

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 13 October 2021 12:25

**To:** Consultation <[consultation@lgbc-ni.org.uk](mailto:consultation@lgbc-ni.org.uk)>

**Cc:** <[redacted]>

**Subject:** Our proper focus should be meeting and best using the opportunities and challenges of the coming Asian Century, not ancient local disputes

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**From:** <[redacted]>

**To:** <[redacted]>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 October 2021, 12:19:50 BST

**Subject:** Our proper focus should be meeting and best using the opportunities and challenges of the coming Asian Century, not ancient local disputes

Further to the zoom presentation summary i gave yesterday to **the Derry City and Strabane council boundary review**,

i indicated i **would email to you** concise **detail of the six points** i mentioned verbally, relating to my proposal to

transfer **approximately 2 kilometres by 500 metres of coastal land** from

**Causeway Coast and Glens council to Derry City and Strabane council.**

[ I do use a "colour code" to facilitate more precise meaning in my words, as shown below :-

- **green** is **very good**,

**blue** is **good or medical or chronological or administrative**,

**yellow** is ok or a bit worrying,

**orange** is fairly bad,

**red** is **bad**

**purple** is the worst or **death** ]

I also mentioned i would **study the ward boundary proposals** you mentioned at the **Londonderry** review hearing.

I recall during **the 1982 Northern Ireland local government boundary review**, and indeed subsequent reviews,

it was custom and practice to publish **a map with the current ( old )** ward boundaries **in blue** and

any **proposed new changes to wards at the time in red.**

Has such a map, presumably online or electronic, been created for the **11 Northern Ireland councils**,

but particularly **Derry City / Strabane and Causeway Coast / Glens ?**

If so **could you forward me downloadable links to same ?**

[ If the same " **old ward blue, new ward red**" electronic / on-line boundary map **links**

**are ( at some time ) available / forwardable**

for the previous **~2010 review** for the 11 councils ( or indeed **earlier reviews** prior to that,

via a link that you **can email / point me to**, that would be "**above and beyond**" the call of duty,

but in time to come i might **be able to use same** to **continue to research administrative topics**

potentially **beneficial to the community. ]**

I will start this email

**Frankly, but in an up-front open, honest and transparent way.**

The purpose of this email is

**not to convince** a **neutral** boundary commissioner, as i hope the merits of the case will be apparent

to the commissioner when they review my submitted emails.

The purpose is **to plant in the minds of local councillors, both in Londonderry city**

but particularly **in Causeway, the idea that**, in relation to

transferring **the 2 km coastal land strip from Causeway council to Londonderry city council,**

" Derry City **needs** this land for its airport.

Causeway council,

**more and more so** as **sea levels rise** this century,  
needs **this flat, extremely climaticly vulnerable, sea level land**  
**like it needs a hole in the head."**

In my original email submission and amended email sent a few days ago,

i indicated **the reason** for my suggested land transfer was

the **overall strategic importance** to our North - North West region of **the City of Derry / Eglinton airport,**

but i did not elaborate.

Therefore in **my 10 minute** verbal contribution to **the 12 October Derry City and Strabane review,**

( Unfortunately limited to 10 minutes and delivered on-line via zoo **as my health** precludes me from

currently attending meetings **in person** or speaking **more than** a few minutes at one time. )

I primarily took the opportunity to verbally elaborate on

## WHY

the airport has **such over-arching strategic importance** to this region.

This email is the **written or recorded summary** of the **verbal points i made** in those 10 minutes.

**The 6 points** i mentioned were :-

1. The area in question to be transferred has, on **my original proposal** involving only **a few fields, zero homes,**

or on **my amended slightly larger** area ( **to link** to the **main A2 road** ), **two homes.**

**The ( statistical ) centre of population of Causeway council,** that is **Coleraine,** is **over 21 miles distant,**

on the **other** side of a **steep mountain** often **blocked** by, or **hazardous** with, **icy roads in winter**.

