



Comisiwn Ffiniau
i Gymru

Boundary Commission
for Wales

Boundary Commission
for Wales

Secondary Consultation Period: Representations

Volume 1: 10077- 10177

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

17th February 2022

Welsh Boundary
Commission Ground Floor,
Hastings House, Fitzalan
Court, Cardiff CF24 0BL

Dear Sir,

May I confirm my support for the boundary changes effecting life in Montgomeryshire, indicating a desire to retain Montgomeryshire, in its entirety within the proposed new and enlarged constituency of Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr.

Montgomeryshire qualities

In any boundary modification, correction or efficient application of public funding for representation, we must not forget the principal elements of all considerations, which is to recognise and protect, as far as possible, all long standing community integration and well being of all citizens identifying themselves as belonging to and contributing to the security of fellow citizens within and outside their boundaries, so preserving their communal identity.

I am sure that the latest proposals for boundary changes shows a more equal distribution of the numerical choice for citizen representation, with an improvement in the elective efficiency for Montgomeryshire and is the best fit for all of our citizens, within their respective regions.

I have engaged in many activities for and from Montgomeryshire: - sports, community health council, Wales deanery, Community chest chair, social housing and care and repair in Powys all of which have been very rewarding and my personal objective of making a positive difference to any activity that I have engaged in has been positive. It would be very sad if Montgomeryshire was split and disrupted by boundary modifications.

[REDACTED] Llanerfyl, Powys

BCW-10078 / [REDACTED] / Bridgend

Having looked at the proposal I would urge you to reconsider the house's that are on the extreme edge of the proposed boundary.

Here at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] there are 43 dwellings which are closer to Ewenny and Bridgend than any where else.

Our children schools are [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] which comes under Bridgend Town Council so it makes more sense for us to be included in the boundary of Bridgend.

We have been left as an outsider since the boundary change which moved us from the Vale to Merthyr Mawr a change which we had no direct connection too as we are closer to town and not a rural area.

It seems Bridgend Town Council has been paying for our children's education so it would only be fair for our small community to be placed with them and not Aberavon, Porthcawl and the valleys.

BCW-10079/ [REDACTED] / Trefeglwys

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: e ruary 2022 08:51

To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>

Subject: Fwd: Boundary changes Montgomeryshire

Dear commission.

I have read your proposals in detail re expanding our county to include the northern neighbours.

Albeit I am reasonably happy with your proposals, I would like to give you my personal comments.

Firstly and foremost Montgomeryshire is an ancient and historical county with very strong and established cultural roots. So what is most important is that we do not loose the name Montgomeryshire and it's current boundaries, ie not splitting the county in any way or reducing its size. I understand the latter would not be up for discussion as the importance for constituencies to be of similar even in terms of population.

While my preferences would be to leave as it is, your proposals putting the current Montgomeryshire as a whole within a larger seat of Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr acknowledges the area as a historic county and parliamentary seat, while also meeting the parameters of the review.

Therefore under those circumstances I would be happy to accept the larger proposed county.

Under NO circumstances would I consider a proposal currently suggested by The Lib Dem's, Plaid Cymru and the Green Party that wish to split the county in half.

Please take my views in good faith as a 76 year old extremely proud Montgomeryshire citizen of which I was born and will die here. These are very strong views.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

BCW-10080/ [REDACTED] / Oswestry

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 February 2022 11:38
To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>
Subject: Re : Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr - proposed enlargement of constituency'

My husband and I are extremely proud to live in Montgomeryshire. We both fully support the proposal for the enlargement of the constituency. It is a well thought out proposal, which would benefit both Montgomeryshire and the areas to the north of the county.

The main proposal to decrease Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales from 40 to 32 makes complete sense.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

BCW-10081/ [REDACTED] - Montgomeryshire Conservatives/ Welshpool

I welcome the proposal as it does not divide the historical county of Montgomeryshire. Linking it with Glyndwr will ensure the requirements of the review are met, but will also retain Montgomeryshire as a unity within the new constituency together with its existing social and economic identity.

BCW-10082/ [REDACTED] / Unknown

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 February 2022 14:38
To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>
Subject: Newport West

Hello,

I strongly urge the commission to adopt the counter proposal (BCW-9929) from Mr Wayne David MP.

Linking Newport West with Newbridge is a much more natural and realistic arrangement.

[REDACTED]

Montgomeryshire has been represented as a county since 1542 and has an identity of its own - there are Montgomeryshire Societies in London and elsewhere which demonstrate its identity, and its unique identity should be respected within the boundary review. While I accept the need for the changes to the boundaries for equality purposes, I feel very strongly that the integrity of the former county should be maintained in the constituency make up. To divide the county would be a tragedy from a historical perspective but would divide people who have a shared identity and had had for generations.

I believe that the solution of maintaining the county within the larger seat of Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr is the best option, uniting the county of Montgomeryshire with areas which share the close associations that the county has with Glyndwr himself. It will add to the diversity of the county in its northern more urban reaches whilst also reinforcing the agricultural pre-eminence of the seat as areas such as Dyffryn Ceiriog are added. It will also add to the scope that the seat has for tourism with the addition of areas such as Chirk and Llangollen which will compliment and strengthen the offerings both areas have.

I support the change of the seat to Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr.

BCW-10084/ [REDACTED] / Caersws

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2023 Review Consultation

15/2/2022

Boundary Commission for Wales

Groundfloor, Hastings House,

Ftzealan Court

Cardiff CF240BL

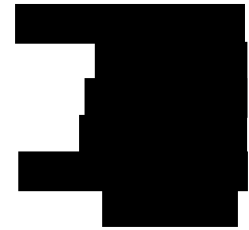
Dear sirs,

Although we understand there might be a need for change, we feel that as Montgomeryshire has been part of Welsh history since 1542 we feel dividing it would not benefit the county and its people. However, by maintaining Montgomeryshire but within a new Parliamentary constituency of Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr it does give some balance between meeting the Commission's parameters and preserving Montgomeryshire's community and historic identity.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



18th February 2022

2023 Review Consultation
Boundary Commission for
Wales Ground Floor,
Hastings House Fitzalan
Court, Cardiff
CF24 0BL

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the Commission's proposal of the Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr constituency, and to strongly oppose any subsequent counterproposals which seek to split this historic community in two.

The people of Montgomeryshire and Clwyd South share the same history and have strong ties. The merging of areas of Clwyd South into a new Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr constituency would in a single move serve to strengthen ties between these communities, whilst also helping rebalance the demographic irregularities created by internal migration over the last two decades. This is a far more sensible proposal than previous ones, which suggested breaking Montgomeryshire apart to be added to other constituencies, which have far fewer ties to local populations.

If Montgomeryshire were to be divided, according to the initial and now shelved proposals, it would have divided a tight-knit community and created unreasonable concern and uncertainty over the confusing differences in boundaries, with Montgomeryshire still being represented fully in the Assembly/Senedd yet divided in Parliament and across county Councils.

I strongly believe that the current proposals for the Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr seat fulfil the parameters of the review fully, whilst maintaining and acknowledging Montgomeryshire's history.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

BCW-10086/ [REDACTED] / Usk

As a resident of Monmouthshire I am strongly in favor of the constituency boundary remaining co-terminus with the County Council boundary

BCW-10087/ [REDACTED] / Conwy

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 20 February 2023 12:23

To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>

Subject: RE: 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies - Aberconwy and Clwyd

Further to previous emails please accept this submission as part of the second consultation:

The initial proposals within the review of Parliamentary Constituencies proposes to split the wards that make up the Bay of Colwyn Town Council between the constituencies of Aberconwy and Clwyd which, in itself, could prove confusing from an administrative point of view. It is proposed:

- Aberconwy to include Rhos and Dinarth wards
- Clwyd to include Glyn, Colwyn, Rhiw and Eirias wards

As part of the recent electoral review for Conwy County Borough Council a section of the Rhiw ward that is north of the A55 has been transferred to the Rhos ward. As part of the Parliamentary Boundary proposals the Rhos ward will be in Aberconwy and the Rhiw ward will be in Clwyd.

The current review must take account of this boundary change if the proposals to split the wards that make up the Bay of Colwyn Town Council continue.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Pennaeth y Gwasanaethau Democritaidd/ Head of Democratic Services

Y Gyfraith a Llywodraethu/ Law and Governance

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol CONWY County Borough Council

BCW-10088/ Cllr S J Skivens- Penyrheol Trecenydd Energlyn Community Council/ Caerphilly

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 February 2022 13:03
To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>
Subject: Parliamentary Boundary Review: Caerphilly constituency

Good afternoon

Please find attached letter from Penyrheol, Trecenydd Energlyn Community Council regarding the Parliamentary Boundary Review: Caerphilly Constituency.

Many thanks.

