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Liam McNally: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the Silverbirch Hotel in Omagh. It is now ten minutes past ten and I formally declare this public hearing open. My name is Liam McNally. I am a district judge for Enniskillen and Strabane and I have been appointed by the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland to chair this hearing into its provisional proposals for Northern Ireland Parliamentary Constituencies.

I should stress that I am independent of the Commission. The purpose of the hearing is to enable representations to be made about the Commission's proposals. It is not my function at all to defend them. All I would say is that, in producing its proposals, the Commission was constrained by the rules set out by the legislation, particularly Schedule 2 of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, so any counter-proposals which are made would also need to comply with these rules and you will be able to find those at the back of the Commission's report.

We have up to two days available for the hearing and we intend to start as close as possible each morning to ten am, break for lunch between twelve-thirty and one-thirty, although that may be redundant in light of the number of speakers, but if others arrived, finish at about four-thirty.

Although the hearing is scheduled to last two days, depending on progress, we may conclude the proceedings today and the hearing will only continue into a second day if it has not been possible to hear all those who have been registered to speak.

In relation to maps and documents, copies of all the relevant documents are available at the back of the room for your information, and I understand we have a representative from the Ordnance Survey Department should there be any queries.

I should add, of course, that it is important to note that this hearing will be recorded and a transcript will be published by the Commission after the end of the consultation period on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

It is also important to set out the exact purpose and scope of the hearing; the purpose of this public hearing is to hear your representations about the Commission's provisional proposals

for Northern Ireland's Parliamentary Constituencies. Unlike previous public inquiries under the old rules, I am not required to provide a report or recommendations to the Commission. My role is to conduct the proceedings as efficiently and effectively as possible and if you have a view on the Commission's proposals this is your opportunity to be heard. I will not be able to hear representations about issues outside the scope of this hearing such as the possible impact of the Commission's proposals on future election results.

Speakers will be called up to the table at the front to speak into the microphones provided. Please begin by stating your name and whether you are speaking in a personal capacity or in a representative capacity. Please speak clearly for the benefit of the transcript.

I intend to conduct the hearing in a relatively informal manner so formal cross examination is not appropriate, however, I am happy for people to put questions to speakers through myself and I may also have some questions or points for clarification.

Your submissions will be of particular assistance if you are able to explain the reasons why you have taken a particular position, any counter-proposals you wish to make and the reasoning behind them. I should, however, be grateful if speakers would try not to repeat points already made by other speakers and importantly, to try and back up their statements with some evidence if possible.

It would be very helpful if you would leave a copy of your representation with my staff; we already have one written representation, and they will be happy to make a copy if necessary.

If you decide not to speak or for some reason you do not get a chance to speak at this hearing and you wish to add your submission, you can make written submissions to the Commission up until 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

Please feel free to approach any of the support staff with any queries you may have and they will be pleased to help you or draw any matter to my attention.

We have at the moment three speakers. As you may know from the Commission proposals, some speakers may be given a priority, for example, if there is a sitting member of parliament, but the order I propose at the moment is Councillor Martin Reilly and then Sonya McAnulla from

Omagh District Council and then Mr Eric Bullick. However, I would now ask the secretary to the Boundary Commission, Liz Benson, to make a brief presentation of the Boundary Commission's provisional proposals.

Liz Benson:

Thank you. I will make a short presentation of the Commission's proposals and then I will hand over to the speakers to make their submissions. The text of the presentation is on your chairs, along with a guide to the review.

The Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland is an independent public body responsible for reviewing Parliamentary constituencies in Northern Ireland every five years. The Chairman of the Commission is the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Right Honourable John Bercow. The Deputy Chairman is the Honourable Mr Justice McLaughlin who is a judge of the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland, and the two Commissioners are Mr Richard Mackenzie CB and Dr Bill Smith.

There are four Boundary Commissions in the United Kingdom; one each for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and the current review is being carried out simultaneously by all four Commissions.

For the current review, the Commission is required to review the Parliamentary constituencies in Northern Ireland and to report to the Secretary of State before 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013. They are required to reduce the number of constituencies from 18 to 16 and to construct constituencies using the United Kingdom electoral quota of 76,641 electors, based on the electoral register of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010.

