



Boundary Commission for Wales

2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies

Guide to the 2018 Review

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		Para	Page
CONTENTS			
CHAPTER 1	INTRODUCTION		
	Who we are and what we do	1	1
	Purpose of the guide	6	1
	Contact details	10	2
	UK electoral boundaries for which the Commission is not responsible	12	2
CHAPTER 2	PREPARING FOR THE REVIEW		
	The base data for the 2018 Review	1	4
	The distribution of constituencies	3	4
	Establishing policy and procedure	4	4
CHAPTER 3	DEVELOPING PROPOSALS – REQUIREMENTS AND POLICY		
	Statutory electoral range	1	6
	Other statutory factors	4	6
	Special geographical considerations	5	6
	Local government boundaries and local ties	6	7
	Boundaries of existing constituencies	10	7
	Interplay of the considerations	11	7
	Factors the Commission will not consider		
	Impact of future election results	14	8
	New local government boundaries	15	8
	Changes to electorates after the review date	16	8
	Naming and designating constituencies	17	8
	Naming	18	8
	Designating	23	9
	Welsh language	25	10
	The Impact of the Legislation	28	10

		Para	Page
CONTENTS			
CHAPTER 4	DEVELOPING PROPOSALS – PROCESS	1	11
	Publication of initial proposals	4	11
	Initial consultation period	9	12
	Written representations	12	12
	Public Hearings	13	12
	Secondary consultation period	23	14
	Development of revised proposals	26	14
	The importance of participation	29	15
	Data Protection	32	15
	Final recommendations and report	35	15
CHAPTER 5	AFTER THE FINAL REPORT		
	Parliamentary procedure		17
CHAPTER 6	CONCLUSION		18
APPENDIX A	Constitution of the Commission		19
APPENDIX B	Addresses and telephone numbers of the other Commissions		20
APPENDIX C	Rules for Redistribution of Seats		23
APPENDIX D	Glossary and abbreviations		28

The Commission welcomes correspondence and telephone calls
in Welsh or English.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Who we are and what we do

1. The Boundary Commission for Wales ('the Commission') is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body which is responsible for reviewing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in Wales. The members of the Commission and other key positions are described at Appendix A.
2. The Commission has the task of periodically reviewing all the Parliamentary constituencies in Wales. It is currently conducting a review on the basis of rules laid down by Parliament. The rules involve a significant reduction in the number of constituencies in Wales and require constituencies to comply with parameters so far as the number of electors in each constituency is concerned.
3. The review process is heavily informed by public consultation. The Commission develops and publishes initial proposals for constituencies across Wales. Representations from the public about these proposals are then taken both in writing and at public hearings in Wales. In light of all the views expressed about the initial proposals, the Commission may revise them and then conduct a further round of written consultation on the revised proposals.
4. The Commission is required to make a formal report to the Government by 1 October 2018, recommending any changes that it believes are appropriate to the distribution, size, shape, name or designation of constituencies in Wales. The review is therefore referred to throughout this guide as the '2018 Review'.
5. The Government will introduce a Bill and if Parliament approves the legislation, the recommended changes will be implemented for the next General Election after the date on which the legislation is passed.

Purpose of the guide

6. The Commission has produced this guide to help to explain how the process for the 2018 Review will work. The guide covers both what the law says the Commission must do as part of the process, and issues where the Commission has decided – as a matter of policy within its own discretion – to take a particular approach.
7. This guide sets out a detailed and technical statement of the statutory framework, the review process and the Commission's policies in developing proposals and final recommendations.
8. The Commission hopes that, by clarifying the process and policies in this way, the guide will both encourage those who may be thinking of making their views known and help to

ensure that those who do make their views known can do so in a well-informed and effective manner. The guide therefore aims:

- to explain clearly how and when the public may contribute their views, so as to effectively inform the development of the Commission’s final recommendations; and,
- to explain the significant changes that have been made to the law governing Parliamentary constituency reviews by the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 (‘the 2011 Act’). The law has a major impact on the way a review operates, and – for this review applying the rules – the law is likely to result in at least some degree of change to all existing constituencies.

9. However, the guide is not intended to be a full statement of the law about the review and redistribution of Parliamentary constituencies. For a definitive statement of that law, please refer to the provisions of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended by the Boundary Commissions Act 1992 and the 2011 Act) available at www.legislation.gov.uk. The 1986 Act (as amended) is referred to throughout the remainder of this guide simply as ‘the Act’.

Contact details

10. Any queries about the content of this guide, or on any other aspect of the work of the Commission, can be raised using these contact details:

The Boundary Commission for Wales
Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff
CF24 0BL

Telephone: (029) 2046 4819
Fax: (029) 2046 4823
E-mail: bcomm.wales@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Website: www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk

11. Newsletters published by the Commission and other information about the 2018 Review may be found on its website.

UK electoral boundaries for which the Commission is not responsible

12. There are separate Boundary Commissions for England, Northern Ireland and Scotland which are responsible for the review of Parliamentary constituencies in their respective parts of the United Kingdom.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

13. The Commission has no responsibility for the review of local government electoral boundaries or structural reviews of local government. In Wales, such reviews are the responsibility of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales, while similar bodies conduct local government reviews in the other parts of the United Kingdom.
14. Contact details for all these bodies are to be found in Appendix B.

