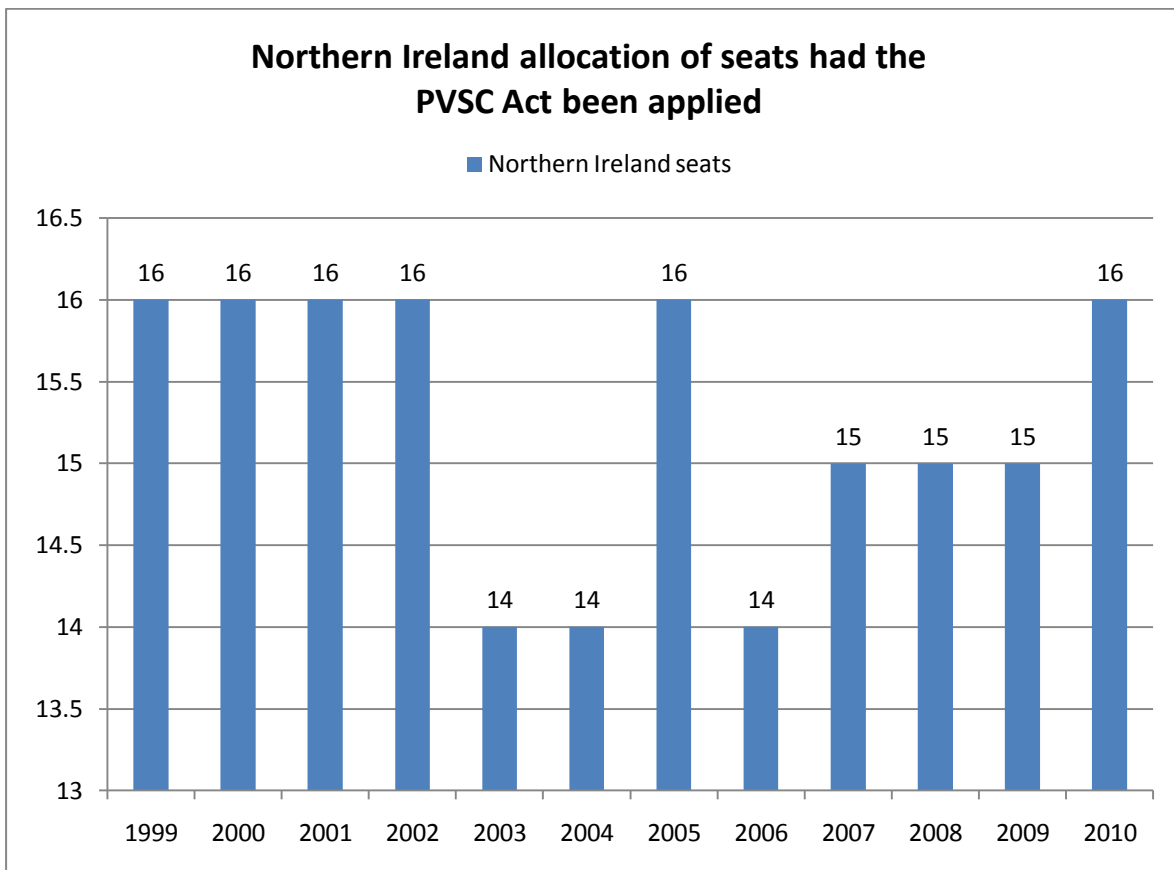


DEMOCRATIC AUDIT BOUNDARY MODEL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Lewis Baston, June 2011

Northern Ireland's parliamentary delegation falls from 18 to 16. On the previous year's figures it would have been 15. The instability of electorate numbers in Northern Ireland since the introduction of individual electoral registration in 2002, and the operation of the UK-wide formula for determining seat allocations to each nation, combine to produce a wobble in the number of Northern Ireland MPs from year to year.



