Monday 9th September 2013

District Electoral Areas Commissioner
Local Government District: Lisburn and Castlereagh
Venue: Ramada Plaza Hotel

Jane Watson: Good morning ladies and gentlemen, this is the Lisburn and Castlereagh Public Inquiry for the District Electoral Areas. Before we start, just a few housekeeping points whilst you're with us this morning. We don't expect a fire alarm but, if we do have one, please leave by the nearest exit which is just behind me and the staff will guide us to the assembly point which will be in the car park. If you need to use the facilities they're just to the back of the room. For the proceedings this morning we would appreciate it if you could switch mobiles to silent mode. We are recording for the audio transcription so please switch your mobiles to silent for the courtesy of others. Thank you very much.

I'd like to hand over to Eileen Brady, who is Assistant Commissioner for this inquiry this morning. Thank you.

Eileen Brady: Good morning everyone and welcome to this public inquiry. You're all very welcome and we will just go ahead now with the introduction to the proceedings.

I formally open this public inquiry into the proposed District Electoral Areas for the local government district of Lisburn and Castlereagh. My name is Eileen Brady and I have been appointed by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to conduct this inquiry. Firstly, I must stress that I am independent of the District Electoral Areas Commissioner, Dick Mackenzie, and it is not my function to defend his recommendations; my role is to listen to and consider the evidence put forward at this inquiry and to report my findings and my recommendations to the Commissioner. These recommendations are to be made within four weeks of the close of this inquiry.

It is my intention to have a lunch break between 12.30pm and 1.30pm and for the proceedings to be finished by 5pm. It is not intended to stop for breaks but we will stop for any adjournments if necessary. Copies of the provisional recommendations are available for inspection; there are also copies of the written representations relating to this district which have been made to
the Commissioner during the eight week consultation period which ended on 27th June 2013.

I should also repeat that this inquiry will be recorded and that a transcript will be made available on the Commissioner's website in due course. If anyone cannot access the website and wishes to receive a printed copy, please leave your name and contact details with a member of the support staff. There are maps available and on the screen, showing the proposed grouping of the wards into electoral areas.

The purpose of the public inquiry is to consider representations concerning the provisional recommendations of the District Electoral Areas Commissioner for the local government district of Lisburn and Castlereagh. It should be noted that this inquiry has been convened to consider and hear arguments for and against the objections raised to the Commissioner's proposals during the consultation period which closed on the 27th June. I would like to make it clear that new objections unrelated to those already submitted cannot be considered.

I must also emphasise that you cannot reserve your position to await my report. It will not be possible for you to make any written or oral submissions to myself, or indeed to the Commissioner, after this inquiry has concluded. I am aware that some of you may have already made written representations. I have studied these carefully as part of the preparation for this inquiry and I will certainly take them into account in my report to the Commissioner.

Those of you who have already made written representations may want to elaborate on those representations today. However, I will not be assisted by repetition of these written submissions and if you think you've already made these points fully in writing you may simply wish to state that you support or oppose a particular recommendation for the reasons that you've already stated in your written representation.

I can assure you that full account will be taken of all written representations, regardless of whether or not they are referred to during the course of this inquiry. I should also be grateful if other speakers would try not to repeat points already put to the inquiry but rather simply record their support for views expressed previously.
In order to assist me, I would be obliged if you could try to back up your proposals with evidence where possible, rather than relying on unsubstantiated statements and bear in mind that, in making these recommendations, the Commissioner was constrained by the rules set out in the relevant legislation and replicated in his report.

There are some issues which are outside the scope of this inquiry; these include the boundaries and names of local government districts and their constituent wards as they have already been settled under the terms of the Local Government Boundaries Order 2012; the impact of the provisional recommendations on political representation; and any issue that does not relate to the Commissioner's proposals for the grouping of wards within this particular government district. I would ask you not to raise these issues in your representations.

The procedure we will follow in relation to the oral submissions is as follows. You will be asked to come forward to speak into the microphones provided and, in making your submission, you should start by stating your name, whether you’re speaking in a professional or a personal capacity or in a representative capacity and, if so, for whom.