They are required to ensure that each constituency has an electorate that is within 5% of this UK quota. That means within a range of 72,810 electors to 80,473 electors. The Northern Ireland Commission has the discretion to lower the minimum threshold to 70,583 electors, but only if it is satisfied that using the UK minimum threshold would unreasonably impair its ability to consider other factors such as geography and local ties.

The Commission has the discretion to take into account certain other factors provided they do not interfere with the requirement to meet the +/- 5% target and for this review, the factors are; special geographical considerations, particularly the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency, current

local government ward boundaries, the boundaries of existing constituencies and any local ties which would be broken by changes in those constituencies.

The Commission tried a number of starting points beginning in the North West, the South West, the South and Belfast and the various models produced a similar overall pattern.

All of the proposed constituencies are within +/- 5% of the UK electoral quota and they range from 72,903 electors in Belfast South East to 78,664 electors in Fermanagh and South Tyrone. The Commission did not consider that the use of Rule 7 was necessary.

Within the confines of the +/- 5% range, their proposals take account of other discretionary factors such as special geographical considerations and the impacts on identifiable local ties. However, the loss of two constituencies, together with the tight electoral range, has meant substantial changes to the existing constituencies.

Nine of the existing constituencies continue with only incremental adjustments. Newry and Armagh and South Down required the movement of only one ward. Lagan Valley required the movement of only two wards. Belfast North, Upper Bann and Foyle required the movement of three wards. And North Down, Fermanagh and South Tyrone and South Antrim required relatively small adjustments of five or six wards.

In Belfast, the existing four constituencies amount to 3.2 new seats. To maintain a four-constituency Belfast would require substantial extensions of the existing Belfast constituency boundaries into surrounding rural areas and settlements, and the import of some 22 wards. So the Commission proposes three constituencies for Belfast with the transfer of 12 wards to the adjacent constituency of Strangford; six from Belfast South and six from Belfast East.

The five Western constituencies of Fermanagh and South Tyrone, West Tyrone, Mid Ulster, Foyle and East Londonderry amount to 4.2 new seats. So the Commission proposes four seats for this part of the region, mainly through the reconfiguration of West Tyrone, Mid Ulster and East Londonderry into two new constituencies, Glenshane and Mid Tyrone.

The only split Ward, Derryaghy, was already split at the last review of Parliamentary constituencies in 2008 between

Belfast West and Lagan Valley and the Commission saw no reason to depart from this.

Finally, the consultation process itself; the Commission published its provisional proposals on 13<sup>th</sup> September for a 12-week consultation period up until Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011. During the consultation period the Commission is holding three public hearings; the Belfast hearing on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> October has finished. Today we have the Omagh hearing, on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October and finally the Ballymena hearing will be next week, on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October.

After the 2<sup>nd</sup> December, the Commission will publish the representations it receives and the transcripts of the public hearings for written comment during a secondary consultation period of four weeks. Then the Commission will consider all the representations and the transcripts and may amend its provisional proposals. Any resulting revised proposals will be published for an eight-week public consultation period but there will be no further public hearings.

The Commission will consider any representations on its revised proposals and may further modify its proposals. These modifications will not be subject to further consultation. The Commission has to submit its final report to the Secretary of State before 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013.

Liam McNally: Thank you very much for that presentation. Could I call upon our first speaker, Councillor Martin Reilly, please?

Martin Reilly: Thank you. My full name is Martin Reilly. I am here today on behalf of the office of Mark Durkan, Member of Parliament for Foyle. Can I begin by giving his apologies; as he is in Westminster today, he has asked me to come along and speak on his behalf.

Mr Durkan has also indicated to me that he will make his own written submission before 2<sup>nd</sup> December, but he was keen that someone should come along today to make a public presentation as well.

My comments will be specifically on the proposed Foyle constituency, which we note has a new proposed electorate of 72,982, to include the new wards of Artigarvan, Dunnamanagh and Slievekirk. Our main issue is in relation to the retention of Banagher and Claudy in the new proposed

Glenshane constituency, rather than incorporating them into Foyle.