The **centre** of population of **Derry / Londonderry council** is **only 6 miles away from** the area of land

that i suggest **be transferred** to Derry council

**2.** The **21 mile** road to **Coleraine** is **single** carriageway, and **currently snakes narrowly** through

**both** the village of **Greysteel** and, partly, through the town of **Limavady**.

The **6 mile** road to **Londonderry city** is **un-obstructed dual carriageway right into the centre** of Londonderry city.

It would **be simplicity itself** for **bin lorries, de-icing lorries** etc

to **visit / access** the strip of land from **council depots in Derry City**.

In contrast, **especially in winter**, **visits** by certain **Coleraine based council utilities from Causeway council** would be

**necessarily slower** and often, **at times not very practical**,

though it may be some access is currently from **more convenient Limavady**.

**3.** I have watched the renewed rise of **the great and ancient civilisation of China for 2 generations**,

since the **early 1970s**.

For **20 years** i have watched **Chinas' business tv channel multi hours** a day.

[ It was that "surveillance" **which**

**alerted me, from 20 January 2020,**

some **TWO MONTHS before** any Irish or UK **covid lockdowns**, to the **spreading wild covid virus version in Wuhan**.

For **15 years** i worked, largely in **the marketing department**, of a **Fortune 500 Financial** company,

for the longer part of that time **as Database co-ordinator**.

That, together with my experience from **my MSc in Computing and Information systems**,

allowed me to **instantly determine**, given **the nature and pattern** of the spread of the covid microbe,

in a **frighteningly** few short days, **through 37** Chinese provinces whose geography i was **closely acquainted with**,

that covid was

(a) **highly infectious**

(b) **highly deadly**

(c) **fast coming our way.**

and so prompted me **to seek** and secure **urgent hour long meetings** on the topic **with**

**my local Londonderry councillors** from **late January 2020 onwards.** ]

Many people have **been amazed** by how much **technological** and **financial prowess** **China** has **garnered** to itself.

**You have not seen anything yet.**

The **China** of the **later 21st Century**, and to a lesser extent **India**,

**will fundamentally transform** the **commercial** and **technological**, and probably **cultural**, landscape that

**EVERYONE** in the **West** **will experience**, including in **Ireland** and in the **UK**.

That transformation **will provide great benefits** for Western consumers,

**but also will pose huge**, and for some sectors **fatal, challenges** to the business community in the West.

**In Northern Ireland** we often are so **engrossed** in petty, irrelevantly totemic squabbles,

be it on flags, emblems or language(s), that we **have long run the risk of**

**not seeing the sands shift** around our feet.

I am sure the all mighty **emperors of the Aztec** and **Inca** behemoths were **paying a lot more attention to**

deploying **their vast armies** for the **suppression of dissent** in the

**far flung jungle, desert** and **mountain** provinces of their **Empires**

than they were to **a few hundred bedraggled shipwrecked Spanish conquistadors** with **strange metal sticks**

( known to us in Europe as "muskets" and "cannon" ),

led by **Cortes** and **Pizarro** respectively, slowly trudging their way towards the **Imperial grandeur** of

the **Aztec** and **Inca** capitals of **Teotihuacan** and **Cuzco** in **1521 ad** and **1535 ad** respectively.

**Within a generation**, both of those hundreds of years old Empires, and most of their populations, had

been **wiped off** the face of the Earth, with **South America** transformed into a **gigantic open cast mine**

which was systematically **plundered by brutal, murderous Spanish** conquistadors,

with the odd maritime raid by **Scottish pirates** and **slavers**

like **Andrew Barton, Alexander Dalzell,**

**William Kidd** and **Red Legs Greaves,**

and **English pirates / slavers** like the right honorable **Sir Francis Drake**, sometime member of Parliament for **Plymouth**.

**We must not let history do to us**

what it did to the **millions of South Americans** in the **16th Century**.

We in Northern Ireland, including in this **North** and **North West** region,

**MUST concentrate on**

the **REAL, IMMINENT** challenges we will face for the **rest of this century**.