Please speak clearly. Try not to use abbreviations or colloquialisms as they may cause difficulties for the transcribers and also would you mind repeating if you have made a written submission already. Your oral submission will be of particular assistance if you’re able to explain the reason why you’ve taken a particular position, for example supporting an objection and counterproposal to the Commissioner's recommendation, supporting the Commissioner's original recommendation or proposing an alternative to both.

When you have finished, other people may wish to put questions to you from the floor and I may also have some questions for you or points to be clarified. I would like to emphasise that the inquiry is to be conducted in an informal manner, conducive to all who wish to contribute. Formal cross-examination is not appropriate in an inquiry of this nature; however I am very happy for people to put questions to the speaker through me and, similarly, I will
facilitate the person asking the questions in the best way possible.

I want to touch briefly on site visits. When this inquiry is over I may go to view some areas under consideration. If there is a particular boundary or feature that you want me to look at, then mention it in your submission and it will be noted and I will go and see it.

Please feel free to approach any of the staff present here today with any queries that you feel you may have and they will be pleased to assist you in this matter and draw anything to my attention that is appropriate. I just want to remind everybody present who wishes to speak to ensure that they have registered.

If that's the case, and everybody who wishes to speak has registered, I think we're ready to proceed and I will call the registered speakers. First will be Conor Quinn and Patrick Catney.

Patrick Catney: Can I ask are there other people registered to speak or are we the only people?

Eileen Brady: It appears there's just yourself and Mr Quinn to speak.

Conor Quinn: Thank you. Is it appropriate to call you Madam Chair, is that ok?

Eileen Brady: Yes, that's fine. And just don't forget, for the purpose of the record, to state your name and the capacity in which you are making this representation today.

Conor Quinn: My name is Conor Quinn; I'm speaking as a branch member of the Social Democratic and Labour Party for Lisburn, so as a member of the Lisburn Branch.

Conor Quinn: I think in our consideration of the provisional recommendations we identified a number of clear deficiencies and these are represented in the submission that came from the SDLP. Our concerns are primarily relating to the creation of the new Culcavy District Electoral Area and, in conjunction with that, is the analysis that this side of the proposed new local government district, which is dominated by Lisburn and the Lisburn urban
area, and the consideration around boundaries that fully enclose the Lisburn urban district area, should be given more strength.

So we have no concerns regarding the proposed two DEAs at the Castlereagh end of the local government district; our concerns pertain only to the existing Lisburn area and the creation of the new Culcavy district electoral area and the Lisburn urban district. That's really the centre of our submission and the centre of what we're presenting this morning.

What I'd like to do first of all, in terms of the proposed Culcavy DEA, is to highlight what we see as three main deficiencies in that proposed DEA. If we look at the boundary that's presented on the screen, we can see that it incorporates the wards of Moira, Lagan, Hillsborough, Maze and Blaris and it's clear from the arrangement of the wards that, in whatever configuration is chosen by the Commissioner, Moira and Lagan must come together because Moira is essentially islanded. So Moira and Lagan must clearly belong to the same DEA.

But the massive change here, in respect of the existing DEA framework, is that the village of Moira is part of the Killultagh DEA, so we must acknowledge a clear change to the existing DEA framework as a result of the proposed Culcavy Ward.

The second deficiency we would highlight is the DEA boundary that runs through the village of Hillsborough, essentially dissecting urban settlements within the village of Hillsborough. So this is the DEA boundary between Culcavy and Boardmills as it applies, as it is found in the Hillsborough village area. Essentially, the recognizable urban settlement of Hillsborough is split in two across a DEA boundary and we find this incongruous.

The third deficiency regards the inclusion of the Blaris Ward within the Culcavy DEA. Blaris has a significant urban settlement which is associated with the recognizable urban district of Lisburn and it's clear in the way the boundaries have been drawn, how the DEA boundary snakes around the Blaris Ward, that it really encompasses quite a lot of urban settlement which more properly belongs in a Lisburn DEA.

So these are deficiencies that we identify in the proposed Culcavy DEA. Just to restate then with my next slide, the
deficiencies are the dissection of Hillsborough, Moira has been removed from the established Killultagh hinterland with no regard to the existing DEA framework and, thirdly, Blaris more properly belongs in a Lisburn DEA.