Claudy and Banagher have a natural affinity with the City of Derry given their location within Derry City Council. The MP's office continues to receive queries from constituents based in those two wards even though they have been moved out of Foyle for some time now. We get regular inquiries to the MP's office from people in those wards who are looking for us to put them in contact with their local councillors. The fact that Banagher and Claudy are within Derry City Council district would mean that a lot of people would still contact the Foyle MP for queries.

Given that Banagher and Claudy were part of Foyle in the past, we think that the Boundary Commission should have looked at incorporating these two wards back into Foyle first, before looking to add on other wards into Foyle.

The proposed new Glenshane constituency is geographically very large and it straddles five different district council areas. By adding Claudy and Banagher into Foyle this would help the new Glenshane constituency by reducing the number of councils that it would represent.

We also have a concern in relation to the proposals as they stand in that they do not make reference to the number of Health Trust Boards and other such bodies. In relation to constituents having an idea of who their government departments are, this does not just include who their MP is or their MLA, it is also the different statutory organisations; their boundaries should also be looked at in relation to the design of new parliamentary boundaries.

These are the main points that I have to make today. Thank you.

Liam McNally: Thank you, Martin. Does anyone have any questions which they want to ask through the chair to Martin?

Can I just clarify; if you were to take Banagher and Claudy out of the Foyle constituency how would that affect the quota figures? Have you given any thought to that or any counter-proposals?

Martin Reilly: Banagher and Claudy currently are not in the Foyle constituency; they were in the Foyle constituency in the past. If we were to take Banagher and Claudy into Foyle that

would be an addition of 4,763 people, which might make us quite large. However, the proposals as they stand were to already widen Foyle to include Artigarvan, Dunnamanagh and Slievekirk, which is a total of 5,172, so there is only a difference of 409 people between adding Banagher and Claudy into Foyle and then not taking Artigarvan, Dunnamanagh and Slievekirk. However, that would leave us below the minimum figure, so we would be happy to accept Artigarvan, Dunnamanagh and Slievekirk or maybe not all three of those wards, but one of them.

The issue we would have is that the Boundary Commission should have looked at adding Banagher and Claudy first, before adding in other wards from Strabane District Council area because it would make sense, in our mind, to keep Derry City Council as fully intact within the Foyle constituency and then add in other wards from other council districts to ensure that the Foyle constituency met its numbers.

Liam McNally: Thank you very much indeed, Martin.

Could I then call on Sonya McAnulla? Could you state your name and the company or organisation to which you are attached.

Sonya McAnulla: My name is Sonya McAnulla and I am representing Omagh District Council today.

Firstly, on behalf of Omagh District Council, can I welcome you here today to Omagh and thank you for selecting Omagh as one of the three venues for the public hearing.

I am here on behalf of the council to make an oral representation with specific reference to the proposed new Mid Tyrone county constituency. I would like to present the evidence through an agenda of a number of areas that I wish to cover. These being strong, central and local government, looking at historic connections, particularly the West Tyrone constituency, natural affinity and traditional ties, county identity, the impact that the review proposals put forward and the council's recommendations.

Omagh District Council recognises the statutory limitations the legislation is setting the Boundary Commission. We note the requirement to reduce constituencies from 18 to 16 and the requirement to meet the UK quota. The Council is not proposing to go into detail at this juncture on the figures per electoral ward or for the addition or removal of proposed

electoral wards across the proposed constituencies. The Council, however, does strongly believe that significance must be placed on a number of the relevant factors when creating or adjusting constituencies, such as historic connection, subsidiarity, common boundaries, county identity, council structures and council boundaries. It is on these issues that the Council has based its oral evidence today.

The Council notes that such issues are highlighted under discretionary powers and the Council would ask that serious consideration is given to the following points in the Boundary Commission's final determination.

I move first to strong central and local government, looking at subsidiarity and common boundaries. Whilst the future of the Review of Public Administration, known as RPA, is unclear, the need for reform of local government irrespective is still on the agenda. Collaborative working is essential at both local and central government level and work is ongoing through the improvement, collaboration and efficiency programme, otherwise known as ICE, to take this forward. The RPA guiding principles are still relevant to ensure strong and effective government at all levels.

Looking at it from the point of view of subsidiarity, delivering services and exercising powers as close to the people as possible, Omagh Council considers the proposals by the Boundary Commission to move wards from West Tyrone into Fermanagh-South Tyrone fails to meet the principle of subsidiarity as constituents who live, for example, in the Drumquin area will be geographically far removed from their political representative.