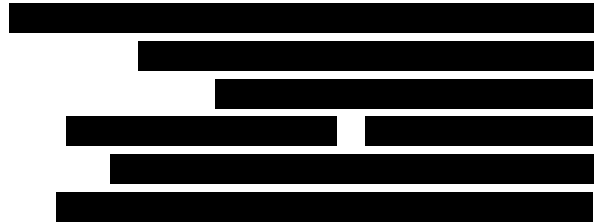
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Clerk to the Council
Penyrheol Trecenydd Energlyn Community Council



**CYNGOR CYMUNED
PENYRHEOL TRECEYDD ENERGLYN
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**



Parliamentary Boundary Commission

18th February 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

Parliamentary Boundary Review: Caerphilly Constituency

Find below a collective comment from residents, councillors and business owners following a small population sample on the issues of proposed boundary changes impacting on the Member of Parliament (MP) representation for the area.

Introduction

We have been advised that the boundary review requires comment from a range of organisations, people from the affected areas and authorities serving these areas on the implied affect from the proposed changes.

Please find below the collective observations of Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn (PTE) Community Council as our submission against the current boundary change proposals.

We have attempted to make relevant points; however further detail can be made available if further consultation is required or welcomed.

Boundary Identification

For generations communities have used boundary markers to clearly identify their areas.

Identifiable and evident markers which can be clear, observable and have some permanency in nature. This enables ease of communication, administration, and development of security. A tangible feeling of place, a continuity of identification of people, culture and society norms expected and created.

In most situations in this area and often across the world where boundaries are not clear, are invisible, or an anonymous line drawn across a map, conflict and confusion can and often does result.

Examples may include school catchment areas, who is responsible for waste collection, does my area have bye laws or regulations on a variety of issues, which may differ from other areas?

Without synchronisation, communication continually reinforced and management ability, a large amount of effort is expended in dealing with enquiries, disputes, legal matters or support subject areas ie grants, financial regulations or allocations and contacts and access to advice or guidance. If this point is accepted, then we can extrapolate that physical boundary markers can assist demarcation between areas greatly for all.

For example, since at least Roman times the River Rhymney has been used as a clear boundary marker. As have roadways, open countryside belts between conurbations, mountains or ridges and even woodland areas (hardwood forest), initially as a mark of tribal areas to have clear demarcation and avoid conflict.

So, a boundary is clearly marked, clearly communicated and people have an expectation of services, culture, administration and increasingly language used in an area. An expectation of a community experience anticipated.

Moving Boundaries

It appears that over the last 100 years we have seen boundary changes imposed in this area, often with negative impacts on individuals, groups and organisations. However, the communities affected appear to relate to the expected arrangement of their traditional areas, sometimes in irrelevance to authority administration-imposed boundaries areas.

So, we have seen Glamorgan, Rhymney Valley, Monmouthshire, Penyrheol, Trecenydd, Energlyn, Bedwas, Trethomas, Machen, Nantgarw, Groeswen, Taffs Well, Ystrad Mynach and many other outlying areas caught up in the shifting boundary changes, often leading to a high degree of confusion and negative attitudes emergent and what can be regarded as wasteful costs. Caerphilly County Borough Council, Rhymney Valley District Council, Caerphilly Urban District Council, Mid Glamorgan and Glamorganshire all give an indication of administrative changes now with acceptance of the current model faded into the past but still influencing people's identity of place.

Yet when we actually ask people in these areas how they relate to an area, it is usually reflective of much older boundaries and arrangements. They have identified with an area, its recognised boundaries and its norms or ways of doing things and that permeates.

So, do local people in Caerphilly area have affinity towards Newport or Gwent? The answer repeatedly reported is an absolute no. They identify with Caerphilly as part of the old structures of Rhymney Valley, Mid Glamorgan, or Glamorganshire.

Impacts

Movement of people in an area often reflects the pattern of behaviour within boundaries. It reflects how the societies live, work or are educated and grow up. People in Caerphilly tend to predominantly communicate, commute, socialise and inter-relate either vertically North to South and vice-versa or East to West.

There is minimal movement to the East to Newport or Gwent observed. In fact, the poor infrastructure or removal of cross valley links, (ie Beaching cuts of 1963-1965) compounds ease of movement as well as the physical topography and movement; barriers or restrictions are evident and have assisted or reflected social behaviour patterns. People in this area move towards Cardiff or Pontypridd and back, not to Newport or Gwent towns.

It becomes evident that any representative position established must clearly be recognised by communities as covering their area and reflecting the views, problems and the development of the host community in their traditional self-determined identity.

So, a Member of Parliament for Caerphilly is clearly co-terminus with the recognised area and has traditionally been accepted as a long-term position.

Cultures

Penyrheol, Trecenydd, Energlyn and Caerphilly have distinct cultures from Newport and much of the Gwent towns and villages. Business is markedly different, socio-economic standards and relationships differ, housing type, stock and density differs.

Socialisation differs with Newport City status, international port, industrial heritage, buoyant and broad economy and employment options all creating a different cultural scenario to Caerphilly and its satellite towns and villages. Religious diocese also do not reflect the changes proposed and offer further confusing scenarios.

So, the question emerges as to how can such diverse and changing cultural impacts be adequately represented by a crossover MP?

Other changes in recent decades also offer cultural divides. Proliferation in the use of the Welsh language learners in Caerphilly area must not be threatened in its delicate re-emergence to develop a strong base position. Whereas Newport is far more multi-national with a large influx of peoples from England, Europe and further afield. A fact which must be celebrated, but recognised as distinctly different to Caerphilly in its stage of development.

Summary

Given the shifting boundaries witnessed previously with the resulting confusion, synchronisation issues and many negative impacts observed, a question emerges why change these areas' established representation boundaries? Or, if there is anything other than a political driver, why now?

Other faster developing areas, or new towns may benefit from a review of representation and a new MP boundary may increase their identity. Confusion is often created where there is no discernible boundary marker. So, any MP area must be clear, communicable, and have some permanence of identity to have any chance of being recognisable by communities in the area.

Relationships, socio-economic conditions, religion, change and development, languages, tradition and culture between Caerphilly and Newport are discernibly different. Any MP covering such diverse and widely different areas would have an extremely difficult position. In providing accurate unbiased representation across the area, developing a balance of support for all areas, democracy and accessibility will be difficult in a cross-over constituency.

Communication links and ease of movement has developed patterns of behaviour and established inter-relationships between peoples and places over time. Cardiff, Caerphilly, Pontypridd, Bargoed and all the satellite town and villages in what was traditionally Glamorganshire, Mid Glamorgan and the Rhymney Valley have a high degree of synergy. This does not include Newport or Gwent per se.

Conclusion

The comments above are offered as a perspective created by people of the area of PTE and are not dismissive of change casually. However, little to no benefit can be perceived. Also, previous changes in authority areas and administrative boundaries have had many confusing and negative impacts.

It remains unclear what the driver is to support the changes proposed in this area. The only indicator appears to be a political decision to reduce Welsh MPs. This is not an acceptable proposition in isolation for the changes in this area. Many see it as another downgrading of the value and status of Caerphilly as a longstanding established key town in South East Wales. To lose an MP dedicated to the area identified as Caerphilly, with its long history and accepted inter-relationship to its neighbours is not acceptable.

Caerphilly is developing and growing and needs good representation. It requires, as a large head of population, democratic accountability and clarity on authority must be clear now and in the future.

The area has suffered from too much tinkering to boundaries and authorities with little discernible benefits observed. Confusion and many other witting and unwitting consequences have arisen for all.

The last thing that any change to representatives' boundaries should do is to disenfranchise voters even further. Caerphilly has, with specific exceptions, returned good election turnout statistics. Confusion may deter voters and hence create dilution of strong democracy in this area. Conduits of communication could be damaged for decades by the proposal, if implemented.

Also change has a time; as we emerge from austerity, Covid pandemic and inflationary pressures evident for many years to come, this is not the time to change a fundamental facet of our current democratic representation.

Yours sincerely

Cllr S J Skivens
For PTE Community Council

BCW-10089/ [REDACTED] / Monmouthshire

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 22 February 2022 15:45

To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>

Subject: Proposed changes to Monmouthshire

Dear sirs.

I write to express my dismay at the proposal by Plaid Cymru and others to effectively hive off sections of Monmouthshire such as Abergavenny.

I find this totally unacceptable.

The proposal for Monmouthshire to be co terminus with the County boundary is , in my opinion ,the correct one.

Yours

[REDACTED]

BCW-10090/ [REDACTED] Montgomeryshire Conservative Association/
Welshpool

Boundary Commissioners – Ladies and Gentlemen

My name is [REDACTED] I am the Chairman of Montgomeryshire Conservative Association and also Area Chairman for Mid & West Wales for the Party.

As you are all aware, The Boundary Commission for Wales began a new review of all Parliamentary constituencies in Wales with a view to decrease Parliamentary Constituencies from 40 to 32 (to include one 'protected' constituency on the Isle of Anglesey).

On 8th September 2021, the initial proposals were published. The new proposal sees "Montgomeryshire" become "Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr" and gain additional areas to the north of the county to include: Penycae & Ruabon; Corwen; Penycae; Llangollen; Llangollen Rural; Chirk South; Chirk North; Ruabon; Cefn; Plas Madoc and Dyffryn Ceiriog.

