

Comisiwn Ffiniau i Gymru

Boundary Commission for Wales

Boundary Commission for Wales 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies

Assistant Commissioners' Report

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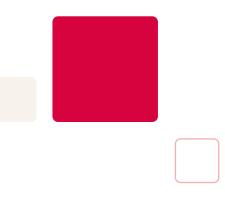
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1st Edition.

Contents

Section A	Introduction	04
	The Boundary Commission for Wales	04
	The 2023 Parliamentary Review and Initial	
	Consultation	04
	The Secondary Consultation and the Assistant	
	Commissioners	04
Section B	Essential (or other Statutory) Factors	07
	Thematic Considerations	07
Section C	Our Recommendations	11
	West Wales	11
	The Swansea Area	12
	Neath, Aberafan and Bridgend	13
	Vale of Glamorgan and Porthcawl	14
	The Cardiff Area	15
	The Glamorgan Valleys	16
	The Gwent Area	17
	Mid and North West	18
	The North Coast and Environs	20
	North East	21
	Ynys Môn	22
Section D	Naming and Designation	23
	Other Issues	23
	Conclusion	24
Appendix A	Detailed Electoral Ward Information and Data	
Appendix B	Illustrative Map	

Section A: Introduction



The Boundary Commission for Wales

1. The Boundary Commission for Wales (the "Commission") is an advisory Non-Departmental Public Body constituted under Section 2 and Schedule 1 of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (the "Act") as amended.

2. The Commission's primary statutory function is to keep under continuous review the distribution of seats at Parliamentary elections, to conduct such regular reviews of these boundaries as deemed necessary by Parliament and to make reports with recommendations.

3. The Speaker of the House of Commons is the ex-officio Chair of all four Parliamentary Boundary Commissions in the United Kingdom, who are acting separately but in broad concert on this current review.

The 2023 Parliamentary Review and Initial Consultation

4. In 2020, the UK Government announced that it would not implement the recommendations of a previous review in 2018. Subsequently, Parliament passed the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 which fixed the number of seats at 650; but redistributed them amongst the countries of the UK based upon an equal proportion of the registered electorate in each.

5. This results in a reduction of the number of constituencies in Wales from 40 to 32 or 20%. However, the 2020 Act exempted a small number of protected constituencies from the review. There is one such constituency in Wales (Ynys Môn). Accordingly, this process is effectively about the other thirty-one. The application of the arithmetical formula in the 2020 Act requires each UK constituency subject to review to have a minimum of 69,724 registered electors and a maximum of 77,062, taking account of the stated policy of minimising divergence from the UK Electoral Quota (UKEQ).

6. On 5 January 2021, the Commission announced the start of the 2023 review in Wales. On 8 September 2021, an initial consultation period commenced following the publication of Initial Proposals based upon electoral data required by the legislation. This initial consultation period closed on 3 November 2021 with **1211** written responses received which were subsequently published on the Commission website¹.

The Secondary Consultation and the Assistant Commissioners

7. The work of the Commission is overseen by four Commissioners (including the Speaker of the House of Commons); but the Act allows the Secretary of State, at the request of the Commission, to appoint one or more Assistant Commissioners (on a time limited basis) to support the Commission in the discharge of their functions. The role of the Assistant Commissioners was to chair (when required) and participate in the public hearings and to provide an independent and impartial report to the Commission based on evidence received at the hearings and in writing.

8. Four Assistant Commissioners were appointed for the 2023 Review in Wales through open competition. The Assistant Commissioners are listed at the end of this report and biographies can be found on the Commission website.

¹ Bcomm-wales.gov.uk

9. We had no role in the formulation of the Initial Proposals and this report is based solely on the written and oral evidence submitted in Welsh or English, treating all equally. We detail in Section C below the changes we recommend to the Initial Proposals; but it is entirely for the Commissioners to decide whether such changes should be adopted.

10. Numerous representations objected to the reduction of constituencies in Wales and, more indirectly, to the statutory electorate range. However, it is not the role of the Assistant Commissioners (or the Commission itself) to address such matters. They have been determined by Parliament and are now matters of law. Our role is to apply the range and the other factors equitably and as best we can, consistent with statute and any relevant guidance and to the prevailing circumstances in all parts of Wales.

11. A further secondary consultation period was held from 17 February 2022 to 30 March 2022 coinciding with the commencement and conclusion of a programme of five public hearings across Wales. Further details of the public hearings are below. They were originally scheduled to start in January 2022; but four of the five hearings were necessarily postponed due to public health (coronavirus) restrictions in place at that time.

12. During this secondary consultation period, **156** written representations were received. These were again published on the Commission website.

13. We have read all the written representations and the transcripts of the public hearings. The number of responses were significantly above previous reviews and we are grateful that so many people devoted such time and effort to provide essential input. However, we know very well that we will not be able to satisfy all those who participated in the consultations – not least because the comments received ranged across the full spectrum: from strong support for the Initial Proposals to outright opposition to any change and the comments received were often mutually incompatible.



14. We are also grateful for the professionalism and support of the Chief Executive of the Boundary Commission for Wales and the staff.

Hearing	Speakers	Observers		Total
		In-Person	Online	
Cardiff 17 Febru- ary 2022	25	12	36	73
Wrexham 23 Feb- ruary 2022	10	4	17	31
Swansea 1 March 2022	28	8	25	61
Bangor 9 March 2022	6	1	14	21
Aberystwyth 30 March 2022	12	2	14	28
Total	81	27	106	214

The table below lists details of the public hearings held:





Section B:

15. This section of our report is in two parts:

• First, we rehearse the essential factors governing our approach to the evidence regarding the Initial Proposals and our recommendations; and

• Second, we detail the main themes emerging from the written and oral evidence and our consideration of them. Note: we took account of all representations; but it was not practical to reflect every detail of the entirety of the debate in this report. It is therefore a synthesis of the evidence.

The Essential (or other Statutory) Factors

16. The legislation referred to above sets the parameters. These are detailed in the Initial Proposals (and elsewhere), so it is not necessary to repeat them in exhaustive detail here.

17. However, we underline that the 2020 Act provided an entirely new basis for this review. Some representations have stated - or at least implied – that the treatment of constituencies in previous reviews should be taken into account or even set a precedent of sorts. This is not a view we share and we have not followed what has gone before. The previous review was based upon a different number of constituencies, a different statutory electoral range and there were no protected constituencies in Wales.

18. Nonetheless the primacy of the statutory electorate range or the UKEQ remains in terms of the Act and Commission policy (Rule 2), taking precedence over the other factors (Rule 5) which include:

• Local ties enhanced (or disrupted) by changes in constituency boundaries. Critically in the Welsh context, this includes the **Welsh language**, other cultural matters and community identity - although we encountered a range of definitions of community – some more convincing than others;

• Special geographical considerations including the accessibility of a proposed constituency or a significant part of same in terms of public transport and/or the road network;

- General convenience (or not); and
- The boundaries of existing constituencies and their alignment with principal local authority areas.

19. Accordingly, we recommend changes which seek to ensure that the constituencies better reflect these criteria (whilst ensuring that each falls within the statutory electoral range). We formed the view that the above factors were of equal importance with none having primacy over the others. We also concluded that it was most unlikely that all of the factors would be able to be satisfied when we looked at individual constituencies. We deal with this in further detail in paragraph 25 below.

Thematic Considerations

20.

It may assist to understand better our rationale if we elucidate upon our approach to the application of the

statutory factors listed above.

21. Whilst respecting the parameters or constraints, we did not approach the task as purely a "numbers game." We have sought boundaries which are, to the maximum extent possible, coherent and recognisable in communities. Whether or not we have succeeded (at least in part) is for others to judge.

22. This interplay results in specific issues in Wales for two main reasons:

• First, broadly some 90% of the population live within approximately twenty-five miles of the north or south coasts and there are huge variations in population density across the country¹. This elector concentration/sparsity creates a challenge in meeting the electorate range and balancing the other statutory factors.

For example, the scope for adding/subtracting wards to/from a constituency in urban areas (some containing 8-10,000 electors) is very limited as it quickly leads to the electorate range being destabilised in that constituency and/or those adjacent - as well as perhaps failing to meet the stated policy of minimising divergence from the UKEQ². Moreover, if too many constituencies fall significantly below the UKEQ this has the effect of creating a surplus of electors, who can then be difficult to accommodate in coherent proposals for other parts of Wales.

By contrast, the transfer of sparsely populated wards between constituencies in rural areas (many containing circa 700-800 electors or less) provides greater flexibility; but can produce perverse outcomes from a local perspective; and

• Second, the UKEQ can lead to tension with the other statutory factors or between them. To an extent, this manifests itself in the representations received in response to the Initial Proposals which concentrated on a specific community or constituency.

This is reasonable at one level and sometimes produced a cohesive option for the area concerned; but frequently it also involved a sub-optimal result in an adjacent constituency: in many cases this result would be one that would probably fail the test once the statutory factors were applied in the round. Many representations focussed wholly on the constituency where the writer/ speaker lived and omitted any reference to the consequences in adjacent areas. This may be understandable; but we were not in a position to ignore them as ours is an all-Wales remit.

23. We are critical of neither the representations nor the statutory electorate range (and the mathematical formula behind it) - any sensible alternative with the same objective would produce a similar result. However, this demonstrates that <u>on</u> <u>an all-Wales basis</u> **there is no perfect solution**. Thus compromise is an essential ingredient in whatever solution is identified.

24. It is also necessary to highlight that the treatment of the <u>Brecon and Radnor constituency</u> was a common denominator in our analysis across large parts of Wales. In other words, the impact (or domino effect) of what happens there is felt much further afield: in the Swansea and Upper Amman Valleys in the context of the Initial Proposals; in Monmouthshire and the wider Gwent area in the context of certain counter proposals and also in the environs of the North Wales coast. We examine those issues in some detail in the next section.

25. We also note that the Commission "may" (not "must") take into account the statutory factors under Rule 5. We did so; but more weighting was applied to some than others depending on the circumstances. In particular we did not choose to subordinate community identity to any literal interpretation or application of the rules despite some submissions that the rules were in some way mandatory. In this context we rely upon the wording of Rule 5.1 in Schedule 2 to the Act which allows the Commission to take into account the factors listed above "if and to such extent as they think fit".

26. In this context and against the parameters defined for the review a number of issues arose. For example:

- In our view, 20% fewer constituencies points towards greater incongruity (or less coterminosity) between their
- 1 2620 persons per square kilometre in Cardiff compared to 25.7 in Powys (2020) see https:/statswales.gov.wales.
- 2 73,393 per constituency.

boundaries and those of principal local authorities. Similar considerations apply to existing constituencies: the Initial Proposals largely do not conform to them and our proposals are no different. It is impossible, we have found, to reduce the number of constituencies by 20% and preserve existing boundaries to a significant extent.

Moreover, whilst the Commission in Wales has completed its programme of local authority electoral reviews, the timing of the publication of the Electoral Orders meant that the rules for this review require the existing or previous electoral wards to be used. Accordingly these were uppermost in our minds, not other boundaries.

• It was essential to apply these principles equally and objectively to all parts of Wales, without favour to one area over another. Thus we gave no weight to arguments which implied that one constituency or area should be given priority or a status denied others.

• In terms of local ties, convenience or special geographical consideration factors, we sought to apply a modicum of common sense. So, for example, where a public transport network or roads might isolate a significant area of a proposed constituency, we sought to avoid that outcome (in particular any "detached parts"). But where accessing two points in the same constituency require a boundary to be crossed on a short stretch of road, we did not deem that significant in practical terms. A similar approach was taken in considering whether rivers, mountains and other natural features should form part of a boundary.

• We also reflected upon such issues as local/regional links in the business community and patterns of public service delivery, particularly in areas of Wales where people cross administrative boundaries on a daily basis. In our judgement this is the issue that matters to communities, not lines on maps - but we add a qualification.