With regard to common boundaries, having public services organised within common boundaries helps to create real opportunities for well-planned, joined-up working across central and local government.

The local government boundaries should mirror the constituency boundaries. It is particularly important for Omagh and in the current West Tyrone constituency to consolidate the relationship between Omagh and Strabane. Without the alignment and consolidation of relationships, in particular for Omagh with the West Tyrone alignment, and the application of the common boundaries or coterminosity principle, it is likely to further exacerbate the disjointedness of central and local government working into the future. The

Council, therefore, believes these principles must be given significance in the review of the boundaries.

If we look at the historic connections, particularly in the West Tyrone Parliamentary constituency, which incorporates Omagh and Strabane councils, this has historically dated back to 1929, changing alignment through a number of boundary reviews. Since the boundary review of 1995 this constituency has included the whole of Omagh and Strabane district council areas.

On a West Tyrone basis, over the years Omagh and Strabane Councils have worked very successfully on a number of issues of mutual benefit, for example, infrastructural deficits, economic issues, planning issues, tourism, hospital campaign, sport and leisure and leisure promotion. More recently Omagh and Strabane Councils have been sharing the interim Chief Executive management arrangements, which is a first in Northern Ireland.

The West Tyrone Area Plan, although out of date now, recognises the coherence of the area as it incorporated the whole of Strabane and Omagh district Council area. Currently the two district councils are served by the same six MLAs and one MP. When issues need to be raised or addressed by political representatives, it has provided a strong and mutual foundation for representation, lobbying and solidarity. The proposed new Mid Tyrone constituency fragments that cohesiveness.

Looking at the natural affinity and traditional ties, the proposed new Mid Tyrone constituency would result in six electoral wards which are currently under the Omagh District, namely Fintona, Dromore, Drumquin, Trillick, Newtownsaville and Sixmilecross transferring to the Fermanagh-South Tyrone constituency, with three current wards in the Strabane district transferring to the Foyle constituency. All of these electoral wards have a natural affinity with Omagh as the district's main town and the county town of Tyrone. For example, they have an affinity towards Omagh for schools, for further education and higher education, for employment, public services, shopping, sport and cultural events, and they also have their main political party offices and their MP located in Omagh.

The new proposed linkage of the six Omagh electoral wards to Fermanagh-South Tyrone has a very distinct potential for voter or elector isolation. The voting pattern could change to

voting apathy which could become prevalent among constituents who feel isolated from political representation and, as I mentioned before, for example, someone living in Drumquin, even in Sixmilecross or Newtownstewart, may have their MP located in Fermanagh.

The towns of Fintona and Dromore are two of the largest towns within the Omagh district council and are two centres of population that have a natural affiliation to Omagh and to the West Tyrone constituency. The Council feels that the natural affinity and traditional ties should be given a priority weighting.

Looking at the county identity of Tyrone, Omagh is the county town of Tyrone with an expanding population now in excess of 50,000 across the district. It is a public service centre with a significant central government presence, with offices for the Department of Agriculture, Planning, Roads, Invest NI, Water Service, the Special EU programme office, the Probation Board, the Education Board and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. The new South-West Further and Higher Education College has its sub-regional centre located in the Omagh campus, incorporating Omagh, Dungannon and Fermanagh. In the regional development strategy for Northern Ireland 2015, Omagh is identified as a main hub located in the key transport corridors. Tyrone, in terms of sport and cultural activities has a strong traditional affinity to the county identity; for example the Tyrone GAA, Ceoltas and the Orange family of loyal orders are all organised on a county basis.

The proposed new Mid Tyrone county constituency dissects all of the four council districts in Tyrone and takes out of Omagh the two main towns of Dromore and Fintona, yet these have an affinity to the Omagh District Council area and the Tyrone identity. This dissection also results in all of the four county Tyrone local government districts being split across Mid Tyrone, Glenshane, Foyle and the new Fermanagh-South Tyrone constituency.

Alignment of constituencies and councils is critical, yet we currently await clear direction on council boundaries going forward. It would seem more appropriate that reviews of boundaries are undertaken simultaneously.

