



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Research and Information Service Briefing Note

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Changes made to Northern Ireland parliamentary constituency areas

Introduction

This document sets out the various changes made to each of Northern Ireland's 18 parliamentary constituency areas as a result of the [Review of Parliamentary Constituencies](#) in 2023. The constituencies are set out below in alphabetical order.

Map resources setting out these changes in visual form are available on the Northern Ireland Assembly website.

1 Belfast East

Prior to the 2023 review, the constituency of Belfast East was below the statutory electoral quota and required modest expansion. Due to geographical constraints, particularly Belfast Lough and neighbouring under-quota constituencies of North Down and Strangford, options for adjustment were limited.

Added Wards: The previously split wards of Cregagh, Hillfoot, Merok and Woodstock (split with Belfast South) were entirely aligned within Belfast East.

Removed Wards: The previously split ward of Garnerville was transferred to North Down to address statutory range in that constituency.

2 Belfast North

Prior to the 2023 review, the constituency of Belfast North was within the statutory electoral quota but required minor realignment to support neighbouring constituencies.

Added Wards: The previously split wards of Ballyhenry and Hightown (split with South Antrim), Forth River (with Belfast West) and Carnmoney Hill (split with both South Antrim and East Antrim) were entirely aligned within Belfast North.

Removed Wards: The following previously split wards were aligned within adjacent constituencies (in which they were also partially located): Burnthill, Carnmoney and Fairview (within South Antrim), Shankill and Woodvale (within Belfast West).

The split ward of Abbey remains split between Belfast North and East Antrim due to the presence of railway tracks causing an accessibility issue.

3 Belfast South and Mid Down

Prior to the 2023 review, the constituency of Belfast South was within the statutory electoral quota. However, adjacent constituencies of Belfast East, Belfast West and Strangford were not. Transfers of split wards from Belfast South to Belfast East and Belfast West, enabling these constituencies to gain the necessary electorate numbers required transferral of geographically extensive wards within Strangford and Lagan Valley constituencies to Belfast South in order to retain necessary electoral quota. The subsequent boundary change, incorporating considerable territory to the south of the urban area of Belfast, is reflected in the change of constituency name to Belfast South and Mid Down.

Added Wards: The previously split wards of Belvoir (split with Lagan Valley), Blackstaff and Central (with Belfast West), Carryduff East and Knockbracken (with Strangford) were entirely aligned within Belfast South and Mid Down. The entire ward of Drumbo was transferred from Lagan Valley and the entire wards of Moneyreagh and Saintfield transferred from Strangford.

Removed Wards: The following previously split wards were aligned within adjacent constituencies (in which they were also partially located): Cregagh,

Hillfoot, Merok and Woodstock (split with Belfast East) and Falls (with Belfast West).

4 Belfast West

Prior to the 2023 review, the constituency of Belfast West was below the statutory electoral quota. Transferrals of various split wards to and from neighbouring constituencies were made to improve electoral numbers, whilst avoiding dividing the constituency along physical boundaries such as the M1 motorway.

Added Wards: The previously split wards of Derryaghy and Dunmurry (split with Lagan Valley), Shankill and Woodvale (with Belfast North) and Falls (with Belfast South) were entirely aligned within Belfast West.

Removed Wards: The following previously split wards were aligned within adjacent constituencies (in which they were also partially located): Blackstaff and Central (within Belfast South and Mid Down), Forth River (within Belfast North) and Stonyford (within South Antrim).

5 East Antrim

Prior to the 2023 review, the constituency of East Antrim was below the statutory electoral quota. Transferrals of various split wards and an entire ward to and from neighbouring constituencies were made to improve electoral numbers whilst maintaining geographic coherence along the Antrim coast and adjacent towns.

Added Wards: The entirety of the ward of Glenravel was transferred from North Antrim to East Antrim. Previously split wards of Glenwhirry and Slemish (split with North Antrim) and Jordanstown (with South Antrim) were entirely aligned within East Antrim.

Removed Wards: The following previously split wards were aligned within adjacent constituencies (in which they were also partially located): Torr Head and Rathlin (within North Antrim), Ballyduff (within South Antrim) and Carnmoney Hill (within Belfast North).

The split ward of Abbey remains split between Belfast North and East Antrim due to the presence of railway tracks causing an accessibility issue.

6 East Londonderry

Prior to the 2023 review, the constituency of East Londonderry was below the statutory electoral quota. In order to ensure compliance with electoral

thresholds whilst maintaining regional integrity, an area was transferred from the expanding constituency of Foyle adjoining East Londonderry to the west.

Added Wards: The ward of Eglinton was transferred from Foyle and the previously split ward of Claudy (split with Foyle) was entirely aligned within East Londonderry.

7 Fermanagh and South Tyrone

Prior to the 2023 review, the constituency of Fermanagh and South Tyrone was within the statutory electoral quota. Relatively minor changes were made to the constituency along its eastern boundary, with care given to avoiding dividing constituencies in built-up areas around Dungannon.