A number of representations expressed concern about the impact of the review - almost regardless of the outcome - upon local services (hospitals, schools, public transport and others). However, whilst these are very relevant considerations in terms of local ties, transport links and other community factors, there is no direct link between Parliamentary constituency boundaries and the configuration of public service delivery in Wales. These are separate matters for the local authority, health board, third sector or other provider, very largely under the purview of the Welsh Government. In other words, these services are devolved and accordingly would be unaffected by this review.

Crucially, we attached a particular emphasis to the context provided by the Welsh language; and

• Also the demographics of ethnic minority communities under the statutory factor which discusses the cultural aspects of local ties³.

27. Beyond the statutory electoral range, Commission policy does not identify a hierarchy of other factors nor does the Act. We have attempted to deploy the principles consistently; but <u>not</u> rigidly as they apply differentially in parts of Wales depending upon the characteristics of local communities. Again, we point to Rule 5.1 in this regard as explained above.

28. Some arguments therefore proved more tangential than others in our deliberations depending upon those circumstances. We have also attached weight to the quality (and objectivity) of the evidence received as opposed to quantity on any one issue or area – although we have not ignored the weight of opinion in certain cases where it has been overwhelming. But that does not mean that we necessarily agree with all such views either.

29. This is not an exhaustive list; but there were a number of recurring objections to the Initial Proposals at local level during the initial consultation period including:

- Llangunnor and Maenclochog in West Wales;
- The make-up of constituencies in the Swansea area;

The Swansea and Upper Amman Valleys;

Although we do not agree that it is necessary for a minority community to be represented by a single Member of Parliament to the maximum extent possible: an argument made at a public hearing in relation to the Swansea West and Gower constituency.

- Dinas Powys, Taff's Well and Pontyclun and their links to Cardiff;
- The communities of the Cynon Valley and Nelson as well as the Caerphilly constituency itself; and

• The communities of Bagillt, Bangor, Bethesda and several areas in and around Wrexham (notably Brymbo and Minera) in North Wales.

30. Since completing the secondary consultation and the public hearings, we have noted an emerging proposal from two political parties in the Senedd to adopt the final outcome of the 2023 review as the basis for expanding the number of Senedd members – at least in the short term. This is entirely a matter for the Senedd and not within our remit.





Section C: Our recommendations

31. We now turn to our recommendations and their rationale. Where we concur with the Initial Proposals and the rationale that underpinned them, we say so and briefly why. Thus the focus of this section is largely on the changes we propose.

32. We also identify the key issues raised in evidence by the qualifying political parties¹ and our conclusions in this regard². In some cases, the parties endorsed the Initial Proposals but suggested alternative names for constituencies. We suggest alternatives where appropriate and consider the wider naming and designation issues towards the end of our report.

33. For completeness, we note that Welsh Labour, the Welsh Conservatives and the Welsh Liberal Democrats made supplementary submissions during the secondary consultation period³. Broadly, however, these reiterated what each had said previously with some exceptions (notably in the Welsh Liberal Democrat submission); but to a significant extent also they were a critique of each other's counter proposals.

34. For ease of reference below, our recommendations are split between regions of Wales. These regions have no other significance and there is a degree of overlap between them. A full list of how each electoral ward is allocated to a proposed constituency is at Appendix 1.

WEST WALES

35. We endorse the Initial Proposals in respect of the basic design of the **Ceredigion Preseli** constituency. There was also broad support for them from the qualifying political parties⁴.

36. We acknowledge comments that the proposed constituency covers a comparatively large geographical area (with the attendant challenges this brings); but on the other hand, it is a long way short of the maximum area permitted of 13,000km2 – and, given population sparsity, large areas covered by a single constituency are inevitable and already the case.

37. We also conclude that the boundaries proposed follow the most convenient road links available and are the best fit with administrative and natural boundaries, essentially, that between the principal local authority areas of Ceredigion and Powys administratively and the Dyfi Estuary naturally. We saw no advantage in the constituency traversing either.

38. However, we recommend some changes in the south of the constituency. The vast majority of the representations argued that the <u>Maenclochog</u> electoral ward (included initially in the Mid and South Pembrokeshire constituency) should be within Ceredigion Preseli based upon local ties, although the Member of Parliament for Preseli Pembrokeshire was opposed. On balance, we agree with this transfer.

39. However, to remain within the statutory electoral range in both constituencies, it requires a compensatory adjustment the other way. We therefore propose that the electoral wards of <u>St. David's, Solva and Letterston</u> be included with the **Canol a De Penfro/Mid and South Pembrokeshire** constituency. The transfer of St David's and Solva was supported by Welsh

¹ This means a political party registered with the Electoral Commission and has at least one MP in the region/nation concerned or received at least 10% of the vote in the most recent General Election there.

² NB The Welsh Labour submission in response to the Initial Proposals concurred with the overwhelming majority of these proposals, unless indicated otherwise.

³ Note: Plaid Cymru did not provide an official second submission; but left copies of their presentation at the final public hearing (as did the other qualifying political parties).

⁴ Although the Welsh Liberal Democrats initially referred to an alternative proposal from Ceredigion County Council; they subsequently withdrew support. In any event, we believe this to have sub-optimal consequences as it impacts adversely on adjacent constituencies. So we do not support it.

Labour and Plaid Cymru and at a public hearing, by a representative of the local constituency Labour Party specifically in relation to Letterston (although the inclusion of Letterston in the transfer was not supported by the political parties).

40. As regards the wider Mid and South Pembrokeshire constituency, we note some representations of essentially a local nature; but we again conclude that the Initial Proposals represented the best available footprint. We therefore support them (as do all the qualifying political parties).

41. Turning to the constituencies of **Caerfyrddin** and **Llanelli**, we largely considered them together as their propinquity results in the make-up of one directly impacting upon the other. Moreover, together they constitute the administrative area of Carmarthenshire County Council.

42. There is broad support from three of the qualifying political parties for the Initial Proposals; but we examined counter proposals including one from Plaid Cymru. However, this would mean extending the Llanelli constituency west of the Towy estuary and we are unable to support the inclusion within it of communities such as <u>Llansteffan</u> and <u>Laugharne</u>, based upon their local ties which, we were satisfied, are to Caerfyrddin and not Llanelli.

43. We also considered the case for joining the Ammanford area to the Llanelli constituency. However, on balance, we conclude that local ties and the incidence of the Welsh language (and other factors) across both constituencies was better served by the configuration of the Initial Proposals. We therefore support them, with one local exception.

44. That exception is the community of <u>Llangunnor</u>. Numerous representations opposed its inclusion within the proposed Llanelli constituency and we agree. It is de facto part of the town of Carmarthen and includes the railway station and the police station within the Dyfed Powys Police Headquarters. Accordingly, we recommend its inclusion in the constituency of Caerfyrddin, a position supported by the Welsh Conservatives and Plaid Cymru plus Carmarthenshire County Council.

45. We acknowledge that this transfer would leave the Llanelli constituency very close to the minimum of the statutory electorate range (if no other changes were made); but it would not fall below that threshold. This is also essentially why we were unable to meet other representations proposing transfers from Llanelli to Caerfyrddin.

46. In addition, counter proposals were made by the Welsh Conservatives (and by Plaid Cymru in respect of Saron) advocating the transfer of the <u>St Ismael</u> and <u>Llangynderyn</u> electoral wards from Llanelli to Caerfyrddin with a compensatory adjustment the other way involving the electoral wards of <u>Saron</u> and <u>Penygroes</u>. We were sympathetic in principle (particularly reflecting representations received from Ferryside); but we were unable to adopt it because we are advised that unless the electoral ward of <u>Llandybie</u> was also included with Saron/Penygroes, it would result in a split community which is contrary to Commission policy unless there are compelling reasons. However, the inclusion of Llandybie would result in the Caerfyrddin constituency falling below the statutory electoral minimum.

THE SWANSEA AREA

47. This is where the "Brecon and Radnor factor" is first felt. Essentially because we do not support the Initial Proposals for this constituency (see below).

48. Our starting point was to determine a configuration best reflecting the communities concerned in the context of the statutory factors. There are various permutations; but, for example, we do not support the notion that a constituency should cross the local authority boundary between the City and County of Swansea and Carmarthenshire.

49. Our proposals are driven by two main factors based on the local ties criterion. First, we strongly believe that the Swansea and Upper Amman Valleys should be part of the equation in this area⁵, and this necessitates a different shape of constituencies to meet the statutory electorate range. All of the area's social, economic, community and administrative ties are with the Swansea/Neath conurbation. Its inclusion within a Powys-based constituency meets few, if any, of the statutory factors in our view.

⁵

A point made strongly by Welsh Labour elected representatives locally, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and many others.

50. Second, the written and oral evidence highlighted the following:

• Particular reservations about the design of the proposed Swansea Central and North constituency in the Initial Proposals involving a boundary largely bisecting the administrative area of the Council, north to south from the semi-rural/rural <u>Pontardulais</u> and <u>Mawr</u> electoral wards to the city centre and the coast including a road network which does not align with the boundary at least in part. Points were made in the written representations and by the Members of Parliament for Swansea West (at a public hearing and in writing) and Gower (in writing);

• Objections to (and counter proposals for) the make-up of the Swansea West and Gower constituency, particularly the creation of a division between constituencies of the <u>Sketty</u> and <u>Uplands</u> wards plus the Loughor/Gorseinon/Pontardulais area, highlighted by the Welsh Labour submission and many others; and

• Numerous objections to the joining of Swansea East with Neath, particularly from the <u>Llansamlet</u> electoral ward, underlined at a public hearing. There were strong arguments that this community faces Swansea, not Neath, in terms of historical, economic and transport links.

51. We concur with these views and thus depart significantly from the Initial Proposals, influenced by two main counter proposals - from Welsh Labour and Plaid Cymru (the Welsh Conservatives support the Initial Proposals and we do not support the proposal of the Welsh Liberal Democrats).

52. We favour a hybrid of sorts which to an extent accords with the Welsh Labour representations on the make-up of constituencies; but includes an east/west design north of the City of Swansea (along the M4 motorway essentially) as proposed by Plaid Cymru.

53. Our design is not without precedent as the model bears a close similarity to area of the former Lliw Valley/Dyffryn Lliw District Borough Council which existed from 1974 to 1996. The western section of the proposed constituency is contained within the existing Gower constituency and the eastern section within the existing Neath constituency. In that vein, we believe that **Dyffryn Lliw/Lliw Valley** would be an appropriate name for such a constituency.

54. Our proposed changes to the **Gorllewin Abertawe a Gwyr/Swansea West and Gower**⁶ constituency are, in actuality, fairly minimal reflecting some of the representations made. The electoral wards of <u>Gorseinon</u> and <u>Penyrheol</u> would be removed, and the <u>Uplands</u> electoral ward added – uniting it with the Sketty ward in the same constituency. But otherwise it is the same as the Initial Proposals.

55. Whilst disagreeing that **Dwyrain Abertawe/Swansea East** should join with Neath, our proposal should be recognisable. It is fundamentally the existing constituency with some adjustments e.g. the <u>Castle and Townhill</u> electoral wards included.

56. These changes are also informed by our approach of attempting to resolve matters locally where possible. We explain our rationale in more detail below in relation to other parts of Wales.

THE NEATH, ABERAFAN AND BRIDGEND AREA

57. The consequence of the above suggestions for Swansea is that we favour neither the Initial Proposals nor the Welsh Liberal Democrat alternative for this area. However, we found it very difficult to avoid an arbitrary division between constituencies (ours separates the Upper Neath Valley - the <u>Glynneath</u> and <u>Blaengwrach</u> electoral wards - from the town). This is less than ideal; but necessary to meet other priorities in our judgement, namely:

Meeting the statutory electorate range by accommodating the Swansea and Upper Amman Valleys in the way

⁶ We note several representations about the name of this constituency – essentially to put "Gower" first based upon the assertion the majority of the electors reside in the existing Gower constituency. However, this is contestable depending upon where the "boundary" between the urban and rural parts of the constituency is drawn and we propose to remove wards from the existing Gower constituency in any event. On balance therefore, we would retain the name identified in the Initial Proposals.

we describe above (in other words, the arithmetical knock-on effect including the Neath area); and

• Providing an alternative to the proposed Aberafan Porthcawl constituency, which we do not support (also opposed by Plaid Cymru and the Welsh Liberal Democrats, although it was endorsed by the Members of Parliament for Aberavon and Ogmore with some adjustments in the Bridgend area e.g. the electoral ward of <u>Cefn Cribbwr</u>).