I believe that this proposal is a very positive one for Montgomeryshire! The proposal takes in areas north of the existing county and seems a natural addition to the existing historic community, adding on a number of areas of further historic importance, together with popular tourist attractions which would be a welcome addition to the already vibrant tourist area of Montgomeryshire.

"The proposals from the Boundary Commission are most welcome. I was very concerned by previous proposals from various parties that have suggested dividing Montgomeryshire. As I am sure you are aware, Montgomeryshire is a historic and close-knit community, with many residents having close ties across the county. By maintaining Montgomeryshire within a new Parliamentary constituency shows a

clear balance with meeting the commissions parameters, whilst also preserving communal identity.”

As I am sure everyone who resides in Montgomeryshire is aware, Montgomeryshire has been represented in one way or another since 1542 – some 480 years. Whilst I would wish for the constituency to remain as it always has been, I accept the importance for Parliamentary constituencies to be relatively even in terms of population size. Maintaining Montgomeryshire as a whole, within a larger seat of Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr, acknowledges the area as a historic county and Parliamentary seat, whilst also meeting the parameters of the review.

Having been very involved now for a number of years with our members in Montgomeryshire, I am more than aware of the strong and deep feelings that they hold for this historic area, both in terms of local connections and as a historic county seat.

I sincerely hope that the Welsh Boundary Commission support the boundary change proposals made so far, and for the historic community of Montgomeryshire being retained in the proposed new and enlarged constituency of Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr.

UK PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES FOR NORTH WALES.

Boundary Commission for Wales.



May I first thank the Commisioners for allowing me to speak as a ordinary citizen of St Asaph

Gai diolch I'r Commisswn am y fraint I siarad fel dinesydd o Llanelwy.

Bore da pawb a croeso i chi i gyd sydd o de Cymru I Gogledd Cymru. Mae iaeth Cymru yn bysig i fi am fod Dyma sydd yn difinio ni fel genedl.

Hanesyddol,diwylliant a dyma pam yr wyf medi tynni yr terfynnau yma.

Good morning everyone and an especially warm welcome to you from South Wales to North Wales.

The Welsh language is very important to us as a nation, as indeed for all nations.

It defines us not only for what we are but also historically and culturally and it is immensely important the constituent boundaries are drawn in such a way that we give the language the best chance of surviving for ever.

The changes that I have drawn up are based on this principle and on my life's experience of having lived here and observing the changes that have been taking place over my lifetime.

One has to ask oneself what is life about do we live to work or do we work to live. Life is too short and it is up to us all to make sure that what ever we do it ensures a better future for generations that follow.

We have chosen to live here in Wales and therefore we are custodians for the future generations.

It is a matter of fact that as one travels from West to East the more Anglicised the ^{Welsh} language has become and it is precisely why it is important as we plan for the future in all aspects of life that keep this foremost in our minds.

The world is changing fast in many ways that we cannot influence so it is important we as a nation do set out the right basics to survive as a nation as well as an important part of the UK.

Unfortunately my mastery of computer technology is very limited and so my presentation has undoubtedly an amateurish look about it. For this I apologise but hope that you as the commissioners for change are able to professionalise what I am trying to achieve for the best interest for the whole of Wales as a nation and enable it to play its part as a country within the UK.

I have lived in N Wales all my 85 years of life, I have a degree in Agriculture which enabled me to travel extensively in Europe and to a far lesser degree in other parts of the world. I have been fortunate enough to produce a daughter, who is an accountant in Chamonix France and a son who is a lawyer in Oxford. I say this because they both received education through the media of Welsh which enabled them to become bilingual from an early age which undoubtedly has been a great benefit in development of the mind.

When they went to school they would not speak to me in Welsh saying "your Welsh dad in too colloquial."

What I am trying to say is yes the financial prosperity of Wales is of course very important but also one must appreciate that the cultural side of life is of equal importance and so I am trying to put put forward a solution which looks at the global picture.

Having said all that I would like now to concentrate on the counties of North Wales on which I am best qualified to speak about.

It was very gratifying to see the the Commission decided on Anglesey being treated as a county within its own rights.

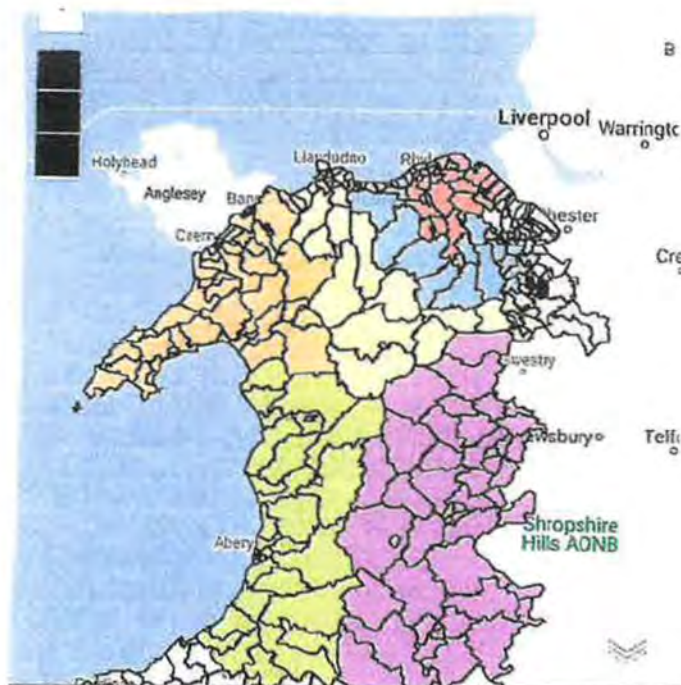
Although I realise that my proposals of the new counties may need some slight adjustments I do feel that divisions on these lines are the best interest of the whole of the residents of North Wales.

In coming to these conclusions I have in all cases taken into account the criteria laid down by the commission with regards to population of each new constituency having a population of at least 69800 and a maximum of 77000. In addition to this I have taken into account geographical considerations, boundaries that existed 2015, boundaries of existing constituencies and of particular importance local ties between communities.

I will start from west to east.

Gwynedd .Coloured Orange.

As the map shows covers the Lleyr Peninsular, the university city of Bangor and south to include Blaenau Ffestiniog.



Aberconwy. Coloured Yellow on the map.

This constituency takes in most of Snowden range of mountains and follows the Conwy valley from Llandudno in the north and takes in Bala in the south and then follows the Dee valley to Llangollen.

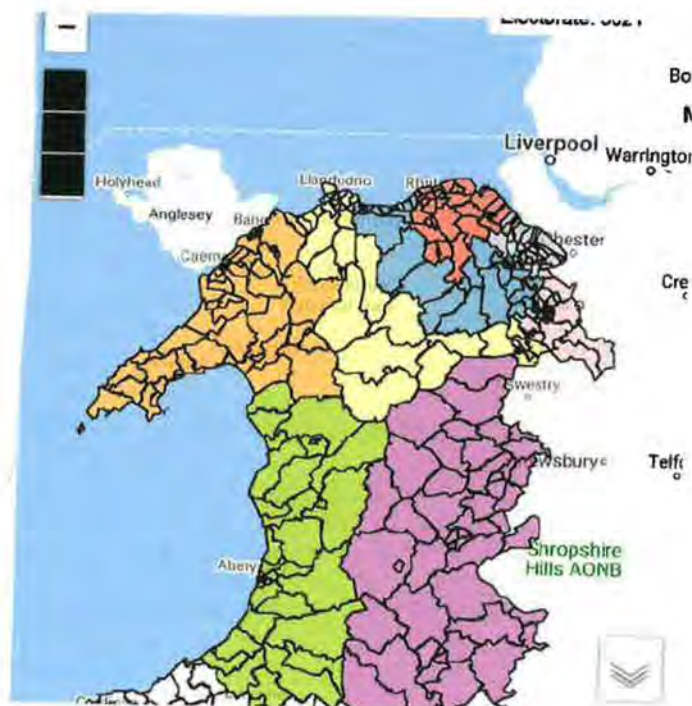
Marked yellow on the map.



Clwyd West. Coloured Blue on map.

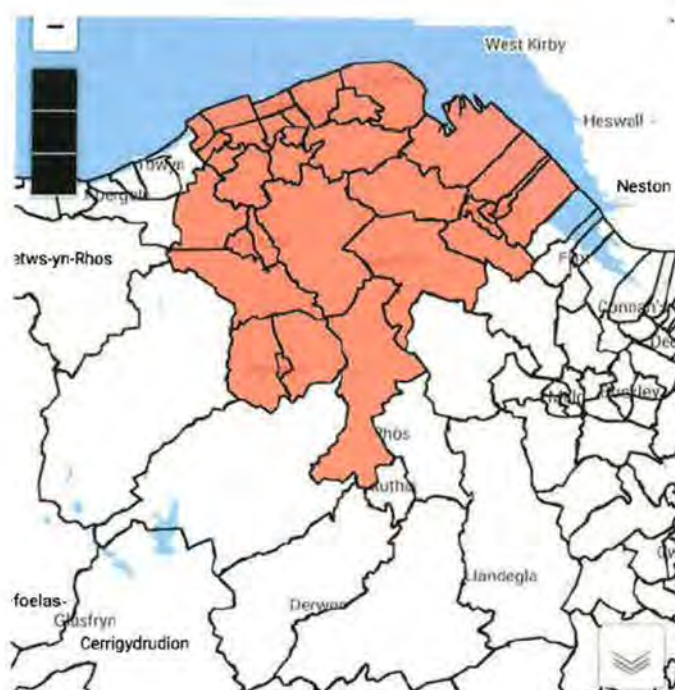
This constituency covers the north coast from Abergele and Colwyn Bay down the hinter land covering the Denbigh moors and southern part of the Vale of Clwyd taking in the towns of Ruthin and to the east Mold.

