

NEWS RELEASE

Issued by the
Boundary Commission for Wales
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FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES ELECTORAL REGIONS

The Commission propose to make no changes to their recommendations for the National Assembly for Wales Electoral Regions and confirm their provisional recommendations as their final recommendations.

1. Provisional recommendations in respect of parliamentary (and Assembly) constituencies in Wales were published on 5 January 2004. At the same time provisional recommendations for the National Assembly for Wales Electoral Regions were also published. The recommendations proposed 40 constituencies, the same number that presently exists. Due to changes proposed in certain constituencies the Commission recommended the inclusion of the proposed Conwy and Arfon constituencies within the North Wales Assembly Region and the proposed Dwyfor Meirionnydd and Montgomeryshire constituencies within the Mid and West Wales Assembly Region. They also proposed that the boundary between the South Wales West electoral region and the South Wales Central electoral region be adjusted to correspond to the proposed change to the boundary between the Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan constituencies.

2. Following consideration of the representations received in respect of the provisional recommendations, the Commission announced final recommendations for Dyfed (consisting of the constituencies of Carmarthen East and Dinefwr CC, Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire CC, Ceredigion CC, Llanelli CC and Preseli Pembrokeshire CC) and Powys (consisting of the constituencies of Brecon and Radnorshire CC and Montgomeryshire CC) on 25 August 2004. The Commission decided to hold public inquiries in respect of the proposals for the preserved counties of Clwyd and Gwynedd, Gwent and Mid Glamorgan, South Glamorgan and West Glamorgan. Following consideration of the issues raised at the inquiries and the Assistant Commissioner's recommendations, the Commission made revised recommendations for Clwyd and Gwent/Mid Glamorgan and made final recommendations for Gwynedd (consisting of the constituencies of Arfon CC, Dwyfor Meirionnydd CC and Ynys Môn CC) on 3 November 2004. Final recommendations for South Glamorgan (consisting of the constituencies of Cardiff Central BC, Cardiff North BC, Cardiff South and Penarth BC, Cardiff West BC, and Vale of Glamorgan CC) and West Glamorgan (consisting of the constituencies of Aberavon CC, Gower CC, Neath CC, Swansea East BC and Swansea West BC) were published on 10 November 2004.

3. Following consideration of the representations received in respect of Clwyd and Gwent/Mid Glamorgan the Commission confirmed their revised recommendations in respect

of these areas. The revised recommendations involved a change to the name of one constituency (Conwy to Aberconwy) and a minor change between two constituencies in the same Assembly Region (Caerphilly and Islwyn), these changes did not therefore change the number of electors in the provisionally recommended Assembly Regions.

4. The issue of Assembly Regions was raised in representations and at the local inquiry in respect of the Clwyd and Gwynedd areas. In particular objections were made to the proposal to include the proposed Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency in the Mid and West Wales Assembly Region. The Assistant Commissioner who conducted the inquiry reported that the opponents of the Commission's proposal suggested that the proposed constituency should be included in the North Wales Assembly Region. The Assistant Commissioner however considered that there was a community of interest between the proposed constituency and other parts of the proposed Mid and West Wales Assembly Region and that the Commission's provisional proposal provided a better parity between the electorates of the Assembly Regions. The Assistant Commissioner therefore supported the provisional recommendations of the Commission in respect of the allocation of constituencies to the North Wales Electoral Region and the Mid and West Wales Electoral Region for the National Assembly for Wales.

Final recommendations

5. After making final recommendations for all of the constituencies in Wales and considering the representations made in respect of the Assembly Regions and the views expressed by the Assistant Commissioner in his report on Clwyd and Gwynedd, the Commission have decided not to make any further changes and, accordingly, confirm their revised recommendations as their final recommendations. No further representations will be considered.

6. The Commission's final recommendations for the Assembly Regions, which will be included in their report to be submitted to the Secretary of State at the end of the general review and which are shown on the attached map, are for five Assembly Regions as follows (the 2003 electorates are shown in brackets):

North Wales (459,718): Aberconwy CC, Alyn and Deeside CC, Arfon CC, Clwyd South CC, Clwyd West CC, Delyn CC, Vale of Clwyd CC, Wrexham CC, Ynys Môn CC.

Mid and West Wales (426,058): Brecon and Radnorshire CC, Carmarthen East and Dinefwr CC, Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire CC, Ceredigion CC, Dwyfor Meirionnydd CC, Llanelli CC, Montgomeryshire CC, Preseli Pembrokeshire CC.

South Wales West (395,717): Aberavon CC, Bridgend CC, Gower CC, Neath CC, Ogmore CC, Swansea East BC, Swansea West BC.

South Wales Central (480,831): Cardiff Central BC, Cardiff North BC, Cardiff South and Penarth BC, Cardiff West BC, Cynon Valley CC, Pontypridd CC, Rhondda CC, Vale of Glamorgan CC.

South Wales East (470,878): Blaenau Gwent CC, Caerphilly CC, Islwyn CC, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney CC, Monmouth CC, Newport East CC, Newport West CC, Torfaen CC.

Implementation of the recommendations

7. The Commission are required to submit their report on the general review of the whole of Wales to the Secretary of State after 16 December 2002 and before 17 December 2006. The Secretary of State has a statutory duty to lay the Commission's report before Parliament together with a draft Order in Council giving effect to the Commission's recommendations with or without modifications. If modifications are proposed, the Secretary of State must also lay a statement of reasons for the modifications. The draft Order in Council is submitted to both Houses of Parliament for approval and, after it is made by Her Majesty in Council, it cannot be called into question in any legal proceedings.

