficult for the council to continue to co-ordinate its activity of delivering strategic gains for the residents of the district.

The Council is supportive of the work of the Commission and requests that its views be considered as part of its deliberations.

Yours sincerely



Anthony Tohill  
Chief Executive

# Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland



Appendix 2

Boundary Commission for  
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The Bungalow  
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Councillor Kim Ashton  
Chair  
Mid Ulster District Council  
Burn Road  
Cookstown  
BT80 8DT

12 March 2018

Dear Councillor Ashton

## 2018 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

Thank you for your letter of 5 March 2018 seeking clarification on the basis and information used to develop the Boundary Commission's Revised Proposals.

The rationale for the latest proposals is set out in the Commission's Revised Proposals Report which was sent to Mid Ulster Council and which can also be viewed on the Boundary Commission's website at <https://www.boundarycommission.org.uk/2018-review>. The website also includes all responses to the previous two consultation stages which the Commission considered and took into account in producing the Revised Proposals.

Should you or the Council have specific questions or points of clarification please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Please note that the consultation ends on 26 March 2018.

Yours sincerely

**Eamonn McConville**  
**Secretary to the Boundary Commission**