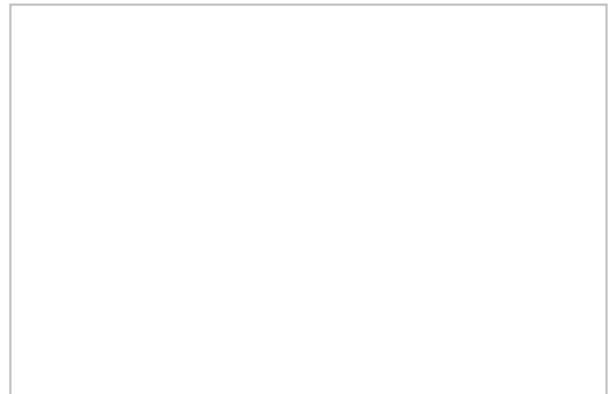


From: A O'Keeffe [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 March 2017 15:36
To: National Planning Framework
Subject: NPF Submissions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To: NPF Submissions,
Forward Planning Section,
Department of Housing,
Planning,
Community and Local
Government,
Custom House,
Dublin D01 W6X0



Name: Adrian O'Keeffe



Details of any organisation, community group or company you represent:

Irish Red Cross

Address: Kilkenny Carlow Area

Submission on relevant planning issues:

As a concerned citizen of County Kilkenny I wish to express my strong views in relation to the proposed boundary changes between Kilkenny and Waterford which I am totally opposed to.

On many levels County Kilkenny has a proud heritage, to which its citizens identify on many levels, be it cultural, historical, sporting, county or provincial. A boundary change would result in thousands of people who identify with one county being forced to re-evaluate their personal identification, not only with their county, but their province.

Kilkenny takes much pride in its sporting heroes, its success in hurling, Camogie, and its

provincial Rugby team, Leinster, are a joy to the County, but this issue is greater than the County and Provincial levels. It lies in the heart of every school child and resident of every parish that identifies with their local club name, every participant that has represented their community and county at any sport. It is the fabric on which many parishes in the rural south of County Kilkenny flourish. To strip them of this identity would be detrimental to the social capital and mutual understanding that creates one's sense of place in a community.

Kilkenny is an historical County with many unique heritage sites of which all citizens of Kilkenny feel a sense of pride and ownership. To expect any one person to hand back that sense of pride takes from their sense of belonging.

Minister you yourself summed up the feelings of the community in your message on Ireland 2040 stating that *"whilst we can predict that much will change, the values we share as a society will largely remain intact. Our sense of belonging to community and place, our unique artistic and cultural inheritance and the key value we place on social justice and fair place are key place making assets that set us apart"*.

It is unfair and unacceptable that the citizens of County Kilkenny be the only ones who lose their sense of belonging in this Plan? Should the current and past students of the Abbey College in Ferrybank lose the proud County heritage that it has associated with since 1870? And should generations of proud Kilkenny families be asked to re-imagine their futures?

Minister I urge you to reject the recommendations of the boundary review committee and instead to implement alternative ways that can facilitate the progression of the region for the benefit of all of its citizens without the need for any boundary change.

A coordinated legal structure which includes planning, from the region down to local authorities, as suggested in the National Planning Framework (Chapter 7 Issues and Choices), eliminates any need for a boundary change.

Signed:

Date: 13 March 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A O'Keefe', written in a cursive style.