The proposals above necessitate a different design anyway and Aberafan Porthcawl was also the subject of significant opposition from both parts of the proposed constituency based upon local ties essentially.

58. We therefore propose a constituency made up of Neath town, the existing Aberafan constituency in large part and the <u>Maesteg East and West</u> electoral wards plus <u>Caerau</u> from the Bridgend County Borough administrative area. There are reasonably strong transport, community and other links between the Afan Valley and Maesteg; but much less so to the wider area in the existing Ogmore constituency.

59. So whilst we agree with the underlying premise of the counter proposal from the Welsh Conservatives based upon local ties and socio-economic factors (which suggest that Maesteg is more complementary with Aberafan), we propose a more limited incursion of the constituency into the administrative area of Bridgend County Borough Council.

60. We would name it Castell-nedd, Aberafan a Maesteg/Neath, Aberavon and Maesteg.

61. Whilst noting the comments of the Members of Parliament for Bridgend and Ogmore (and others), we essentially agree with the Initial Proposals for **Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr/Bridgend**. However, if the Maesteg area is removed, we propose adding the <u>Pyle</u> and <u>Cornelly</u> electoral wards to sustain the statutory electorate range – both within the Council's administrative area.

62. In addition our proposals partially remedy objections to the division of the town of Bridgend – for example in respect of the <u>Cefn Glas</u> electoral ward; but not <u>Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr</u> (which contain too many electors to be easily transferable). We return to Porthcawl and its surrounding area below.

VALE OF GLAMORGAN AND PORTHCAWL

63. We recognise an underlying attachment to the existing Vale of Glamorgan constituency (three of the four qualifying political parties supported it); but in the prevailing circumstances of the statutory electorate range and other factors, we do not find these arguments decisive for three main reasons:

• The primacy of the statutory electorate range and the arithmetic (number of electors) in the electoral wards dictate change somewhere in the area e.g. as evinced by the Initial Proposals in relation to Dinas Powys, which was the subject of a number of objections. Nor do we find particularly compelling, in isolation, the argument that the existing constituency is the only one in Wales currently within the range;

• The local authority administrative area and the existing constituency are already <u>not</u> coterminous. The former includes the town of Penarth; but the latter does not. Moreover, some arguments that the area is not closely linked to Cardiff appear rather over stated to us; and

• Most significantly the retention of the existing constituency in whole or very large part has, directly or indirectly, unsatisfactory consequences elsewhere in our view – both in relation to facilitating our proposed alternatives to the Aberafan Porthcawl constituency (and others further west) and particularly on the western side of Cardiff - and the make-up of the constituencies within that city.

64. We return to the Cardiff issues below; but to address them coherently a different design of constituency is first required here. Whilst doubtless imperfect in the eyes of some, this model is cohesive in terms of the statutory factors and minimises negative impacts elsewhere in our view. It is very similar to that proposed by Plaid Cymru.

65. We therefore propose that Porthcawl and the surrounding area should join with a large part of the existing Vale of Glamorgan constituency (supported by representations from the Porthcawl area); but excluding Barry and some adjacent electoral wards towards the local authority boundary with Cardiff We would name it **Bro Morgannwg a Phorthcawl/Vale of Glamorgan and Porthcawl**.

66. The full details are listed within Appendix 1; but in summary the changes are as follows. The electoral wards of <u>Baruc, Butrills, Cadoc, Castleland and Court</u> would be removed; but <u>Dinas Powys</u> would return to the Vale of Glamorgan constituency and the Porthcawl area would be added (from <u>Rest Bay</u> and <u>Nottage</u> in the west within the administrative area of Bridgend County Borough Council).

THE CARDIFF AREA

67. It follows from the above that adjustments are necessary in the constituencies within the administrative area of the City and County of Cardiff. The evidence from the Members of Parliament concerned favoured existing boundaries and the Initial Proposals (in oral and/or written evidence); but we believe our proposed changes are desirable (particularly in respect of the Cardiff West constituency and the unity of communities in the east of the city) or at least neutral - and necessary to meet the statutory electoral range.

68. The existing Cardiff South and Penarth constituency would move westwards. It would incorporate the Barry area listed above as well as retaining communities from Sully to Penarth within the Vale of Glamorgan Council's administrative area. The core of south Cardiff – the communities of Grangetown and Butetown - would also be retained within this constituency safeguarding local ties; but further adjustments are required in the east of the constituency. The electoral ward of <u>Adamsdown</u> would be added; but <u>Splott and Trowbridge</u> removed.

69. We propose to call it **Y Barri, De Caerdydd a Phenarth/Barry, Cardiff South and Penarth**. It is a significant change; but perhaps not as radical as it first appears given that the existing constituency takes in very different communities and crosses the local authority boundary between the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff. It also has the virtue of meeting the objections from the elected representatives and residents of <u>Dinas Powys</u>.

70. Once more it follows that further consequential adjustments in adjacent constituencies are required to meet the statutory electoral range. So having added/subtracted wards to/from Barry, Penarth and Cardiff South, a mirror image situation would apply to the existing constituency of Cardiff Central.

71. In addition, other changes are proposed to meet the statutory electoral range here; but also to resolve some objections received to the Initial Proposals (where we concur) as well as avoiding the less attractive alternatives mooted. However as these issues are more relevant to the Cardiff North and Cardiff West constituencies, we return to them below.

72. As regards Cardiff Central, the net result (in addition to the adjustments in the south listed above) is that we propose the removal of the electoral wards of <u>Cyncoed</u> and <u>Pentwyn</u>; but the addition of <u>Gabalfa</u>. All three move to/from Cardiff North.

73. We believe that naming this constituency **Canol a Dwyrain Caerdydd/Cardiff Central and East** would better reflect its composition and the local ties within the constituency as all of <u>Splott, Trowbridge, Rumney and Llanrumney</u> would be included. This was the thrust of the Welsh Conservatives and Welsh Liberal Democrats argument (in the make-up of a Cardiff South constituency), other representations and also addresses the point raised by the Welsh Conservatives regarding land links. However, we do not support their proposal to divide the area by incorporating the <u>Llanrumney</u> electoral ward into the Cardiff North constituency.

74. Broadly speaking there would also be a demarcation between this constituency and Cardiff North in the form of the A48 Eastern Avenue road (and Llanrumney is south of it). Moreover, the boundary between the cities of Cardiff and Newport is respected.

75. Moving to **Gogledd Caerdydd/Cardiff North**, the principal changes from the Initial Proposals have already been listed above in paragraph 72. We believe these proposals produce a cohesive all-round picture in that area of the capital both in terms of community identity and local ties; but we acknowledge there are contrary views (e.g. dividing the communities of Llandaff North and Gabalfa between different constituencies).

76. However, this model allows other objections to be met e.g. a number - including the Welsh Conservatives and the Pontypridd Constituency Labour Party - in relation to the <u>Taff's Well</u> electoral ward and disposes of possible alternatives (such as extending the constituency into Caerphilly) which we eschew.

77. Finally, in the Cardiff context, these recommendations allow for adjustments in the **Gorllewin Caerdydd/Cardiff West** constituency.

78. The fundamental point is that we strongly endorse the many objections received from the community of <u>Pontyclun</u>. The links between this community and the rest of the existing constituency are tenuous at best - much more so in our view than other areas discussed above where strong objections were made <u>and</u> in respect of various adjacent wards within the City and County of Cardiff (see below) which could potentially be in different constituencies.

79. Thus the inclusion of Pontyclun in the Cardiff West constituency meets few, if any, of the statutory factors in our judgement. We propose that the community is far more complementary with the Pontypridd constituency – also see below.

80. This would also require amendments to the boundaries of adjacent Cardiff constituencies to meet the statutory electoral range. In a different context, the qualifying political parties proposed several (e.g. the Welsh Conservatives in respect of Llandaff and Llandaff North and the Welsh Liberal Democrats in respect of Gabalfa and Heath).

81. In addition, a number of representations were received during the secondary consultation period opposing a proposal from the Welsh Conservatives to transfer the <u>Riverside</u> electoral ward to the Cardiff Central constituency. We note them; but propose no changes in this regard.

82. These various arguments – and those proposing the status quo – are reasonable; but there is no consensus. However, we conclude that it is more appropriate to address matters within the administrative area of the local authority, rather than extend the Cardiff West constituency beyond the city limits as the Welsh Liberal Democrats and others proposed. This would only compound the problems in our view. We acknowledge that taken in the round these proposals are a departure from the existing arrangements, but this is preferable to simply bolting on communities such as Pontyclun, Dinas Powys and Taff's Well to make up the numbers. In our view, fairer. Where possible issues should be resolved where they arise in our view, not displaced elsewhere – a proximity principle of sorts.

THE GLAMORGAN VALLEYS

83. In very large part, we conclude that the Initial Proposals represent the optimum solution for this area.

84. We examined possible alternatives (e.g. a "Heads of the Valleys" constituency running east/west); but found them deficient in terms of either the statutory electorate range, the other statutory factors or both. In particular, we are mindful not to traverse main Valleys (which run north/south) where at all possible as this would be contrary to the local ties criterion in particular.

85. Accordingly, we support the Initial Proposals for the **Rhondda** constituency in their entirety and we therefore do not support the Welsh Liberal Democrats proposal to combine the constituency with Ogmore. These are two very distinct communities.

86. We also support the basic composition of the proposed Pontypridd and Merthyr and Aberdare constituencies; but our focus was to address local objections at ward level – specifically the Cynon Valley and the community of <u>Nelson</u> - having

first taken account of the impact of our proposed retention of the Pontyclun and Taff's Well electoral wards within the Pontypridd constituency (from Cardiff West and Cardiff North respectively).

87. In summary we perhaps achieve partial remedy. Under our proposals, the community of Nelson would remain within a Caerphilly constituency – see below – and the electoral wards of <u>Aberaman South and North</u> would transfer from the Pontypridd constituency to **Merthyr ac Aberdâr/Merthyr and Aberdare**. The Aberaman change was supported by the Welsh Conservatives, the Welsh Liberal Democrats and Plaid Cymru as well as Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and written submissions received.

88. Ideally, we would prefer to treat the electoral wards of <u>Mountain Ash East and West</u> in a similar fashion as their inclusion in the Pontypridd constituency was also opposed by many (if perhaps not quite to the same extent as the Aberaman wards). However, the statutory electorate range would be undermined unless further changes were implemented and we found none which improved the overall position. Ultimately therefore we were defeated by the arithmetic in this locality.

89. As regards the Cynon Valley as a whole, we considered the points made by the Member of Parliament and a separate and detailed counter proposal⁷; but found the various options outlined in the latter deficient. They had far-reaching and negative consequences for several other adjacent constituencies, local communities (e.g. Treharris) and/or did not meet the statutory electoral range in one case - obliging us to reject it.

90. The other point is that we recommend renaming the constituency **Pontypridd a Llantrisant/Pontypridd and Llantrisant**, better reflecting its composition in our view.

THE GWENT AREA

91. There are two decisive and related factors in our thinking here:

• First, we believe the Initial Proposals for the area to be very largely the right ones – but with one major exception which is Caerphilly and its impact upon both Newport West and Islwyn; and

Second, in formulating an alternative here we attempted to eliminate any knock-on effects in the remainder of the area. This is because we support in their entirety the Initial Proposals in relation to the Blaenau Gwent a Rhymni/ Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney, Dwyrain Casnewydd/Newport East, Mynwy/Monmouthshire and Torfaen constituencies and do not wish to prejudice them. With the exception of Plaid Cymru, this position is shared by the qualifying political parties.

