



## **BOUNDARY REVIEW OF KILKENNY & WATERFORD**

### **Submission on behalf of the Kilkenny County Executive of the Irish Farmers' Association**

After a meeting was called by the County Executive to listen to the growing concerns of its members to the proposed boundary changes, a number of concerns were raised:

1. Farmer representation will be diluted and made more complicated in County and regional bodies weakening farmers influence in the proposed area. Bodies such as Glanbia only recognise County boundaries for their elections on to its local and regional boards. This therefore means a reduced representation from within the area of review.

Other organisations such as the IFA and Macra na Feirme will also be affected.

2. In every farmers dealings with the Department of Agriculture every herd has a number with a County prefix and a series of field numbers linking these herdowners and their fields together. All of these will have to be changed causing massive upheaval and unnecessary worry, especially to elderly farmers, maybe causing payment delays on our EU Schemes.
3. Farmers fear that this review could result in a number of Compulsory Purchase Orders on lands in this review where many generations of their family have farmed.
4. It has not been explained to the farming and rural dwellers in the boundary review area how EU rural development funding, such as LEADER, would be affected thus leaving any start-up rural based business in a state of limbo until such time as an outcome of this review has taken place.
5. Farmers are worried that being forced to go into a new Waterford County will increase development charges as the said County has been run very inefficiently and is heavily in debt.

And in a period of farming expansion now taking place, looking at the Government's own targets for 2030, more efficient farming and the inevitable building of more livestock housing will place a higher cost on these expanding farmers.

It is the conclusion of the County Executive of Kilkenny IFA that represents over 3,000 farmer members and their families that this boundary change is unnecessary and ultimately will be considerably problematic for all its members in the review area.

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County Chairman  
Kilkenny IFA

Paul O' Brien  
County Secretary  
Kilkenny IFA