Northern Ireland, it may be noted in passing, has a permitted exception from the rules on equalisation. Rule 7 of the new redistribution rules allows wider margins of toleration around the UK quota in the event that the difference between the UK and Northern Ireland average seat size is fairly large. The difference is wide enough to trigger Rule 7 in this boundary review, meaning that seats a bit smaller than the normal minimum are allowed in Northern Ireland. However, in keeping with the general principle of not using get-out clauses unless it is absolutely necessary, all the seats here conform to the UK standard rules.

EAST ANTRIM (74,106)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
East Antrim		Entire current constituency	61,253	82.7
Belfast North	Newtownabbey	Cloughfern, Coole, Dunnaney, Abbey, Whitehouse, Valley	10,587	14.3
South Antrim	Newtownabbey	Ballynure	2,266	3.1

The Newtownabbey wards currently in Belfast North are removed and divided between East Antrim and South Antrim.

NORTH ANTRIM (74,094)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
North Antrim		Unchanged constituency	74,094	100.0

The only unchanged constituency in Northern Ireland.

SOUTH ANTRIM (74,380)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
South Antrim		Entire current constituency less Ballynure	61,988	83.3
Belfast North	Newtownabbey	Ballyhenry, Glengormley, Glebe, Hightown, Collinbridge	10,126	13.6
Lagan Valley	Lisburn	Ballinderry	3,246	4.4

BELFAST NORTH EAST (75,787)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Belfast East	Belfast	Sydenham, Island, Ballymacarrett, Bloomfield, Ballyhackamore, Belmont, Stormont, Cherryvalley, Knock, Orangefield, The Mount	38,142	64.9
Belfast East	Castlereagh	Tullycarnet, Gillnahirk, Lisnasharragh, Downshire, Cregagh, Upper Braniel, Lower Braniel	11,067	
Belfast North	Belfast	Duncairn, Legoniel, Ballysillan, Chichester Park, Fortwilliam, Cavehill, Castlevue, Bellevue	26,578	35.1

Much more East than North Belfast – this constituency may appear to have a bit of a ‘wasp waist’ in Belfast city centre but internal communications are good thanks to the M3 Lagan Bridge which opened in 1995 – before then this seat would probably have been inconceivable.

BELFAST SOUTH (74,547)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Belfast South	Belfast, Castlereagh	Entire current constituency	60,726	81.5
Lagan Valley	Lisburn	Derryagh South, Seymour Hill, Lambeg, Drumbo	8,171	11.0
Belfast West	Lisburn	Derryagh North, Dunmurry	5,650	7.6

BELFAST WEST (74,404)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Belfast West	Belfast, Lisburn	Current constituency less Derryagh North, Dunmurry	54,870	73.7
Belfast North	Belfast	Woodvale, Crumlin, New Lodge, Water Works, Ardoyne, Cliftonville	19,534	36.3

NORTH DOWN (75,251)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
North Down		Entire current constituency	61,615	81.9
Belfast East	Castlereagh	Dundonald, Carrowreagh, Enler, Graham's Bridge, Ballyhanwood	10,841	14.4
Strangford	Castlereagh	Moneyreagh	2,795	3.7

STRANGFORD (74,406)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Strangford	Ards, Down	Entire current constituency less Moneyreagh	58,771	79.0
Lagan Valley	Lisburn	Hillsborough, Dromara, Ballymacbrennan	8,607	14.6
Lagan Valley	Banbridge	Gransha	2,241	
South Down	Down	Drumaness, Crossgar	4,787	6.4

SOUTH DOWN (73,485)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
South Down	Down, Banbridge	Current constituency less Drumaness, Crossgar, Derryleckagh, Donaghmore	62,092	84.5
Upper Bann	Banbridge	Edenderry, Banbridge West, Fort, Ballydown, Seapatrick, The Cut	11,393	15.5

LAGAN VALLEY (74,344)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Lagan Valley	Lisburn	Moira, Magheraberry, Maze, Hillhall, Blaris, Knockmore, Old Warren, Lagan Valley, Tonagh, Ballymacoss, Ballymacash, Lisnagarvey, Wallace Park, Magheralave, Harmony Hill, Hilden	37,923	59.3
Lagan Valley	Banbridge	Dromore North, Dromore South, Quilly	6,139	
Upper Bann	Craigavon	Aghagallon, Magheralin, Donaghcloney, Waringstown, Woodville, Drumnamoe, Parklake, Court, Taghnevan, Mourneview, Church, Knocknashane	24,935	40.7
Upper Bann	Banbridge	Gilford, Lawrencetown, Loughbrickland	5,347	

A much-altered seat, moving further from Belfast and taking in Lurgan.