92. There is also a (cross party) consensus between the Members of Parliament for Monmouth and Torfaen – including the transfer of four electoral wards from the former to the latter – and between the Members of Parliament for Monmouth and Newport East regarding the relevant boundaries there. The Initial Proposals were also supported by all four political groups on Monmouthshire County Council, the Member of the Senedd for Monmouth, the Member of Parliament for Blaenau Gwent and others.

93. Whilst we examined various alternatives including the Plaid Cymru proposals for the area, we firmly conclude that the Initial Proposals are preferable based on local ties, the configuration of the road network and other statutory factors.

We return to this issue below in relation to the existing Brecon and Radnor constituency.

94. As regards Caerphilly, we accept as convincing the arguments for the retention of a constituency based upon the local ties between the town and the immediate surrounding area plus the strong argument concerning transport and other links to Cardiff (not Newport). Passionate, well-reasoned and cross-party arguments based on community links and

other factors were also made at the public hearings.

⁷ From the Cynon Valley Constituency Labour Party.

95. We note some support for the Initial Proposals (including the Welsh Conservatives); but the weight of evidence received was largely opposed to them, including from the then Leader of Caerphilly County Borough Council.

96. Representations were received from some Members of Parliament in the wider area advocating the status quo or minor departures from it; but limited to a single constituency, these are in effect mutually exclusive in the context of the statutory electorate range and wider considerations. For example, the counter proposal from the Members of Parliament and the Senedd for Newport West is not supported by their counterparts in Islwyn. Similarly, the proposals from Islwyn and Caerphilly are not aligned.

97. We conclude that Islwyn is more directly part of Newport's environs then Caerphilly, particularly in relation to the rail links highlighted above and a road network based upon the A467 – not the A468.

98. We therefore propose two different constituencies: **Caerffili/Caerphilly** plus **Gorllewin Casnewydd ac Islwyn/Newport West and Islwyn** – the former would also include the community of Nelson (see above).

99. The division of wards between the two constituencies is listed at Appendix 1. It is not identical to those arguing for the retention of Caerphilly (including the Member of Parliament) or the Welsh Liberal Democrats who put forward a proposal in respect of Newport West and Islwyn.

100. But concurring with the rationale, our recommendations are very similar and again the ubiquitous statutory

electorate range must be met. We also wish to address the position of the Nelson electoral ward as stated above.

MID AND NORTH WEST

101. As described above, the treatment of the existing Brecon and Radnor constituency has far-reaching consequences elsewhere and over quite a distance given elector sparsity in the area.

102. We have already explained our serious reservations about the inclusion of the Swansea and Upper Amman Valleys in this constituency. These communities are very distant from, and have little or nothing in common with, Presteigne, Rhayader and Llandrindod Wells. The argument put forward by the Welsh Conservatives that these Valleys are adjacent to Ystradgynlais is true; but not conclusive in isolation and significantly outweighed by opinion in the areas concerned. If anything, there is perhaps a stronger case based on local ties for including <u>Ystradgynlais</u> and the surrounding area of south west Powys within a constituency to the south; but the arithmetic of the statutory electoral range does not permit it.

103. Similar considerations apply to Plaid Cymru's proposed inclusion of the Abergavenny area within the Brecon and Radnor constituency. We found this equally unattractive. It would have egregious consequences for Monmouthshire and the coherence of the wider Gwent area. As with Cardiff/Vale of Glamorgan and parts of the Swansea area, we believe it far more equitable to first consider solutions within the immediate area where possible, rather than look elsewhere essentially just to make up the numbers.

104. Our thinking was also informed by travel patterns, local ties, the make-up of the business community and public service delivery in the area – particularly the reality that constituents in border areas (with other Welsh local authorities and England) cross those borders daily to access health and education services in particular.

105. As noted above, we examined a number of possible alternatives for Brecon and Radnor (including abolishing the constituency); but they did not work for one reason or another. The common denominator was, again, the statutory electorate range and the fact that negative impacts elsewhere were magnified, not reduced.

106. Thus, in the final analysis, we propose extending the Brecon and Radnor constituency north – not south – to take in electoral wards in the south of the existing Montgomeryshire constituency including those which make up <u>Newtown</u>.

All of this area is within the administrative area of Powys County Council and the model was advanced by the Welsh Liberal Democrats. We agree with the rationale. The party also made detailed arguments in respect of education and transport links in support of their case at a public hearing. The ward level detail is again at Appendix 1.

107. In our judgement this scores far better against the statutory factors compared to the Initial Proposals and other alternatives. We also propose to rename the constituency **Canol a De Powys/Mid and South Powys** as the existing

name would not accurately reflect the constituency.

108. These proposals obviously leave the existing Montgomeryshire constituency significantly short of the required electorate range minimum.

109. We acknowledge strong representations (both written and oral) advocating the retention of a Montgomeryshire constituency essentially for cultural and historical reasons; but do not regard them as decisive. As with Brecon and Radnor, this creates too many negatives consequences elsewhere in our judgement.

110. In addition we would make three other observations in this regard:

• First, preservation of the historic county of Montgomeryshire is unfortunately not an option that is on the table in reality. The existing constituency contains fewer than 50,000 electors (a very long way short of the statutory minimum and complying with the fundamental requirement of the Act) and the Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr constituency in the Initial

Proposals therefore already incorporates more than 30% of its electors from elsewhere;

• Second, whilst there is strong support within the county for incorporating an area variously described as Glyndwr, Clwyd South or a range of different electoral wards, this is not a view shared by a significant number of comments from the areas concerned; and

• Third, one might imagine that if the arguments made in support of Montgomeryshire were to be regarded as being as compelling as various submissions that we read and heard, then it could have been afforded protected status by Parliament. It was not.

111. Fundamentally, all of this presents two options for rectifying the situation. Either Montgomeryshire could be extended further north as per the Initial Proposals with some additional adjustments necessary **or** it could incorporate a significant part of the Meirionnydd area.

112. It is a judgement call; but we apply the statutory factors and conclude in favour of the latter - joining the remainder of the constituency to an area of Meirionnydd as far north west as Harlech to form a cohesive constituency in its own right, meeting the statutory factors as far as is possible in a large rural area⁸. We see no fundamental reason why a constituency should not extend from the English border to the coast if its design meets the statutory criteria. Again comfortably within the maximum area permitted.

113. This proposal is conditioned by the underlying conundrum in the wider area: there are simply insufficient electors to meet both the strong objections received and the statutory electorate range without significant incursions into at least two of the Dwyfor Meirionnydd, Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr and Aberconwy constituencies as set out in the Initial Proposals. In respect of the last two named opinion was divided anyway on their make-up from a number of different

perspectives.

114. We propose to call the constituency Maldwyn a Meirionnydd/ Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd.

115.Accounting for the transfer of the Meirionydd area (see above), we now recommend the creation of a8Even accounting for such factors as the geography of the Berwyn range.

constituency based on the Llyn peninsula, the Caernarfon/Bangor areas and extending into what is the Aberconwy constituency in the Initial Proposals.

116. We believe this has three principal advantages:

• First, in our view it permits the creation of a constituency in North West Wales optimising the cultural identity and Welsh language characteristics of the area. We regard this as an overarching priority; but options in the area are limited by the protected status afforded to Ynys Môn. The concept – similar to ours – was advocated by Plaid Cymru.

Our proposals also resolve the strong opposition to the Initial Proposals regarding the division of the City of Bangor - perhaps particularly in respect of the communities of <u>Pentir</u> and <u>Penrhosgarnedd</u> and the inclusion of Bethesda (<u>Ogwen</u>) in the Aberconwy constituency. There were a very substantial number of objections to both⁹ and we agree that they represent significant drawbacks by creating such divisions;

• Second, the alternatives potentially create an excess of irregular or arbitrary boundaries from a local community perspective in the environs of the North Wales coast - although we acknowledge that our proposals do not totally eliminate this issue (see below in respect of Ruabon and Chirk in particular); and

• Third, there are limited options to accommodate the statutory electorate range coherently given (in relative terms) population sparsity in the west of North Wales and density further east. But our preferred option is at least generally more conducive to meeting its primacy.

117. We propose to name this constituency **Menai**.

THE NORTH COAST AND ITS ENVIRONS

118. The net effect of Menai is to require the boundaries of constituencies along the coast to move to the east (and to a lesser extent south) to meet the statutory electorate range.

119. There are two basic design options for the area: North/South to link coastal towns to their environs <u>or</u> East/ West (along the A55) as proposed by Plaid Cymru for example. Opinion was again divided; but on the basis of the statutory factors - particularly local ties - we favour the former.

120. Our proposed changes are significant (particularly in respect of Aberconwy, if less so in relation to Delyn); but consistent with many representations received. Full details at ward level are contained in Appendix 1; but in summary Aberconwy¹⁰ and Clwyd would be replaced by what we have called:

• **Conwy a Gorllewin Clwyd/Conwy and Clwyd West** (including areas such as Conwy, the Llandudno area, Colwyn, Deganwy and Llandrillo yn Rhos); and

• **Dinbych a De Clwyd/Denbigh and Clwyd South** (including areas such as Denbigh, Kinmel Bay, St Asaph, Rhyl, Corwen and Llangollen). Thus it would incorporate a significant area of the existing constituencies of Clywd West, Clwyd South and the Vale of Clwyd.

121. The Delyn constituency remains and retains <u>Prestatyn</u> and the town's immediate vicinity. However, several representations argued in favour of a name change to **Dwyrain Clwyd/Clwyd East**. We agree with that.

122. These permutations do not meet all of the objections to the Initial Proposals across the wider area; but perhaps satisfy most of the recurring representations including:

⁹ Including from a local Councillor at a public hearing in relation to the City of Bangor and the electoral wards affected.

¹⁰ We also note several representations from both areas suggesting that Bangor and Aberconwy were not mutually complementary as per the Initial Proposals.

• Reuniting the communities of <u>Colwyn Bay</u> and <u>Llandrillo yn Rhos</u> in a single constituency (separated in the Initial Proposals). This was strongly advocated by the Members of Parliament and the Senedd for Clwyd West – and the former outlined his arguments in detail at a public hearing. It was also the subject of representations from others including at a second public hearing. We agree;

• Sustaining the links between <u>Kinmel Bay</u>, <u>Rhyl</u> and <u>Towyn</u> in a single constituency which was a common theme in numerous representations. Again, we agree;

• Also retaining the links between <u>Prestatyn</u> and surrounding communities such as <u>Gronant, Ffynnongroew</u>, <u>Trelawnyd</u> and <u>Gwaenysgor</u>;

• Removing the community of <u>Ruthin</u> from the Delyn constituency – another common theme, including representations from the Member of Parliament for the Vale of Clwyd. The division of the two by the Clwydian range was a legitimate argument in our view, so we agree; and

• Ensuring that the adjacent electoral wards of <u>Llangollen, Llangollen Rural</u> and <u>Corwen</u> stay together (although opinion was divided regarding which constituency was most appropriate - some respondents favouring alignment with the existing constituency of Dwyfor Meirionnydd, others a "Clwyd" or Wrexham solution);

NORTH EAST

123. As a relatively densely populated area, the issues again crystallise around meeting the primacy of the statutory electorate range. This is particularly the case in two areas which were the subject of objections.

124. There were several representations advocating the inclusion of the <u>Flint</u> and <u>Bagillt</u> electoral wards in the **Alun a Glannau Dyfrdwy/Alyn and Deeside** constituency, not Delyn/Clwyd East. However, the six wards most directly concerned (from Bagillt West to Flint Oakenholt) contain in excess of 12,500 electors. Thus the statutory electorate range would be seriously undermined in both constituencies without major adjustments and we conclude that the counter proposals to meet that requirement do not improve the overall cohesion of the area.

