



THE REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

January 2011

The Commission welcome correspondence and telephone calls either in English or Welsh

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

**THE REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY
BOUNDARIES IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Pursuant to its powers under Section 3 (2) of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, the Commission undertook the Fifth General Review of Parliamentary Constituencies, and, under Paragraph 8 (2) of Schedule 1 to the Government of Wales Act 2006, the First General Review of National Assembly for Wales Electoral Regions from December 2002 until January 2005. The resultant Parliamentary Constituencies and Assembly Electoral Regions (Wales) Order 2006 came into force on 25 April 2006. This Order however only made reference to local government areas as they existed on 31st January 2005. The Rhondda Cynon Taf (Llanharan, Llanharry, Llantrisant and Pont-y-clun Communities) Order 2008 came into operation on 8 December 2008 and made changes to the boundaries of the Communities of Llanharan, Llanharry, Llantrisant and Pont-y-clun. As a result the boundary between Ogmore County Constituency and Pontypridd County Constituency no longer follows the electoral division boundaries. The Commission have therefore, pursuant to its powers under Section 3 (3) of the 1986 Act and Schedule 1 of the 2006 Act, undertaken a review of the constituency and electoral region boundaries in the area.
- 1.2 Following the interim review, the Commission are now publishing their **provisional** recommendations, i.e. the Commission's initial proposals, for public consultation. Those recommendations take careful account of developments since the last general review, including changes that have been made to preserved counties, local authority areas and electoral divisions. It is emphasised, however, that the recommendations and the reasoning on which they are based are all provisional (references to recommendations, decisions, conclusions, etc. within this document should therefore be read accordingly) and that great importance is attached to the opportunity now given for all concerned to make representations, whether in support of or objecting to the proposals.
- 1.4 Details of when and how to make representations, together with a brief background note, are given later in this document.

2. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- Minor changes are proposed to the constituency of Ogmore and the constituency of Pontypridd to reflect the change to the boundary between the Community of Llanharan, the Community of Llanharry, the Community of Llantrisant and the Community of Pont-y-clun.
- Minor changes are proposed to the Assembly electoral regions of South Wales West and South Wales Central to reflect the proposed changes to parliamentary/Assembly constituencies.

3. PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

- 3.1 The parliamentary and National Assembly for Wales constituency of Ogmore currently has 55,445 electors (as at 1 August 2010). The constituency consists of the **Bridgend County** electoral divisions of Aberkinfig, Bettws, Blackmill, Blaengarw, Bryncethin, Bryncoch, Caerau, Cefn Cribwr, Felindre, Hendre, Llangeinor, Llangynwyd, Maesteg East, Maesteg West, Nant-y-moel, Ogmore Vale, Penprysg, Pontycymmer, Sarn and Ynysawdre and **Rhondda Cynon Taf County** electoral divisions of Brynna, Gilfach Goch, Llanharan and Llanharry. As a result of the Rhondda Cynon Taf (Llanharan, Llanharry, Llantrisant and Pont-y-clun Communities) Order 2008 the constituency also includes part of the **Rhondda Cynon Taf County** electoral divisions of Talbot Green and Pont-y-clun.
- 3.2 The parliamentary and National Assembly for Wales constituency of Pontypridd currently has 58,551 electors (as at 1 August 2010). The constituency consists of the **Rhondda Cynon Taf County** electoral divisions of Beddau, Church Village, Graig, Hawthorn, Llanharry, Llantrisant Town, Llantwit Fardre, Pont-y-clun, Pontypridd Town, Rhondda, Rhydfelen Central/Ilan, Taffs Well, Talbot Green, Ton-teg, Tonyrefail East, Tonyrefail West, Trallwng, Treforest and Tyn-y-nant. As a result of the Rhondda Cynon Taf (Llanharan, Llanharry, Llantrisant and Pont-y-clun Communities) Order 2008 the constituency also includes part of the **Rhondda Cynon Taf County** electoral divisions of Llanharry.
- 3.3 The change to the community boundaries involved the transfer of 726 electors from the Llanharan and Llanharry electoral divisions of Ogmore to the Pont-y-clun electoral division of Pontypridd and 96 electors from the Pont-y-clun electoral division of Pontypridd to the Llanharan electoral division of Ogmore. This has resulted in the Pont-y-clun and Llanharan electoral divisions being split between the Ogmore constituency and the Pontypridd constituency. These boundary changes are illustrated on the map at Appendix 1. Since all but a small parts of the Pont-y-clun and Llanharan electoral divisions are within the existing Pontypridd constituency and Ogmore constituency, respectively, the Commission have decided to change the boundary between the Ogmore and Pontypridd constituencies so as to include the whole of the Pont-y-clun electoral division is within the Pontypridd constituency, and the whole of the Llanharan electoral division is within the Ogmore constituency.
- 3.4 The change to the community boundaries also involved the transfer of 7 electors from the Llanharan electoral division of Ogmore to the Talbot Green electoral division of Pontypridd. This has resulted in the Talbot Green electoral division being split between the Ogmore constituency and the Pontypridd constituency. The boundary change is illustrated on the map at Appendix 1. Since all but a very small part of the Talbot Green electoral division is within the existing Pontypridd constituency, the Commission have decided to change the boundary between the Ogmore and Pontypridd constituencies so as to include the whole of the Talbot Green electoral division within the Pontypridd constituency
- 3.5 The Commission have decided against recommending changes to any of the other existing constituencies as the small number of electors involved in the proposed change will have a very minimal impact on the number of electors.

