

Dear Boundary Commission

I must confess I that I find myself in the highly unusual position of being in agreement with Alistair McDonnell of the SDLP. Your proposed changes to the Belfast constituencies makes little geographical sense and can only result in a diminished political role for our capital city. Surely the position of Belfast is such that its four constituencies should be retained and expanded into the geographical urban areas on its outskirts.

For example, I live in Dundonald which is now to be incorporated into the Strangford constituency. It was only a few years ago that this part of the Belfast metropolitan area was freed from its geographically incomprehensible association with a rural constituency and took its logical place in East Belfast. Now it seems that illogicality once again has taken over in the Boundary Commission. May I ask you in what ways Dundonald has more in common with Derryboy and Killyleagh than Stormont and Ballyhackamore?? Please enlighten me as I am at a loss.

I envisage considerable opposition to these proposed changes from the people of Belfast generally for the reduction of their political clout in general and the residents in outlying urban areas who will find themselves with elected representatives who will have rural rather than urban outlooks as their main priorities.

Yours exasperated

Jolyon Agar

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