NEWRY AND ARMAGH (73,059)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Newry & Armagh		Current constituency less Charlemount, Loughgall, Hockley, Rich Hill, Laurelvale	65,905	90.2
South Down	Newry & Mourne	Derryleckagh, Donaghmore	5,213	7.1
Upper Bann	Banbridge	Loughbrickland	1,921	2.6

SOUTH NEAGH (74,301)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Upper Bann	Craigavon	The Birches, Derrytrasna, Bleary, Ballyoran, Corcrain, Ballybay, Brownstown, Tavanagh, Annagh, Edenderry, Killycomain, Kernan, Drumgor, Drumgask	30,768	41.4
Mid Ulster	Dungannon	Altmore, Donaghmore, Coalisland (3), Washing Bay	10,836	27.5
Mid Ulster	Cookstown	Sandholes, Coagh, Stewartstown, The Loop, Ardboe, Killycolpy	9,573	
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	Dungannon	Killyman, Moy, Benburb, Mullaghmore, Ballysaggart, Moygashel, Coolhill, Killymeal, Drumglass	13,173	17.7
Newry & Armagh	Armagh	Charlemount, Loughgall, Hockley, Rich Hill, Laurelvale	9,951	13.4

Although a replacement to Upper Bann, this seat is moved sharply westwards, exchanging Lurgan for Coalisland and Dungannon, acquiring a definite 'West of the Bann' character and probably making for some interesting political contests.

EAST LONDONDERRY (73,759)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
East Londonderry		Entire current constituency	64,546	87.5
Foyle	Derry	Eglinton, Enagh, Altnagelvin	9,213	12.5

FOYLE (74,420)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Foyle	Derry	Current constituency less Eglinton, Enagh, Altnagelvin	58,597	78.7
West Tyrone	Strabane	Finn, Sion Mills, Slievekirk, Artigarvan, North, West, East, South, Ballycolman	15,823	21.3

This resembles the pre-1997 Foyle seat which also stretched down to Strabane.

MID ULSTER (73,006)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Mid Ulster	Magherafelt	Entire local authority	30,299	62.0
Mid Ulster	Cookstown	Dunnamore, Pomeroy, Lissan, Oaklands, Moneymore, Oldtown, Newbuildings, Tullagh, Gortallowry, Killymoon	14,947	
West Tyrone	Omagh	Newtownsaville, Sixmilecross, Beragh, Drumnakilly, Termon, Owenkillew, Gortin, Lisanelly, Killyclogher, Camowen, Drumragh, Dergmoney, Coolnagard, Gortrush, Strule	24,566	38.0
West Tyrone	Strabane	Dunnamanagh, Plumbridge	3,194	

The West Tyrone seat, created as Northern Ireland's 18th seat in 1997, is effectively abolished and dispersed to its neighbours – the largest part ends up back with Mid Ulster.

FERMANAGH AND SOUTH TYRONE (72,853)				
Current constituency	Local authority	Wards	Electors	Share %
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	Fermanagh	Entire local authority	44,107	76.6
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	Dungannon	Fivemiletown, Clogher, Augher, Ballygawley, Castlecaulfield, Caledon, Aghnacloy	11,699	
West Tyrone	Omagh	Trillick, Dromore, Drumquin, Fairy Water, Clanabogan, Fintona	10,172	23.4
West Tyrone	Strabane	Glenderg, Castlederg, Clare, Newtownstewart	6,875	

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