- 3.6 Accordingly the Commission have provisionally decided to amend the composition of the two constituencies as follows (the August 2009 electorates are shown in brackets):

OGMORE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY (54,806) **Bridgend County** electoral divisions: Aberkinfig, Bettws, Blackmill, Blaengarw, Bryncethin, Bryncoch, Caerau, Cefn Cribwr, Felindre, Hendre, Llangeinor, Llangynwyd, Maesteg East, Maesteg West, Nant-y-moel, Ogmores Vale, Penprysg, Pontycymmer, Sarn and Ynysawdre and **Rhondda Cynon Taf County** electoral divisions: Brynna, Gilfach Goch, Llanharan and Llanharry.

PONTYPRIDD COUNTY CONSTITUENCY (59,190) **Rhondda Cynon Taf County** electoral divisions Beddau, Church Village, Graig, Hawthorn, Llantrisant Town, Llantwit Fardre, Pont-y-clun, Pontypridd Town, Rhondda, Rhydfelen Central/Ilan, Taffs Well, Talbot Green, Ton-teg, Tonyrefail East, Tonyrefail West, Trallwng, Treforest and Tyn-y-nant.

- 3.7 The electoral divisions named in this document are the electoral divisions which were created by the following Orders:

- The County Borough of Bridgend (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1998
- The Bridgend (Cynffig, Cornelly and Pyle Communities) (Electoral Changes) Order 2002
- The Bridgend (Brackla and Coity Higher) Order 2006
- The County Borough of Bridgend (Communities) Order 2009

and

- The County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taff (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1998
- The Rhondda Cynon Taff and Vale of Glamorgan (Llanharry, Pont-y-clun, Penllyn, Welsh St. Donats and Pendoylan) Order 2002
- The Rhondda Cynon Taff (Llanharan, Llanharry, Llantrisant and Pont-y-clun Communities) Order 2008

4. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES ELECTORAL REGIONS

- 4.1 The Ogmores constituency is included within the South Wales West Assembly electoral region and the Pontypridd constituency is included within the South Wales Central Assembly electoral region as shown on the map at Appendix 2. As a consequence of the proposed changes to the parliamentary constituencies the South Wales West Assembly electoral region would decrease by 639 electors and the South Wales Central Assembly electoral region would see a corresponding increase. The Commission considers that this minor change involving a small number of electors does not require a change to the composition of the Assembly electoral regions.

5. PUBLICATION DETAILS

Publication of Provisional Recommendations

- 5.1 Notification of the Commission's provisional recommendations and where they can be seen will be published formally in a notice appearing in newspapers in Wales on 4

January 2011. Local authorities, MPs, AMs, the Political Parties' Headquarters, and others will be sent a copy of the recommendations.