Chapter 2: Preparing for the review

The base data for the 2018 Review

1. The Act provides that the electorate figures that are to be used for a review are those that were in the version of the electoral register published on the 'review date'. The review date is defined by the Act as the date two years and ten months before the Commission is required to report on the review to the Government. For the 2018 Review, this means that the electorate figures used must be those from the electoral registers that were required to be published on or before 1 December 2015 (although in certain special circumstances publication of registers may in fact have been delayed). The Commission has published all the base electorate data for the 2018 Review on its website – www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk.
2. The Act says that the Commission may have regard to 'local government boundaries' in developing its proposals. The Act defines such boundaries in Wales as the boundaries of counties, county boroughs, electoral wards, communities and community wards as they were in force on the most recent ordinary day of election of councillors before the review date. For the 2018 Review, this means the local government boundaries referred to are those in force as at 7 May 2015. The local government boundaries that the Commission is using for the 2018 Review can be found in the Ordnance Survey's BoundaryLine mapping product (October 2015 version).¹ The maps published alongside the Commission's proposals (in hard copy and on the Commission website) also show the relevant local government boundaries.

The distribution of constituencies

3. The Act now requires that there be a fixed number of 600 constituencies for the whole of the UK.² Having stated that no single constituency may be split between different parts of the UK,³ the Act provides a mathematical formula⁴ to determine how many constituencies each of the four parts of the UK should be allocated, based on the electorate figures as at the review date. The number of constituencies allocated to Wales for the 2018 Review is 29.

Establishing policy and procedure

4. In considering the procedures for a review, the Commission consults the major stakeholders and the qualifying⁵ Parliamentary political parties on broad issues of policy ahead of the review, in line with its usual practice. Minutes of these meetings conducted

¹ A link is available on the Commission's website – www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk.

² Rule 1 of Schedule 2 to the Act.

³ Rule 3 of Schedule 2 to the Act.

⁴ Rule 8 of Schedule 2 to the Act.

⁵ Section 9 of Schedule 2A to the Act

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

with the representatives of these parties have been published on the Commission's website.

5. In formulating its initial proposals for particular areas, the Commission exercises its own judgement and does not consult the qualifying Parliamentary political parties, local authorities or any other interested groups or people. The Commission considers that it should take the initiative in preparing its proposals from all the information available to it. The proposals are therefore formulated by the Commission from a position of independence and impartiality and are not influenced by any particular viewpoint or opinion. Once the proposals are published, the statutory procedures allow for a public consultation where political parties and others can then make their views on proposed boundaries known to the Commission.

Chapter 3: Developing proposals – requirements and policy

Statutory electorate range

1. The Act sets out a number of Rules in Schedule 2 which are relevant to the detailed development of proposals for individual constituencies.⁶ Foremost among these is Rule 2, which provides that – apart from four specified exceptions – every constituency must have an electorate (as at the review date) that is no less than 95% and no more than 105% of the ‘UK electoral quota’. The UK electoral quota for the 2018 Review is, to the nearest whole number, 74,769.⁷
2. Accordingly, every constituency in Wales must have an electorate as at the review date that is **no smaller than 71,031 and no larger than 78,507** (the statutory electorate range).
3. The only specified constituencies which are not subject to the operation of the UK electoral quota are the two constituencies on the Isle of Wight in England, and Orkney and Shetland and Na h-Eileanan an Iar in Scotland.

Other statutory factors

4. Rule 5 in Schedule 2 provides for a number of other factors that the Commission may take into account in establishing a new map of constituencies for the 2018 Review, specifically:
 - special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
 - local government boundaries as they existed on 7 May 2015 (see Chapter 2 paragraph 2 above);
 - boundaries of existing constituencies; and,
 - any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies.⁸

Special geographical considerations

5. The Commission considers that special geographical considerations that may have an impact on the ability to form a constituency with an electorate within the statutory electorate range will primarily relate to physical geography such as mountains, hills, lakes, rivers, estuaries and islands, rather than to human or social geography. Matters of culture, history, socio-economics and other possible aspects of non-physical geography are more likely to arise as issues when considering the separate factor of ‘local ties’.

⁶ Schedule 2 to the Act is set out in full in Appendix C.

⁷ According to Rule 2(3) in Schedule 2 to the Act, the UK electoral quota is: 44,562,440 (the UK electorate as at the review date) divided by 596.