So to take some of these issues in a bit more detail and, while doing this, we were again cognisant of the objective of trying to include as much of the urban settlement of Lisburn within coherent DEAs. I can't refer to it as Lisburn City because that obviously is the existing local government district but I will refer to what I call the urban district of Lisburn, which is really the recognisable, readily identifiable town of Lisburn.

If we consider in some more detail the area around the Blaris Ward, we highlight again the significant urban settlement which is along what was known as the Hillsborough Old Road and the Ballynahinch Road and its boundary. This is the M1 motorway; all of this urban settlement which is proposed to be associated with Moira and half of Hillsborough is clearly part of the Lisburn urban area and the residents and ratepayers here are clearly associated with the town of Lisburn.

We can take an aerial shot of that particular area and you can see that the Commissioner has chosen the geographical boundary of the River Lagan, which is the boundary between two wards but, when you consider that this area here is the Blaris Industrial Estate, we have significant residential development here. This is the Hillsborough Old Road and this is Blaris Industrial Estate. When one takes this view of the settlement it's clear that the natural boundary for the electoral area really should ideally be the motorway because it's the clear transition between an urban district and a rural district. So we find it incongruous that Blaris should be included within the proposed new Culcavy DEA.

For example, Young Street is just a mixed commercial and residential street which is the beginning of the Hillsborough Old Road in Lisburn. The residents wake up every morning and consider themselves residents of Lisburn. They don't consider themselves residents of Hillsborough or of Moira, which is where they would be located within the proposed DEA framework.
So our recommendation, as stated in the SDLP submission, is that an approach should be taken which includes the Blaris Ward within what we’re calling the Lisburn urban DEA; we propose moving it into Lisburn South. This creates a distinct urban DEA. The Blaris Ward was previously within the District Electoral Area known as Lisburn Town South; it’s much closer to the original DEA framework which has been specifically cited by the Commissioner in his provisional recommendations, where he felt it was unreasonable to ignore the existing DEA framework. So, as outlined in our submission, we propose a seven ward District Electoral Area called Lisburn Town South.

Taking another dimension of the proposed Culcavy Ward, this is the DEA boundary which I think objectively is probably the greatest deficiency in the Commissioner’s proposed recommendations in that it clearly dissects the residential settlement within Hillsborough. Hillsborough is currently wholly contained within the existing Downshire DEA so this seems to be entirely inconsistent with the objective to wholly contain existing settlements within a single DEA. This is an aerial shot of this residential settlement area which is really based around Granville Drive in Hillsborough. This is Granville Drive here and it includes areas such as Kilwarlin Way and Windsor Hill and Downshire Park.

Eileen Brady: Could you highlight that?

Conor Quinn: This is Granville Drive here, so this is the DEA boundary. So the consequence of this, as proposed by the Commissioner, is that we would have five councillors representing these residents in the Culcavy DEA and five councillors representing these residents in the proposed Boardmills DEA. I think objectively that this is probably the greatest deficiency in the proposed recommendations.

So using the terminology of the recommendations, I think it’s fair to say that Granville Drive is probably not a readily identifiable boundary, particularly when one considers this view which I believe is southeast on Granville Drive in Hillsborough where again, just to reiterate, the residents on the right would be represented by five councillors from Culcavy DEA and the residents on the left would be represented by five councillors from the proposed Boardmills DEA.
The summary here really is that there must be an arrangement where the settlement of Hillsborough would be wholly contained within a single DEA.

A third dimension of the overall DEA framework to highlight is based on a similar argument to that just expounded for the Blarris Ward and relates to the Killultagh DEA boundary with the general area of North Lisburn. There's really a three-way boundary here between Lisburn Town North, the proposed Lisburn Town South and Killultagh.

Again this goes back to the broader objective for the DEA framework that should be taken here, which is to wholly contain the urban part of Lisburn so that the urban settlement is wholly contained within coherent DEAs.