Added Wards: The entirety of the ward of Blackwatertown was transferred from Newry and Armagh to Fermanagh and South Tyrone. The previously split wards of Ballygawley and Killymeal (split with Mid Ulster) were entirely aligned within Fermanagh and South Tyrone.

Removed Wards: The previously split ward of Killyman (split with Mid Ulster) was transferred to align entirely within Mid Ulster.

The split wards of Loughgall (split with Newry and Armagh) and The Birches (with Upper Bann) remain split, to avoid inconveniences involving boundary changes close to the settlement of Dungannon. Portions of these wards previously within Fermanagh and South Tyrone were transferred to Mid Ulster.

8 Foyle

Prior to the 2023 review, the constituency of Foyle was within the statutory electoral quota. Boundary changes were made whereby transfers were made from Foyle to the under-range neighbouring constituencies of East Londonderry and West Tyrone.

Removed Wards: The entire ward of Eglinton was transferred to East Londonderry. The following previously split wards were aligned within adjacent constituencies (in which they were also partially located): Claudy (split with East Londonderry) and Slievekirk (with West Tyrone).

9 Lagan Valley

Prior to the 2023 review, the constituency of Lagan Valley was within the statutory electoral quota. However, due to transfers to neighbouring constituencies to increase the electorate of these, a number of boundary changes have been made to this constituency.

Added Wards: The entirety of the wards of Aghagallon and Magheralin were transferred from Upper Bann into Lagan Valley. The previously split wards of Ballinderry (split with Upper Bann) and Dromara (with South Down) were entirely aligned with Lagan Valley.

Removed Wards: The entire ward of Drumbo was transferred to Belfast South and Mid Down. The following previously split wards were aligned within adjacent constituencies (in which they were also partially located): Belvoir and Stonyford (split with Belfast South, transferred to Belfast South and Mid Down), Dunmurry and Derryaghy (with Belfast West) and Ballyward (with South Down).

The split ward of Donaghcloney remains split between Lagan Valley and Upper Bann in order to meet statutory electoral quota in each constituency. The split ward of Gransha remains split between Lagan Valley and South Down to avoid inconveniencing local ties.

10 Mid Ulster

Prior to the 2023 review, the constituency of Mid Ulster was within the statutory electoral quota. However, following transfers to the under-range neighbouring constituency of West Tyrone, adjustments were required to Mid Ulster, with consideration given to geographical factors such as mountain ranges and avoiding dividing constituencies in built-up areas around Dungannon.

Added Wards: The previously split ward of Killyman (split with Fermanagh and South Tyrone) was transferred to align entirely within Mid Ulster.

The split wards of Loughgall (split with Newry and Armagh) and The Birches (with Upper Bann) remain split, to avoid inconveniences involving boundary changes close to the settlement of Dungannon. Portions of these wards previously within Fermanagh and South Tyrone transferred to Mid Ulster.

Removed Wards: The entirety of the ward of Pomeroy was transferred from Mid Ulster to West Tyrone. The previously split wards of Ballygawley and Killymeal (split with Fermanagh and South Tyrone) were transferred to align entirely within Fermanagh and South Tyrone.

11 Newry and Armagh

Prior to the 2023 review, the constituency of Newry and Armagh was above the statutory electoral quota. Transferrals of various split wards and an entire ward to and from neighbouring constituencies were made to improve electoral distribution whilst maintaining geographic coherence considering the spread of built-up areas in the district.

Added Wards: The previously split wards of Abbey, Damolly and St Patrick's (split with South Down) were transferred to align entirely within Newry and Armagh.

Removed Wards: The entirety of the ward of Blackwatertown was transferred to Fermanagh and South Tyrone. The following previously split wards were aligned within adjacent constituencies (in which they were also partially located): Loughgall and Mahon (split with Upper Bann) and Loughbrickland, Derryleckagh and Mayobridge (split with South Down).

12 North Antrim

Prior to the 2023 review, the constituency of North Antrim was above the statutory electoral quota. Transferrals to the under-range neighbouring constituency of East Antrim resulted in additional boundary changes bringing in the entirety of the formerly split ward of Torr Head and Rathlin into the constituency.

Added Wards: The previously split ward of Torr Head and Rathlin (split with East Antrim) was transferred to align entirely within North Antrim.

Removed Wards: The entirety of the ward of Glenravel was transferred from North Antrim to East Antrim. The previously split wards of Glenwhirry and Slemish (split with East Antrim) were transferred to align entirely within East Antrim.

13 North Down

Prior to the 2023 review, the constituency of North Down was below the statutory electoral quota. Transferrals of split wards to and from neighbouring (also under-range) constituencies and considerations for geographical constraints in the form of coast line and the Ards Peninsula resulted in relatively minor changes to North Down's boundary.