⁸ A further factor – ‘the inconveniences attendant on such changes’ – is expressly excluded for the 2018 Review, but may be considered for subsequent reviews.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

Local government boundaries and local ties

6. The Commission may take into account local government boundaries. These include both the external boundaries of principal councils, and their internal electoral ward; community or community ward boundaries.
7. While the Commission will seek to take account of principal council external boundaries as far as practicable, it will nevertheless frequently be necessary to cross these boundaries in order to form constituencies that comply with the statutory electorate range.
8. The Commission uses electoral wards as the basic building blocks for designing constituencies.
9. The Commission seeks to avoid dividing electoral wards between constituencies. Electoral wards are well-defined and well-understood units, which are generally indicative of areas which have a broad community of interest. However, there are likely to be circumstances in which it will be desirable to do so, particularly when taking into account all the factors identified in Rules 2 to 5.

Boundaries of existing constituencies

10. The Commission intends to generally have regard to existing constituencies as far as possible. However, this does not mean that an existing constituency should be automatically considered to be 'protected from change', simply on the basis of its electorate figure already falling within the statutory range. Nor does it mean that a constituency which falls only slightly outside the statutory range can necessarily expect to be only slightly amended to bring it within the statutory range. One of the effects of reducing the overall number of constituencies allocated to Wales, together with the requirement of the statutory electorate range, is that the existing constituency that has an electorate that is within the statutory range may, nonetheless, need to be altered as a result of the need to create viable constituencies.

Interplay of the considerations

11. The policy of the Commission is to take into account all the factors listed in Rule 5 as far as possible, subject to the primacy of the statutory electorate range under Rule 2.
12. The Act does not require the Commission to seek to achieve constituency electorates that are 'as close as possible to' the UK electoral quota. Nor does the Commission consider it appropriate to superimpose on the statutory scheme a policy objective of trying to minimise divergence from the UK electoral quota. Such an objective would undermine the ability of the Commission to take properly into account the factors listed in Rule 5 in accordance with the policy at paragraph 11 above. Therefore, by way of illustration, the Commission would prefer to identify a constituency that had, say, a 4% variance from the

UK electoral quota, but which respected local ties, in preference to an alternative that produced a constituency with only a 1% variance, but which would split community areas.

13. As far as possible, the Commission seeks to create constituencies:
- from electoral wards that are adjacent to each other;
 - from whole communities; and,
 - that do not contain 'detached parts', i.e. where the only physical connection between one part of the constituency and the remainder would require passage through a different constituency.

Factors the Commission will not consider

Impact on future election results

14. The Commission is an independent and impartial body. It emphasises very strongly that existing voting patterns and the prospective fortunes of political parties should not and do not enter its considerations during a review.

New local government boundaries

15. The local government boundaries to which the Commission may have regard are – as stated above – those that existed on 7 May 2015. Consequently, the Commission will not take into account new boundaries subsequent to that date.

Changes to electorates after the review date

16. The Commission is required to work on the basis of the numbers of electors on the electoral registers at the 'review date'. It is unable to take account of any under-registration or over-registration of electors that may be claimed in some areas.

Naming and designating constituencies

17. In making its recommendations, the Commission is also required by the Act to specify a name and designation for each proposed constituency. The Act contains little guidance on these points.

Naming

18. The Commission's policy on the naming of constituencies is that, if constituencies remain largely unchanged, the existing constituency name should usually be retained. In such cases constituency names are likely to be altered only where there is good reason for change.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

19. For a new constituency, the name should normally reflect that of the principal council or principal councils wholly or mainly contained in the constituency. However, if there is an objection to the name proposed and there is a suitable alternative name which generally commands greater local support, the Commission will usually recommend that alternative.
20. The Commission adopts compass point names when there is not a more suitable name. The compass point reference used will generally form a prefix in cases where a constituency name refers to the principal council area or former district council but a suffix where the rest of the name refers to a population centre. Examples of existing constituencies that demonstrate this principle are 'Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire' and 'Swansea West'.
21. Section 3(5A) of the 1986 Act provides for the Secretary of State to lay before Parliament a draft Order in Council for giving effect to the recommendations of the Commission including recommendations as to the name of the constituency. Furthermore, Section 25(2) of the Welsh Language Act 1993 provides that where an Act of Parliament gives power, exercisable by statutory instrument, to confer a name on any body, office or place, the power shall include power to confer alternative names in Welsh and English. The Commission therefore considers that, if it recommends that a constituency has an alternative name in Welsh and English, the Secretary of State would be empowered to give effect to that recommendation when laying a draft Order in Council before Parliament.
22. Having given the matter careful consideration, the Commission considers that it is appropriate for each constituency in Wales to have alternative names in English and Welsh. The Commission will therefore make recommendations that official alternatives should be provided in Welsh for those constituency names in English, and vice versa. In this way both languages would be treated equally. In the Commission's proposals and recommendations reports, alternatives will be provided in Welsh where the primary constituency name is in English and in English where the primary constituency name is in Welsh. Where a constituency name is acceptable in both Welsh and English, for example Llanelli, there will be no alternative.