This area at the north of Lisburn proposes to include significant residential settlements in the Killultagh DEA along this boundary. This is new and recent development based around Thaxton village, in particular, Linen Green. The current framework would propose that these residents be associated with the more rural village areas of Glenavy, Maghaberry and Ballinderry.

It's easy to see that these residents consider themselves to be fully Lisburn residents; they belong to the broad urban district of Lisburn. This area here is the White Mountain Ward and that is a large rural ward but actually, when one considers the settlement within that ward, a significant part of the settlement is in this area around Thaxton village and Linen Green; all are new developments and all are fully associated with the broad urban district of Lisburn.

So, the areas here include Knightsbridge, Killowen Grange, Kenilworth and Haddington Hill. Kenilworth and Haddington Hill are here and they are south of the Lisburn North feeder road and these residents most assuredly consider themselves to be residents of Lisburn. They are not associated with Glenavy, Maghaberry or Ballinderry. So any framework must try and encompass this area within a Lisburn urban DEA.

This is the aerial shot of that area in some more detail. The boundary runs along Nettle Hill Road up to Prince William Road,
onto the Lisburn North feeder road and comes down here through Belmont Drive. This is all new residential development in Lisburn North; all these residents consider themselves to be living in Lisburn.

Now a street shot of that area, taking one area in particular, Belmont Drive, which runs down from the Lisburn North feeder road. This would be the boundary between White Mountain but it’s the DEA boundary between Killultagh and Lisburn Town South that is along Belmont Drive. So what I’m trying to highlight here is that what is essentially the ward boundary between White Mountain and Ballymacash is also the DEA boundary between Lisburn South and White Mountain and it runs down Belmont Drive.

The streetscape here again is not unlike the situation in Hillsborough. This is an image of Belmont Drive facing south and the residents on the left are actually part of the White Mountain Ward and consequently the Killultagh DEA. The residents on the right are residents of Ballymacash Ward and, consequently, of Lisburn South DEA. What is interesting about this image is that actually all these residents are currently part of the Lisburn North DEA. But the point I want to make with this image, and the discussion about Belmont Drive, is that all these residents are part of an urban district and they should be contained within an urban Lisburn DEA.

Now, our proposals don’t actually solve the problem with this boundary but what our proposals do will ensure that all the residents of this street in Belmont Drive are part of Lisburn urban DEAs. So the residents on the left of this image who are currently, under the proposals, associated with the rural district of Killultagh, would be represented by councillors who are also representing Glenavy, Maghaberry and Ballinderry.

So I think that is really the core of our objections. To finish off our last point, the conclusion is that White Mountain Ward should be wholly contained within an urban Lisburn DEA. We would propose moving White Mountain into the Lisburn North DEA. We can only do that because, having moved Blaris into Lisburn South, it’s already reached the maximum of seven wards so we would propose a seven ward Lisburn North. This creates a distinct urban DEA and is also consistent with the original DEA.
framework, which has a Lisburn North. And, as highlighted, the residents of Belmont Drive all currently live in Lisburn North.

I'd like to make a general point about consistency with the original DEA framework. We note the Commissioner's comment that it would be unreasonable to ignore this framework. Just to make a broader point about the benefits of that, I know that they aren't defined among the criteria for consideration but on this side of the table, where we're active politically and where we see a decrease in political participation at elections and we see disenfranchisement from the political process, we think it's important that every citizen should be able to wake up and identify the electoral area in which they live and in which they are represented.

I think every resident should be able to say 'I live in Lisburn North', 'I live in Lisburn City Council', 'I live in Lagan Valley parliamentary constituency'. And the Commissioner is absolutely right to say that it's unreasonable to ignore the existing DEA framework because a significant change to the DEA framework changes the landscape in which people live, in which they are represented.

So, as politicians who want to see active citizenship and active participation in the political process, we are concerned about significant changes to the DEA framework, such as significant change to the Killultagh DEA which is a significant change to the framework. Our proposals are much stronger in preserving the existing framework and I think it's not inappropriate for the Commissioner to give weight to the impact that the significant change to the DEA framework has to misinforming citizens and residents about the electoral area in which they live and work.

