

Department of Education and Skills

Forum on Patronage and Pluralism in the Primary Sector

Update of list of areas for initial Divesting Surveys recommended in Report of Advisory Group

June 2012

This document sets out the rationale for changes to the list of 47 areas for the initial Divesting Surveys as contained in the report of the Advisory Group to the Forum on Patronage and Pluralism in the Primary Sector.

1. The list of 47 areas of stable population referred to in the Forum on Patronage and Pluralism Report were identified on the basis of four criteria, using 2006 Census data (the latest available at that point during 2010 when the list was originally compiled). The four criteria were as follows:
 - i. Areas with a population of greater than 5,000 persons and less than 20,000 persons, as per the 2006 Census.
 - ii. Areas that did not experience greater than 20% growth in the intercensal period 2002-2006 and where the establishment of new schools is unlikely to emerge until at least 2016.
 - iii. Areas that have at least three primary schools within a 2km range of the CSO Town Boundary.
 - iv. Areas where school provision is predominantly Catholic or where there is very limited diversity of provision at present.
2. The 47 areas referred to included 43 towns outside Dublin city. They also included 3 Dublin city areas. It should be noted that this gives a total of 46 areas rather than 47. The references to 47 had arisen from the inclusion of Portmarnock/Malahide on both the Dublin and outside Dublin lists.

Updating the list of areas on basis of 2011 Census data

3. Given that updated 2011 Census data are now available, the list based on the 2006 census data has been reviewed for current validity against the original criteria.
4. Applying the original criteria based on 2011 data rather than 2006 census data to the list of town areas, results in the addition of 10 new town areas and the exclusion of 5 previously identified areas, i.e. a net additional 5 (the previous list of 43 town areas grows to 48). The changes, which arise from overall population changes between the two census periods, are detailed at Appendix 1.
5. The updated criteria used are, therefore, as follows:
 - i. Areas with a population of greater than 5,000 persons and less than 20,000 persons, as per the 2011 Census.

- ii. Areas that did not experience greater than 20% growth in the intercensal period 2006-2011 and where the establishment of new schools is unlikely to emerge until at least 2016.
- iii. Areas that have at least three primary schools within a 2km range of the CSO Town Boundary.
- iv. Areas where school provision is predominantly Catholic or where there is very limited diversity of provision at present.

Exclusion of Areas with Existing Diversity of Provision

- 6. Finally, the overall list was modified to take account of those areas where a level of diversity of provision already exists.
- 7. Of the updated (2011 census) list, seven areas (Greystones, Letterkenny, Mallow, Maynooth, Midleton, Sligo, Tullamore) can be regarded as having existing diversity of provision, i.e. these areas have both a Gaelscoil and an Educate Together school (in the case of six of the seven) or both a Gaelscoil and a planned Community National School (in one case - Mallow).
- 8. Exclusion of these seven areas on the basis of existing diversity, and the likelihood therefore that the question of divesting will not immediately arise, means that the total proposed number of areas to be surveyed under the initial phase is 44 (41 plus 3 Dublin city) rather than the 47 referred to in the Forum on Patronage Report.
- 9. Details of the final list of the 44 survey areas are set out at appendix 2.

Appendix 1

List Based on 2006 Census	Updated List Based on 2011 Census	Added between 06 & 11	Areas Dropped Since 06	2011 list areas with existing diversity
Arklow	Arklow	Edenderry	Athlone	Greystones
Athlone	Ballina	Fermoy	Newbridge	Letterkenny
Ballina	Ballinasloe	Greystones	Dunboyne	Mallow
Ballinasloe	Bandon	Kildare	Mullingar	Maynooth
Bandon	Birr	Loughrea	Wexford	Midleton
Birr	Buncrana	Midleton		Sligo
Buncrana	Carrick-on-Suir	Nenagh		Tullamore
Carrick-on-Suir	Carrigaline	Passage West		
Carrigaline	Castlebar	Roscrea		
Castlebar	Celbridge	Rush		
Celbridge	Clonmel			
Clonmel	Cobh			
Cobh	Dungarvan			
Droichead Nua	Edenderry			
Dunboyne	Enniscorthy			
Dungarvan	Fermoy			
Enniscorthy	Greystones			
Kells(Ceannanas)	Kells (Ceanannas)			
Killarney	Kildare			
Leixlip	Killarney			
Letterkenny	Leixlip			
Longford	Letterkenny			
Malahide	Longford			
Mallow	Loughrea			
Maynooth	Malahide			
Monaghan	Mallow			
Mullingar	Maynooth			
New Ross	Midleton			
Portmarnock	Monaghan			
Roscommon	Nenagh			
Shannon	New Ross			
Skerries	Passage West			
Sligo	Portmarnock			
Thurles	Roscommon			
Tipperary	Roscrea			
Tramore	Rush			
Trim	Shannon			
Tuam	Skerries			
Tullamore	Sligo			
Westport	Thurles			
Wexford	Tipperary			
Wicklow	Tramore			
Youghal	Trim			
	Tuam			
	Tullamore			
	Westport			
	Wicklow			
	Youghal			

Appendix 2

Final Updated List

Arklow
Ballina
Ballinasloe
Bandon
Birr
Buncrana
Carrick-on-Suir
Carrigaline
Castlebar
Celbridge
Clonmel
Cobh
Dungarvan
Edenderry
Enniscorthy
Fermoy
Kells (Ceanannas)
Kildare
Killarney
Leixlip
Longford
Loughrea
Malahide
Monaghan
Nenagh
New Ross
Passage West
Portmarnock
Roscommon
Roscrea
Rush
Shannon
Skerries
Thurles
Tipperary
Tramore
Trim
Tuam
Westport
Wicklow
Youghal
Whitehall
Dublin 4
Dublin 6&8