Designating

23. The Act also requires that each constituency be designated as either a 'county constituency' or a 'borough constituency'. The Commission considers that, as a general principle, where constituencies contain more than a small rural element they should normally be designated as county constituencies. In other cases they should be designated as borough constituencies. The designation is suffixed to the constituency name and is usually abbreviated: BC for borough constituency and CC for county constituency.
24. The designation generally determines who shall act as Returning Officer for Parliamentary elections. The designation also determines the limit on the amount that a candidate is allowed to spend during a Parliamentary election in the constituency. The limit is slightly

lower in borough constituencies, to reflect the lower costs of running a campaign in an urban, usually compact, area.

Welsh language

25. The Commission is committed to the use of the Welsh and English languages on a basis of equality and welcomes correspondence in either language.
26. Section 7 of the Welsh Language Act 1993 requires public bodies, which provide services to the public in Wales, to have a Welsh language scheme. A copy of the Commission's Welsh Language Scheme is on its website and is also available on request.
27. Simultaneous translation facilities will be provided at the Public Hearings (See Chapter 4).

The impact of the Legislation

28. As can be seen from the description above, the 2011 Act has created significant changes to the way in which Parliamentary constituencies in Wales are formed. The UK electoral quota will mean that the number of constituencies in Wales will be reduced from 40 to 29 and every constituency must have an electorate of not less than 95% and not more than 105% of the electoral quota. The result will be a fundamental change to the existing pattern of constituencies in every part of Wales.
29. The Commission wishes to make clear from the outset that given the relatively small number of electors in rural parts of Wales it is inevitable that there will be some geographically large constituencies. Also, due to the limited numbers of electors in some of the South Wales valleys areas, constituencies will be formed which encompass more than one valley. Furthermore, in some areas the division of principal councils will be unavoidable. Compromises will need to be made in order to create a pattern of constituencies across Wales that adheres to the Rules of the legislation. It is important to understand that even small changes to one constituency will have consequential impacts on adjacent areas and possibly the whole of Wales.

Chapter 4: Developing proposals – Process

1. The Commission obtained the electorate figures directly from the Office for National Statistics. When all the figures had been received, the four Parliamentary Boundary Commissions agreed the UK electoral quota and the number of constituencies allocated to each part of the UK (see Chapter 2 paragraph 3 for the constituency allocation and Chapter 3 paragraph 2 for the statutory electorate range, for the actual figures that have been agreed for the 2018 Review).
2. The mandatory nature of Rule 2 in the legislation – concerning the statutory electorate range for constituencies – means that it will be necessary for constituencies to cross a number of external principal council boundaries.
3. The Commission does not use a single pre-determined geographic starting point for the development of proposals. A wide range of options are considered. Only after the consideration of a number of schemes of constituencies for the whole of Wales will the Commission form a view and develop initial proposals.

Publication of initial proposals

4. When the Commission has decided on its initial proposals, it will publish information on its website together with detailed information about how and when views on those proposals can be submitted. At the same time, it will send hard copies of the proposals to various local 'places of deposit', where the public may view the proposals.
5. The places of deposit where the public may inspect the proposals will usually be the offices of the relevant local authority, although other places such as public libraries may be used, particularly in the areas of geographically larger constituencies. A full list of places of deposit will be published on the Commission website at the same time as the proposals.
6. In addition to the initial proposals and its report on them, in order to help the public better understand the proposals, the Commission will place on deposit and on its website detailed maps showing, among other information, the name, designation and boundary of each proposed constituency.
7. To publicise the initial proposals, the Commission will embark on an advertising campaign focused on bringing the proposals, length of consultation and public hearings (See paragraphs 12 to 22 below) to the attention of the public. The Commission will also send copies of its proposals to all interested parties (for example, principal councils and MPs). Principal councils and the House of Commons library will also receive copies of the detailed maps. In advance of the information being sent out, the Commission will also issue a press release containing details about the initial proposals, the representation period and the subsequent procedures of a review.

8. Copies of the initial proposals, reports and accompanying maps, and all newsletters and press releases issued by the Commission, are placed on its website – www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk

Initial consultation period

9. The 2018 Review is being carried out under a procedure that relies on a combination of written representations and oral representations at public hearings. The old style of public inquiries has been abolished and replaced by shorter public hearings. These hearings are not inquiries, public meetings or debates, but are there to provide an opportunity both for the Commission to explain its initial proposals and for the public to give their views on those proposals.
10. The Commission attaches just as much significance to representations made in writing as to those made orally at public hearings. There needs to be careful management of the conduct of the hearings, since they are strictly limited by statute to last for no more than two days each. However, if it is not possible for someone to complete oral submissions in the time allowed, representations may still be made in writing within the 12-week consultation period.
11. Those who give their views – whether orally or in writing – are requested to say whether they approve of, or object to, the Commission’s proposals. In particular, objectors are advised to say what they propose in place of the Commission’s proposals. An objection accompanied by a viable counter-proposal is likely to carry more weight than a simple statement of objection. In this respect – and particularly in light of the importance of Rule 2 (statutory electorate range) – a counter-proposal setting out the composition of each constituency in an area will generally be viewed as more persuasive than a proposal for the composition of only one constituency which does not address any knock-on effects on the electorate figures of other constituencies.

