

# County Kerry

## Population and Membership

The present position is as follows:

	<b>2006 Population</b>	<b>Number of Members</b>	<b>Population per Member</b>	<b>% Variance from County Average</b>
<b>County Kerry</b>	<b>139,835</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>5,179</b>	
Dingle	14,477	3	4,826	-6.82
Killarney	34,350	6	5,725	+10.54
Killorglin	22,861	5	4,572	-11.72
Listowel	27,418	6	4,570	-11.76
Tralee	40,729	7	5,818	+12.34

The deviations from the county average range from –11.76% in Listowel to +12.34% in Tralee. The Tralee electoral area as a seven seater is under-represented; as is Killarney, while Killorglin and Listowel are over-represented. Consequently, some reorganisation is necessary to rebalance representation.

## Analysis

County Kerry is contained within the Dáil Constituencies of Kerry North and Kerry South. The proposed Dáil constituency boundary is noteworthy in two respects. Firstly, it follows the existing division between the Dingle and Tralee local electoral areas. Secondly, it envisages that the electoral divisions of Castleisland, Cordal and Kilfelim will transfer from Kerry North to Kerry South. Full alignment with the proposed Dáil constituency boundary can also facilitate the rebalancing of representation in the Tralee electoral area.

A reduction of one seat achieves the necessary balance of representation in Listowel without any further reorganisation being necessary. As the population of the Killarney electoral area is close to that required to support seven seats, the Committee considers it appropriate to allocate an additional seat to Killarney.

The Committee reviewed the three seat Dingle electoral area in line with the terms of reference. A range of options extending the Dingle electoral area as a four seater was considered. Extending eastwards to take in electoral divisions from Tralee and Killarney would create a disproportionately large electoral area spanning the County from east to west. In addition, any option considered would involve undue encroachment on one of the neighbouring electoral areas of Tralee, Killarney or Killorglin, which are each individually based around their own strong communities and natural hinterlands. The Committee, mindful of the desirability of preserving natural communities, considered that extending the Dingle electoral area would not be in the representational interests of its unique and significant Gaeltacht Community. Overall, the Committee is satisfied that very exceptional circumstances exist for the retention of the Dingle electoral area as a three seater. The Committee also noted that several submissions supported retaining the Dingle electoral area as a three seater.

## **Recommendations**

In order to accommodate the above considerations and rebalance the population per member within County Kerry, the Committee recommends: -

1. The transfer of electoral divisions as follows:

1.1. Glanlee, Glanlough, Kilbonane, Kilgarvan and Lahard (total population 2,104) from the Killarney to the Killorglin electoral area;

1.2. Castleisland, Cordal and Kilfelim (total population 3,801) from the Tralee to the Killarney electoral area;

1.3. Dromin (population 654) from the Killorglin to the Dingle electoral area.

2. The redistribution of council seats among the electoral areas as follows:

2.1. Dingle 3-seats; Killarney 7-seats; Killorglin 5-seats; Listowel 5-seats; and Tralee 7-seats.



The effect of these recommendations is as follows:

	<b>2006 Population</b>	<b>Number of Members</b>	<b>Population per Member</b>	<b>% Variance from County Average</b>
<b>County Kerry</b>	<b>139,835</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>5,179</b>	
Dingle	15,131	3	5,044	-2.61
Killarney	36,047	7	5,150	-0.56
Killorglin	24,311	5	4,862	-6.12
Listowel	27,418	5	5,484	+5.89
Tralee	36,928	7	5,275	+1.85

The following is a detailed description of each recommended electoral area

#### Dingle

The electoral divisions of An Bhaile Dubh, An Clochán, An Daingean, An Mhin Aird, An Sráidbhaile, Ballinvoher, Ballynacourty, Baurtregaum, Boolteens, Castlegregory, Dromin, Ceann Trá, Cé Bhréanainn, Cill Chuáin, Cill Maoilchéadair, Cinn Aird, Deelis, Dún Chaoín, Dún Urlann, Inch, Kilgarrylander, Kilgobban, Kiltallagh, Kilnanare, Knockglass, Lack, Márthain, Milltown, Na Gleannta.

#### Killarney

The town of Killarney and the electoral divisions of Aghadoe, Aglish, Ballyhar, Brewsterfield, Carker, Castleisland, Clydagh, Coolies, Coom, Cordal, Currans, Derreen, Doocarrig, Flesk, Headfort, Kilcummin, Killarney Rural, Killeentierna, Kilfelim, Knocknahoe, Millbrook, Molahiffe, Muckcross, Rathmore, Rockfield, Scartaglin.

### Killorglin

The electoral divisions of An Baile Breac, An tImleach, Ardea, Baile an Sceilg, Banawn, Caher, Cappagh, Caragh, Castlecove, Castlequin, Cathair Dhónall, Ceannáigh, Churchtown, Cloon, Curraghbeg, Curraghmore, Dawros, Dromore, Doire Fhíonaín, Doire Ianna, Dunloe, Glanbehy, Glanlee, Glanlough, Glanmore, Greenane, Kenmare, Kilbonane, Kilgarvan, Kilgobnet, Killinane, Killorglin, Lahard, Lickeen, Loughbrin, Loch Luíoch, Maistir Gaoithe, Maum, Na Beathacha, Portmagee, Reen, Sneem, Tahilla, Tobhroinn Fhíonaín, Trann Iarthach, Valencia.

### Listowel

The town of Listowel and the electoral divisions of An Baile Dubh, Ardagh, Astea, Ballincloher, Ballyconry, Ballyegan (in the former Rural District of Listowel), Ballyheige, Ballyhorgan, Ballynorig, Banna, Beal, Carrig, Causeway, Cloontubbrid, Drommartin, Duagh, Ennismore, Gullane, Gunsborough, Kerryhead, Kilfeighny, Killahan, Killehenry, Killury, Kilmeany, Kiltomy, Leitrim, Lislaughtin, Lisselton, Listowel Rural, Lixnaw, Moynsha, Newtownsandee, Rathea, Shronowen, Tarbert, Tarmon, Trienearagh, Tubrid, Urlee.

### Tralee

The town of Tralee and the electoral divisions of Abbeydorney, Arabela, Ardfert, Ballyegan (in the former Rural District of Tralee), Ballynahaglish, Ballyseedy, Blennerville, Brosna, Clogherbrien, Crinny, Doon, Gneeves, Kilflyn, Kilmurry, Kilshenane, Knocknagashel, Lackabaun, Mount Eagle, Nohaval, O'Brennan, Ratass, Tralee Rural.