[TC - Foyle Constituency Association of the Alliance Party of NI]

**Re:  The 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies:  Objection to proposal to remove Eglinton Village/Ward from Foyle Constituency.**

On behalf of the Foyle Constituency Association of the Alliance Party of NI, I wish to lodge an objection to the proposed boundary review,

We appreciate the difficulty and constraints of your Commission's task; and we appreciate that you have visited the Foyle Constituency in your work to analyse the constituency boundaries.

But in order to retain as coherent and natural a Foyle Constituency as possible, we wish to register a formal objection to your proposed Foyle Constituency boundaries.

As you will be aware from your constituency visit, the village of Eglinton is in reality a dormitory suburb of the city of Derry~Londonderry  -  whereas Coleraine, the hub of East Londonderry constituency is 23 miles distant, the far side of the North Sperrin mountain chain.   Even Limavady, the closest East Londonderry town to Eglinton, is 12 miles north of Eglinton  -  twice as far from Eglinton as is Derry~Londonderry.

*"We are really a suburb of Derry",* comments an Eglinton resident critical of the proposed boundary change.*"We only go to Coleraine a few times a year  -   but never for essentials e.g. doctor, dentist, grocery shopping.   We do not feel any affinity with it [Coleraine].   Importantly, the bus service to Coleraine is very poor and expensive.  It costs about £8 and takes 58 mins and there are only 5 per day".*

Eglinton village is only 6 miles from the city of Derry~Londonderry.   For many of their residents Derry~Londonderry is their daily centre for work, school, college, business, shopping, leisure, sport and recreation.   Eglinton residents might be in Derry~Londonderry city on a daily or weekly basis, but infrequently in Limavady and rarely in Coleraine.

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If Eglinton (2,834 electors) is moved to the Foyle Constituency, then Foyle will meet legislation requirements (75,308 electors).   To compensate for Eglinton not being transferred into East Londonderry, a less disruptive result might be achieved by transferring to East Londonderry a ward such as Swatragh (pop: 2,475) from Mid-Ulster which would more appropriately and more cohesively fulfil the requirements of the legislation.

Accordingly, we ask that you should reconsider your proposed change and retain Eglinton within Foyle Constituency.