Written representations

12. The Commission is required to consider all written representations made to it within a statutory 12-week period commencing with publication of the initial proposals. Details of how to make written representations, including the last date for receipt of representations, will be published alongside the initial proposals themselves. It is crucial that representations are submitted in sufficient time to ensure that they are received within the designated consultation period. **Representations received before or after this period will not be considered.**

Public hearings

13. The Commission is required to conduct at least two and no more than five public hearings in Wales. The public hearings in Wales shall be concerned with proposals for Wales, and shall between them cover the whole of Wales.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

14. The details of locations and dates for the hearings will be announced on the Commission's website in due course, and published again alongside the initial proposals themselves.
15. A public hearing is intended to provide an opportunity for people to make representations about any of the Commission's initial proposals, including the naming of constituencies and to present any counter-proposals. Unlike the local inquiries of the past, a public hearing under the 2011 statutory scheme is not intended to focus to any significant degree on comments about any counter-proposals that may be put forward by others, as this can be done in the secondary consultation period (see paragraph 23 below).
16. Representations at each public hearing are likely to focus on proposals for the area closest to the location of the hearing, but this does not preclude making a representation that relates to any part of Wales.
17. Each hearing will be chaired by an independent Assistant Commissioner selected by the Commission, who controls proceedings and may ask – or allow to be asked – questions of an individual giving a representation. Questions should generally be asked through the Chair and should ordinarily seek clarification rather than try to 'cross-examine' the speaker on their views.
18. Once details of the dates and locations of the public hearings have been published, individuals wishing to make an oral presentation at one of the hearings are encouraged to give advance notice to the Commission. Details of how to request a speaking slot at a public hearing will be published alongside the initial proposals. The Commission will endeavour to accommodate individual requests for a particular time or date but it cannot be certain that this will be possible.
19. The duration of speaking slots may be limited, so representations will need to be clear, concise and focused. Those intending to speak at a public hearing may also need to be reasonably flexible about when exactly they are asked to start and finish their representation.
20. It will be for the Assistant Commissioner chairing the public hearing to decide when to call on speakers and the amount of time to be allocated to each. To aid the Assistant Commissioner in this task, it would be helpful if a synopsis or outline of the points the speaker wishes to make could be provided in advance.
21. The Commission will require advance notice and supply of any visual aids to be used during the making of oral representations at public hearings. Details of the procedures to be followed at the public hearings will be published in advance of the public hearings.
22. A verbatim transcript will be made of all the public hearings. The transcripts will be published with other representations on the Commission's website.

Secondary consultation period

23. As soon as possible after the initial 12-week consultation on the Commission's initial proposals, the Commission will publish on its website all of the representations that it has received (including transcripts of the public hearings) in both Welsh and English. A hard copy will also be deposited at the same time in at least one location within each proposed constituency.
24. Once the representations have been published there is a further statutory four-week period during which people can submit to the Commission written comments on those representations it received during the initial consultation period, for example challenging or supporting assertions made in a representation. There are no public hearings at this stage.
25. Once translated the Commission will publish on its website all the written representations received during the four-week secondary consultation period.

Development of revised proposals

26. Assistant Commissioners will consider all the written representations received and oral representations made at public hearings in the initial consultation period, and all the written representations made in the four-week secondary consultation period. A nominated 'lead' Assistant Commissioner will then write a report for the Commission, summarising and considering the representations and recommending whether – and, if so, how – the initial proposals should be revised in the light of those representations. The Commission then considers the report and determines whether and to what extent revisions should be made to its initial proposals.
27. If the proposals are revised, the Commission then publishes a notice and a revised proposals report, as it did for the initial proposals. The Act provides for a further period of eight weeks for written representations to be made to the Commission on the revised proposals. There are no public hearings at this stage; nor is there a repeat of the four-week period for commenting on the representations of others.
28. The Commission will publish all the written representations received during the eight-week consultation on revised proposals at the same time as publication of the Final Recommendations.

The importance of participation

29. The Commission wishes to encourage persons or organisations interested in the proposals for their area to make written or oral representations to the Commission, whether for or against the proposals.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

30. A particular problem will be to elicit such responses at the right time. For example, people who do not make known their support for the initial proposals may find that the Commission subsequently publish, in the light of representations received from others, revised proposals or final recommendations which they do not support. It is therefore important in this example that persons who support the initial proposals should say so at the first stage of consultation.
31. Full and timely participation ultimately assists the Commission in gauging more accurately local opinion on its proposals, and consequently increases the likelihood that its final recommendations will be generally acceptable to the majority of those who will have to live and work with them.