Outline map

8. The Assembly Regions are illustrated in outline on the map which forms part of this document (please note the copyright warning below concerning the map). The Assembly constituencies on the map are numbered, and these numbers and the names of the Assembly constituencies are listed at the end of this document.

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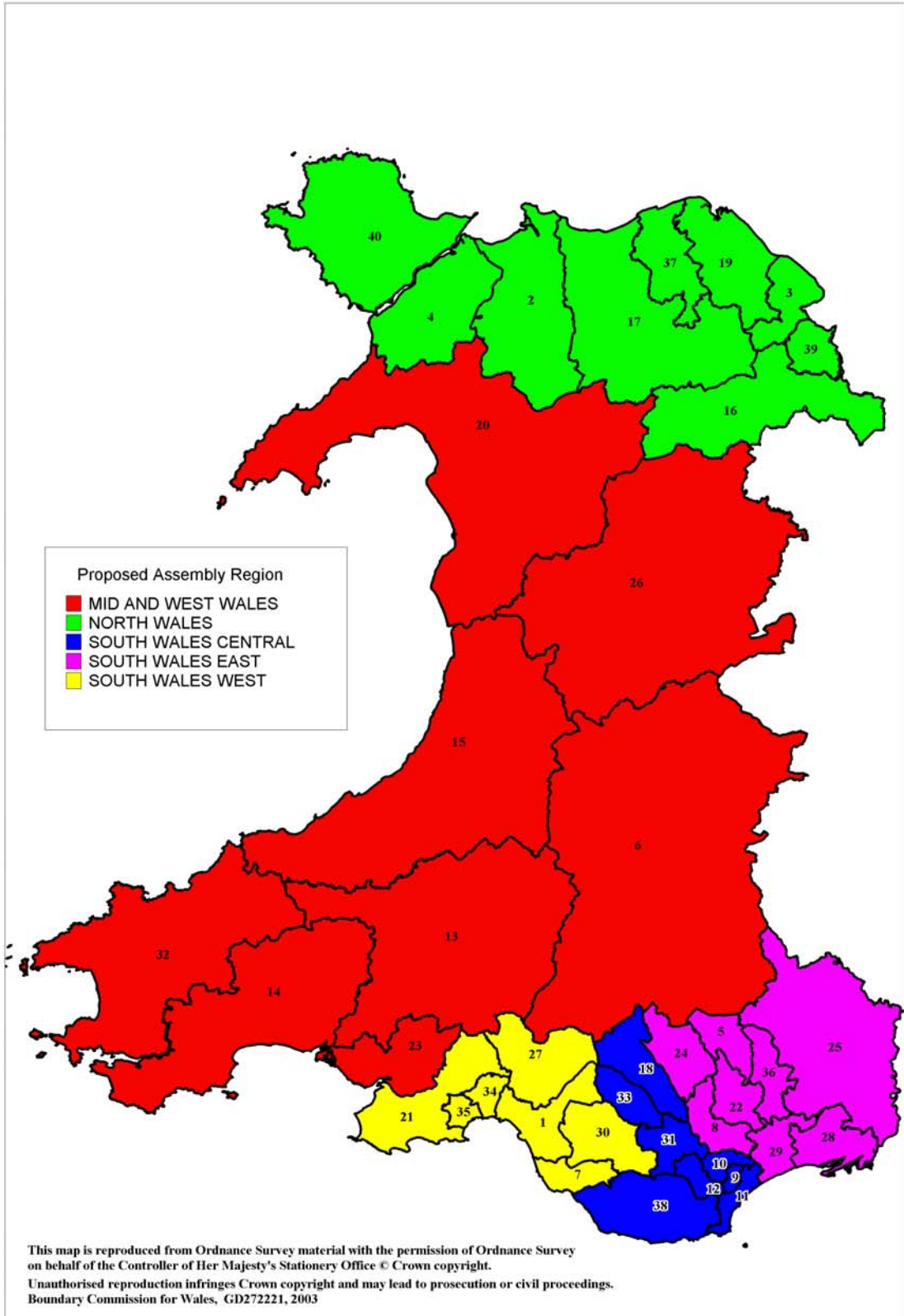
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- 1 Aberavon
- 2 Aberconwy
- 3 Alyn and Deeside
- 4 Arfon
- 5 Blaenau Gwent
- 6 Brecon and Radnorshire
- 7 Bridgend
- 8 Caerphilly
- 9 Cardiff Central
- 10 Cardiff North
- 11 Cardiff South and Penarth
- 12 Cardiff West
- 13 Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
- 14 Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire
- 15 Ceredigion
- 16 Clwyd South
- 17 Clwyd West
- 18 Cynon Valley
- 19 Delyn
- 20 Dwyfor Meirionnydd
- 21 Gower
- 22 Islwyn
- 23 Llanelli
- 24 Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney
- 25 Monmouth
- 26 Montgomeryshire
- 27 Neath
- 28 Newport East
- 29 Newport West
- 30 Ogmore
- 31 Pontypridd
- 32 Preseli Pembrokeshire
- 33 Rhondda
- 34 Swansea East
- 35 Swansea West
- 36 Torfaen
- 37 Vale of Clwyd
- 38 Vale of Glamorgan
- 39 Wrexham
- 40 Ynys Môn