

To: NPF Submissions
Forward Planning Section
Dept of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government,
Custom House,
Dublin D01 W6XO

March 15th 2017

From: John Purcell

Representing: KCLR 96fm – Radio station covering Kilkenny and Carlow

Submission on Relevant Planning Issues

I wish to express strong opposition on behalf of the board, management and staff of KCLR and on behalf of the overwhelming majority of our listeners in Kilkenny who are totally opposed to the proposed boundary changes between Kilkenny and Waterford.

As a business in Kilkenny with an audience throughout the county, we recognise the importance of a strong and vibrant Waterford city, contributing to the achievement of its immediate hinterland, the surrounding counties and the region as a whole.

However I object to changes to the boundary between Kilkenny and Waterford in the strongest possible terms.

We believe that the way ahead for the development of individual counties and regions, is through co-operation between communities and organisations and in particular through co-operation between the Local Authorities. The compelling argument for “win/win” is far greater than developments which result or which are perceived in resulting on “win/lose” basis.

I believe that in general any boundary changes to the boundary between Kilkenny and Waterford will be at the expense of Kilkenny and will also impact on business in the county.

Speaking in my capacity as Chief Executive, a shareholder and director of KCLR which employs in excess of 30 full and part time staff, the impact of the loss of in the region of 5,000 people in our potential audience in South Kilkenny, who would in future be regarded as living in County Waterford would be extremely damaging for our business.

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Further the loss of income to Kilkenny Local Authority would have a negative impact on the operation of Kilkenny County Council. I understand that it is envisaged that no savings will result as a result of the potential changes.

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Most importantly perhaps, changes to the boundary would have a hugely negative impact on Kilkenny in terms of local culture, identity and sense of place. In my view it will lead to a damaging sense of alienation among many people who would find themselves no longer resident in county Kilkenny.

Along with in excess of 19,000 people and organisations in Kilkenny I have already made a submission to the Boundary Commission in opposition to the proposed changes. It is extremely disturbing that the wishes of these people have been ignored and despite the lack of a sustainable rationale for future changes and in the face of a lack of public engagement in Waterford where very few submissions were received, the Commission recommended a change in the boundary.

I believe that the model of co-operation and joint action is immensely preferable to an enforced boundary change in the face of overwhelming opposition from one side (Kilkenny) and huge public indifference on the other (Waterford).

In the context where as I understand it the National Planning Framework is seeking to ensure that future development in the country is undertaken in a balanced way that benefits communities of all types across the country and not just in Dublin or other urban areas, I find it incredible that it is contemplated that important changes will be undertaken in the face of huge opposition in Kilkenny in a way that is likely to provide merely modest advantages for Waterford at the expense of future sustainability and prosperity across the county in Kilkenny.

Yours Sincerely



John Purcell
Chief Executive