



2013 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN WALES

PROGRESS REPORT

JANUARY 2012

Boundary Commission for Wales
Caradog House
1-6 St Andrews Place
Cardiff
CF10 3BE
Telephone: +44 (0)29 20395031
Fax Number: +44 (0)29 20395250
E-mail: bcomm.wales@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

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OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN WALES**

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JANUARY 2012

**Presented to Parliament pursuant to section 3(2C) of the
Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, as amended by the
Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011**

The Speaker
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

24 January 2012

Dear Mr Chairman

Introduction

1. This report, as required by the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011, sets out the progress the Boundary Commission for Wales (“the Commission”) has made in respect of the preparation of the boundary report that is to be submitted by 1 October 2013. As you will be aware, you are required by section 3(2C) to lay our report before Parliament.

Progress to date

2. On 4 March 2011 we announced the start of the 2013 review of Parliamentary constituencies in Wales with the publication of a newsletter that summarised the changes to legislation and the effect this would have on Parliamentary constituencies in Wales (i.e. reduction from 40 to 30 constituencies and every constituency to be within 5% of the UK quota).
3. The 2011 electorate data for every unitary authority and electoral division in Wales was made available on the same day.
4. A meeting was held with qualifying political parties in Wales on 20 April 2011 to brief them on the changes to the legislation and the review operation and timetable. The meeting was informed that we intended to publish our initial proposals on 6 September 2011.
5. On 3 August 2011 we published a newsletter explaining that, for reasons unconnected with the work of the Commission, two of the Commissioners, Mr Paul Wood and Mr John Bader had indicated their intention to resign and that steps would be taken to appoint new Commissioners. We announced that, as a consequence, we would postpone the publication of our initial proposals until January 2012.
6. Two new Commissioners, Mr Paul Loveluck and Professor Robert McNabb were appointed on 4 October 2011.
7. In December 2011 Mr. Edward Lewis resigned as Secretary of the Commission, for reasons unconnected with the work of the Commission. His successor, Mr. Benjamin Whitestone, took up post on 19 December 2011.
8. Our initial proposals were published in Welsh and English on 11 January 2012.

The Next Steps

9. The initial consultation period began on 11 January 2012.

10. Five public hearings will be held at various locations across Wales. A bilingual translation service will be available at each public hearing. The dates and venues of the public hearings are as follows:

15/16 February, Swansea
22/23 Feb, Cardiff
29 February/1 March, Wrexham
7/8 March, Caernarfon
20/21 March, Llandrindod Wells

11. The initial period for representations will end on 4 April 2012.
12. The initial representations and transcripts of the public hearings will then be published in Welsh and English and a period of four weeks will follow during which written comments may be made on the initial representations.
13. Following the consideration of the representations it may be considered appropriate to publish revised proposals. A further period of consultation would then take place.
14. We are confident that the final recommendations will be published on or before 1 October 2013.

The Hon. Mr Justice Lloyd Jones

**Deputy Chairman
Boundary Commission for Wales**

24 January 2012

