

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

Minutes of the meeting at 2pm on Wednesday 15th June 2022 and 9.30am on Thursday 16th June 2022 at Hastings House and via Microsoft Teams.

Present:

Mrs Justice Jefford	Deputy Chair
Pam Whitman	Assessor (Ordnance Survey) – Joined at 15:00 - 15 June only
Huw Vaughan Thomas	Commissioner
Sam Hartley	Commissioner
Steven John Phillips	Assistant Commissioner - 15 June only
Arun Midha	Assistant Commissioner - 15 June only
Andrew Clemes	Assistant Commissioner - 15 June only
Gwenllian Lansdown Davies	Assistant Commissioner - 15 June only
Shereen Williams	Commission Secretary
Tom Jenkins	Commission Secretariat
Huw Blacker	Commission Secretariat
Cher Cooke	Commission Secretariat - 15 June only
Carys Vaughan	Commission Secretariat

15th June 2022 Time Started: 14:03 Time Finished: 15:15

16th June 2022 Time Started: 09:40 Time Finished : 15:08

1. INTRODUCTION, OPENING REMARKS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1.1. There were no declarations of interest made.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2.1. There were apologies for absence from Neil Park, Assessor (ONS).

3. ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS REPORT

- 3.1. The Assistant Commissioners thanked the Secretary and the secretariat staff for their support throughout the process.
- 3.2. The Commission considered the Assistant Commissioners presentation.

- 3.3. The Assistant Commissioners responded to questions from the Commissioners.
- 3.4. The Deputy Chair thanked the Assistant Commissioners for their diligent work throughout the process and for their in-depth report.
- 3.5. The Deputy Chair closed the Meeting at 15:15 on Wednesday 15 June 2022.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 4.1. The Deputy Chair opened the meeting at 09:40 on Thursday 16 June 2022.
- 4.2. The Commission **agreed** the minutes from the previous meeting held on Monday 7 February 2022.

5. ISSUES ARISING

- 5.1. The Secretary provided updates on Issues arising from the Commission meeting of 7 February 2022.

Issue 1 – Publication of Representations

- 5.2. It was **noted** that all representations received in the second consultation period have been translated and are ready to be published. The public hearing transcripts are currently with translators and are expected to be returned at the beginning of July.
- 5.3. It was **agreed** that the Commission will publish representations received in the second consultation period in pdf format on the BCW website next week. It was **agreed** that the Commission will publish the public hearing transcripts when they have been received back from the translator and will advertise the publication on social media.

Issue 2 – Publication of report by the Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform

- 5.4. It was **agreed** that the Commission will highlight in the Revised Proposals Report, Comms Plan and on the website that following the publication of the revised proposals it will not consider representations received on the new Senedd boundaries.

Issue 3- BCW Budget 2022/23

- 5.5. It was **noted** that the Sponsor Division had agreed to the Commissions budget request for 2022/ 23 of £565,070.

6. RISK REGISTER

- 6.1. Consideration was given to the report dated 17 May 2022 by the HoPP and the Risk Register was **noted**.
- 6.2. It was **noted** there were no changes made to the Risk Register since the last meeting as the Management Team had not met to review the register. It was **agreed** that the Risk Register would be sent to Commissioners if any changes were made at the Management Team meeting next week.

7. OPTIONS FOR REVISED PROPOSALS

- 7.1. The Commission considered the report dated 30 May 2022 by the HoPP.
- 7.2. The Commission considered schemes submitted by Political Parties, the Assistant Commissioners and the Commission Secretariat as shown in the Options Paper.
- 7.3. The Commission Secretariat responded to questions from the Commissioners.
- 7.4. The Commissioners requested Comparison Stats for all schemes be sent to them.
- 7.5. After consideration and discussion, the Commission **agreed** on a Scheme for the Revised Proposals that will be set out by the Commission in its Revised Proposals Report.
- 7.6. The Commission considered the names for the new proposed constituencies and agreed both a name and an alternative name in the alternative language for each constituency where appropriate.
- 7.7. It was **agreed** that the Commission will highlight in the Revised Proposals Report that legislation restricts the Commissions ability to solve all issues presented in the representations received.
- 7.8. **Action:** The HoPP to send scheme Comparison Stats to Commissioners.

8. WELSH LANGUAGE

- 8.1. The Commission considered the report dated 8 June 2022 by the Secretary.
- 8.2. It was **noted** that the Welsh Language report 2021/ 22 is similar to the 2020/ 21 report. It was highlighted that no recruitment took place during the year and that no complaints or operational issues have been raised.

- 8.3. The Commission **agreed** to adopt the Welsh Language Annual Report for 2021/22. The report will be sent for translation and published.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1. It was **agreed** that the next meeting would be held at 4.30pm on 27 or 28 July. The Deputy Chair is to confirm her preferred date following the meeting.
- 9.2. It was **noted** that the Revised Proposals report will be published in autumn 2022.
- 9.3. It was **agreed** the Commissioners and Secretariat staff should meet with the Assistant Commissioners prior to the publication of the Revised Proposal report to discuss the Commission's recommendations. The Secretary will make arrangements to invite them to the meeting once the September meeting date is agreed.
- 9.4. **Action:** The Secretary to invite Assistant Commissioner's to the September meeting.
- 9.5. **Action:** The Deputy Chair to confirm date for next meeting.
- 9.6. The Deputy Chair closed the Meeting at 15:08 on Thursday 16 June 2022.