

INTRODUCTION

1. This Newsletter includes items about:
 - progress with the fifth general review
 - information about the review procedures
 - the representation period
 - contacts

PROGRESS

2. The Commission's fifth general review of parliamentary constituencies in Wales began on 16 December 2002. As part of the fifth general review, the Commission are also reviewing the five electoral regions of the National Assembly for Wales (the Assembly).
3. The review areas are the areas of the eight preserved counties as constituted following the Preserved Counties (Amendment to Boundaries)(Wales) Order 2003. The Commission have decided to publish their provisional recommendations for all of the review areas in Wales in one report. It is anticipated that these provisional recommendations will be published at the start of January 2004. There will then be a period of one month for representations to be made about the Commission's proposals. If local inquiries are required for any of the review areas, it is expected they will be held in March/April 2004 or in June and July 2004 (following the local government and European elections).

THE REPRESENTATION PERIOD

4. Section 5(2)(b) of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 requires that representations be made within a period of one month following the publication of the Commission's recommendations. In previous reviews, a number of local authorities have complained that the period of one month for representations to be made is too short and that it does not allow sufficient time to respond as their cycle of meetings do not correspond with the representation period. Although the Commission are not required to consider representations made after the end of the statutory period they will however endeavour to take late representations into account. However, the later

the representation is made, the more difficult this will be. The Commission therefore ask that all representations be made within the one month period. In the event that a local inquiry is held into the provisional recommendations, all representations will be made public beforehand so that interested persons may prepare for the local inquiry. Any representation received too late to be issued with the other representations before the local inquiry cannot be given the same weight as the other representations because other interested persons will not have had the same opportunity to consider it.

5. Local authorities should note that it is the Commission's intention to send a report describing their proposals to local authorities and other interested persons one week before the statutory notice is published in local newspapers. This, in effect, gives additional time for the proposals to be considered and a representation made before the period expires.
6. It should be noted that, in the event that a local inquiry is held into the Commission's provisional recommendations for an area, all representations will be made public beforehand so that interested persons may prepare for the local inquiry. Any representations received too late to be issued with the others cannot be given the same weight as interested persons may not have had the opportunity to consider it before the opening of the inquiry.

INFORMATION

7. The Commission have produced an information booklet that details the policies and procedures that will be followed during the review. A copy of the booklet may be obtained by contacting the Commission at the address below.
8. The information booklet and other information relating to the review may also be found on the Commission's web site at www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk

CONTACTS

9. The Commission may be contacted at the following address:

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