Looking then at the adverse impact of the current proposal as identified by Omagh District Council, there is potential for isolation of constituents, both in their relationship with their elected representative and the linkages to electoral offices.

Representation will become fragmented. There are issues with the historical connections and relationships being severed. There is a fragmentation potential of constructive working relationships and partnerships that already exist. There is the potential for further disadvantage for rural and deprived areas of West Tyrone, further disempowerment and disenfranchisement, which impacts on the future of strong local government and the loss of coterminosity and subsidiarity with local government.

The Boundaries review should, therefore, give serious consideration to the potential negative impacts arising from the proposed boundaries change and should ensure that mitigations are factored into the final recommendations.

Finally, Omagh District Council would ask that the following recommendations are taken into consideration:

- That the Boundary Commission gives weight and consideration to the impact on strong central and local government and in particular in relation to subsidiarity and common boundaries.
- To look at the historic connections, the natural affinity and traditional ties, particularly within the West Tyrone constituency as it is at the moment.
- To consider the impact on the Tyrone county identity and to undertake grassroots consultation with the people in the affected areas. The reason we say this is that those best placed to inform you are those most directly impacted on - the constituents. They may not make an oral representation or produce written evidence, but if asked, would probably voice their opinion.

On behalf of Omagh District Council, I thank you for the opportunity to present today.

Liam McNally: Thank you very much indeed, Sonya; that is very helpful. Are there any questions which anyone wants to put to Sonya on the basis of her presentation?

The only comment I have is really on the last of your recommendations when you say that those best placed to inform the Commission, are those most directly impacted, i.e. the constituents and if asked they will voice their opinion. I suppose in many ways that is really the purpose for which this

hearing has been set up today. Do you have any other alternatives? Obviously, judging by the numbers of people here today they have not come. What precise recommendations could you make to the Commission which would assist them in getting the voices of the constituents?

Sonya McAnulla: I know logistically it is probably quite difficult, but sometimes events like this may be more off-putting to a constituent because maybe they fear speaking out in public, but maybe taking it to the grass roots, to some of the more rural areas and speaking to the constituents themselves; they might actually come forward then with some of their own proposals and suggestions.

Liam McNally: On behalf of Omagh Council, if you can advise the residents of this area of the final date for the written submissions that would be helpful.

Sonya McAnulla: Okay. Thank you.

Liam McNally: Thank you very much, Sonya.

Now could I call on Mr Eric Bullick? Please give your name and any political party or organisation to which you are attached.

Eric Bullick: My name is Eric Bullick. I am based here in Omagh but I am speaking today on behalf of the Alliance Party in general. You have made several comments on the poor attendance; it might be useful for me to tell people that the attendance at the Belfast one was not brilliant either, representing a much larger population.

My comments are the general Alliance Party reaction to the Commission's findings and then a few specific comments about the local area.

The Alliance Party feels that, given the constraints within which the Commission is obliged to operate, the outcomes of the review are largely as fair as can be expected. You do have very clear parameters and you have followed those very carefully.

Many of the initial comments have concentrated on what is described as which two constituencies would be lost. If we are going down from 18 to 16, then where is the loss? Everyone is obviously looking at who will lose out. In the first instance it is entirely proper to judge how many seats Belfast

should have and it is absolutely clear that, given the demographic changes that have taken place over the past few years, there are only three Belfast constituencies. Alliance feels that that is reasonable.

In order to maintain four seats in Belfast you would have to stretch the concept of Belfast dramatically outside the existing boundaries of Belfast and the people who thought that they were living in the suburbs would find themselves living in Belfast. That was a reasonable outcome of the Commission.

With regard to all of the other proposals, the Alliance Party accepts the provisional recommendations for the remaining constituencies largely as published, subject to the following minor adjustments.

We feel that in County Tyrone, it is quite clear on the map that the new boundary of Glenshane comes right down into the Torrent area of Dungannon and we feel that those six wards lie naturally to Dungannon. They were previously in Fermanagh-South Tyrone; we believe that they should return to Fermanagh-South Tyrone.