A mainly rural constituency which has most of its population on the coast and the two towns named above.



Clwyd North. Coloured Red on the map.

This constituency is in the north east corner of North Wales and covers the Towns of Rhyl and Prestatyn on the coast and takes in the northern end of the Vale of Clwyd together with the town of Holywell in the east. This retains the northern proportion of the county of Denbighshire together with the northern constituents of Delyn county.

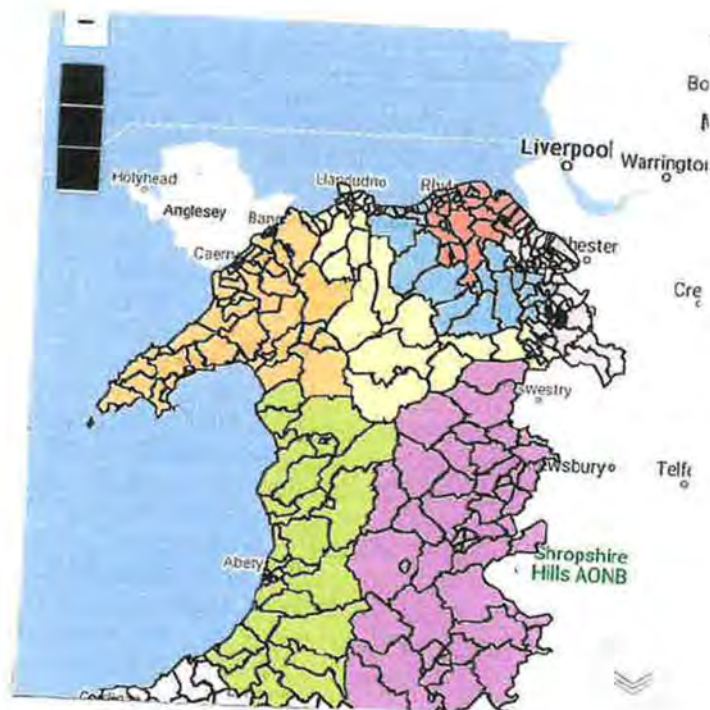


Alyn & Deeside. Coloured Light Mauve on the map.
This constituency is probably the highest industrialised in North Wales and a high proportion of its employees come from Wales. In size it is the smallest of the constituencies which also accounts to it being a very close knit community



Wrexham. Coloured Pink on the map.

Also highly industrialised and has the largest town in north wales. Again a very compact constituency with the old Maelor being more rural.



BCW-10092/ [REDACTED] / Newtown

I have reviewed the current proposal and definitely feel that it is the most suitable. I really don't think we should split Montgomeryshire any further, so would be happy to add some areas on.

BCW-10093/ [REDACTED] / Swansea

I see that there are quite a few comments here from some people including the incumbent Labour MP whom is upset that the Muslim and Student Populations should be allowed to vote for one MP and that the map should be re-drawn to place these two groups in once constituency.

I put it to the BCW that it is entirely inappropriate that the boundaries be drawn up on the basis of faith or whether someone is studying or not. Looking to draw lines around people based on their faith or profession and not basing boundaries on natural geographical areas is wholly wrong and could even be seen as an attempt to gerrymander the vote in an area if heeded.

BCW-10094/ [REDACTED] Caersws Community Council/ Caersws

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 February 2022 15:06
To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Boundary Consultation

To whom it may concern;

Caersws Community Councillors wish to reiterate their original view that they are happy that 'Montgomeryshire' be kept in the name of the new boundary area of 'Montgomeryshire & Glyndwr. Councillors do not have any further comments to submit.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Clerk to Caersws Community Council

CYNON VALLEY PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY

COUNTER PROPOSALS FOR 2023 BOUNDARIES

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2023 statistics to observe

Current size of Cynon Valley parliamentary boundary	= 51,147
2023 Commission proposals: minimum size	= 69,724
2023 Commission proposals: maximum size	= 77,082
Variant	= 4%
Commissions Initial proposals:	
South Cynon + Pontypridd	= 71,237
North Cynon + Merthyr	= 71,218

Introduction

- 1.1 After taking initial evidence for the first consultation (3.11.21) the Cynon Valley Labour Party (CVLP) Boundary Working Group have considered that residents want to retain the existing constituency or keep as much of the Cynon Valley together as possible.
- 1.2 The risk of splitting the constituency in the middle from east to west will have a considerable detrimental effect on the valley's economy and the communities who have historically worked together.
- 1.3 As there is no risk assessment related to equalising all constituencies based on the electoral register the group have considered how the valley functions as a unit for all residents, access to facilities, family connections, self identity and belonging as well as the role of local government and Welsh Parliament representation.
- 1.4 The residents will oppose the increased bureaucracy caused by fracturing the existing political administrations across two other constituencies that will result in total confusion after eleven years of austerity, poverty and the ongoing struggle with the covid pandemic.
- 1.5 It is hard to believe that an Act of Parliament is produced during a world wide pandemic affecting the whole of the UK that insists on parliamentary boundary changes based on impossible criteria.
- 1.6 The boundary group have worked as best as they can in the current circumstances to provide information to the residents of Cynon Valley and seek their responses. Unfortunately there could never be a worse time to carry out activities to deliver democracy.
- 1.7 With the press and media engaged in other major issues, no footfall, no public meetings and a society struggling with their health this group requests that this boundary change is postponed until a more suitable time for residents to participate and engage in the future of their valley.

COUNTER PROPOSAL A

PONTYCYNON

WARDS	ELECTORATE	TOTAL
Existing Cynon Valley	51,147	= 51,147
Pontypridd Town	2,208	= 53,355
Trallwng	2,824	= 56,179
Treforest	2,862	= 59,041
Rhydfelen	3,037	= 62,078
Ton-Teg	3,183	= 65,261
Hawthorn	3,180	= 68,441
Church Village	4,424	= 72,865
Llantwit Fardre	4,825	= 77,690
NEW TOTAL		77,690

NOTES

- A1 This option would now flow from north to south and would create a better economic structure within RCT and as there is appropriate infrastructure Graig & Rhondda Wards could be moved to the Rhondda Constituency as follows:-

RHONDDA AMENDMENT

WARDS	ELECTORATE	TOTAL
2023 Commission proposal	71,684	= 71,684
Add Rhondda Ward	3,458	= 75,142
Add Graig	1,885	= 77,027
NEW TOTAL		77,027

- A2 The 2018 Initial Proposal for Cynon Valley is far more acceptable geographically and economically than the 2012 and the current 2023 proposals. Therefore extending Cynon Valley into Pontypridd retains a more suitable north to south direction and more in line with the Commission's 2023 criteria.

- A3 This option remains within the RCT local government boundary and removes the confusion of crossing into Merthyr Council.
- A4 The combination of joining three major towns (Aberdare, Mountain Ash, Pontypridd) will create a far more sustainable economic area.
- A5 The cultures in the above areas are far more connected than communities divided by mountains and insufficient infrastructure.
- A6 The excellent road, rail and bus services will provide more inclusivity and access to a member of parliament facilities.
- A7 Llantwit Fardre is a difficult area as its natural inclusion would take the figure above the maximum total. The suggestion is that the Commission investigate if this ward can be divided so that the above proposal has a natural cut off area.
- A8 This proposal would remove the unacceptable situation of the Cynon Valley Senedd member working with two MPs.
- A9 To accommodate the above counter proposal it is suggested that the Beddau and Tyn-y-nant wards are moved into Bridgend constituency as follows:-

**BRIDGEND AMENDMENT
WARDS**

	ELECTORATE	TOTAL
2023 Commission proposal	74,388	= 74,388
Add Beddau	3,172	= 77,560
Add Tyn-y-nant	2,454	= 80,014
NEW TOTAL		80,014

- A10 To accommodate the above counter proposal it is suggested that the Llantrisant and Talbot Green wards are moved into Cardiff West as follows:-

**CARDIFF WEST AMENDMENT
WARDS**

	ELECTORATE	TOTAL
2023 Commission proposal	73,947	= 73,947
Add Llantrisant	3,187	= 77,134
Add Talbot Green	1,965	= 79,099
NEW TOTAL		79,099

COUNTER PROPOSAL B

ABERDARE & MERTHYR WARDS

	ELECTORATE	TOTAL
2023 Commission proposal	71,218	= 71,218
Remove Treharris	5,270	= 65,948
Remove Nelson	3,563	= 62,385
Add Aberaman North	3,609	= 65,994
Add Aberaman South	3,541	= 69,535
Add Mountain Ash West	3,123	= 72,658
Add Mountain Ash East	2,254	= 74,912

NEW TOTAL

74,912

Notes:

- B1 We refer back to the consultation sent in by Cynon Valley Labour Party for November 3rd. The evidence collected in that document reveals that the residents across the majority of the valley object to the 2023 BCW initial proposal to split the valley in half as it is detrimental to all aspects of community consolidation and fails to reflect the equality of peoples lives.
- B2 The feedback from residents is that Aberaman and Mountain Ash are linked to Aberdare by infrastructure, history and culture etc and if the valley is eventually split due to the 2020 Act then this proposal may only receive support if Aberaman and Mountain Ash are attached to the move into Merthyr Tydfil.
- B3 Penrhiwceiber (4,056) is more than well connected to the town of Mountain Ash but will take the maximum total of this counter proposal to 78,968 so may have to move into Pontypridd with Abercynon and other wards from the south of the valley. In the continuing time allotted to this consultation every effort will be made to convince the Commission that these two old mining wards should remain linked ensuring their continuing contribution to the historical and cultural history of the valley.
- B4 We suggest that the name should be based alphabetically so Aberdare & Merthyr is a name that would be more acceptable.