125. We therefore favour a model similar to the Initial Proposals for the constituency; but with the more limited transfer of the electoral wards of <u>Northop</u> and <u>Northop Hall</u> to Alyn and Deeside from Delyn/Clwyd East (which was advanced by one respondent at a public hearing). The former constituency would also include the electoral wards of <u>Rossett</u> and <u>Marford</u> <u>and Hoseley</u> from Wrexham. Rossett in particular appears to have some affinity with Alyn and Deeside.

126. Accordingly, we acknowledge that our proposal regarding the **Wrecsam/Wrexham** constituency will be perceived by many as less than ideal (as were the Initial Proposals); but without detaching some electoral wards it is impossible to meet the statutory electorate range without major incursions into other areas, which we consider undesirable. It for this reason we did not follow the counter proposal of the Welsh Conservatives for example. In particular, we concluded that their design of a "Clwyd East" constituency did not meet the weight of evidence from the area.

127. For similar reasons to Flint/Bagillt, we were unable to meet the objections to the exclusion of the <u>Ruabon</u>, <u>Llangollen</u> and <u>Chirk</u> areas from the Wrexham constituency.

128. We acknowledge the representations from these communities highlighting local ties with Wrexham; but it is not possible to include all of them within the constituency as the statutory electorate maximum would be exceeded by some 10-15,000 electors depending upon where the boundaries were drawn. Conversely, the electorate in the Montgomeryshirebased constituency (under either the Initial Proposals or our alternative proposals) would drop below the minimum required.

129. There was, explicitly or implicitly, an acceptance of this from most elected representatives.

130. However, our alternative would enable the transfer in the Initial Proposals of the <u>Brymbo</u> and <u>Minera</u> electoral wards from Wrexham to Alyn and Deeside to be reversed. This has been the subject of numerous objections, supported by the Members of Parliament for Wrexham and Clwyd South (in writing and at a public hearing), plus other elected representatives. We concur with this view.

YNYS MÔN

131. The constituency is unchanged given its protected status under the terms of the Review.





Section D: Naming and Designation

132. Our starting point in this context is the requirements of the Act and stated Commission policy as set out on pages 6 and 7 of the Initial Proposals.

133. We largely concur with the names assigned to the proposed constituencies in the Initial Proposals <u>where we</u> recommend relatively minor or no change to boundaries. The two exceptions are Pontypridd and Delyn as noted above.

134. Elsewhere, <u>where we propose more significant changes to boundaries</u>, alternative names are recommended – also stated at various points above.

135. However, we do recommend that once the Commissioners have determined how to proceed, the Commission should engage in a final check with the Office of the Welsh Language Commissioner and the local authorities concerned on place names under the terms of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

136. For the avoidance of doubt, we are not proposing another round of consultation on this issue. We simply wish to ensure complete accuracy (and the optimal naming of constituencies from the perspective of the communities they serve) as none of us would claim to be forensic linguists. In any event, we recommend putting the Welsh language place name first as indicated in the main body of this report above.

137. In the context of designation, we have again followed the legislation and extant Commission policy. Most are designated as county constituencies: the exceptions are those proposed borough constituencies listed alphabetically below:

- Barry, Penarth and Cardiff South;
- Cardiff Central and East;
- Cardiff North;
- Cardiff West;
- Newport East; and
- Swansea East.

Other Issues

138. First, in formulating these proposals we believe we had a duty to reflect at least upon whether or not they would enhance **participation in the democratic process** (however indirectly). The UK Government, Welsh Government, the Senedd Commission, the Electoral Commission, Local Authorities and others rightly devote much time and effort to promoting it.

139. Increasing participation is an objective that all stakeholders share – we came across no one who demurred. However, the electoral landscape in Wales is increasingly complex from the elector's perspective – and this complexity could be a barrier to participation in certain circumstances.

140. Our remit does not extend in any way, shape or form to devolved elections or constitutional matters; but different elections in Wales already take place under different voting systems, variable franchises as between them and, possibly in the future, different geographical constituency footprints. So we conclude that any impact of our proposals on participation would be at the extreme margins. Nonetheless we believe it important to record the fact that we at least considered the matter within the confines of our remit.

141. Second, some representations were received from **electoral administrators** concerning changes that could make their role more complex. Essentially, this boils down to the fact that the less there are coterminous boundaries between constituencies and principal local authorities, the more complex it becomes in administrative terms.

142. We acknowledge the logic of these arguments; but in the final analysis, we felt compelled to regard them as secondary. The increasing complexity discussed above is a fact – notwithstanding the outcome of this review. Nonetheless our proposals have more constituencies contained within a single local authority administrative area than the Initial Proposals as noted below.

143. Third, both written and oral representations have raised the issue of the impact of the Initial (or any) Proposals on the **workload of Members of Parliament and their support staff**, particularly where new constituency boundaries would require contact with two or more local authorities for example. It is a valid point; but it is equally the case that this workload is now shared between Members of Parliament and Members of the Senedd, particularly where a constituency is represented by an MP and an MS from the same political party, who often share a constituency office.

144. Fourth, the issue of constituency boundaries cutting across the administrative areas of **town or community councils** has also been raised. Again, it is a valid point. However, in our judgement this is very much another secondary consideration.

145. We accept extant Commission policy regarding a presumption against "split communities;" but the geography of town and community councils does not cover the whole of Wales (far from it) - or even the whole of certain existing constituencies. So, given the multiple levels of governance in Wales, this incongruity is almost inevitable somewhere. We also question whether community council boundaries and the public's perspective of community are one and the same thing in certain areas.

Conclusion

146. A map illustrating the overall picture produced by our recommendations is at Appendix 2.

147. In summary, we conclude that the Initial Proposals represent a sound basis for more than half the constituencies in Wales with only minor modifications or none. However, there are areas where we believe that an alternative approach is preferable.

148. We do not agree with all the objections; but our approach meets a significant majority of the recurring themes where we do concur. However our proposals will almost certainly provoke local opposition, some of it quite strident. But we urge all respondents to consider the wider all-Wales position. We could not do otherwise.

149. In terms of the alignment with principal local authority boundaries, our proposals include two constituencies which straddle three local authority boundaries¹ whilst the Initial Proposals had one; but our proposals have 19 constituencies contained within a single local authority, compared to 17 in the Initial Proposals and three fewer constituencies covering two local authority areas. Moreover, both the Initial Proposals and these have the same number of constituencies above or below the UKEQ.

150. It is perhaps a subjective concept; but overall we believe that these proposals are fairer and more balanced allround. Specifically, we have attempted to resolve issues and objections in the immediate (and/or adjacent) area where they arise and where possible, not further afield. The electoral map of Wales should not and cannot revolve around a limited number of constituencies or areas in our view.

151. However, we end where we began: there is no perfect solution on an all-Wales basis.

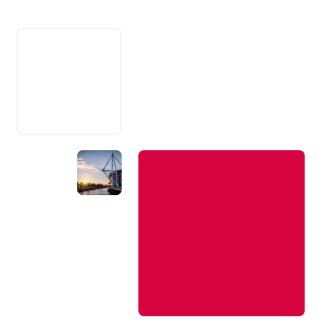
STEVEN PHILLIPS (Lead Assistant Commissioner)

ANDREW CLEMES

Dr GWENLLIAN LANSDOWN DAVIES

Dr ARUN MIDHA

Assistant Commissioners



A by product of keeping the single ward of Llangollen Rural with the rest of its immediate locality – see paragraph 122 above.

1

Appendix A: Detailed Electoral Ward Information and Data

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Aston	2,508	Alyn and Deeside
Broughton North East	1,723	Alyn and Deeside
Broughton South	3,325	Alyn and Deeside
Buckley Bistre East	2,653	Alyn and Deeside
Buckley Bistre West	3,182	Alyn and Deeside
Buckley Mountain	2,555	Alyn and Deeside
Buckley Pentrobin	4,181	Alyn and Deeside
Caergwrle	1,225	Alyn and Deeside
Connah's Quay Central	2,213	Alyn and Deeside
Connah's Quay Golftyn	3,688	Alyn and Deeside
Connah's Quay South	4,494	Alyn and Deeside
Connah's Quay Wepre	1,647	Alyn and Deeside
Ewloe	4,327	Alyn and Deeside
Hawarden	1,623	Alyn and Deeside
Higher Kinnerton	1,373	Alyn and Deeside
Норе	2,042	Alyn and Deeside
Llanfynydd	1,483	Alyn and Deeside
Mancot	2,516	Alyn and Deeside
Marford and Hoseley	1,824	Alyn and Deeside
Northop	2,596	Alyn and Deeside
Northop Hall	1,398	Alyn and Deeside
Penyffordd	3,543	Alyn and Deeside
Queensferry	1,248	Alyn and Deeside
Rossett	2,643	Alyn and Deeside
Saltney Mold Junction	1,100	Alyn and Deeside
Saltney Stonebridge	2,672	Alyn and Deeside
Sealand	2,026	Alyn and Deeside
Shotton East	1,219	Alyn and Deeside
Shotton Higher	1,669	Alyn and Deeside
Shotton West	1,464	Alyn and Deeside
Treuddyn	1,346	Alyn and Deeside
	71,506	

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Adamsdown	5,692	Barry, Cardiff South and Penarth
Baruc	6,080	Barry, Cardiff South and Penarth
Butetown	7,834	Barry, Cardiff South and Penarth
Buttrills	4,447	Barry, Cardiff South and Penarth
Cadoc	7,244	Barry, Cardiff South and Penarth
Castleland	3,442	Barry, Cardiff South and Penarth
Cornerswell	4,069	Barry, Cardiff South and Penarth
Court	3,370	Barry, Cardiff South and Penarth
Grangetown	13,257	Barry, Cardiff South and Penarth
Llandough	1,578	Barry, Cardiff South and Penarth
Plymouth	4,584	Barry, Cardiff South and Penarth
St. Augustine's	5,318	Barry, Cardiff South and Penarth
Stanwell	3,365	Barry, Cardiff South and Penarth
Sully	3,696	Barry, Cardiff South and Penarth
	72 076	

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Aberbargoed	2,706	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney
Abertillery	3,074	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney
Badminton	2,452	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney
Bargoed	4,431	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney
Beaufort	2,717	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney
Blaina	3,497	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney
Brynmawr	4,028	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney
Cwm	3,254	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney
Cwmtillery	3,383	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney
Darren Valley	1,870	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney
Ebbw Vale North	3,268	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney
Ebbw Vale South	2,959	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney
Georgetown	3,091	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney
Gilfach	1,534	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney
Llanhilleth	3,387	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney
Moriah	3,128	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney
Nantyglo	3,350	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney
New Tredegar	3,357	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney
Pontlottyn	1,432	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney
Rassau	2,463	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney
Sirhowy	4,210	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney
Six Bells	1,740	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney
Tredegar Central and West	4,027	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney
Twyn Carno	1,721	Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Aberkenfig	1,868	Bridgend
Bettws	1,595	Bridgend
Blackmill	1,839	Bridgend
Blaengarw	1,333	Bridgend
Brackla	8,276	Bridgend
Bryncethin	1,261	Bridgend
Bryncoch	1,757	Bridgend
Cefn Cribwr	1,180	Bridgend
Cefn Glas	1,360	Bridgend
Coity	3,006	Bridgend
Cornelly	5,359	Bridgend
Coychurch Lower	1,160	Bridgend
Felindre	2,087	Bridgend
Hendre	3,175	Bridgend
Litchard	2,080	Bridgend
Llangeinor	887	Bridgend
Llangewydd and Brynhyfryd	1,878	Bridgend
Llangynwyd	2,351	Bridgend
Morfa	3,210	Bridgend
Nant-y-moel	1,745	Bridgend
Newcastle	4,287	Bridgend
Ogmore Vale	2,357	Bridgend
Oldcastle	3,783	Bridgend
Pendre	1,654	Bridgend
Penprysg	2,474	Bridgend
Pen-y-fai	1,853	Bridgend
Pontycymmer	1,773	Bridgend
Pyle	5,545	Bridgend
Sarn	1,786	Bridgend
Ynysawdre	2,748	Bridgend