The summary of our proposals is to move the Blaris Ward into Lisburn Town South, creating a seven ward DEA. We would propose moving White Mountain into a Lisburn Town North DEA of seven wards. As already stated, Moira must be with Lagan ward and consequently we would propose reconstituting the existing Killultagh area now as a six ward district electoral area.

Considering that there is no significant objection to the proposed DEAs of Castlereagh and Four Winds beyond their names, this leaves only really a potential seven seater DEA which we would
propose to call Downshire, which is the existing name of the DEA and broadly covers the geographical area that is currently known as Downshire. This seven seater DEA would wholly incorporate the settlement of Hillsborough, which is currently dissected under the provisional recommendations.

Now obviously the consequence of these proposals is that we lose an entire DEA; that is the outworking of the seven seater district electoral areas. But we can see no disadvantage in losing that DEA; we find that it's a neutral effect. We find that the DEA framework that would result in the Lisburn area is much more cognisant of the existing DEA framework; it retains the broad geographical areas with two urban districts of Lisburn Town and Lisburn South and two rural DEAs of Killultagh and Downshire, as currently exists. For those more informed citizens, they would be aware that that is their electoral area and that they have councillors there.

This would be the map of the reconfigured DEAs, so just to repeat, a six seater Killultagh DEA, a seven seater Downshire DEA, a seven seater Lisburn North DEA and a seven seater Lisburn South DEA. This structure is much more cognisant of the existing DEA framework.

In more detail then, just to reiterate, that the objective of containing as much as possible of the urban district of Lisburn is achieved with the proposed two new Lisburn North and Lisburn South DEAs. There's the map on the screen and the wards of White Mountain and Blaris are now wholly contained within urban Lisburn District Electoral Areas.

The implications of the proposals, which I've probably highlighted already, are that we have the loss of the Culcavy DEA, which we say is primarily a neutral effect. We have highlighted three main deficiencies of that proposed DEA at the outset. I claim that that's a neutral effect; perhaps some of the council representatives here may see the slight positive effect of having to count one less DEA at election time.

Our proposals create distinct urban and rural DEAs. Lisburn Town North, distinctly urban and consistent with the original framework, supports Lisburn being contained within two coherent urban DEAs – a positive effect. Lisburn Town South is distinctly
urban and consistent with the original DEA framework; it supports Lisburn being contained within two coherent urban DEAs - a positive effect.

Our proposed Killultagh, distinctively rural and consistent with the original DEA framework, rejoins Moira to the hinterland of Ballinderry and Glenavy - a positive effect. Taking the proposed new Downshire Ward, it is distinctly rural and consistent with the original Downshire DEA - a positive effect. Very importantly, it supports Hillsborough being wholly contained within a single DEA, which is perhaps the greatest incongruity of the Commissioner's proposals.

The new Downshire, we would have to acknowledge, is only slightly larger than the original Downshire, so in the Commissioner's criteria terms it's perhaps not as geographically compact as it could be. Overall we think this is a neutral effect on balance, considering that this larger DEA prevents the settlement of Hillsborough being dissected. We believe that that is either a neutral effect or a marginal effect, considering that we now have Hillsborough wholly contained within a single DEA.

In terms of the councillor/electorate ratio, I don't believe the percentages were in the SDLP submission but they're actually better with our proposals. I think the greatest deviation in the Commissioner's proposals was 6.2%; our greatest deviation is in Lisburn Town North with 4.4%, so in fact the deviations from the councillor/electorate ratio are less with our proposals.

In summary, on balance we believe our proposals have a better regard for the creation of distinct urban and distinct rural DEAs; have a better regard to the inclusion of complete settlements within a DEA, particularly Hillsborough and Lisburn; have a much better regard to the previous DEA framework and again, from our side, that's an important issue in terms of preserving an active citizenship in a participative democracy. Our proposals have less variation in the councillor to electorate ratio.

That completes my contribution this morning, Madam Chair.

Eileen Brady: Thank you very much. Is there anybody present who would like to make a comment on, or raise any issue in relation to, what
was submitted? I would like to clarify just one or two points with you.

