[IC – Mrs Naomi Bailie]

Comments on the Commission's initial proposal for the constituency of Strangford and Quoile

I warmly welcome this proposed change to Strangford constituency.

Presently it’s widely known and accepted that the existing boundary favours a unionist outcome in spite of a sizeable nationalist or other constituency component.

This is particularly discriminatory when elections take place for the NI Assembly, where the nature of the existing boundary has left a prominent nationalist community on the lower ards peninsula without representation in the legislative parliament since the formation of the Legislature.

I would further add that given the political makeup of the ards peninsula, those living on the lower ards in and around Portaferry, Cloughey and Kircubbin have traditionally been more connected socially, politically and otherwise to downpatrick & Lecale as Oppossed to north down.

The proposed name of Strangford & Quoile is both appropriate & welcome.