



SOUTH BELFAST PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Ms Elisabeth Benson
Secretary
Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland
Forestview
Purdy's Lane
Belfast
BT8 7AR

30 November 2011

Dear Ms Benson,

I write to you on behalf of the South Belfast Partnership Board in response to the Boundary Commission's Provisional Proposals Report of the Sixth Periodical Review of Parliamentary Constituencies. The South Belfast Partnership Board have submitted a formal response to the consultation.

The South Belfast Partnership Board brings together representatives from all sectors and we both represent and work closely local community groups and organisations across South Belfast. Through our economic remit, we have recently been working with a number of business communities representative from various parts of the South of the City, for example the Lisburn Road, the Ormeau Road, Botanic Avenue and Shaftesbury Square. In all cases, local communities and businesses have been totally unaware of the proposed boundary changes and the very significant implications they will have.

In response, they have expressed to us concern that the proposals fail to recognise the unique identity and character of South Belfast as a distinct and culturally diverse area of the City. They are concerned that the changes would give the communities of South Belfast a weaker voice in the City and would have negative impacts on the level of inward investment South Belfast may be able to secure in the future. They have asked us to raise these concerns and respectfully request an extension on the consultation period. We are also planning to have a public meeting regarding this matter and would welcome a representative from your organisation in attendance.

I would be grateful if you could contact Anne McAleese, Chief Executive on 02890 244 070 to discuss these issues.

Yours sincerely

Mark Finlay
Chair, South Belfast Partnership Board

South Belfast Partnership

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