- (a) **Climate change**

- (b) **Viruses** escaping from their primordial, **eons undisturbed**, deep cave lairs, due to the **worldwide jungle clearance**

which is **yet another disturbing** feature of the

**on-going extinction event**

that is **Climate change / Global Warming**.

- (c) The **return to its many millennia long position of No 1 world economic power**, the **civilisation of China**,

after the brief hiatus of **weakness** it has suffered in the **19th and 20th centuries**.

In Northern Ireland we **need to position ourselves** so that we are the **beneficiaries**, not the **collateral damage**, of

the ongoing but **imminently intensifying rise** of the **Asian superpowers**.

While that will involve **up-skill-ing** our population, a **large part** of our **necessary focus MUST** involve **ensuring** that

we use **whatever celestial-given natural or infrastructure** resources we **ALREADY** have,

**to our maximum advantage.**

An **expansion**, at some time in coming years, of **Eglinton/City of Derry airport**

**MUST** be part of that.

This is because, as **per point 4** to follow, a **coming large increase** in the **population of Londonderry city and environs**

in this coming area will need **such airport runway expansion**.

**4. Our Lough Foyle** is a diamond shaped area, from its narrow point near the city of **Derry at Culmore point**,

to the, relatively, **narrow, 1.5 kilometre Northern** mouth of the Lough,

which at **its widest point** is over **FIFTEEN ( 25 ) kilometres**.

It has a total **length of over TWENTY FIVE ( 25 ) kilometres**.

There are only a few other places, **basically 3 places**, in the world

with **similar excellent, deep topographical** dimensions.

**Their names are :-**

**San Francisco bay**

**New York City harbour**

**and**

**Hong Kong / Pearl river delta.**

Each has a population ( total metro area, including **the San Francisco valley and Guangdong in China** ),

exceeding 20 million people.

My primary degree is **Planetary Physics**. We are taught early the phrase " **Nature abhors a vacuum**".

The best example is **two water containers connected** by a **sealed** tunnel. If one container is full of water,

and the other container is empty, we all know what **will happen if the seal is removed** from the tunnel :-

the **water will rush from the full to the empty** container until **both are equally full**.

In this world where **beautiful scenic sea fringed valleys**, such as in **N.Y.C, S.F. and H.K.**, are prized enough to

**attract multi-million** price tag dwellings, it is

**incontestable** that the **Foyle river valley** has been **sealed away**

from the rest of Ireland and the world

due to **over a CENTURY of deliberate** failure to upgrade,

indeed failure to return, our **rail and road** links to their former **19th century leading edge** status.

This **artificially contrived** "vacuum" of Foyle **under-development** **WILL** be corrected, albeit **unacceptably slowly** still,

in coming years with the **completion** of **dualing** on the **A6 Belfast and A5 Dublin** roads.

In tandem with **the resurrection**, perhaps with the ready help of **Chinese expert high speed** infrastructure

construction teams, of **railway** links along our **Western Atlantic** shore to **Cork**,

and our cross country **rail link** to **Dublin**, while **upgrading** the **Londonderry to Belfast, via Coleraine**, link

also to **high speed**.

This will inevitably **allow** us to **support** a **much larger** population ringing the **Foyle basin**,

from **Letterkenny** through **Londonderry city** to **Limavady** and **Coleraine**.

But, **unlike** **Manchesters** 19th century **dark satanic mills**,

or the 20th Centurys **New Yorks "Hells Kitchen"** **over-crowded slums**,

the **Foyle river basin** of the future will be ringed by **high tech, environmentally sustainable** suburbs

of **7G** or **8G** capable dwellings,

with **high speed road, rail and subway links**.

We **build on the best** practices, **not the worst** practices, of the generations who have gone before us.

**THAT is** why we **need** to secure land for **Eglinton airport runway expansion NOW**, and

**not let this once in fifteen years** opportunity of **council boundary review** to

again

**slip through our fingers**

as it **did in the last review** way back **around 2010**.