- 5.2 The notice will also be published on the Commission's web site at www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk

Places of Inspection

- 5.3 The notice in local newspapers will also give the addresses within the existing parliamentary constituencies where a copy of the recommendations and a more detailed map illustrating them have been made available for inspection by the public (please note the copyright warning below concerning the map). Those addresses are:

Ogmore	Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB The Pavillions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, Tonypany, Rhondda Cynon Taff CF40 2XX
Pontypridd	The Pavillions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, Tonypany, Rhondda Cynon Taff CF40 2XX

6. PERIOD FOR REPRESENTATIONS: 4 JANUARY 2011 TO 4 FEBRUARY 2011

- 6.1 The Commission are required to consider representations about their provisional recommendations for each review area made within one month of publication on 4 January 2011. Representations should be addressed to the Boundary Commission for Wales, Caradog House, 1-6 St Andrews Place, Cardiff, CF10 3BE, or faxed to 02920 395250, or e-mailed to bcomm.wales@wales.gsi.gov.uk. All representations received by the Commission will be acknowledged. The representation period will end on 4 February 2011.
- 6.2 Please note that the Commission are not statutorily required to consider any representations made after 4 February 2011, but will 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.
- 6.3 Where representations objecting to the provisional recommendations are made by an interested county council or by a body of 100 or more electors, the Commission cannot proceed with their final recommendations to the Secretary of State until a local inquiry has been held. If the Commission decide to alter their recommendations as a result of the inquiry, the revised recommendations must also be published and representations invited, but a further local inquiry is not obligatory.
- 6.4 Those who make representations are requested to say whether they approve of, or object to, the Commission's proposals and to give their reasons for their approval or objection. In particular, objectors are advised to say what they propose in place of the Commission's recommendations and should note that an objection accompanied by a counter-proposal is likely to carry more weight than a simple statement of objection.

- 6.5 The Commission wish to stress that their provisional recommendations relate solely to parliamentary constituencies and do not affect unitary authority or community boundaries, taxes or services. The Commission will therefore not take account of any representation made about those local issues.

7. BACKGROUND NOTE

- 7.1 Details of the relevant statutory framework and of the Commission's general approach to the reviews is to be found in the Commission's publication, "The Review of Parliamentary Constituencies and of Welsh Assembly Electoral Regions in Wales" (2003), which is available in English and Welsh from the Commission or on the Commission's web-site at www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk. For your convenience a summary of this information is set out in the following paragraphs.
- 7.2 The Commission are constituted under Section 2 and Schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986. The ex officio Chairman is the Speaker of the House of Commons. The Deputy Chairman, who presides over Commission meetings, is a High Court Judge appointed by the Lord Chancellor. One Commissioner is appointed by the Secretary of State for Wales and the other Commissioner is appointed by the Secretary of State for Justice. The two Assessors to the Commission are the Registrar General of England and Wales and the Director General of Ordnance Survey. Assistant Commissioners are lawyers appointed by the Secretary of State for Justice to conduct local inquiries.
- 7.3 The Commission are required by the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 as amended by the Boundary Commissions Act 1992 to conduct a general review of all the constituencies in Wales every eight to twelve years. The Commission completed their fifth general review on 31 January 2005.
- 7.4 The Commission are also empowered by Section 3 (3) of the 1986 Act to submit to the Secretary of State reports with respect to any particular constituency or constituencies (an "interim review"). The Commission has the corresponding power in relation to Assembly electoral regions pursuant to Schedule 1 of the Government of Wales Act 2006.
- 7.5 This interim review started formally with the publication of a notice in the London Gazette on 1 August 2010. The Commission's recommendations throughout the review must by law be based on the numbers of electors on the electoral registers on that date.

Rules

- 7.6 In recommending new constituencies, the Commission are required to give effect to the Rules for Redistribution of Seats which are contained in Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act.
- 7.7 Rule 1 places limits on the total number of constituencies. Rule 2 requires single member constituencies. Rule 3 relates to the City of London. Rule 4 states that county (*preserved county in Wales*) boundaries are to be followed so far as is practicable. Rule 5 states that the electorates of constituencies are to be as nearly equal to the electoral quota as practicable. Rule 6 allows the Commission to depart from rules 4 and 5 if special geographical considerations make a departure desirable. Rule 7 allows the Commission to depart from other rules, and requires them to take account of inconveniences caused by

alterations of constituencies (other than alterations made for the purposes of rule 4) or local ties broken by such alterations. Rule 8 defines the electoral quota as the total number of parliamentary electors in Wales divided by the existing number of seats, and requires the Commission to use the electorates as at the start of a review.