Data Protection

32. As previously described, the Commission wishes to publish as much as possible of the representations and other correspondence that it receives. However, the need for transparency must be balanced against the protection of an individual's right to privacy and the statutory requirement for the Commission to protect an individual's personal data.
33. The Commission has therefore created a redaction policy which it will apply to all representations that it receives and places in the public domain. These are as follows:

Public Persons / Officials (i.e. MPs / AMs / Councillors - writing in an official capacity):

- The Commission intends to publish the name, address and contact details of any public person / official writing in an official capacity.
- Signatures, however, will be redacted.

Members of the public and Public Persons / Officials writing in a personal capacity:

- The Commission intends to publish the name of everyone who submits a representation but will redact addresses with the exception of the geographical location, i.e. the village, town or city where that person(s) resides. If a member of the public wishes his or her name to be redacted the Commission will do so on request.
- All email addresses will be redacted.
- All telephone numbers will be redacted.
- All signatures will be redacted.

34. In addition, the Commission will also redact anything in a representation which it considers may be illegal and / or libellous.

Final recommendations and report

35. The Commission will take into consideration any written representations concerning the revised proposals made in the eight-week consultation period, referred to in paragraph 28

above, and will make its final decisions about whether further modifications need to be made in light of those representations.

36. When the Commission has decided on its final recommendations for Wales, it will then draft and submit a formal written report to the Government. The report, which is also published, will contain a description of the review, a textual description of all the final recommendations, and a set of maps to illustrate the existing boundaries and those proposed by the final recommendations.
37. The submission of the formal final report will conclude the review process. The procedure to implement new constituencies is the responsibility of the United Kingdom Government and Parliament.

Chapter 5: After the final report

Parliamentary Procedure

1. After the Government has received the final report of the Commission, it must lay it before Parliament.
2. Where a final report submitted by any of the four Parliamentary Boundary Commissions in the United Kingdom recommends alterations to existing constituencies, the Government must also lay before Parliament a draft of an Order in Council, giving effect to the recommendations in the report(s). In preparing that draft, the Government may not modify the recommendations of any of the Parliamentary Boundary Commissions, unless it has been expressly requested to do so (in writing and with reasons) by the relevant Parliamentary Boundary Commission.
3. The draft Order must be actively debated and approved (or rejected) by both Houses of Parliament. If the draft Order in Council is not approved, the Government may then amend the draft and lay an amended draft before Parliament for approval.
4. Once the Order in Council has been approved by Parliament, the Government is required to submit it to be made by Her Majesty in Council. After the Order in Council has been made, the new constituencies take effect at the next General Election. Any by-elections held in the meantime have to be held on the basis of the old (existing) constituencies. The validity of an Order in Council, once made, may not be called into question in any legal proceedings.

Chapter 6: Conclusion

1. It is hoped that the information and explanations given in this guide will fulfil the purpose set out in the Introduction, helping to clarify the process and policies for interested parties and encourage their informed participation, and thereby assisting the Commission in carrying out its work.

APPENDIX A

CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMISSION

In accordance with Schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986.

1. Chairman

The Speaker of the House of Commons is the Chairman of each of the four Boundary Commissions. This is an *ex officio* appointment and the Speaker generally plays no part in the substantive work of the Commission.

2. Three other members

i.) The deputy chairman, who presides over the Commission's meetings, is a judge of the High Court appointed by the Lord Chancellor.

ii.) Two other members are appointed jointly by the Lord President of the Council and the Secretary of State for Wales.

Current membership of the Commission can be found on the website.

3. Two assessors (available to provide technical advice and support as necessary)

i.) The Registrar General for England and Wales.

ii.) The Director General of Ordnance Survey.

4. Secretary

The secretary is appointed jointly by the Lord President of the Council and the Secretary of State for Wales.

5. Assistant Commissioners

The Secretary of State may, at the request of the Commission, appoint one or more assistant Commissioners to assist the Commission in the discharge of their functions. Assistant Commissioners appointed may for example serve as Chairs at the public hearings. An Assistant Commissioner will normally be an independent legally qualified person.