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1,678	Caerfyrddin
2,307	Caerfyrddin
1,963	Caerfyrddin
3,277	Caerfyrddin
2,040	Caerfyrddin
1,503	Caerfyrddin
2,196	Caerfyrddin
1,629	Caerfyrddin
2,772	Caerfyrddin
2,077	Caerfyrddin
1,656	Caerfyrddin
2,027	Caerfyrddin
1,816	Caerfyrddin
2,347	Caerfyrddin
2,092	Caerfyrddin
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	Caerfyrddin
3,353	Caerfyrddin
2,500	Caerfyrddin
1,754	Caerfyrddin
1,830	Caerfyrddin
	1,705 1,678 2,307 1,963 3,277 2,040 1,503 2,196 1,629 2,772 2,077 1,656 2,027 1,816 2,347 2,092 0 2,218 3,353 2,500 1,754

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Aber Valley	4,655	Caerphilly
Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen	7,902	Caerphilly
Cefn Fforest	2,845	Caerphilly
Hengoed	4,055	Caerphilly
Llanbradach	3,239	Caerphilly
Maesycwmmer	1,811	Caerphilly
Morgan Jones	5,636	Caerphilly
Nelson	3,563	Caerphilly
Pengam	2,760	Caerphilly
Penyrheol	9,021	Caerphilly
Pontllanfraith	6,343	Caerphilly
St. Cattwg	5,579	Caerphilly
St. James	4,267	Caerphilly
St. Martins	6,582	Caerphilly
Ystrad Mynach	4,067	Caerphilly
Pontllanfraith St. Cattwg St. James St. Martins	6,343 5,579 4,267 6,582	Caerphilly Caerphilly Caerphilly Caerphilly

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Cathays	13,099	Cardiff Central and East
Gabalfa	5,922	Cardiff Central and East
Llanrumney	7,758	Cardiff Central and East
Penylan	9,858	Cardiff Central and East
Plasnewydd	12,285	Cardiff Central and East
Rumney	6,536	Cardiff Central and East
Splott	9,081	Cardiff Central and East
Trowbridge	11,076	Cardiff Central and East

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Cyncoed	8,475	Cardiff North
Heath	9,611	Cardiff North
Lisvane	2,942	Cardiff North
Llanishen	13,492	Cardiff North
Pentwyn	10,783	Cardiff North
Pontprennau/Old St. Mellons	8,047	Cardiff North
Rhiwbina	9,354	Cardiff North
Whitchurch and Tongwynlais	12,928	Cardiff North
	75,632	

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Caerau	7,859	Cardiff West
Canton	11,457	Cardiff West
Creigiau/St. Fagans	4,409	Cardiff West
Ely	9,576	Cardiff West
Fairwater	9,642	Cardiff West
Llandaff	7,078	Cardiff West
Llandaff North	5,992	Cardiff West
Pentyrch	2,819	Cardiff West
Radyr	5,425	Cardiff West
Riverside	9,621	Cardiff West
	72 070	

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Aberaeron	1,088	Ceredigion Preseli
Aberporth	1,839	Ceredigion Preseli
Aberteifi/Cardigan-Mwldan	1,522	Ceredigion Preseli
Aberteifi/Cardigan-Rhyd-y-Fuwch	895	Ceredigion Preseli
Aberteifi/Cardigan-Teifi	824	Ceredigion Preseli
Aberystwyth Bronglais		Ceredigion Preseli
Aberystwyth Canol/Central		Ceredigion Preseli
Aberystwyth Gogledd/North		Ceredigion Preseli
Aberystwyth Penparcau		Ceredigion Preseli
Aberystwyth Rheidol		Ceredigion Preseli
Beulah		Ceredigion Preseli
Borth		Ceredigion Preseli
Capel Dewi		Ceredigion Preseli
Ceulanamaesmawr		Ceredigion Preseli
Cilgerran		Ceredigion Preseli
Ciliau Aeron		Ceredigion Preseli
Clydau		Ceredigion Preseli
Crymych		Ceredigion Preseli
Dinas Cross		Ceredigion Preseli
Faenor		Ceredigion Preseli
Fishguard North East		Ceredigion Preseli
Fishguard North West		Ceredigion Preseli
Goodwick		Ceredigion Preseli
		-
Lampeter Llanarth		Ceredigion Preseli
		Ceredigion Preseli
Llanbadarn Fawr-Padarn		Ceredigion Preseli
Llanbadarn Fawr-Sulien		Ceredigion Preseli
Llandyfriog		Ceredigion Preseli
Llandysilio-gogo		Ceredigion Preseli
Llandysul Town		Ceredigion Preseli
Llanfarian		Ceredigion Preseli
Llanfihangel Ystrad		Ceredigion Preseli
Llangeitho		Ceredigion Preseli
Llangybi		Ceredigion Preseli
Llanrhian		Ceredigion Preseli
Llanrhystyd		Ceredigion Preseli
Llansantffraed		Ceredigion Preseli
Llanwenog		Ceredigion Preseli
Lledrod		Ceredigion Preseli
Maenclochog		Ceredigion Preseli
Melindwr		Ceredigion Preseli
New Quay		Ceredigion Preseli
Newport		Ceredigion Preseli
Penbryn		Ceredigion Preseli
Pen-parc		Ceredigion Preseli
Scleddau		Ceredigion Preseli
St. Dogmaels		Ceredigion Preseli
Tirymynach		Ceredigion Preseli
Trefeurig	1,382	Ceredigion Preseli
Tregaron	951	Ceredigion Preseli
Troedyraur		Ceredigion Preseli
Ystwyth	1,673	Ceredigion Preseli
	74,063	

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Argoed	2,167	Clwyd East
Bagillt East	1,413	Clwyd East
Bagillt West	1,625	Clwyd East
Brynford	1,789	Clwyd East
Caerwys	2,050	Clwyd East
Cilcain	1,519	Clwyd East
Dyserth	1,882	Clwyd East
Ffynnongroyw	1,474	Clwyd East
Flint Castle	1,426	Clwyd East
Flint Coleshill	2,938	Clwyd East
Flint Oakenholt	2,538	Clwyd East
Flint Trelawny	2,710	Clwyd East
Greenfield	1,983	Clwyd East
Gronant	1,257	Clwyd East
Gwernaffield	1,646	Clwyd East
Gwernymynydd	1,399	Clwyd East
Halkyn	1,427	Clwyd East
Holywell Central	1,465	Clwyd East
Holywell East	1,383	Clwyd East
Holywell West	1,762	Clwyd East
Leeswood	1,627	Clwyd East
Llanarmon-yn-Ial/Llandegla	2,033	Clwyd East
Mold Broncoed	2,134	Clwyd East
Mold East	1,556	Clwyd East
Mold South	2,201	Clwyd East
Mold West	1,956	Clwyd East
Mostyn	1,458	Clwyd East
New Brighton	2,414	Clwyd East
Prestatyn Central	2,829	Clwyd East
Prestatyn East	3,162	Clwyd East
Prestatyn Meliden	1,529	Clwyd East
Prestatyn North	4,729	Clwyd East
Prestatyn South West	2,861	Clwyd East
Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor	1,496	Clwyd East
Whitford	1,911	Clwyd East
	69,749	

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Betws yn Rhos	1,623	Conwy and Clwyd West
Betws-y-Coed	967	Conwy and Clwyd West
Caerhun	1,677	Conwy and Clwyd West
Colwyn	3,373	Conwy and Clwyd West
Conwy	3,295	Conwy and Clwyd West
Craig-y-Don	2,685	Conwy and Clwyd West
Crwst	1,581	Conwy and Clwyd West
Deganwy	3,289	Conwy and Clwyd West
Eglwysbach	1,257	Conwy and Clwyd West
Eirias	2,800	Conwy and Clwyd West
Gele	3,997	Conwy and Clwyd West
Glyn	3,088	Conwy and Clwyd West
Gogarth	2,795	Conwy and Clwyd West
Gower	850	Conwy and Clwyd West
Llanddulas	1,353	Conwy and Clwyd West
Llandrillo yn Rhos	6,110	Conwy and Clwyd West
Llangernyw	1,104	Conwy and Clwyd West
Llansanffraid	1,814	Conwy and Clwyd West
Llysfaen	1,906	Conwy and Clwyd West
Marl	3,539	Conwy and Clwyd West
Mochdre	1,425	Conwy and Clwyd West
Mostyn	2,758	Conwy and Clwyd West
Penrhyn	3,874	Conwy and Clwyd West
Pensarn	2,274	Conwy and Clwyd West
Rhiw	4,991	Conwy and Clwyd West
Trefriw	1,026	Conwy and Clwyd West
Tudno	3,591	Conwy and Clwyd West
Uwch Conwy	1,276	Conwy and Clwyd West
	70,318	

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Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Abergele Pensarn	1,959	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Bodelwyddan	1,612	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Corwen	1,799	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Denbigh Central	1,462	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Denbigh Lower	3,483	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Denbigh Upper/Henllan	2,265	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Efenechtyd	1,321	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Kinmel Bay	4,607	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd/Llangynhafal	1,170	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Llandrillo	931	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Llandyrnog	1,765	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Gwyddelwern	1,830	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Llangollen	3,302	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Llangollen Rural	1,631	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Llanrhaeadr-yng-Nghinmeirch	1,496	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Llansannan	1,495	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Pentre Mawr	2,861	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Rhuddlan	2,913	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Rhyl East	3,693	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Rhyl South	2,874	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Rhyl South East	6,253	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Rhyl South West	3,732	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Rhyl West	3,283	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Ruthin	4,260	Denbigh and Clwyd South
St. Asaph East	1,472	Denbigh and Clwyd South
St. Asaph West	1,290	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Towyn	1,845	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Trefnant	1,503	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Tremeirchion	1,344	Denbigh and Clwyd South
Uwchaled	1,139	Denbigh and Clwyd South

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Bigyn	4,544	Llanelli
Burry Port	3,278	Llanelli
Bynea	3,282	Llanelli
Dafen		Llanelli
Elli	2,357	Llanelli
Felinfoel	1,334	Llanelli
Glanymor	4,312	Llanelli
Glyn	1,661	Llanelli
Gorslas	3,906	Llanelli
Hendy	2,697	Llanelli
Hengoed	3,352	Llanelli
Kidwelly	2,818	Llanelli
Llangennech	3,954	Llanelli
Llangyndeyrn	2,905	Llanelli
Llannon	4,079	Llanelli
Lliedi	3,825	Llanelli
Llwynhendy	3,010	Llanelli
Pembrey	3,417	Llanelli
Pontyberem	2,154	Llanelli
St. Ishmael	2,318	Llanelli
Swiss Valley	2,097	Llanelli
Trimsaran	1,887	Llanelli
Tycroes	1,862	Llanelli
Tyisha	2,390	Llanelli

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Aberdulais	1,712	Lliw Valley
Allt-Wen	2,023	Lliw Valley
Blaengwrach	1,491	Lliw Valley
Bryn-Coch North	1,787	Lliw Valley
Bryn-Coch South	4,547	Lliw Valley
Cadoxton	1,365	Lliw Valley
Clydach	5,821	Lliw Valley
Coedffranc Central	2,892	Lliw Valley
Coedffranc North	1,811	Lliw Valley
Coedffranc West	3,587	Lliw Valley
Crynant	1,508	Lliw Valley
Cwmllynfell	921	Lliw Valley
Dyffryn	2,447	Lliw Valley
Glynneath	2,577	Lliw Valley
Godre'r Graig	1,514	Lliw Valley
Gorseinon	3,340	Lliw Valley
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen	2,220	Lliw Valley
Kingsbridge	3,506	Lliw Valley
Llangyfelach	3,946	Lliw Valley
Lower Brynamman	1,040	Lliw Valley
Mawr	1,438	Lliw Valley
Onllwyn	935	Lliw Valley
Penllergaer	2,553	Lliw Valley
Penyrheol	4,621	Lliw Valley
Pontardawe	4,283	Lliw Valley
Pontardulais	4,954	Lliw Valley
Rhos	1,997	Lliw Valley
Seven Sisters	1,554	Lliw Valley
Trebanos	1,092	Lliw Valley
Ystalyfera	2,169	Lliw Valley