5. My primary degree is **Planetary Physics**, from the **University of Manchester (1988)** ).

From that i am aware, and would indicate to you, that

(a) By **the end of this century**, and indeed especially from **the 22nd century** and then on-going, **the primary industry**

and indeed employer on this Earth will be

**Space Technology industries,**

for purposes such as **asteroid mining, moon bases ( in particular )**, **inner atmosphere orbit space stations**.

Even more excitingly ,we will use

certain **planet-wide scale manipulation methods**

which **current and future ( to be discovered / determined )**

application **of fundamental but never before used, Universe-wide Laws of Physics**

**will bring within** our capabilities.

This will obviously **require terrestrial space-ports for launching** of required **personnel and materiel**

beyond **our upper atmosphere.**

(b) For **certain types of payload launch**, the required **space-port cannot be placed just anywhere.**

There **are only certain** geographical locations that **are suitable.**

In Europe, **Northern Scandanavia** would be one, for **technical launch purposes,**

but the cool arctic temperatures would for much of the year

**make outside living unpleasant at best, unhealthy at worst.**

**One of the few** other areas of Europe that **ARE suitable** is the

## **North Donegal** coast, particularly the area **of the Inishowen peninsula around Malin Head.**

Even better, **one of the only benefits** of the current climate change is that **the climate of Ireland,**

which for millenia **has been cooler** than the rest of Europe **in summer** but **warmer** than the rest **in winter,**

is **becoming warmer both summer and winter.**

This will make for a **very pleasant mediterranean style climate** in Ireland nearly **all year round.**

Any **space-port at Malin** need not necessarily be for immediate launch **of humans** to orbit.

Intitially at least, **small to medium sized cargo payloads** could be sent.

But of course, optimally, journey to a **high tech space-port**

should **be facilitated by a nearby airport,**

and clearly, for **the Inishowen peninsula, that airport is Eglinton / City of Derry.**

Indeed there would **be two suitable routes from Malin to Eglinton.**

Either **past Buncrana** and via a future slight extension to widening of

the **current Derry city / Shantallow ring road**

to link up with **the Foyle Bridge dual carriageway** and hence to **Eglinton**, or alternatively,

from **Malin to** a much improved road **to Moville** and then **over the spectacularly scenic**

**Moville to Greencastle, roll on, roll off, ten minute sea ferry,** then

down a much improved **Lough Foyle** eastern coast road **from Magilligan to Eglinton.**

Those same links will also facilitate

**the second** strand

of the scenario whereby

such a **spaceport will ongoing** and then **long-term boost** the economies of this region.

That **second** strand is the **establishment and integration of space technology faculties**

in **three separate universities,**

**each** dealing with a **separate but complementary** aspect of the **very wide area of space technology,**

be it **robotics, launch facilities, the unique biological life form structures**

which **can only be developed in orbit,**

or **research on chemical processes** again **only feasibly implementable in space.**

There would **be three** such faculties.

(a) An **independent university at Magee**

(b) The **current University of Ulster at Coleraine, as, ( if desired ) an independent institution**

(c) **An expanded Letterkenny 3rd level institution, upgraded to full independent university.**

And of course **the road links** mentioned **above would facilitate** integration / co-operation

of all three universities

WITH the **future spaceport**, including via the afore-mentioned ferry at **Moville-Magilligan**,

and for extra links **to Letterkenny**, the **similar spectacularly scenic 10 minute sea ferry from Rathmullan to Buncrana.**

The latter two ports would also be ideal **for transit** of certain initial or on-going **construction material**

and **structures** to the **Malin spaceport.**

6. Finally, what is **the historical relationship** of the area of coastline i have suggested for transfer,

to both of the current council areas, that **is Derry and Causeway ?**

The coastal strip i designated **has only been** part of the relatively brand new,

**highly elongated** shape, **Causeway coast and Glens council** for **about 6 years**, forming its (very far flung) Western tip.