Added Wards: The previously split wards of Garnerville (split with Belfast East) and Ballygrainey (with Strangford) were transferred to align entirely within North Down.

Removed Wards: The previously split ward of Glen (split with Strangford) was transferred to align entirely within Strangford.

The wards of Carrowdore and Loughries, previously split between North Down and Strangford constituencies, remain split along the existing constituency boundary. These wards occupy a unique position in that they span the width of the Ards Peninsula.

14 South Antrim

Prior to the 2023 review, the constituency of South Antrim was within the statutory electoral quota. South Antrim required adjustments to its south eastern boundary due to population distribution changes across the Belfast metropolitan area.

Added Wards: The previously split wards of Ballyduff, Burnthill, Carnmoney and Fairview (split with Belfast North) and Stonyford (split with both Belfast West and Lagan Valley) were transferred to align entirely within South Antrim.

Removed Wards: The following previously split wards were aligned within adjacent constituencies (in which they were also partially located): Ballyhenry, Carnmoney Hill and Hightown (split with Belfast North) and Jordanstown (split with East Antrim).

15 South Down

Prior to the 2023 review, the constituency of South Down was above the statutory electoral quota. Given limitations around above-range electorates and built-up areas in the neighbouring constituencies of Newry and Armagh, and Upper Bann, and the under-range neighbouring constituency of Strangford, various transfers of mainly split wards to and from adjoining constituency areas were made.

Added Wards: The previously split wards of Loughbrickland (split with both Upper Bann and Newry and Armagh) and Mayobridge and Derryleckagh (split with Newry and Armagh) were transferred to align entirely within South Down.

Removed Wards: The entirety of the wards of Drumaness and Strangford were transferred from South Down to Strangford constituency. The following previously split wards were aligned within adjacent constituencies (in which they were also partially located): Crossgar and Killyleagh, Derryboy, Ballyward (split with Strangford), Dromara (with Lagan Valley) and Abbey, Damolly and St Patrick's (split with Newry and Armagh).

To avoid unnecessary constituency boundary splits around the urban area of Downpatrick, part of the ward of Quoile was transferred from South Down to Strangford, but split between these revised constituencies, along the River Quoile. Despite transferrals of portions of the ward of Ballyward from Strangford to South Down (and vice-versa), this ward remains split between Strangford and South Down along the Dromara Road. The split ward of Gransha remains split between South Down and Lagan Valley to avoid inconveniencing local ties.

16 Strangford

Prior to the 2023 review, the constituency of Strangford was below the statutory electoral quota. Various transfers to and from neighbouring constituencies were made to improve electorate quota, taking into account geographical constraints and the urban areas of Belfast and Downpatrick.

Added Wards: The entirety of the wards of Drumaness and Strangford were transferred from South Down to Strangford constituency. Previously split wards of Glen (split with North Down), Derryboy, and Crossgar and Killyleagh (with South Down) were transferred to align entirely within Strangford.

To avoid unnecessary constituency boundary splits around the urban area of Downpatrick, part of the ward of Quoile was transferred from South Down to Strangford, but split between these revised constituencies, along the River Quoile. Despite transferrals of portions of the ward of Ballyward from South Down to Strangford (and vice-versa), this ward remains split between Strangford and South Down along the Dromara Road.

Removed Wards: The entirety of the ward of Saintfield was transferred to Belfast South and Mid Down. The following previously split wards were aligned within adjacent constituencies (in which they were also partially located): Carryduff East, Moneyreagh and Knockbracken (split with Belfast South, transferred to Belfast South and Mid Down) and Ballygrainey (split with North Down).

The wards of Carrowdore and Loughries, previously split between North Down and Strangford constituencies, remain split along the existing constituency boundary. These wards occupy a unique position in that they span the width of the Ards Peninsula.

17 Upper Bann

Prior to the 2023 review, the constituency of Upper Bann was above the statutory electoral quota. Geographical constraints of Lough Neagh and the locations of built-up areas provided limitations for shedding electorate quota.

Added Wards: The previously split wards of Loughgall and Mahon (split with Newry and Armagh) were transferred to align entirely within Upper Bann.

Removed Wards: The entirety of the wards of Aghagallon and Magheralin were transferred to Lagan Valley. The following previously split wards were aligned within adjacent constituencies (in which they were also partially located): Loughbrickland (split with South Down) and Ballinderry (with Lagan Valley).

The split ward of Donaghcloney remains split between Lagan Valley and Upper Bann in order to meet statutory electoral quota in each constituency.

18 West Tyrone

Prior to the 2023 review, the constituency of West Tyrone was below the statutory electoral quota. In order to ensure compliance with electoral thresholds whilst maintaining regional integrity, transfers were made from the above-range neighbouring constituencies of Foyle and Mid Ulster.

Added Wards: The entirety of the ward of Pomeroy was transferred to West Tyrone from Mid Ulster. The previously split ward of Slievekirk (split with Foyle) was transferred to align within West Tyrone.