[TC - Ms Ashley Jones]

General comments on the Commission's revised proposals

Changes are generally conservative in nature, which is fair enough considering public opposition to previous more radical changes to boundaries.

South Belfast & Mid Down is still geographically too large a constituency to adequately represent either its central Belfast or Saintfield constituents.

It is unfortunate that Fermanagh & South Tyrone would spread to the outskirts of Armagh City; this should be avoided if possible.

Some boundaries, such as the border between South Down and Strangford, or between North and East Antrim, divide townlands in an odd way, but are understandable given electoral arithmetic and previous public responses to proposals.

Comments on the Commission's revised proposal for the constituency of Belfast East

I would like to see East Belfast reclaim some or all of Garnerville ward if possible, and cede some or all of Woodstock/Cregagh to South Belfast in return.

Comments on the Commission's revised proposal for the constituency of Belfast North

The border between North Belfast, South Antrim and East Antrim remains strange, but I recognise this is largely unavoidable.

Comments on the Commission's revised proposal for the constituency of Belfast South and Mid Down

This constituency is simply too large a mix of urban and rural. Due to existing links with Lisburn and Castlereagh Council, I can understand expanding into Moneyreagh, Carryduff East and Drumbo, but the addition of Saintfield pulls the constituency between three Council areas, further diluting any sense of representation from an area which will have to have representatives cover a wide variety of needs.

I would like to see South Belfast regain some or all of Woodstock/Cregagh, and lose at minimum the ward of Saintfield, probably to Strangford.

Comments on the Commission's revised proposal for the constituency of Belfast West

It's unfortunate that the constituency has to extend into Derriaghy, but I understand this is necessary. I am glad to see most of the Shankill taken into Belfast West, where it was divided oddly in the past.

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

The extension of East Antrim to the outskirts of Ballymena is odd, but on balance preferable to snaking the constituency all the way from Greenisland to Ballycastle.

Comments on the Commission's revised proposal for the constituency of East Londonderry

I have no objections to the boundaries proposed, but I would rather the constituency was named 'East Derry/Londonderry' to represent the name it is realistically called by both the public and elected representatives; this is unless there is a more fitting name which does not mention the County itself.

Comments on the Commission's revised proposal for the constituency of Fermanagh & South Tyrone

I would, if possible, like to see Blackwatertown removed from Fermanagh & South Tyrone, as it dilutes the sense the constituency being a single cohesive unit. If necessary, I would like to see Blackwatertown ward split so that the area surrounding Armagh City is allocated to Newry & Armagh.

Comments on the Commission's revised proposal for the constituency of Foyle

I broadly support these proposals, though as they further remove the already-small rural element from Foyle, should the constituency not be classified as a borough constituency?

Comments on the Commission's revised proposal for the constituency of Lagan Valley

While I have reservations about how far Lagan Valley extends towards Lurgan, I recognise it's mostly unavoidable.

Comments on the Commission's revised proposal for the constituency of Mid Ulster

No objections

Comments on the Commission's revised proposal for the constituency of Newry and Armagh

I would like to see Newry & Armagh regain the outskirts of Armagh City from Fermanagh & South Tyrone. It could, in exchange, cede Tandragee ward to Upper Bann.

Comments on the Commission's revised proposal for the constituency of North Antrim

No great objections

Comments on the Commission's revised proposal for the constituency of North Down

I would like to see Garnerville split between East Belfast and North Down, rather than entirely within North Down, as it is culturally and politically within the sphere of East Belfast. In exchange, North Down could take more of the area of Loughries and Carrowdore wards currently in the Strangford constituency.

Comments on the Commission's revised proposal for the constituency of South Antrim

No objections

Comments on the Commission's revised proposal for the constituency of South Down

The skirting border around Downpatrick is odd, but makes some sense considering the need to expand Strangford and public opposition to Downpatrick's inclusion in that constituency. It's good to see the village of Strangford included in the constituency of the same name, ensuring that all areas directly bordering the Lough are within an aptly-named constituency

Comments on the Commission's revised proposal for the constituency of Strangford

See comments re: South Down about the Downpatrick-area border.
I would like to see Strangford take Saintfield ward and in exchange cede more territory of Loughries and Carrowdore wards to North Down.

Comments on the Commission's revised proposal for the constituency of Upper Bann

I broadly support these changes, but if Upper Bann were to take in Tandragee ward, I would like to see it lose some or all of Donaghcloney ward to Lagan Valley.

Comments on the Commission's revised proposal for the constituency of West Tyrone

I recognise West Tyrone needs to be expanded to reach the electorate quota, and on that basis these changes make sense.

I would suggest the Commission explores alternative names for the constituency, as it now includes Pomeroy, which is arguable not in the West of Tyrone, and Slievekirk, which is in County Derry.