APPENDIX B

ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE OTHER COMMISSIONS

Parliamentary

The Boundary Commission for England

2nd Floor
35 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BQ

Telephone: (020) 7276 1102
E-mail: information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk
Website: <http://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk>

The Boundary Commission for Scotland

Thistle House
91 Haymarket Terrace
Edinburgh
EH12 5HD

Telephone: (0131) 538 7510
Fax: (0131) 538 7511
E-mail: bcs@scottishboundaries.gov.uk
Website: www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk/

The Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland

The Bungalow
Stormont House
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SH

Telephone: (028) 9052 7821
Fax: (028) 9069 4801
E-mail: contact@boundarycommission.org.uk
Website: www.boundarycommission.org.uk

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

Local Government

Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales

Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff
CF24 0BL

Telephone: (029) 2046 4819
Fax: (029) 2046 4823
E-mail ldbc.wales@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Internet address www.ldbc.gov.wales

Local Government Boundary Commission for England

14th Floor
Millbank Tower
Millbank
London
SW1P 4QP

Telephone: 0330 500 1525
Fax: 0330 500 1526
E-mail: reviews@lgbce.org.uk
Website: www.lgbce.org.uk

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

Thistle House
91 Haymarket Terrace
Edinburgh
EH12 5HD

Telephone: (0131) 538 7510
Fax: (0131) 538 7511
E-mail: lgbcscottishboundaries.gov.uk
Website: www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk

Local Government Boundaries Commissioner for Northern Ireland

Not currently active.

Parliamentary Ombudsman

The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman

Millbank Tower

Millbank

London

SW1P 4QP

Telephone: 0345 015 4033

E-mail: phso.enquiries@ombudsman.org.uk

Website: www.ombudsman.org.uk

APPENDIX C

RULES FOR REDISTRIBUTION OF SEATS

Number of constituencies

- 1 The number of constituencies in the United Kingdom shall be 600.

Electorate per constituency

- 2 (1) The electorate of any constituency shall be -
 - (a) no less than 95% of the United Kingdom electoral quota, and
 - (b) no more than 105% of that quota.
- (2) This rule is subject to rules 4(2), 6(3) and 7.
- (3) In this Schedule the “United Kingdom electoral quota” means -

$$U/596$$

where U is the electorate of the United Kingdom minus the electorate of the constituencies mentioned in rule 6.

Allocation of constituencies to parts of the United Kingdom

- 3 (1) Each constituency shall be wholly in one of the four parts of the United Kingdom (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland).
- (2) The number of constituencies in each part of the United Kingdom shall be determined in accordance with the allocation method set out in rule 8.

Area of constituencies

- 4 (1) A constituency shall not have an area of more than 13,000 square kilometres.
- (2) A constituency does not have to comply with rule 2(1) (a) if -
 - (a) it has an area of more than 12,000 square kilometres, and

- (b) the Boundary Commission concerned are satisfied that it is not reasonably possible for the constituency to comply with that rule.

Factors

- 5 (1) A Boundary Commission may take into account, if and to such extent as they think fit -
- (a) special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
 - (b) local government boundaries as they exist on the most recent ordinary council-election day before the review date;
 - (c) boundaries of existing constituencies;
 - (d) any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies;
 - (e) the inconveniences attendant on such changes.⁹
- (2) The Boundary Commission for England may take into account, if and to such extent as they think fit, boundaries of the electoral regions specified in Schedule 1 to the European Parliamentary Elections Act 2002 (ignoring paragraph 2(2) of that Schedule and the references to Gibraltar) as it has effect on the most recent ordinary council-election day before the review date.
- (3) This rule has effect subject to rules 2 and 4.

Protected constituencies

- 6 (1) There shall be two constituencies in the Isle of Wight.
- (2) There shall continue to be -
- (a) a constituency named Orkney and Shetland, comprising the areas of the Orkney Islands Council and the Shetland Islands Council;
 - (b) a constituency named Na h-Eileanan an Iar, comprising the area of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.
- (3) Rule 2 does not apply to these constituencies.

⁹ Rule 5(1)(e) does not apply to a report due to be submitted before 1 October 2018, as specified by section 11(2) of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011, as amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

Northern Ireland

7 (1) In relation to Northern Ireland, sub-paragraph (2) below applies in place of rule 2 where -

(a) the difference between -

- (i) the electorate of Northern Ireland, and
- (ii) the United Kingdom electoral quota multiplied by the number of seats in Northern Ireland (determined under rule 8),

exceeds one third of the United Kingdom electoral quota, and

(b) the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland consider that having to apply rule 2 would unreasonably impair -

- (i) their ability to take into account the factors set out in rule 5(1), or
- (ii) their ability to comply with section 3(2) of this Act.

(2) The electorate of any constituency shall be -

(a) no less than whichever is the lesser of -

N-A

and 95% of the United Kingdom electoral quota, and

(b) no more than whichever is the greater of -

N+A

and 105% of the United Kingdom electoral quota,

where -

N is the electorate of Northern Ireland divided by the number of seats in Northern Ireland (determined under rule 8), and A is 5% of the United Kingdom electoral quota.

The allocation method

8 (1) The allocation method referred to in rule 3(2) is as follows.

(2) The first constituency shall be allocated to the part of the United Kingdom with the greatest electorate.

- (3) The second and subsequent constituencies shall be allocated in the same way, except that the electorate of a part of the United Kingdom to which one or more constituencies have already been allocated is to be divided by -

$$2C+1$$

where C is the number of constituencies already allocated to that part.