Assembly Electoral Regions

- 7.8 The Assembly constituencies are the parliamentary constituencies in Wales. There are five Assembly electoral regions (North Wales, Mid and West Wales, South Wales Central, South Wales East, South Wales West). In provisionally recommending the alteration of parliamentary constituencies, the Commission are required to consider whether any alteration in the Assembly electoral regions or in the allocation of seats to the Assembly electoral regions are required to give effect to the rules contained in Schedule 1 to the Government of Wales Act 1998.
- 7.9 Rule 1 requires that each Assembly constituency is wholly included in one Assembly electoral region. Rule 2 requires that the electorates of the Assembly electoral regions shall be as nearly equal as is practicable, having regard (where appropriate) to special geographic considerations. Rule 3 provides that the number of Assembly seats for the Assembly electoral regions shall be either one half of the total number of Assembly constituencies, or, if the total is not divisible by two, one half of the total plus one. Rule 4 provides that the number of Assembly seats for an Assembly region shall be either one fifth of the number calculated under Rule 3 or, if the Rule 3 total is not divisible by five, either one fifth of the highest number that is less than that total number and exactly divisible by five or the number produced by adding one to one fifth of that highest number (the procedures for calculating the number and allocation of residual seats are detailed in sub-paragraphs (2) to (4) of Schedule 1).

Procedures

- 7.10 In conducting a review of constituencies, the Commission are required by the legislation to follow certain procedures, principally to provide for public consultation.
- 7.11 The Secretary of State must be given notice of a review and that notice must be published in the London Gazette. Provisional recommendations must be published in newspapers in the affected constituencies and, unless the proposals are for no changes to be made, they must also be deposited for public inspection in at least one place in each affected constituency. Representations may be made within one month of publication of the provisional recommendations and the Commission must take any representations into consideration. Where objections are received from a county or county borough council or a body of 100 or more electors, a local inquiry must be held. If the Commission revise their recommendations as a result of an inquiry, the revised representations must also be published and further representations invited and considered. A second local inquiry cannot be forced by these further representations, but there is discretionary power to hold a second inquiry. Any further modifications, as a result of further representations or a second inquiry, must also be published and representations invited. When the Commission have decided their final recommendations, they must submit a report to the Secretary of State.

Implementation of the recommendations

- 7.12 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. The new constituencies take effect at the next following general election.
- 7.13 The above information is intended to be a general guide only. For a definitive statement of the law, please refer to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 – as amended by the Boundary Commissions Act 1992, the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994, the Government of Wales Act 1998, and the Scotland Act 1998 – together with the Court of Appeal ruling in *R v Boundary Commission for England Ex parte Foot* [1983] QB 600.

Crown Copyright

- 7.14 The maps deposited at the addresses listed above were produced using data provided by Ordnance Survey, Romsey Road, Southampton SO16 4GU (telephone 08456 05 05 05 or 08456 05 05 04 for the Welsh language helpline). These maps and the maps that form part of this document are subject to © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction will infringe Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Any newspaper editor wishing to use the maps as part of an article about the provisional recommendations should first contact the Copyright Office at Ordnance Survey.

