

Dear Sir

**RE: Provisional Council Boundaries**

I refer to the consultation on the provisional boundary review and would comment in respect of three wards in Dromore, Co Down.

The wards, Dromore North, Dromore South and Quilly are within the Lagan Valley Constituency for Westminster and the NI Assembly. These three wards therefore are separated from the remainder of the current Banbridge District Council area which is within either South Down or Upper Bann.

This leaves the Dromore area separated for these crucial elections from the remainder of the Banbridge Council area and as a resident in Dromore when these elections occur we are not familiar with the Lisburn City Council area Councillors, whereas we are aware of the work of the Members of Banbridge District Council. This will be further exacerbated within the new 11 Council boundaries being on the very peripheral of the new Council area, ie Craigavon and Armagh. Dromore is 8 miles from Lisburn, it is 7 miles from Banbridge, 12 miles from Craigavon and 36 miles from Armagh. It is therefore likely that the new Council offices will either be situated in Craigavon or Armagh both of which have large Civic Centres leaving Dromore residents totally isolated. There is no public transport to either of these centres, so for residents who do not have a car it will have to be a taxi, the cost of which will add expense to an isolated community.

It may well be said that a local office will be opened but as has been proved time and time again as illustrated by the NIHE and Central Government Services these have all eventually been closed to save finance.

Please give serious and favourable consideration to transfer these three wards into the Lisburn City Council area.

Yours faithfully

Miss Eleanor Shields