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Mr Mc Conville  
Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland,  
The Bungalow,  
Stormont House,  
Stormont Estate,  
Belfast,  
BT4 3SH

Dear Mr Mc Conville,

Date: 20-3-2018

Re: DON'T DIVIDE DUNGIVEN

I am a concerned resident of Dungiven and wish to request the Boundary Commission reverts to the 2016 proposals for the following reasons:

1. Split of Curragh Road-school from own canteen and playing fields: Our secondary school should not be separated from the school canteen and playing field by an imaginary line placing them in separate constituencies. This is against Rule 5 and 7 in that the commission has not taken into account special geographical considerations, local ties and the integrity of built up areas.
2. Local Schools and churches not in same constituency: Our schools and churches in Dungiven, Dernaflaw, Gortnaghey and Drumsurn are an integral part of our parish and should not be in separate constituencies. This is contrary to Rule 5 in that the commission has not taken into account clearly identifiable local ties, which would be broken by its proposed changes.
3. Failing to respect established local wards: The Commission are splitting wards which are clearly defined and well understood units which are already used for electoral purposes and contradicts Rule 5. Splitting will risk impairing local ties, disrupting political party organisations and create difficulties for the administration of elections.
4. Split between Benbradagh and the River Roe: The split of our community from our mountain and river breaks a historical link with legends and myths integrally entwined within the two resulting in a loss of heritage and sense of place, contrary to the Commissions own rules.
5. Split of Protestant and Catholic Church into different constituencies- Lack of integration: The split of our Main Street separates our Church of Ireland from St Patricks Roman Catholic Church. A lot of cross community work has been ongoing and this is going to isolate the churches from each other. This is against Rule 5 in that the clearly identifiable local ties have not been taken into consideration and will be broken by the proposed changes. I already have concern that the town is not as integrated as it could be and that there are limited opportunities for both religions to mix and become more integrated.
6. Splitting families, businesses and Church from it's congregation: Our parish is being desecrated by the proposed boundaries splitting business' from one side of the Main Street from the other, splitting families from one end of the town to the other and splitting our churches from our

people. This is totally contrary to Rule 5 and 7, which state local ties have to be taken into consideration.

7. Original Proposals seems sensible: The original proposals had appeared sensible whereby the town of Dungiven would join the majority of East Derry constituency and all of South Derry from the mid Ulster constituency to create the constituency of "Glenshane". I request the Boundary Commission reverts to the 2016 proposals.

8. Lack of sense to draw line in centre of main Street: The revised plan is of great concern to all of the occupants of Dungiven as surely anyone would regard it as the opposite of unifying to split a town area into three separate constituencies and draw a line in the centre of any main Street?

9. Difficulties of troubles have now past: We all recall difficult times of division during the troubles. Those times were very tough for all involved and it is great that they have past and we now stand a chance of a fresh, integrated, tolerant future.

10. General challenges faced by Dungiven: The town of Dungiven is facing many challenges with businesses closing and issues regarding car parking and concerns regarding the new road by pass-Please assist us as a town to face these problems together as one unit rather than in a split way.

11. Public Enquiry: Please ensure there is a public enquiry into this matter to ensure all issues are carefully considered and that the original 2016 proposals are retained.

Questions:

12. Why change from original proposals of 2016? Why have the original proposals to allow Dungiven to join the majority of the East Derry constituency and all of South Derry from the Mid Ulster Constituency to create the constituency of 'Glenshane' been altered? I would like to see the original proposals retained.

13. Any other towns being split in Northern Ireland: Can you confirm if any other towns are being split into two or three constituencies?

14. Use of Rule 7: Would the flexibility allowed by Rule 7 allow Dungiven to remain as one constituency?

15. Similarity to DUP map: Why is the current proposed map almost identical to the DUP Reactionary Proposal map of 2017?

16. Reversal of 4 to 3 seats in Belfast: Why have the Boundary Commission reversed their view from their initial stance that ..."the best models were those which provided for three-seat Belfast [currently 4]. They were better both at the regional level and for each of the individual Belfast constituencies"?

17. Fair Representation: Does the new map create an electorate representative of the population i.e. is there x number of protestant and x number of catholic politicians to represent the corresponding population percentages?

Please ensure Dungiven our entire town and surrounding area remains as one constituency. Thank you in anticipation of any help and assistance you can provide in this regard.

Signed:  ..... Dated: 20-3-2018 .....