- B5 To accommodate the above counter proposal it is suggested that the Nelson and Treharris wards are moved into the Islwyn constituency as follows:-

ISLWYN AMENDMENT

WARDS	ELECTORATE	TOTAL
2023 Commission proposal	70,735	= 70,735
Add Treharris	5,270	= 76,005
Add Nelson	3,563	= 79,568
NEW TOTAL		79,568

CONCLUSION

- C1 Quote from Cynon Valley residents to the 2012 proposals:-
Strong concerns about the Initial Proposals were expressed by those resident in the existing Cynon Valley constituency. The Initial Proposals involve electoral divisions from the existing constituency being included within three other proposed constituencies, namely Pontypridd, Rhondda, and a Heads of the Valleys constituency. A considerable body of representations attested to the strong community ties that existed within the Cynon Valley as a whole, or within parts of the Valley, that would be broken by the Initial Proposals.

The above statement can be said to reflect the opposition to the current attempt to break up the Cynon Valley constituency.

- C2 The CVLP and residents recognise that the existing Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney, Pontypridd and Cynon Valley constituencies are currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The 2020 Act of Parliament reducing representation from 40 MP's to 32 as well as imposing an equalisation of all constituencies is not only an insult to the people of Wales but also undermines democracy, restricts human rights to participate in existing communities with equivalent histories and culture and creates total confusion to voters, elected members and officials when elections are already losing participation.

- C3 The Commission considered several options, and is proposing to combine the whole of the Merthyr Tydfil principal council area with the electoral wards of Aberdare East, Aberdare West/Llwydcoed, Cwmbach, Hirwaun, Pen-y-waun and Rhigos from the existing Cynon Valley.
- C4 The Commission acknowledges that a constituency formed of the above wards does not follow the geography of the valleys from north to south. It has therefore created a great deal of concern that the Cynon Valley has been singled out to break the reassurance in the Commission criteria by simply drawing a line across the middle of the valley and hoping that residents will just accept the decision.
- C5 There may be better links being created across the Heads of the Valleys but the Commission must realise that it will be some time in the future before they are completed and a new road does not increase access to elected members of Parliament if residents do not have a car or can afford the increasing bus fares as well as no rail link provision.
- C6 There is also an objection to the name Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare. Please refer to B4.
- C7 The Commissions consideration of including electoral wards from south Cynon Valley that are wholly within the Rhondda Cynon Taf local authority into the Pontypridd constituency is recognised. However, all the residents throughout Cynon Valley will still be in RCT and the confusion of who to approach and where to go will add to the increasing stress of struggling with poverty, work, no work, care, health, mental health and general family life.

- C8 The Commission consideration to combining electoral wards from the existing Pontypridd constituency and the south of the Cynon Valley constituency in this way provides for an appropriate constituency that follows the valley roads from north to south is totally unfair to the rest of the residents in the north of Cynon Valley and must be reviewed to use the same criteria in the name of equality for all.
- C9 The Commissions decision to use the existing name of Pontypridd for a new parliamentary seat that includes half of the Cynon Valley is again insulting to the residents of Cynon Valley. What will happen to those in the north of the valley when it comes to voting for RCT councillors and Welsh Parliament members. Again this has not been thought out in order to give clarity to voters and party members who have to carry out election campaigns.
- C10 As there were no Acts of Parliament for the Boundary changes in 2012 and 2018 it is blatantly obvious to the majority of people in Wales that the 2020 Act of Parliament to change all constituency boundaries based on the equalisation of size according to the number of voters is a political move to deny access to MPs, confuse voters, diminish political participation and undermine the Welsh Parliament and elected local councillors. The Commissioners, although being ordered to carry out the implementation of this Act, must realise that an Act of Parliament that requests the equalisation of constituencies based on economy, community and equal opportunities may have been more acceptable in the current political state of society. The Act is flawed and impossible to deliver.
- C11 The fact that at the end of all stages of consultation the boundaries will be changed automatically without a Parliamentary vote or final appeal reveals democracy is at risk.

APPENDIX: Petition Signatures will continue to be collected for the 3rd consultation.

CAERPHILLY
TOWN
COUNCIL



CYNGOR
TREF
CAERFFILI

TOWN CLERK:
CLERK Y DREF

[REDACTED]

TOWN MAYOR
MEIR Y DREF

[REDACTED]

Boundary Commission for Wales
Hastings House
Cardiff
CF24 0BL

23rd February 2022

Dear Sir,

Parliamentary Boundary Review – Caerphilly Constituency

The Caerphilly Town Council has resolved to object to the proposal to join the southern part of the current Caerphilly constituency to western Newport. The natural community linkages are north to the mid valleys and south to Cardiff, rather than to Newport. The Town Council supports the counter proposal submitted by Wayne David MP for a Caerphilly constituency which links the lower Rhymney Valley to the mid valleys straddling the A472. The Town Council agrees with the arguments which are fully set out in the counter proposal submission.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

TOWN CLERK

Copy to:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs Justice Teppard

Hope you all had a good Christmas break between the first two consultations. Please will you keep all my particulars, name, address, etc. private. Thank-you. I expect the secondary phase will be more difficult than the primary phase. The first phase you only had your own thoughts and ideas. Now you have everyone else's. To put them all together will not be easy. With a reduction of eight constituencies, with eight less constituencies, eight less seats. Then there will be conflict. Why should our constituency go? Why should those particular MP's lose their jobs? Many MP's, I'm sure, will conduct a campaign; to save their constituency, conserve their constituency, save their job. Some may well come out fighting! But let us hope sense and what is best for Wales overall will dominate, and the way things will go. Not what I want, or is best for me, or us. But what is best for everybody. What serves Wales & its people the very best. Let's hope that is, & will be, the approach and attitude of everyone.

Though Wales can be split-up in many ways,

we must hope reductions will be uniform. That each part of Wales will equally be represented. Though Wales can and is usually divided into more than five parts. With constituencies perhaps five is most suitable. The five "parts" of Wales for constituencies could be as follows using present constituencies.
North Wales (10) Ynys Môn, Arfon, Aberconwy, Dwyfor Meirionnydd, Clwyd West, Vale of Clwyd, Pelym, Alyn & Deeside, Wrexham, Clwyd South.
Mid Wales (3) Montgomeryshire, Ceredigion, Brecon & Radnorshire.

South-West Wales (4) Preseli Pembrokeshire, Carmarthen West & South Pembrokeshire, Carmarthen East & Dinefwr, Llanelli.

South-Central Wales (7) Gower, Swansea West, Swansea East, Neath, Aberavon, Bridgend, Ogmore.

South-East Wales (16) (Vale of Glamorgan), Cardiff South & Penarth, Cardiff West, Cardiff Central, Cardiff North, Pontypridd, Rhondda, Cymon Valley, Merthyr Tydfil & Rhymney, Caerphilly, Islwyn, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Newport West, Newport East, Monmouth.

To have reductions across the whole of Wales equally. Each part of Wales the same - all alike.

Did the present constituencies do that? Probably not.
By the variation of the electorate - the large electoral range. This is something the new current one, ought to do. Comparing Current Initial Proposal constituencies:

	Current	Proposal	Diff.	Notes
N. Wales	10	7 1/2	-2 1/2	Largest decrease 1 is protected
M. Wales	3	1 1/2 1/2	-1	3 to M. Wales - now only 1 share with
S. C. Wales	7	5	-2	Decrease by 2, but proportionately 2nd largest.
S. W. Wales	4	3 1/2	-1/2	Least decrease Sharing 1/2 with M. Wales
S. E. Wales	16	14	-2	Decrease by 2: proportionately third largest/smallest
Wales	40	32	-8	

Largest Decrease

Smallest Decrease

Most N. Wales, S. C. Wales, S. E. Wales, M. Wales, S. W. Wales, Least

The thing is to get equal representation for all NOW.

That each part of Wales is treated fairly & equally.