Enquiries

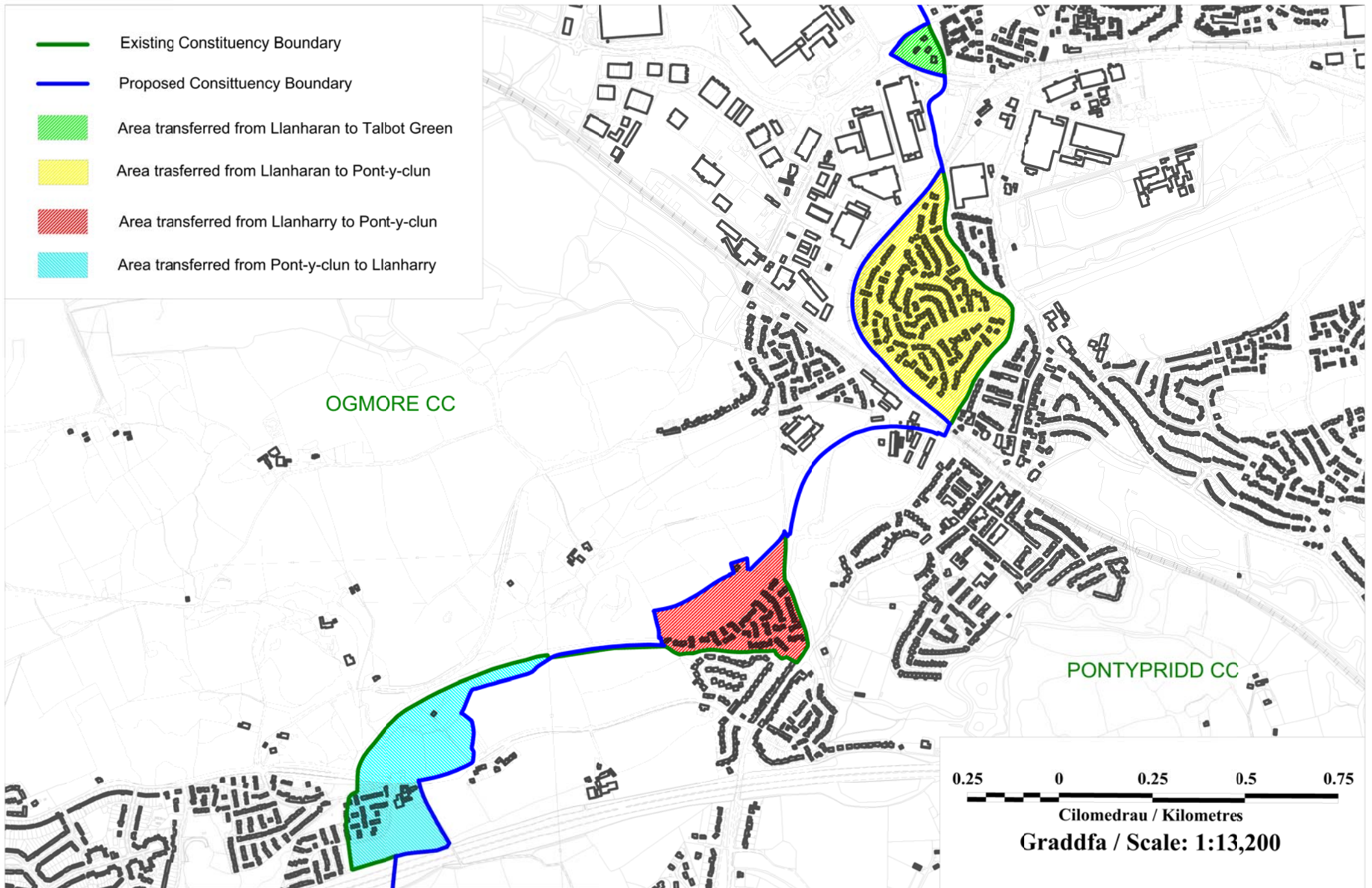
- 7.15 Should you require further information about these provisional recommendations or about other aspects of the Commission's work please contact:

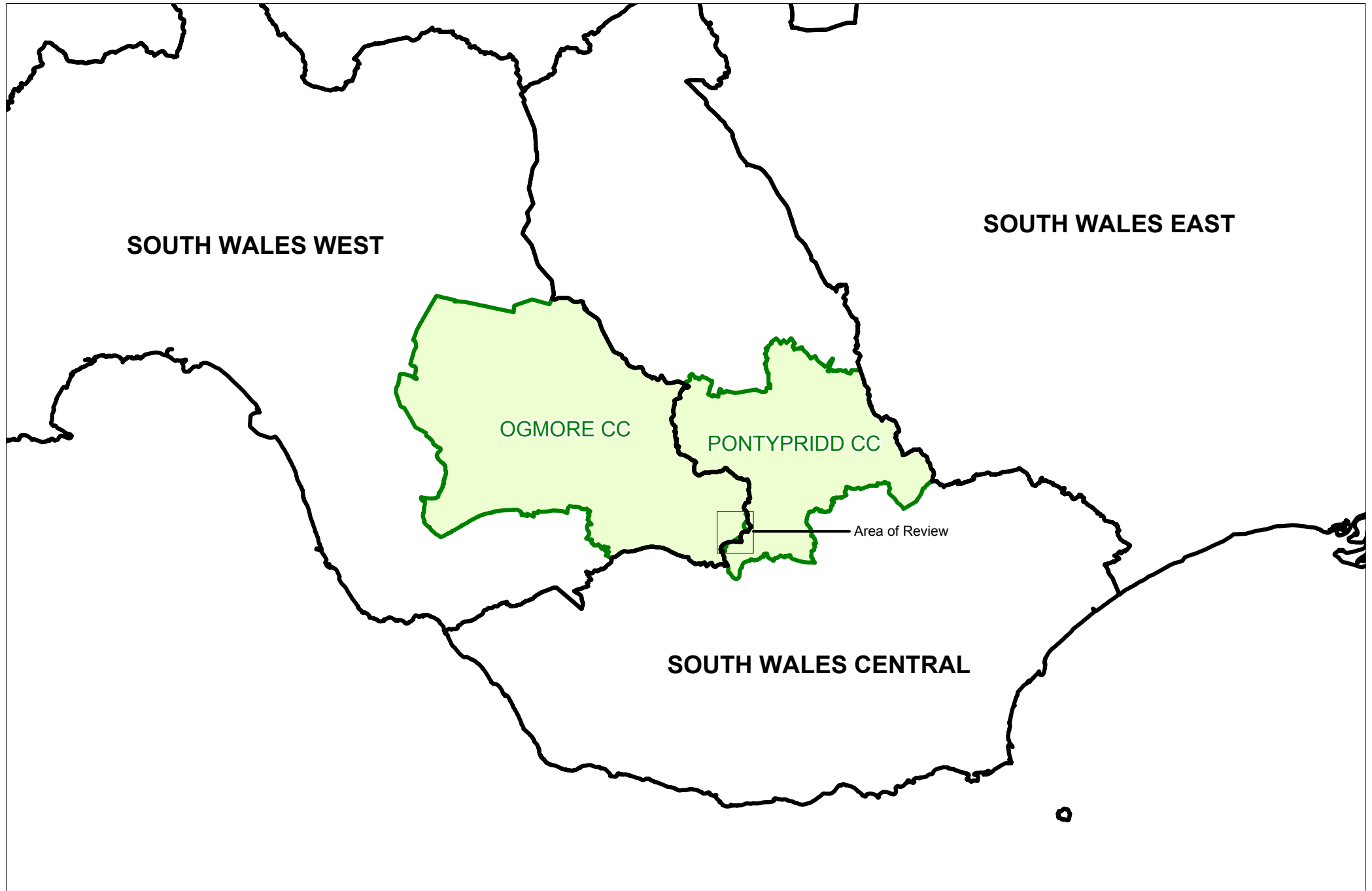
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The Internet version of these provisional recommendations and maps are now available on: www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk

OGMORE AND PONTYPRIDD COUNTY CONSTITUENCIES





ELECTORAL DIVISION ELECTORATES BY COUNTY**Bridgend**

1.	Aberkinfig	1,489	11.	Llangeinor	903
2.	Bettws	1,581	12.	Llangynwyd	2,356
3.	Blackmill	1,892	13.	Maesteg East	3,806
4.	Blaengarw	1,308	14.	Maesteg West	4,417
5.	Bryncethin	985	15.	Nant-y-moel	1,752
6.	Bryncoch	1,460	16.	Ogmore Vale	2,349
7.	Caerau	4,999	17.	Penprysg	2,438
8.	Cefn Cribwr	1,189	18.	Pontycymmer	1,755
9.	Felindre	2,101	19.	Sarn	1,847
10.	Hendre	3,125	20.	Ynysawdre	2,492

Rhondda Cynon Taf

1.	Beddau	3,211	12.	Pontypridd Town	2,282
2.	Bryнна	2,936	13.	Rhondda	3,545
3.	Church Village	3,486	14.	Rhydfelen Central/Ilan	3,042
4.	Gilfach Goch	2,434	15.	Taffs Well	2,792
5.	Graig	1,678	16.	Talbot Green	1,983
6.	Hawthorn	2,720	17.	Ton-teg	3,377
7.	Llanharan	2,500	18.	Tonyrefail East	4,246
8.	Llanharry	2,694	19.	Tonyrefail West	4,463
9.	Llantrisant Town	3,726	20.	Trallwng	2,808
10.	Llantwit Fardre	4,730	21.	Treforest	2,504
11.	Pont-y-clun	6,046	22.	Tyn-y-nant	2,549