In terms of Killultagh, are there any particular geographical issues that you would like to highlight for the purposes of the inquiry that show a commonality with your suggested removal of the Culcavy Ward and the restoration of the original Killultagh?

Conor Quinn: I think it's hard to identify geographic issues with regard to the proposed boundaries but I think what is clear is that a lot of the residents of Moira, Ballinderry and Glenavy share similar geographical issues. They all tend to be commuting villages into the metropolitan areas of Belfast, so in that sense they share a lot of local infrastructure issues and certainly those issues, which are geographical, are shared by the residents in Killultagh.

Eileen Brady: In relation to the matter of taking Blaris into Lisburn South, is there particular evidence that you would like to highlight which shows there would be resident support for your proposal?

Conor Quinn: There's no specific evidence beyond broad objectivity with regard to that urban area. One needs to make a judgement as to whether those residents along the Hillsborough Old Road, Young Street, that side of Lisburn, would judge themselves to be living in Lisburn as opposed to living in Hillsborough or Moira, with which they would be associated.

Eileen Brady: Would there be any evidence to show that association in their mind, anything to back that up in terms of why they would be affiliated to Lisburn more than somewhere else?

Conor Quinn: Well, particularly around the Young Street area, you have a number of community groups, a number of churches which would draw their congregations from right across the Lisburn area. I know it's a little bit weak to say it's self-evident but I think in this case it actually is.

Eileen Brady: And I would just repeat the same question in relation to White Mountain, in terms of some supporting evidence to establish why it should be in Lisburn North as opposed to Killultagh?

Conor Quinn: As highlighted, particularly that new development around Thaxton village is all new residential development and shares
issues particularly around transport. So there have been a number of issues around the Lisburn North feeder road, which serves this urban settlement part of Lisburn, and again those issues are entirely shared by the residents in Thaxton village who would be in the Killultagh DEA, as much as they are by the residents that are on the south side of Nettle Hill Road or the south side of the Lisburn North feeder road.

So we have ongoing practical experience of dealing with road traffic issues in that area which are absolutely common between the residents of Thaxton village and residents south of Nettle Hill Road.

Eileen Brady: Thank you very much. Is there anybody else would like to raise any points to assist with this presentation?

Patrick Catney: Madam Chair, my name is Patrick Catney; I'm a councillor in Killultagh. The presentation that Conor has made covers most of the points but I would like to try and spread out the question that you asked about Moira and about moving Moira out of Killultagh into this new DEA.

Moira has been a long established part of Killultagh for about twenty or twenty five years and I've spent a lot of my political life going out and trying to engage with the constituents and making them feel part of it. I believe that if this proposal happens they will feel more isolated to be moved into something else because the broad of it is that Glenavy and Ballinderry and Moira, Kilwarlin and Laganview, all of those areas belong to Killultagh and they feel part of Killultagh.

Now the little school which is two miles outside of Moira, which was closed, the parents there bus their children nearly five miles to school in Magheralin, which is in through Moira and another two and a half miles outside. So the point I'm trying to make is that there are historical reasons, there are two churches within that area; one is in Kilwarlin and one is in Magheralin. They feel that the centre is Moira, even though neither of the churches are in Moira, but they believe that that is where the centre is and where they're governed from.

Now my point is that we have a bad rural network there; we lose an engagement with them if we move a those people out so it's
important that we try to hold on and keep that island settlement of Moira, and that part which goes out round by Kilwarlin, within the boundaries of Killultagh.

Eileen Brady: Very good. Is there anything further you wish to add in terms of the whole presentation?

Patrick Catney: No, that's fine. Conor has covered most of it, thanks for your time.

Eileen Brady: Thank you very much, that was a very useful presentation and obviously I'll have to spend time having a good look at it.

Patrick Catney: Madam Commissioner, this is very important, I don't need to tell you but I'm saying it for myself as a councillor. I was born in Moira; we have all strong ties to Killultagh and to see that moved out, I think, would be a great injustice to the people there that we're trying to engage with. I trust you'll look favourably on it.

Eileen Brady: Very well. Is there anybody else present in the room who would like to respond to anything that's been raised this morning in any capacity? Thank you for that presentation.