Perhaps it's good and right NOT to compare.

To have a fresh start, a new go. To get the very best
with & for the new circumstances, the new situation.

THE OLD MAY WELL HAMPER THIS. The old prevent the best New.

Looking at the initial proposals, something seems not just right - stand out. To split a city in two, too two different constituencies is not going to go down well. It will receive objection & protests. It will not go down good for people of the Bangor area. Also the dividing of Arfon will be viewed as not treating the area well, wisely or kindly.

In North Wales going from one end to the other you basically have two areas - the coast & inland. Very different in composition in all ways. You have the urban holiday coastal towns. You have the rural farming countryside of the inland areas. In one sense it would be best to treat them separately - "birds of a feather". In one sense you may say they interact, and one is the "hinterland" of the other. Local Authority areas but them together. For constituencies the numbers will be paramount for what can all fit together. North-East Wales generally has three areas; Coastal, Rural, Urban. It perhaps would be best to form a constituency for each. North ^{East} Wales would have four constituencies (by numbers). Possibly two urban, one of them being industrial. The boundaries will cause debate. Where exactly do they go? Again, numbers may determine this. So the very best will not be obtained. Also the names of these. What should they be called? To have a unitary name, a single form is good. At least for identity, solidarity & unity. So as the name Delyn for one. So for its neighbour to have Alee for the other. Both names are after the two main rivers of the area. But the dominance of the two rivers differ in each area. They both use the same language for each river. The English for the rivers Dee and Alyn. With the trend going Welsh, perhaps it ought to be done using Welsh. How best to do it? Dyfforddun and Al(rd)wy? After the rivers - Dyffordwy and Alun.

3.

Certainly people will want to keep all Wrexham Town together - the actually town part of the borough. The two coastal towns of North-East Wales - Rhyl & Prestatyn. To be together? People will certainly want to keep N.E. Wales together. They certainly will not want part of it "hived" off to / with Mid Wales. No link, geographically, historically, culturally, physically. Why do it? The Berwyn Mountains make it two separate parts. It most certainly is not one constituency. Some people of Montgomeryshire may like it. It keeps Montgomeryshire as one. There needs to be a "bit" added to it. The "bit" that is added to it is separate and "minor". Thus Montgomeryshire will be as near to its own ^(as now) as can be for adding the numbers. They will see this as favourable to Montgomeryshire. Glyneddwr ought to be a constituency to itself. One of the four of N.E. Wales. Montgomeryshire ought to "partner" with a similar area to form a coherent constituency. Not all Montgomery wants to stay together. The western part sees itself neglected, overlooked by the eastern part - forgotten about. Indeed Machynlleth & Ddwyf have more in common with Meirionnydd & Ceredigion. With regard to Mid Wales Powys is too large for a constituency and Ceredigion too small. But together they ought to be able to form two Mid Wales constituencies rather than sharing two "halves". One with

North-East Wales, and one with South-West Wales. Possibly Ceredigion and Powys North, and Powys Mid & South? For Ceredigion the best parts to merge with it is in Mid Wales. The best parts perhaps these two valleys at either end - Dyfi Valley and Teifi Valley. Also the Ceredigion Powys border and the Ceredigion Caerfyrddin border. For the last one that is particularly from Lampeter to Newcastle Emlyn. Thus with these there would be no need to add the Preselis to Ceredigion. If the name Brecon & Radnorshire is to be kept rather than Powys. Then it needs to be consistent, Either the counties or towns. The counties cover the whole area included and therefore more appropriate. Therefore to use the name Breconshire & Radnorshire; Brecknockshire & Radnorshire if Powys is not to be used. Let us get Mid Wales truly represented. What does Corwen, etc have in common with Montgomery, Welshpool & co? Absolutely nothing! What actual area is Preseli? It is not the whole of the north Pembrokeshire Coast. Would Ceredigion Bae be better? But then not the whole of the north coast should be taken away from Pembrokeshire. Does Pembrokeshire and Caerfyrddin go better together than Pembrokeshire & Ceredigion? The Llanelli constituency almost touches Caerfyrddin town. A place far nearer to, and just down the road from Caerfyrddin being put into Llanelli will never do. All Wrong!
NOT TO CUT BURRYPORT INTO TWO - NEVER!

It would be far more appropriate to put the Amman Valley in with Llanelli. Ammanford has far more in common with Llanelli area, culturally, historically.

The Swansea City area of Swansea ought to be to itself. Not joined to any part. Not linked to Neath. The city itself ought to have two constituencies - two self-contained constituencies. Neath should have its own constituency. Port Talbot should have its own constituency. Both need to be supplemented. They ought to be supplemented from either side. Rather than combining. They ought not to combine. Certainly parts of Neath ought not to be combined with the Mid Wales constituency. Absolutely nothing in common! If anything it ought to be around the other way. The Upper Swansea Valley (Tawe-Uchaf) belongs to/with the rest of the Swansea Valley. They all have an industrial past unlike the rural Powys. The four or five wards ought to be with the rest of the Swansea Valley. That area could supplement Neath (Westward). While the other side supplements Port Talbot (Eastwards). So Swansea & Amman Valley considerations. The two constituencies could be named after the rivers, and the valleys that contain most of each constituency - Nedd; Afan. Splitting Bridgend will cause problems and bring protests. Why should Bridgend be divided? It will make no sense to the local people. They will be up in arms. Not for us!

Bridgend ought to be intact. Keep Bridgend one will be the cry. Please keep Bridgend one. There will be a similar cry from the Vale of Glamorgan. The Vale is too large to make a single constituency. The part that forms well a constituency is the western part around the two towns of Barry & Penarth. This is very much an urban area. As the west is rural / more rural. It goes best with other parts of the old Cowbridge Rural District, which is north of the M4. Penarth is a Glamorgan Vale town. It has never (as a whole) wanted to leave the district. It has never wanted to join Cardiff. The ^{Cardiff - Gwent S & Pen} constituency is to make up the numbers for Cardiff - that's why there is a Cardiff South & Penarth constituency. It is not best for the people there. Most do not want it. Only people that have moved from Cardiff, and maybe some who have worked in Cardiff awhile would want any link to it. But it is very secondary. A lot do not think they have the service they are entitled to & ought to have. Forming one constituency for all of them that live there would be most beneficial & helpful for them. ^{Penarth who re join VoG - Let alone putting more in to Cardiff} Dinas Powys can see no reason for them being "chucked into it". With Cardiff there will be those who want an East Cardiff. Some would wish four constituencies for Cardiff: South-East, North-East, North-West, South-West. For the Valleys all will say do not put the valleys into / with any other. KEEP THE VALLEYS THE VALLEYS Altogether

5.

Pont-y-chun, Taff Wells, etc. should, must, stay in the valleys. That is where they are. That is where they belong. That is part of them. Being "chucked" into Cardiff means they are submerged without trace - lost, GONE

The Cynon Valley must NOT be chopped in half. The Cynon Valley must NOT be wiped out. Keep the Cynon & Most valleys need to be supplemented (as indeed everywhere else does). Add on parts to the valleys. Some constituencies there would perhaps need parts from other valleys for them to be within the electoral range. But each valley should have its own constituency. Every valley to have its own constituency. The valleys have always formed one. Though with the Rhymney Valley, there the river formed the boundary between Glamorgan County and Monmouth County. The west bank was Glamorgan County. The east bank was Monmouth County. Everything was completely separate, under different counties and their councils. Thus the history of the Rhymney is a history of two 'halves'. The Glamorgan "half" was made up of two Urban Districts - Caerphilly & Gelligae. The Monmouth "half" was made up of ~~four~~ Urban Districts - Rhymney, (Tredegar), Bedwellty, ~~Myddelton~~ Bedwas & Marken, & Risca. There were ~~more~~ far more people on the "Monmouth" "half", than the "Glamorgan" ^{half}. The two had quite a separate part/side

Bedwellty was a condition - Neil Kinnock history, and completely separate and different representations. With government reorganisation of the 1970's parts of the valley were brought together, Rhymney town (on the east) Monmouth side joined the Glamorgan side. The Mid part remained with Monmouth (now called Gwent) which was & is all built-up. Then part of the lower part (Bedwas & Machen) was put in with the Glamorgan side. The Bedwas & Machen UDC was just as far from Newport as the Risca UDC. They were both associated with each other (& Newport) even though parts are in different valleys. Both have the same kind of link to Newport - excellent A roads. The county hall was in Newport. Later it moved to Cwmbran. Thus Bedwas & Machen had little with Caerphilly - different sides of the river and different counties (Glamorgan - Cardiff, Monmouth - ^{Newport} Newport). The town of Rhymney had next to no participation with the lower part of the valley - it was Monmouth County. Their centre & nearest place was Blackwood ^(Sikhowy). Tredegar and New Tredegar were together. While Bargoed and Aberbargoed were separate being on opposite sides of the river and in different counties. The 1970's reorganisation separated Tredegar & New Tredegar (one in Gwent, one in Glamorgan) and brought together Bargoed & Aberbargoed (both in Glamorgan). New boroughs were made. All Glamorgan ^{side} became a single borough, the Rhymney Valley borough. The Gwent there became

