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5th November 2008

FRANCIS ROCK
Chief Executive

Elizabeth Benson
Secretary
Office of the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner
Forestview
Purdy's Lane
BELFAST BT8 7AR

Dear Ms Benson

Provisional Recommendations on New Local Government Districts

I refer to Mr McKenzie's report setting out the provisional recommendations for the boundaries and names of the eleven new local government districts in Northern Ireland and for the number, boundaries and names of their constituent wards.

Craigavon Borough Council has made the following comments with regard to the provisional recommendations in relation to the proposed new district council area:

- The Council has expressed concern at the loss of its Borough status and requests the Commissioner to consider the issue of Borough Status in relation to the new area,
- **Bearing in mind** the population of the cluster which is second only to Belfast, the Commissioner is requested to increase the number of wards to the upper limit (i.e. 45). The cluster of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon councils has commissioned a report from Professor Kenneth Benoit, Department of Political Science, Trinity College, Dublin, which proposes that a district division with 45 wards is superior to the 40 recommended by the Boundary Commissioner in the sense that it better fulfils the criteria of representation with regard to the proper representation of the electorate within each ward, both within the new district and in line with average ward electorates in other districts across Northern Ireland. A copy of this report will accompany the cluster's joint response to the consultation.
- Craigavon Borough Council expresses its dissatisfaction with the proposed name of the new authority (i.e. "Armagh City and Bann District Council") in that it makes no recognition of Craigavon Borough.

Yours sincerely

[Handwritten signature box]

Michael Docherty
Chief Executive (Interim)