Electoral Ward	Electors Proposed Constituency
Aberdovey	907 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Abermaw	1,591 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Bala	1,413 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Banwy	847 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Berriew	1,102 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Bowydd and Rhiw	1,235 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Brithdir and Llanfachreth/Ganllwyd/Llanelltyd	1,132 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Bryn-crug/Llanfihangel	772 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Caersws	1,831 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Cefn	3,768 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Chirk North	1,846 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Chirk South	1,503 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Corris/Mawddwy	1,023 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Diffwys and Maenofferen	779 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Dolforwyn	1,652 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Dolgellau North	953 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Dolgellau South	1,072 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Dyffryn Ardudwy	1,169 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Dyffryn Ceiriog/Ceiriog Valley	1,685 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Forden	1,215 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Glantwymyn	1,701 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Guilsfield	1,827 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Harlech	1,516 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Llanbedr	768 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Llanbrynmair	798 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Llandderfel	1,135 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Llandrinio	1,763 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Llandysilio	1,441 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Llanfair Caereinion	1,301 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Llanfihangel	895 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Llanfyllin	1,217 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Llangelynin	1,625 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant/Llansilin	1,815 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Llansantffraid	1,563 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Llanuwchllyn	686 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Llanwddyn	846 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Machynlleth	1,701 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Meifod	1,069 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Montgomery	1,107 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Penycae	1,525 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Penycae and Ruabon South	2,026 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Plas Madoc	1,169 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Rhiwcynon	1,724 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Ruabon	2,078 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Teigl	1,355 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Trawsfynydd	1,088 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Trewern	1,066 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Tywyn	2,476 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Welshpool Castle	962 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Welshpool Gungrog	1,995 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
Welshpool Llanerchyddol	1,602 Montgomeryshire and Meirionnydd
	71.335

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Aberdaron		Menai
Abererch	986	Menai
Abersoch	519	Menai
Arllechwedd		Menai
Bethel		Menai
Bontnewydd		Menai
Botwnnog		Menai
Bryn	1.390	Menai
Cadnant		Menai
Capelulo		Menai
Clynnog		Menai
Criccieth		Menai
Cwm-y-Glo		Menai
Deiniol		Menai
Deiniolen		Menai
Dewi	-	Menai
Dolbenmaen		Menai
Efail-newydd/Buan		Menai
Garth		Menai
Garth		
		Menai
Glyder		Menai
Groeslon		Menai
Hendre		Menai
Hirael		Menai
Llanaelhaearn		Menai
Llanbedrog		Menai
Llanberis	1,613	Menai
Llanengan	847	Menai
Llanllyfni	915	Menai
Llanrug	-	Menai
Llanwnda		Menai
Llanystumdwy	1,547	Menai
Marchog	1,579	Menai
Menai (Bangor)	1,548	Menai
Menai (Caernarfon)	1,724	Menai
Morfa Nefyn	945	Menai
Nefyn	1,003	Menai
Ogwen	1,697	Menai
Pandy		Menai
Pant-yr-Afon/Penmaenan		Menai
Peblig (Caernarfon)		Menai
Penisarwaun		Menai
Penrhyndeudraeth		Menai
Pentir		Menai
Penygroes		Menai
Porthmadog East		Menai
Porthmadog West		Menai
Porthmadog-Tremadog		Menai
Pwllheli North		Menai
Pwllheli South		Menai
Seiont		Menai Monai
Talysarn		Menai
Tregarth & Mynydd Llandygai		Menai
Tudweiliog		Menai
	I 1298	Menai
Waunfawr Y Felinheli		Menai

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Aberaman North	3,609	Merthyr and Aberdare
Aberaman South	3,541	Merthyr and Aberdare
Aberdare East	4,909	Merthyr and Aberdare
Aberdare West/Llwydcoed	7,404	Merthyr and Aberdare
Bedlinog	2,977	Merthyr and Aberdare
Cwmbach	3,751	Merthyr and Aberdare
Cyfarthfa	5,457	Merthyr and Aberdare
Dowlais	5,014	Merthyr and Aberdare
Gurnos	3,477	Merthyr and Aberdare
Hirwaun	3,167	Merthyr and Aberdare
Merthyr Vale	2,798	Merthyr and Aberdare
Park	3,296	Merthyr and Aberdare
Penydarren	3,818	Merthyr and Aberdare
Pen-y-waun	1,973	Merthyr and Aberdare
Plymouth	4,096	Merthyr and Aberdare
Rhigos	1,370	Merthyr and Aberdare
Town	5,998	Merthyr and Aberdare
Treharris	5,270	Merthyr and Aberdare
Vaynor	2,880	Merthyr and Aberdare

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Amroth		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Burton	1,503	Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Camrose		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Carew		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
East Williamston		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Haverfordwest: Castle		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Haverfordwest: Garth		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Haverfordwest: Portfield		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Haverfordwest: Prendergast		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Haverfordwest: Priory		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Hundleton		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Johnston		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Kilgetty/Begelly		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Lampeter Velfrey		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Lamphey		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Letterston		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Llangwm		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Manorbier		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Martletwy		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Merlin's Bridge		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Milford: Central		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Milford: East	· · · · · ·	Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Milford: Hakin	•	Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Milford: Hubberston		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Milford: North		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Milford: West	-	Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Narberth		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Narberth Rural		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Neyland: East		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Neyland: West		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Pembroke Dock: Central	•	Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Pembroke Dock: Llanion		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Pembroke Dock: Market		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Pembroke Dock: Pennar		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Pembroke: Monkton	•	Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Pembroke: St. Mary North		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Pembroke: St. Mary North		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Pembroke: St. Mary South Pembroke: St. Michael		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Penally		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Rudbaxton	•	Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Saundersfoot		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Solva	•	Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Solva St. David's		
St. David s St. Ishmael's	-	Mid and South Pembrokeshire
		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Tenby: North		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Tenby: South	•	Mid and South Pembrokeshire
The Havens		Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Wiston	76,820	Mid and South Pembrokeshire

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Aber-craf	1,143	Mid and South Powys
Beguildy	1,135	Mid and South Powys
Blaen Hafren	1,876	Mid and South Powys
Bronllys	1,060	Mid and South Powys
Builth	1,849	Mid and South Powys
Bwlch	800	Mid and South Powys
Churchstoke	1,292	Mid and South Powys
Crickhowell	2,410	Mid and South Powys
Cwm-twrch	1,557	Mid and South Powys
Disserth and Trecoed	1,055	Mid and South Powys
Felin-fâch	1,102	Mid and South Powys
Glasbury	1,901	Mid and South Powys
Gwernyfed	1,178	Mid and South Powys
Нау	1,355	Mid and South Powys
Kerry	1,607	Mid and South Powys
Knighton	2,296	Mid and South Powys
Llanafanfawr	1,141	Mid and South Powys
Llanbadarn Fawr	925	Mid and South Powys
Llandinam	1,155	Mid and South Powys
Llandrindod East/Llandrindod West	949	Mid and South Powys
Llandrindod North	1,517	Mid and South Powys
Llandrindod South	1,726	Mid and South Powys
Llanelwedd	987	Mid and South Powys
Llangattock	762	Mid and South Powys
Llangors	901	Mid and South Powys
Llangunllo	1,071	Mid and South Powys
Llangynidr	865	Mid and South Powys
Llanidloes	-	Mid and South Powys
Llanwrtyd Wells	-	Mid and South Powys
Llanyre	978	Mid and South Powys
Maescar/Llywel	1,405	Mid and South Powys
Nantmel	1,243	Mid and South Powys
Newtown Central	2,122	Mid and South Powys
Newtown East		Mid and South Powys
Newtown Llanllwchaiarn North	1,796	Mid and South Powys
Newtown Llanllwchaiarn West		Mid and South Powys
Newtown South		Mid and South Powys
Old Radnor		Mid and South Powys
Presteigne		Mid and South Powys
Rhayader		Mid and South Powys
St. David Within		Mid and South Powys
St. John		Mid and South Powys
St. Mary		Mid and South Powys
Talgarth		Mid and South Powys
Talybont-on-Usk		Mid and South Powys
Tawe-Uchaf		Mid and South Powys
Ynyscedwyn		Mid and South Powys
Yscir		Mid and South Powys
Ystradgynlais	1,935 70.914	Mid and South Powys

Caerwent Caldicot Castle Cantref Castle Croesonen Crucorney Devauden Dewstow	1,768 1,668 1,611 1,609 1,773	Monmouthshire Monmouthshire Monmouthshire Monmouthshire Monmouthshire
Cantref Castle Croesonen Crucorney Devauden Dewstow	1,768 1,668 1,611 1,609 1,773	Monmouthshire Monmouthshire Monmouthshire Monmouthshire
Castle Croesonen Crucorney Devauden Dewstow	1,668 1,611 1,609 1,773	Monmouthshire Monmouthshire Monmouthshire
Croesonen Crucorney Devauden Dewstow	1,611 1,609 1,773	Monmouthshire Monmouthshire
Crucorney Devauden Dewstow	1,609 1,773	Monmouthshire
Devauden Dewstow	1,773	
Devauden Dewstow		Monmouthshire
	-	Monmouthshire
	1,404	Monmouthshire
Dixton with Osbaston	1,968	Monmouthshire
Drybridge	3,034	Monmouthshire
Goetre Fawr		Monmouthshire
Green Lane	1,482	Monmouthshire
Grofield	1,308	Monmouthshire
Lansdown		Monmouthshire
Larkfield	1,484	Monmouthshire
Llanbadoc	1,099	Monmouthshire
Llanelly Hill	3,286	Monmouthshire
Llanfoist Fawr	1,971	Monmouthshire
Llanfoist Fawr (DET)	0	Monmouthshire
Llangybi Fawr	1,477	Monmouthshire
Llanover	1,781	Monmouthshire
Llantilio Crossenny	1,527	Monmouthshire
Llanwenarth Ultra	1,128	Monmouthshire
Mardy	1,430	Monmouthshire
Mill	2,256	Monmouthshire
Mitchel Troy	985	Monmouthshire
Overmonnow	1,662	Monmouthshire
Portskewett	-	Monmouthshire
Priory		Monmouthshire
Raglan	1,618	Monmouthshire
Rogiet	-	Monmouthshire
Severn	1,325	Monmouthshire
Shirenewton	1,850	Monmouthshire
St. Arvans	1,304	Monmouthshire
St. Christopher's	,	Monmouthshire
St. Kingsmark	2,346	Monmouthshire
St. Mary's	-	Monmouthshire
The Elms		Monmouthshire
Thornwell	-	Monmouthshire
Trellech United	-	Monmouthshire
Usk	-	Monmouthshire
West End		Monmouthshire
Wyesham	1,701	Monmouthshire

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Aberavon	4,048	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
Baglan	5,383	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
Briton Ferry East	2,148	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
Briton Ferry West	2,033	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
Bryn and Cwmavon	5,220	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
Caerau	4,795	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
Cimla	3,107	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
Cymmer	2,011	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
Glyncorrwg	792	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
Gwynfi	879	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
Maesteg East	3,741	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
Maesteg West	4,327	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
Margam	2,309	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
Neath East	4,468	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
Neath North	2,931	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
Neath South	3,694	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
Pelenna	936	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
Port Talbot	4,342	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
Resolven	2,387	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
Sandfields East	5,038	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
Sandfields East (DET)	0	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
Sandfields West	4,917	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
Tai-bach	3,643	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
Tonna	2,072	Neath, Aberafan and Maesteg
	75,221	