6.

two boroughs - Ishwyn and Blaenau Gwent. Then in the second half of the 1990's with the formation of unitary districts (the counties ended) Ishwyn and Rhymney Valley were merged into one and called Caerphilly. Though it is not the borough town. Indeed it is away from the main population which is in the mid valleys. Ishwyn covers the mid valleys, covering the valleys there. The borough is sorely missed. But its identity and people still adhere to it. All that area is now placed in Gwent as far as Police, Health, Voluntary Associations and so forth. Blackwood & Pontllanfraith are in the Sirhowy Valley. The Sirhowy road goes from Tredegar through those two towns to Crosskeys - A4048. The mid Valleys is joined together by the excellent A472 which joins Ystrad Mynach to Newbridge and there is ribbon development all inbetween - it is a built-up continuous area. Thus the communities between are all served by it, ^{A472}including Ycty, Ystrad Fawr, Blackwood, Pontllanfraith amongst others as well as the two towns at the end - Ystrad Mynach & Newbridge. For instance Newbridge is closer to all these and much quicker to get to, than Newport. This cannot be said about Caerphilly with respect to Cardiff. Distance, travel time & easeiness all point to Cardiff. Caerphilly people & traffic/travel go more to Cardiff than to up the valley. Travel to work patterns, leisure & shopping patterns & so forth show Caerphilly's interest in Cardiff. Being in the basin they

NB People from Mid & North Rhymney mainly take the train to Cardiff, ^{NOT to Caerphilly} ^{Caerphilly people mostly to Cardiff} are somewhat separated from the valley. Caerphilly built-up area is closer to Cardiff's than to the valley built-up area. There is more 'space' between the Valley's built-up area and Caerphilly's built-up area than between Caerphilly's and Cardiff's built-up areas. Maes-y-cwmmer was part of Islwyn, so rightly part of Islwyn constituency. Pengam & Fleur-de-Lis were part of Islwyn borough which went right to the river edge - right to the Rhymney - that mid part. Maes-y-cwmmer - Pont-lan-graith - Blackwood all in the Sirhowy. Crumlin - Oakdale - Gilfach, linked by road in Islwyn. Gilfach linked to Pengam & Blackwood. The A468 A468 goes from Machen (& Bedwas & Caerphilly) to Newport. As they (does) the A467 goes from Risca to Newport. Roughly the same. ^(conditioned & distanced)

With Newport the river forms a natural boundary. Therefore makes a natural break of Newport into East & West. The centre is on the west bank. [↗] But the electoral range prevents this. Newport took in most of the RDC of Major & St Mellons (Newport Rural c.f. Cardiff Rural). Though St Mellons went into Cardiff (& Glamorgan), while Major went to Monmouthshire (about half area maybe ^{less than a fifth} of the population of the original Monmouthshire). Since then developments have led to the Major area being more towards Newport. Indeed all of Severnside (Rozick, Caldicot, etc) as with Underwood were built-up for Llanwen St & 1000 workers. New housing developments make this area very different from the

current Monmouthshire. The built-up area looks very much to Newport. Pattern of travel - work, shopping, entertainment, etc is all Newport. Rural parts will associate with present Monmouthshire. There this area will have people who ~~do~~ not want Newport East to go, ^(as now) and will not want to go with Monmouth. While some will ^(rural) want the opposite. The most would go with Newport East. As always the numbers come into operation and so determine the exact boundary. Those of Torfaen will be glad that the numbers means all of Torfaen can be together again. So that is good. But Rogiet, Callicot, Magor, etc. it is not good that they have been separated from Newport. They have far more in common with Newport. M4 ^{M4/M48 Corridor} means Newport & Severnside go together - part of Newport "dormitory". They are not really linked to the rest of the local authority. ^(Severnside) They have a very different culture and so forth. With regard to the north-west of this area - around Abergavenny - it very much (is) linked to Crickhowell, Llangattock, Gwyrne, etc. If the Mid Wales constituency there needs supplementing from outside Pows this would be a good area for consideration. It would be far far better than the Swansea Valley. The Swansea Valley is a non-starter; here, Abergavenny is a starter. The aim is to get the very best set of 32 constituencies. That concerns all, not just some or a few. Due to the number of constituencies and the electoral range it means compromises all around.

All North Wales needs to be together - including all the North-East. The three areas of rural, urban & coast need to be considered. Mid Wales ought not to be squeezed. Its current three constituencies to be reduced to two ^(to its own - NOT shared). It ought to have two of its own constituencies. The South-West to have at least three constituencies of its own. It may well share ^{part} half a constituency with Mid Wales - Ceredigion or Breconshire & Radnorshire, or Southern Wales with part of Swansea, Swansea City proper needs to have two constituencies of its own. Both Neath & Port Talbot have their own constituencies with supplement. Bridgend to have its own constituency - much as now Vale of Glamorgan no longer having part of it linked to Cardiff. That end of the Vale forming its own constituency. For Cardiff to be supplemented two possible - Newport or Caerphilly (or both). ^{Rhymney flows through Cardiff & Caerphilly} The Valleys all together as one. Most of these will have to share. The most natural sharing is the Mid & Upper Rhymney and the Mid & Upper Sirhowy. The others can be made as "natural" as possible. Nelson has a built-up area with Treherbert. It is to the North & N.W., where there is the greatest association. To the south & east there is countryside - space. Thus Nelson with Merthyr Tydfil.

The names of these constituencies and the Senedd constituencies need to be different. Completely different if confusion and mix-up is not to occur. Therefore NO similar names to those Senedd constituencies. A leaf out of Scotland's book to be taken, where both Parliaments' constituencies CANNOT HAVE THE SAME NAME, SO NOW FOR WALES - New set of Names for all. Good Working, Please keep all my details private, Thanks. All the very best, Yours faithfully

BCW-10098/ Cllr Linda Tyler- Lloyd/ Mayals

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 February 2022 11:59
To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>
Subject: Boundary at Mayals Swansea

I would like to make a case for supporting the recommendation to place Mayals in Gower. I am available from 2pm tomorrow if you need me to attend to speak on this.

Regards

Linda Tyler-Lloyd,
City Councillor for Mayals Ward

BCW-10099/ [REDACTED] / Swansea

I support these changes. For far to long the community of Mayals has been separated from the Gower constituency. The community of Mayals is part of Mumbles community council's boundary and obviously an integral part of Mumbles and Gower.

PETITION TO KEEP THE COMMUNITIES OF BEDWAS, TRETHOMAS AND MACHEN, CAERPHILLY, THE ABER VALLEY, LLANBRADACH, YSTRAD MYNACH, ST CATWG, AND HENGOED, TOGETHER WITHIN A PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY

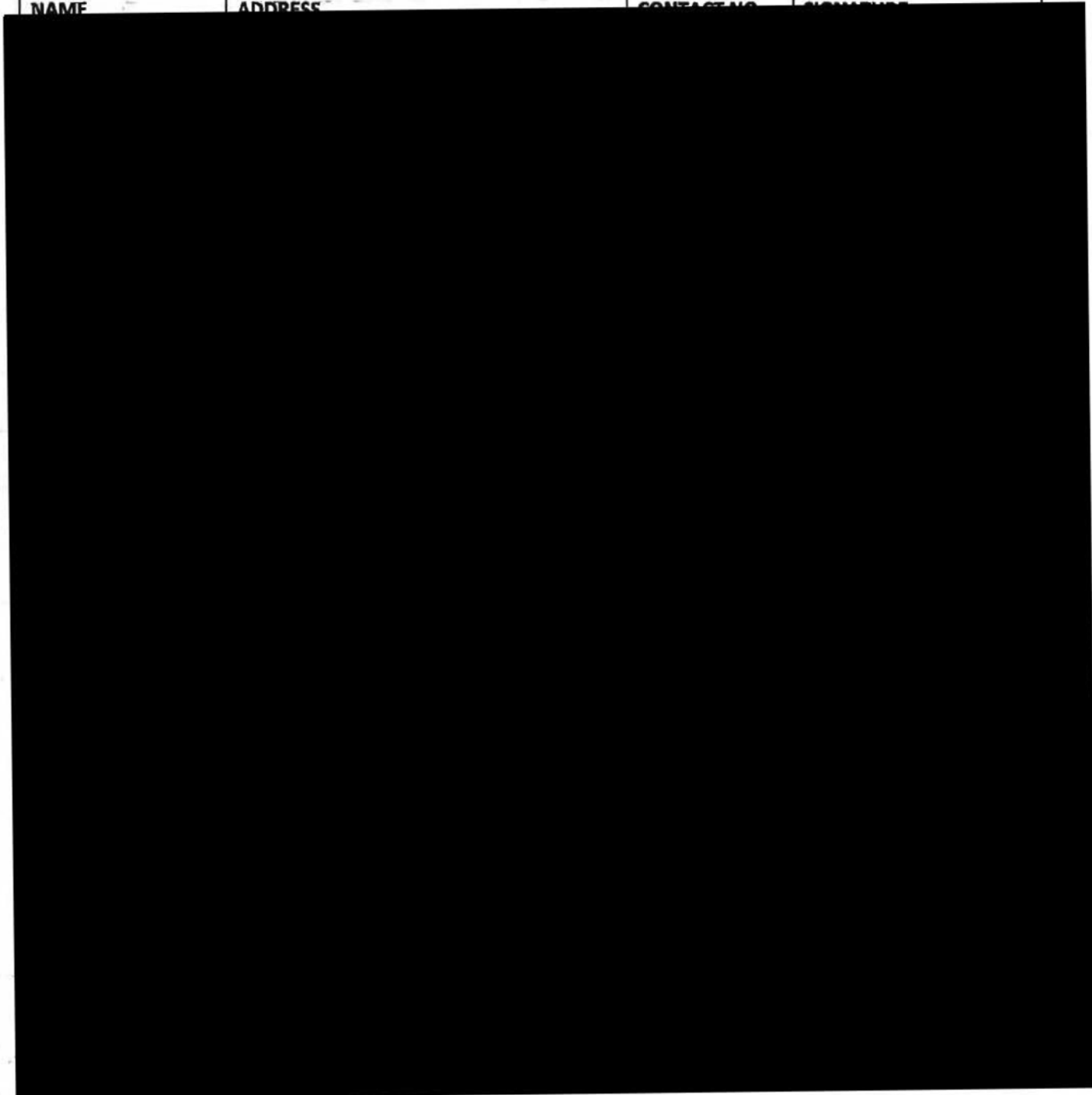
We the undersigned residents of the present Caerphilly constituency ask the Boundary Commission for Wales to re-consider their initial proposals and to keep our communities together.

