

BCW/ 2016/ Interested parties Meeting

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

Minutes of the meeting held at Hastings House, Cardiff, at 10:00am on Monday 29th of February 2016.

Present:

Sir Wyn Williams	Deputy Chair
Professor Robert M ^c Nabb	Commissioner
Mr Paul Loveluck	Commissioner
Steve Halsall	Commission Secretary
Matthew Redmond	Commission Deputy Secretary
Tom Jenkins	Commission Secretariat
Ralph Handscomb	Commission Secretariat
Meri Huws	Welsh Language Commissioner
Lowri Williams	Welsh Language Commissioner
Rhys George	Association of Electoral Administrators
Zachary Brookes	Welsh Government
Steve Thomas	Welsh Local Government Association
Daniel Hurford	Welsh Local Government Association
Anna Daniels	National Assembly for Wales

1. Welcomes and Introductions

- 1.1. The Deputy Chair opened the meeting.
- 1.2. Each attendee introduced themselves.

2. Apologies for Absence

- 2.1. There were apologies for absence from Bethany Adams (National Assembly for Wales), Hugh Rawlings (Welsh Government) and the Electoral Commission.

3. Background and Purpose

- 3.1. The Deputy Chair gave a background to the review and what would be discussed during the meeting.

4. Number of Constituencies and Electoral Quota

- 4.1. The Deputy Chair stated the number of constituencies and the electoral quota for each constituency as set out by the Act.
- 4.2. The Act returned 29 constituencies to Wales and the electoral quota was 74,769 electors per constituency. The Commission will, by law, have to remain with 5% above or below this figure. The range the Commission will be

able to use per constituency will therefore be between 71,031 and 78,507 electors per constituency.

5. Timetable

- 5.1. The Deputy Chair set out the foreseen timetable for the review and when the Commission envisages reaching the different milestones of the review.
- Review Launch – March 2016
 - Initial Proposals followed by Consultation period – September 2016
 - Public Hearings – October/ November 2016
 - Secondary Consultation period – February/ March 2017
 - Revised Proposals followed by Consultation – Autumn 2017
 - Final Proposals – September 2018
- 5.2 Attendees of the meeting were content with the timetable as set out by the Deputy Chair.

6. Development of Proposals

- 6.1. The Deputy Chair stated that the Commission had agreed policies to follow during the review. This would enable the review to retain consistency even if the personnel were to change.
- 6.2. The Commission will consider all rules set out in the act with regard to the development of proposals. It was stated that although representation had been made to Parliament Anglesey was not exempt from the review.
- 6.3. The Commission would avoid splitting electoral wards and communities where it was possible to do so.
- 6.4. The Commission would not propose a constituency where it was not possible to travel by road throughout that constituency.

7. Constituency Names and Designation

- 7.1. The Commission is required by law to give a Name to each of the constituencies in Wales.
- 7.2. The Commission will provide both a name and an alternative language name where necessary.
- 7.3. The Commission will use Compass points if necessary in the constituency names.

8. Public Hearings

- 8.1. The Commission will again use Assistant Commissioners to run each Public Hearing, these hearings will be bilingually held.
- 8.2. There will be five hearings throughout Wales.
- 8.3. The Deputy Chair stated that during the last review hearings were held in Cardiff, Swansea, Caernarfon, Wrexham and Llandrindod Wells.
- 8.4. The Commission would consider whether to retain the same centres and venues or to use different venues. The Commission will also consider holding a hearing further west during this review.
- 8.5. The Commission will also consider video conferencing at these Public Hearings as another option for receiving representations.

9. Consultations

- 9.1. The Deputy Chair stated that the Commission was collaborating with the other Boundary Commissions within the UK to set up an online consultation portal in time for the consultation period following the publication of the Initial Proposals.
- 9.2. The Commission requested the assistance of the WLGA representatives to establish places of deposit for reports within each principal authority.

10. Any Further Questions

- 10.1. The representative from WLGA asked if the minutes of the meeting would be made available to the public. The Deputy Chair stated that the minutes would be circulated for agreement and then published on the Commission website with the aim of clear transparency.
- 10.2. The representative from the AEA asked would the Commission be using the last set of proposals as a basis for the review. The Commission would be using the information, however, it would be unlikely to be able to use the same proposals due to a number of factors namely the shift in electorate and the number of constituencies dropping from 30 to 29.

The meeting closed at 11:10.