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Alway	5,931	Newport East
Beechwood	5,611	Newport East
Bettws	5,656	Newport East
Caerleon	6,603	Newport East
Langstone	3,878	Newport East
Liswerry	9,110	Newport East
Llanwern	3,544	Newport East
Malpas	6,114	Newport East
Pillgwenlly	5,174	Newport East
Ringland	5,968	Newport East
Shaftesbury	3,778	Newport East
St. Julians	6,287	Newport East
Stow Hill	3,384	Newport East
Victoria	5,121	Newport East

Electoral War	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Abercarn	4,139	Newport West and Islwyn
Allt-yr-yn	7,088	Newport West and Islwyn
Argoed	2,035	Newport West and Islwyn
Blackwood	6,330	Newport West and Islwyn
Crosskeys	2,527	Newport West and Islwyn
Crumlin	4,332	Newport West and Islwyn
Gaer	6,543	Newport West and Islwyn
Graig	5,053	Newport West and Islwyn
Marshfield	4,897	Newport West and Islwyn
Newbridge	4,892	Newport West and Islwyn
Penmaen	4,219	Newport West and Islwyn
Risca East	4,611	Newport West and Islwyn
Risca West	3,973	Newport West and Islwyn
Rogerstone	9,421	Newport West and Islwyn
Tredegar Park	3,329	Newport West and Islwyn
Ynysddu	2,978	Newport West and Islwyn
	76,367	

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Abercynon	4,441	Pontypridd and Llantrisant
Beddau	3,172	Pontypridd and Llantrisant
Church Village	4,424	Pontypridd and Llantrisant
Cilfynydd	2,110	Pontypridd and Llantrisant
Glyncoch	2,006	Pontypridd and Llantrisant
Graig	1,885	Pontypridd and Llantrisant
Hawthorn	3,180	Pontypridd and Llantrisant
Llantrisant Town	3,187	Pontypridd and Llantrisant
Llantwit Fardre	4,825	Pontypridd and Llantrisant
Mountain Ash East	2,254	Pontypridd and Llantrisant
Mountain Ash West	3,123	Pontypridd and Llantrisant
Penrhiwceiber	4,056	Pontypridd and Llantrisant
Pont-y-clun	6,061	Pontypridd and Llantrisant
Pontypridd Town	2,208	Pontypridd and Llantrisant
Rhondda	3,458	Pontypridd and Llantrisant
Rhydfelen Central/Ilan	3,037	Pontypridd and Llantrisant
Taffs Well	2,855	Pontypridd and Llantrisant
Talbot Green	1,965	Pontypridd and Llantrisant
Ton-teg	3,183	Pontypridd and Llantrisant
Trallwng	2,824	Pontypridd and Llantrisant
Treforest	2,862	Pontypridd and Llantrisant
Tyn-y-nant	2,454	Pontypridd and Llantrisant
Ynysybwl	3,433	Pontypridd and Llantrisant
	73,003	

Electoral Ward	<u>Electors</u>	Proposed Constituency
Brynna	3,616	Rhondda
Cwm Clydach	1,987	Rhondda
Cymmer	3,977	Rhondda
Ferndale	3,114	Rhondda
Gilfach Goch	2,437	Rhondda
Llanharan	2,819	Rhondda
Llanharry	3,221	Rhondda
Llwyn-y-pia	1,637	Rhondda
Maerdy	2,283	Rhondda
Pentre	3,902	Rhondda
Pen-y-graig	3,929	Rhondda
Porth	4,282	Rhondda
Tonypandy	2,686	Rhondda
Tonyrefail East	4,433	Rhondda
Tonyrefail West	4,896	Rhondda
Trealaw	2,895	Rhondda
Treherbert	4,158	Rhondda
Treorchy	5,693	Rhondda
Tylorstown	3,054	Rhondda
Ynyshir	2,380	Rhondda
Ystrad	4,285	Rhondda

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Bonymaen	5,391	Swansea East
Castle	10,312	Swansea East
Cwmbwrla	5,622	Swansea East
Landore	4,821	Swansea East
Llansamlet	11,107	Swansea East
Morriston	12,105	Swansea East
Mynyddbach	6,625	Swansea East
Penderry	7,397	Swansea East
St. Thomas	5,514	Swansea East
Townhill	5,592	Swansea East
	74 400	

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Bishopston	2,743	Swansea West and Gower
Cockett	10,473	Swansea West and Gower
Dunvant	3,494	Swansea West and Gower
Fairwood	2,278	Swansea West and Gower
Gower	2,990	Swansea West and Gower
Gowerton	3,978	Swansea West and Gower
Killay North	2,031	Swansea West and Gower
Killay South	1,857	Swansea West and Gower
Lower Loughor	1,795	Swansea West and Gower
Mayals	2,148	Swansea West and Gower
Newton	2,894	Swansea West and Gower
Oystermouth	3,313	Swansea West and Gower
Penclawdd	2,932	Swansea West and Gower
Pennard	2,229	Swansea West and Gower
Sketty	11,304	Swansea West and Gower
Uplands	10,834	Swansea West and Gower
Upper Loughor	2,146	Swansea West and Gower
West Cross	5,142	Swansea West and Gower
	74,581	

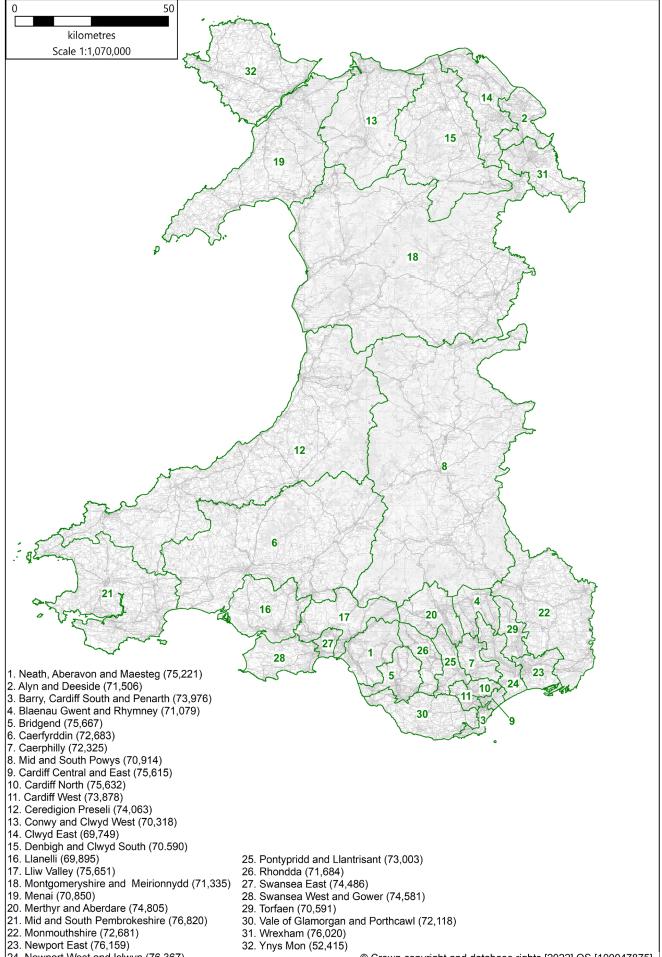
Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Abersychan	5,044	Torfaen
Blaenavon	4,575	Torfaen
Brynwern	1,295	Torfaen
Coed Eva	1,859	Torfaen
Croesyceiliog North	2,745	Torfaen
Croesyceiliog South	1,460	Torfaen
Cwmyniscoy	987	Torfaen
Fairwater	3,918	Torfaen
Greenmeadow	2,028	Torfaen
Llantarnam	4,864	Torfaen
Llanyrafon North	1,803	Torfaen
Llanyrafon South	1,946	Torfaen
New Inn	4,777	Torfaen
Panteg	5,828	Torfaen
Pontnewydd	5,186	Torfaen
Pontnewynydd	1,129	Torfaen
Pontypool	1,438	Torfaen
Snatchwood	1,819	Torfaen
St. Cadocs and Penygarn	1,341	Torfaen
St. Dials	3,317	Torfaen
Trevethin	2,463	Torfaen
Two Locks	4,715	Torfaen
Upper Cwmbran	4,207	Torfaen
Wainfelin	1,847	Torfaen
	70,591	

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Bryntirion, laleston and Merthyr Mawr	6,574	Vale of Glamorgan and Porthcawl
Cowbridge	5,240	Vale of Glamorgan and Porthcawl
Dinas Powys	6,388	Vale of Glamorgan and Porthcawl
Dyfan	4,170	Vale of Glamorgan and Porthcawl
Gibbonsdown	3,827	Vale of Glamorgan and Porthcawl
Illtyd	6,242	Vale of Glamorgan and Porthcawl
Llandow/Ewenny	2,362	Vale of Glamorgan and Porthcawl
Llantwit Major	7,939	Vale of Glamorgan and Porthcawl
Newton	3,035	Vale of Glamorgan and Porthcawl
Nottage	2,741	Vale of Glamorgan and Porthcawl
Peterston-super-Ely	1,855	Vale of Glamorgan and Porthcawl
Porthcawl East Central	2,580	Vale of Glamorgan and Porthcawl
Porthcawl West Central	2,967	Vale of Glamorgan and Porthcawl
Rest Bay	1,990	Vale of Glamorgan and Porthcawl
Rhoose	5,796	Vale of Glamorgan and Porthcawl
St. Athan	2,765	Vale of Glamorgan and Porthcawl
St. Bride's Major	2,732	Vale of Glamorgan and Porthcawl
Wenvoe	2,915	Vale of Glamorgan and Porthcawl
	72,118	

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Acton	2,177	Wrexham
Borras Park	1,968	Wrexham
Bronington	2,620	Wrexham
Brymbo	3,021	Wrexham
Bryn Cefn	1,543	Wrexham
Brynyffynnon	2,477	Wrexham
Cartrefle	1,545	Wrexham
Coedpoeth	3,482	Wrexham
Erddig	1,444	Wrexham
Esclusham	2,013	Wrexham
Garden Village	1,656	Wrexham
Gresford East and West	2,337	Wrexham
Grosvenor	1,698	Wrexham
Gwenfro	1,217	Wrexham
Gwersyllt East and South	3,601	Wrexham
Gwersyllt North	1,995	Wrexham
Gwersyllt West	2,263	Wrexham
Hermitage	1,544	Wrexham
Holt	2,479	Wrexham
Johnstown	2,461	Wrexham
Little Acton	1,843	Wrexham
Llay	3,513	Wrexham
Maesydre	1,420	Wrexham
Marchwiel	1,830	Wrexham
Minera	1,870	Wrexham
New Broughton	2,842	Wrexham
Offa	1,428	Wrexham
Overton	2,710	Wrexham
Pant	1,528	Wrexham
Ponciau	3,521	Wrexham
Queensway	1,377	Wrexham
Rhosnesni	2,827	Wrexham
Smithfield	1,376	Wrexham
Stansty	1,641	Wrexham
Whitegate	1,594	Wrexham
Wynnstay	1,159	Wrexham

Electoral Ward	Electors	Proposed Constituency
Aethwy	5,175	Ynys Môn
Bro Aberffraw	3,023	Ynys Môn
Bro Rhosyr	3,919	Ynys Môn
Caergybi	5,504	Ynys Môn
Canolbarth Môn	6,537	Ynys Môn
Llifon	4,104	Ynys Môn
Lligwy	4,810	Ynys Môn
Seiriol	4,650	Ynys Môn
Talybolion	4,762	Ynys Môn
Twrcelyn	5,497	Ynys Môn
Ynys Gybi	4,434	Ynys Môn
	52,415	

Appendix B: **Illustrative Map**



24. Newport West and Islwyn (76,367)

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Comisiwn Ffiniau i Gymru Boundary Commission for Wales

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