As mentioned by Sonya, we also feel that the six wards in the Omagh district area - that is Newtownsaville, Sixmilecross, Fintona, Trillick, Dromore and Drumquin - should not transfer to Fermanagh-South Tyrone. I know they were part of Fermanagh-South Tyrone in years gone past, but there is a natural affinity to Omagh. The people in those villages use Omagh as their centre for practically everything, all of their services, and their natural home base and local base is Omagh. To put those six wards into Fermanagh-South Tyrone would lie against historical, social and family ties. We feel that they should remain within the Omagh District Council and therefore within the new constituency of Mid Tyrone.

Alliance will make a detailed submission before 2<sup>nd</sup> December and that is all I have to say on behalf of Alliance at the moment. Thank you very much indeed for taking these comments.

Liam McNally: Thank you very much. Does anyone want to ask Mr Bullick any questions?

Just one final question that may be dealt with in your submissions later. If you were to make those changes, what

would be the ripple effect of that on the quotas? Have you given consideration to that?

Eric Bullick: I have not done it in detail, but I do notice that the new quota for Fermanagh-South Tyrone has some 78,000, well towards the upper end of the band, so I would have thought that the removal of those would not have a dramatic effect and that we could still be within the quota.

Liam McNally: Thank you very much indeed, Mr Bullick. As there are no other speakers of whom we are aware, at this stage we will adjourn until one-thirty, just in case someone else does arrive. You are, of course, very welcome to wait and see if there are any other speakers. If you are not here for my closing remarks, can I thank first of all the speakers who have spoken. They may have been few in number but I have to say from my own independent point of view they are of high quality and the fact that you kept within the parameters, I have to say, made my job as Chairman extremely easy. Thank you.

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Liam McNally: We are reconvening the review of the Parliamentary Constituencies public hearing at one-thirty pm and I would like to invite Mr Joe Byrne to come along and make his presentation. Mr Byrne, welcome; if you can state your name and the organisation to which you are attached.

Joe Byrne: Thank you, Commissioner. My name is Joe Byrne. I am an MLA for West Tyrone and I am Chairman of the SDLP Party overall. I just want to make a very short oral presentation because my Party will be making a substantial written submission before the deadline of 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Just for the record, as an MLA for West Tyrone, which currently encompasses Strabane District and Omagh District, we would have some concerns locally about the proposed new boundary limits. Essentially, Commissioner, I would want to make the comment that West Tyrone is a very natural constituency in that it comprises Strabane district and Omagh district and it very neatly fits into a co-terminal boundary with West Tyrone. In the current proposal as outlined, which is out for consultation, Mid-Tyrone would stretch from the Donegal border, 10 miles west of Castlederg at Barnesmore Gap, right across to Lough Neagh, and we would have some concerns about that.

The second concern would be that the northern part of Strabane district, that is the three District Electoral Areas of Slievekirk, Dunnamanagh and Artigarvan, would be going into Foyle.

The third point is that the southern part of West Tyrone, within the District Electoral Area of West Tyrone, that is Drumquin, Trillick and Dromore and Sixmilecross, which is in the current Mid Tyrone District Electoral Area, would be going into Fermanagh -South Tyrone. There would be some concern that that natural rural hinterland of Omagh and the natural rural hinterland of Strabane are in some way being violated in the current proposals. Whenever our Party makes an overall submission, reference will be made to that as well as all of the other issues relating to the other proposed constituencies across the north of Ireland.

I do not want to say much more at this oral presentation. I wanted to come along to acknowledge that you are sitting here and as MLA for West Tyrone and Chairman of the Party I would formally give my intentions in relation to what the Party will be doing overall.

Liam McNally: Mr Byrne, thank you very much as an MLA for coming along to the hearing today. One of the things that the Commission will be interested in is any counter-proposals or proposals that you have and how they will affect the quota and any ripple effect. If your Party would deal with that in the written submissions, the Commission would find it very helpful.

Joe Byrne: Thank you. That is the reason I do not want to make a piecemeal approach here today. It is important that the Party provide a comprehensive written, numbers-based and criteria-based overall mapping plan and that is what we intend doing. Thank you very much.

Liam McNally: Thank you very much, Mr Byrne.

As there are no other speakers who have either registered or of whom we are aware, I propose to adjourn this hearing until tomorrow morning, 20<sup>th</sup> October, at ten am. Thank you.

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**ENDS**