- (4) Where the figure given by sub-paragraph (3) above is the same for two or more parts of the United Kingdom, the part to which a constituency is to be allocated shall be the one with the smaller or smallest actual electorate.
- (5) This rule does not apply to the constituencies mentioned in rule 6, and accordingly-
- (a) the electorate of England shall be treated for the purposes of this rule as reduced by the electorate of the constituencies mentioned in rule 6(1);
 - (b) the electorate of Scotland shall be treated for the purposes of this rule as reduced by the electorate of the constituencies mentioned in rule 6(2).

Interpretation

- 9 (1) This rule has effect for the purposes of this Schedule.
- (2) The “electorate” of the United Kingdom, or of a part of the United Kingdom or a constituency, is the total number of persons whose names appear on the relevant version of a register of parliamentary electors in respect of addresses in the United Kingdom, or in that part or that constituency.

For this purpose the relevant version of a register is the version that is required by virtue of subsection (1) of section 13 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 to be published no later than the review date, or would be so required but for -

- (a) any power under that section to prescribe a later date, or
 - (b) subsection (1A) of that section.
- (3) “Local government boundaries” are -
- (a) in England, the boundaries of counties and their Electoral Wards, districts and their wards, London boroughs and their wards and the City of London,
 - (b) in Wales, the boundaries of counties, county boroughs, Electoral Wards, communities and community wards,

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

- (c) in Scotland, the boundaries of local government areas and the electoral wards into which they are divided under section 1 of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004, and
 - (d) in Northern Ireland, the boundaries of wards.
- (4) “Ordinary council-election day” is -
- (a) in relation to England and Wales, the ordinary day of election of councillors for local government areas;
 - (b) in relation to Scotland, the day on which the poll is held at ordinary elections of councillors for local government areas;
 - (c) in relation to Northern Ireland, the day of an election for any district council (other than an election to fill a casual vacancy).
- (5) The “review date”, in relation to a report under section 3(1) of this Act that a Boundary Commission is required (by section 3(2)) to submit before a particular date, is two years and ten months before that date.
- (6) “The United Kingdom electoral quota” has the meaning given by rule 2(3).
- (7) A reference in rule 6 to an area is to the area as it existed on the coming into force of Part 2 of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011.

APPENDIX D

GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

Assessor	Statutorily appointed technical adviser to the Commission being either the Registrar General for England and Wales or the Director General of Ordnance Survey.
Assistant Commissioner	Person appointed by the Secretary of State at the request of the Commission to assist the Commission in the discharge of their functions, normally an independent legally qualified person.
Borough Constituency - Abbreviated to BC	Parliamentary constituency containing a predominantly urban area.
Community (areas and wards)	The whole of Wales is divided into community areas. Many community areas have community or town councils. Where a community area has a community or town council then these areas may be warded for electoral purposes. The electoral wards of Wales are created using these community areas (and wards) as their building blocks.
County Constituency - Abbreviated to CC	Parliamentary constituency containing a significant rural element.
Designation	Classification as either a borough constituency or as a county constituency.
Electoral quota	The average number of electors in a constituency found by dividing the total electorate of the United Kingdom by 596 (the number of parliamentary constituencies for the United Kingdom minus those with specific exemptions).
Electoral Ward	The areas into which principal council areas are divided for the purpose of electing county councillors; previously referred to as electoral divisions.
Electorate	The number of registered parliamentary electors in a given area.
Final recommendations	The recommendations submitted in a report to the Secretary of State at the end of a review. They may be the initial or the revised proposals in any given area.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

General review	Major review of and redistribution of, parliamentary constituencies in Wales every 5 years. From 2011 all parliamentary constituency reviews are general reviews.
Initial consultation period	A designated period of 12 weeks within which the Commission may receive written representations. Public Hearings are to be held during the period beginning with the fifth week and ending with the tenth week of it.
Initial proposals	Initial proposals for public consultation.
Principal Council	The single tier organ of local government responsible for all or almost all local government functions within its area, which in Wales replaced the two tier system of county councils and district councils: a County Council, or a County Borough Council.
Public Hearing	Formal opportunity in a given area for people to make oral representations, chaired normally by an Assistant Commissioner. There must be at least two and no more than five public hearings in Wales, and each must be completed within two days.
Redistribution of seats	Division of an area into new parliamentary constituencies.
Representations	The views provided by an individual, group or organisation to the Commission on its initial or revised proposals, either for or against them, including counter-proposals and petitions.
Review Date	Proposals must be based on the number of electors on the electoral registers on this date. Defined in the Act as the date two years and ten months before the final report is to be submitted (i.e. 1 December 2015 for the review that is to conclude with a final report by 1 October 2018).
Revised proposals	The initial proposals as revised.
Rules for Redistribution of Seats	The statutory criteria for parliamentary constituencies under Schedule 2 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986.
Secondary consultation period	A designated period of 4 weeks within which the Commission may receive written representations. This period follows the publication of the representations received and the record of the Public Hearings held during the initial consultation period.