Prior to that, for

**near two generations, for 42 years**

**from 1973 to 2015**, it was part of the former,

and much smaller, **Limavady borough council.**

And for **at least 50 years before** that, the coastal area had been part of the **former Limavady rural district council**,

**whose close links were** with the nearby **Londonderry rural district council and Londonderry city corporation**,

**from 1921 to 1969.**

The **commissioners representative** addressed **the issue of affinity** at the **12th October review hearing**,

when he asked my impression, as i recall, as to **where those living in the area would see themselves fitting.**

I pointed out that **at most about 2 dwelling homes were within** the coastal strip designated by me for transfer,

but **both** dwellings were actually **right on the southern end** of the strip, in otherwards **well away from the coastal area**

where any **runway extension** could **ONLY** be.

In fact the two dwellings are **within a few tens of metres of the main Derry to Limavady A2 road,**

the latter forming in part the Southern, landward boundary of my amended proposed coastal area to transfer.

I pointed out that, in my view, **for every 100 shopping trips** the residents of those two dwellings,

and indeed their near neighbours, **made to Londonderry,** likely **they only made a handful of trips to Coleraine**

and **maybe only one trip** to far-away **Ballymoney.**

I strongly suspect they also **made far more shopping trips to Londonderry city** than **even to nearby, Limavady.**

During the hearing, again, and with apologies, referring to my degree in **Planetary Physics,** i **highlighted** what is

## **THE most ominous** reason

why the proposed area of land i designated be transferred **from Causeway to Londonderry city.**

**No-one** today is **unaware of climate change.**

Current predictions are, **by century end, global sea levels,**

**including Lough Foyle, will be up to one metre higher** than **today.**

I regretfully told the hearing that, in my opinion, this

was **a gross under-estimate,**

**just as many oil industry sponsored research estimates have been for generations now.**

In fact i believe **by century end that sea level rise will be not one,**

**but TWO to FOUR METRES** higher than present levels.

The strip of land i mention is **the flattest in Northern Ireland,**

and **virtually AT sea level.**

In this coming century it

will **REQUIRE a sea wall to defend it.**

**Derry City council needs** this strip of land for the, eventual, airport, runway extension,

so **Derry council has a vested interest** in defending the land via a sea wall, eventually.

**Causeway council needs** this far flung strip of land

**like it needs a hole in the head.**

The commissioner representative indicated at the end of the hearing that any land transfers would

need to take cognisance of the requirement,

**unless where absolutely necessary,**

that any land transferred would be **a contiguous ( entire and undivided ) townland.**

The commissioner has maps etc to determine this, i do not, so i will await the commissioner's findings

on that aspect of the matter.

But given the strategic, semi-regional nature of this land, i believe **Stormont** should look favourably on

ensuring that **the Law reflects the need to allow boundaries to follow strategic need,**

not **some archaic townland boundary drawn up in the 18th Century.**

If that phrase "**unless absolutely necessary**" had **NOT been in the legislation,**

that would quite possibly **be a "show-stopper"** for my suggestion.

That's because i **doubt** that either **the dotted line boundary** — — — in my original proposal,

or the amended slightly larger proposal, **falls NEATLY within discrete townlands.**

**But i contend,**

**given ALL the points above**

even seperately but certainly taken together,

that this proposal is

**in the VITAL strategic interests** not only of

**the entire North North West region,**

**but also indeed Northern Ireland and Ireland.**

I would finally state, as briefly mentioned in previous emails, that **my father**, though born in **Salford, Lancashire**,

was an **SDLP councillor** for the former **Derry City council** for **16 years** from **1973 to 1989**,

when he **took a close interest**, as long time **chair** of the then council **Technical Services committee**,

in the **development** of **Eglinton / City of Derry airport** of which his close friend and party colleague **Pat Devine**

was simultaneously **chair** of the councils **Airport committee** during **that same period**.

redacted

My contact details remain :-

Email : **Redacted**

Address : **Redacted**

Telephone : **Redacted**