Patrick Catney: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Eileen Brady: At this stage we will adjourn proceedings until 12 noon, unless somebody additional turns up and we will attempt to have them dealt with promptly. So in line with that, we will adjourn the proceedings.

Stephen Reid: Sorry, Commissioner, at the beginning you said people could perhaps make a statement in support of a submission that's been made. Do you wish to take those now or will you leave those until later? When I spoke to you outside and asked that question and knowing your opening remarks, you said that whilst one may not wish to make a written submission, maybe one could make a statement. I was advised that that wasn't a formal presentation, it was only two minutes.

Eileen Brady: That's very well, if you would like to take a seat and don't forget to introduce yourself in the capacity in which you're speaking.
Stephen Reid: Thank you, Madam Chairman. My name is Stephen Reid. I am Chief Executive of Castlereagh Borough Council and I am taking the opportunity to make a short statement in support of the submission the council has already made. I don't wish to go back through that because, as you've said, you've already received that and will give it consideration. So the council unanimously agreed, at a special meeting, to the submission to the Commissioner in a letter dated 25th June and, although the council was entirely satisfied with the makeup of the DEAs relating to Castlereagh and Lisburn, it asked the Commissioner to consider two name changes as set out in the letter that better reflect the area.

So I am asking the Commissioner to change Four Winds to Castlereagh South, and Castlereagh to Castlereagh East. I don't wish to take up the inquiry's time; the reasons are set out in the report, but I just wish to state Castlereagh Borough Council's unanimous support for those two amendments to the proposals.

Eileen Brady: Very well, that's noted. Do you wish to take this opportunity to make any comments on what was raised earlier in terms of relocating the boundaries submitted previously?

Stephen Reid: No, Castlereagh Borough Council had no view on the submissions already received and mentioned this morning.

Eileen Brady: Very well, thank you. Unless there is anybody further who wishes to raise any comments at this stage, we will adjourn proceedings until 12 noon. Thank you.

Good afternoon everybody and thank you for your attendance here this afternoon. Just for the purposes of the record, we're reconvening the public inquiry and seeking to find out if there is anybody present who wishes to make any comments on what was raised this morning. Would you like to come forward and introduce yourself and in what capacity you want to raise an issue?

Patrick Catney: Cllr Patrick Catney, Lisburn Council. Madam Chair, when you had asked was there any evidence to back up what we proposed this morning, there was some. We had gathered signatures, nearly 500, that were all in agreement with what our proposals
were and we passed them on into you. So this is just to make you aware of it.

Eileen Brady: Yes, I am aware of that. Very good, thank you for that, it's very helpful.

In light of that, if there's no one else who wishes to make any comments on the issues raised this morning, I proposed adjourning this matter until 1.30pm and we'll reconvene then for the afternoon session. Thank you.

Good afternoon and we are now resuming the afternoon session of the public inquiry into Lisburn and Castlereagh. In terms of this afternoon's representation, we will adjourn until we are aware that there are parties wishing to make some representations this afternoon. Until further notice we will suspend the matter until then. Thank you.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Eileen Brady: Good afternoon. I have just confirmed that there is no one else who has indicated that they wish to speak. May I remind everyone that once I have closed the inquiry, I cannot receive any further evidence. Is everyone content they've had a full opportunity to air their views and present their submissions? In that case, I propose to bring the hearing to a close.

Before I formally close these proceedings I would like to place on record my gratitude to everyone who has attended, particularly those who have made representations. I want to thank my support team from the office of the District Electoral Areas Commissioner, Land and Property Services, Morrow Communications and the transcribers and audio engineers for the help they have given me in preparing for and conducting this hearing. I would also like to thank the management and staff of this hotel for the excellent facilities they have provided.

My immediate task now is to consider carefully all of the evidence I have heard at this inquiry, as well as the written representations that were received during the recent consultation period, and to prepare a report for the District Electoral Areas Commissioner within the next four weeks.
My report will be made publicly available on the Commissioner's website together with the Commissioner's final recommendations report. It will ultimately be a matter for the Commissioner to decide whether to accept any or all of my recommendations. Thank you all very much for your assistance and participation.