[IC – 012]

Comments on the Commission's initial proposal for the constituency of East Antrim

The ward of Lurigethan finds itself in an invidious (though scenic) position: stuck on the farmost fringe of the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area, while also stuck on the farmost fringe of the East Antrim parliamentary constituency, and often overlooked by both. The orientation of the area is towards 3 towns: Ballymena, Ballycastle and Coleraine.

The East Antrim constituency is made up of wards from Mid & East Antrim and Antrim & Newtownabbey boroughs, and the solitary Causeway Coast & Glens Borough of Lurigethan. To bring constituency boundaries more in line with those of local government areas, and also to more closely reflect the orientation of the area, Lurigethan should be transferred to the North Antrim Constituency. To compensate, rather than transferring Mid & East Antrim Council's Braid DEA wards of Glenwhirry, Slemish and Glenravel from North Antrim to East Antrim, the wards of Glenwhirry, Slemish, Kells and Broughshane should be transferred instead. This would allow Lurigethan to be reunited with other wards from Causeway Coast & Glens Council in the North Antrim constituency, while not dramatically altering the makeup of either North Antrim or East Antrim, and keeping them more in line with Mid & East Antrim Borough's boundaries.

This would leave North Antrim with an electorate of 70600 and East Antrim 71512, both well within the acceptable quota range.

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