Today the District Electoral Areas Commissioner, Richard H Mackenzie CB, published a final report setting out his recommendations for the District Electoral Areas of the eleven new local government districts in Northern Ireland. The report has been presented to the Secretary of State who has laid it before Parliament.

District Electoral Areas are made up of 5, 6 or 7 wards and are the basic electoral unit for local government elections. Each ward represents a seat on the council - although councillors are not elected to a particular ward; they are elected to represent the District Electoral Area and so an electoral area will be represented by 5, 6 or 7 councillors depending on the number of wards it contains.

Speaking earlier, Mr Mackenzie said, “The publication of my report today is an important part of the electoral arrangements for the new councils. My recommendations reflect many of the representations I received from the public during an extensive consultation process which involved public inquiries in nine of the new council areas”.

Commenting on extent of change from the existing electoral areas, the Commissioner said, “My recommendations represent a considerable
change from the current pattern in some places due to the reduction in
the number of councils and the consequent fall in the number of wards. However, in other areas there is a broad similarity with the existing
pattern.”

The Commissioner’s report is available on his website at www.deac-ni.org.

END

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. Mr Richard H Mackenzie, CB was appointed as District Electoral Areas
Commissioner in January 2013, by the Secretary of State for Northern
Ireland (The Rt Hon. Theresa Villiers MP).

2. The Local Government (Boundaries) Order (Northern Ireland) 2012
established the boundaries and names of the eleven new local
government districts for Northern Ireland and the number, boundaries
and names of their constituent wards.

3. Following on from this, the Commissioner’s task was to group those
wards into District Electoral Areas for the purpose of elections to the
new councils.

4. The Commissioner published provisional recommendations on 2 May
2013, inviting written representations by 27 June. He received 30
representations and, subsequently, public inquiries into the proposed
groupings of wards and their names were held in nine local
government districts. The inquiries were presided over by independent
Assistant Commissioners.
5. After considering the written representations received, the transcripts of the public inquiries and the reports of the Assistant Commissioners, Mr Mackenzie drew up his final recommendations in the form of a report to the Secretary of State. The report is available on his website at www.deac-ni.org

6. The Secretary of State laid the Commissioner’s report before Parliament on 11 December 2013.

7. For media enquiries please contact:

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