The natural topography of the valleys has created a strong bond and a "community of interest" which should be respected.

We therefore urge you to consider keeping the lower and middle Rhymney Valley together and linking Newport to its natural valley hinterland.



NAME	ADDRESS	CONTACT NO.	SIGNATURE
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PETITION TO KEEP THE COMMUNITIES OF BEDWAS, TRETHOMAS AND MACHEN, CAERPHILLY, THE ABER VALLEY, LLANBRADACH, YSTRAD MYNACH, ST CATWG, AND HENGOED, TOGETHER WITHIN A PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY

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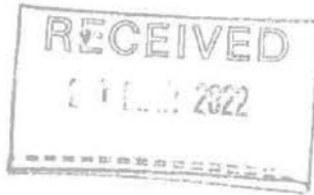
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[illegible]

ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER



Clerk: [REDACTED]
Aber Valley Community Council

Website: [REDACTED] E-mail: [REDACTED]
Telephone: [REDACTED]

16th March 2022

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed petition, signed by Members of Aber Valley Community Council.

Yours faithfully



Clerk
Aber Valley Community Council

PETITION TO KEEP THE COMMUNITIES OF BEDWAS, TRETHOMAS AND MACHEN, CAERPHILLY, THE ABER VALLEY, LLANBRADACH, YSTRAD MYNACH, ST CATWG, AND HENGOED, TOGETHER WITHIN A PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY

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[illegible]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 February 2022 16:53
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Boundary Changes

Mr Wayne David.

I am writing to you to express our disappointment with the proposed boundary changes for the Abervalley including Senghenydd and Caerphilly Constituencies and to incorporate them into Newport City.

We would lose all of our identity and history of which we have a great deal of interest, having 3 collieries lfrom Senghenydd who had the greatest ever loss of life due to a pit disaster 14 October 1913 which killed 439 miners fathers and sons from the same family/ house some left with no men in the household. All the famous chiors Abervalley and Caerphilly Choristers and all the sportsmen and women who have gone before us.

We applaud Mr Wayne David and support his campaign to keep the valleys and Constituencies as they are.

Signed on behalf of Senghenydd Rfc Committee.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 February 2022 12:31
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Parliamentary Changes in our area

Hi Wayne,

Thank you for taking time to speak to me the other day. As you are aware I am not always vocal in my view and do tend to keep an open mind. However, on this occasion I felt I must put my view in writing. Please pass this on to whoever needs to be aware of how devastating changes will be to our local community.

To show my credentials and to prove I have an honest credible opinion I would offer the below.

I was Born in Caerphilly Miners Hospital in 1961 with my twin brother [REDACTED] My Family are all Local from Caerphilly to Blackwood to Rhymney. My [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] of the little Theatre in Blackwood for many decades. My [REDACTED] was a very big influence in Blackwood Chapel organising many events and Charitable solutions for many decades. These are my family that have moulded me to who I am today. My Family have been very active in the local community for many decades. My [REDACTED] has won a community award for her work in the Caerphilly Miners hospital project. So I trust this gives providence to my calling.

As Chairman of Caerphilly Male voice Choir (Born in 1906.) I have for the last 10 years continued to support the local community encouraged by my amazing family and to be fair others that support our area. There are so many worthy organisations locally that understand our area. Our Choir is not just a choir. Its support for our community. It's a supportive organisation encouraging different!. We are all different and we all need some support at some time. Our choir does this with fireworks attached. If you don't believe me watch The Singing Postman at Bedwas online who is now our social media manager and our events manager. [REDACTED] is an amazing supporter of our choir who like many others including me, needed support and a place to take the mind away. We have two Sixteen year old Choristers recently joined us and a Ninety Five Year old Chorister who joined our Choir in 1948. From Rhymney to Caerphilly my Family like others is spread from top to bottom down this, our valley. We are unique.

My point being that our Valley is linked not just Geographically but by Family ties and similar issues. Organisations like us see this with our wide base of choristers needs, from Cardiff/ Newport and our wonderful Valleys. We and I personally have a good handle on this. My work take me all over South Wales so I get it!

We have a train line that travels up and down our valley. It offers the same links and close ties.

We are as unique as all the other valleys. We are also individual in our needs and requirements.

(comparing us to an area like Newport or Cardiff is madness. We have different social aspects and requirements, and especially community. So please can someone explain our similarities with Newport, which is more like Cardiff. How someone outside our area Politically would know or even **CARE** about what's happening in our local Valley blows my mind.. Organisations within our area see what's needed and splitting us up politically is not going to help us in any way. I welcome an opportunity to explain 1-1 my reason for writing and why we must retain Political stability in our area. I am sure other Charitable organisations locally will also be perplexed.)

As Chairman of a local organisation going since 1906. We need local support from a local MP who understand our local requirements. Linked to our local needs.

As a Father of Three Children and a single parent for many years I can in all honesty inform you I was struggling with the CSA and needed local support. The only support I had was from my local MP. Nobody else cared and that's a fact! I was in a bad way and very depressed about the lack of support and understanding from the CSA. My Children lived with me and yet the CSA were taking over £500 out of my wages monthly, when I had Three Children to support full time. If I had not had my local MP and his local office who were outstanding, then I dread to think what would have happened.

It was not just my MP but the local Office and the Local staff who went out of their way to support me with kind words and encouragement. They were aware of the urgency of my situation as they were 5 minutes down the road from me. Its not just the MP it's the local supportive staff that are a big part in this.

If anyone thinks for one minute that it's all OK and local issues can be covered by a representative in another area. Please, please think again and visit all the local organisations and see why we need to retain representation in similar areas and support the people in the area that holds similar issues. These can only be resolved locally. Sorry to rant on but like many in our area trying to have a social conscience. We need our Politics to match our circumstances.

Thank you, Wayne, for taking time to read this and if I can be of any support to prevent this catastrophe then I am willing to speak directly to the person who is responsible for this ridiculous idea.

Please take the best of care.

Yours sincerely.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 February 2022 08:51
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Boundary Commission

Importance: High

Hi Wayne,

Please see my below submission.

Boundary Commission

The Parliamentary constituency of Caerphilly has been in existence for 104 years. Caerphilly County Borough Council serves all electors living in the constituency, and has done so since local government reorganisation in 1996. In recent years, only very small changes have been made as part of a general boundary review. The wards of Aberbargoed and Maesycymmer were transferred to the Islwyn constituency (whose electors are also solely served by Caerphilly County Borough Council) in 2005.

I would ask the commission to consider this key question from the point of view of the average, everyday person who would live in the new, proposed constituency of Newport West & Caerphilly. Their member of Parliament represents part of Newport and the whole of the Caerphilly basin. There will be reasons why the constituent may be wondering whether they're resident within Newport City Council or Caerphilly County Borough Council. After all, the Member of Parliament serves residents in both local authority areas. We can not assume that all residents will be able to differentiate between parliamentary and local authority boundaries. My strong belief is the proposed change will result in confusion for residents.

At no point, under any other boundary review, have electoral wards within the Caerphilly constituency been transferred to the neighbouring Newport City Council area. So why has this been the case? The answer is very simple. There's a recognised difference between the city of Newport and the Rhymney Valley. The former mining village of Senghenydd has a completely different tradition to the rural parishes of Michaelstone Y Fedw & St Brides, on the very western fringe of Newport West.

To conclude, I see there to be no reason to disestablish the long - recognised Rhymney Valley link by creating a parliamentary constituency of Newport West & Caerphilly. The counter - proposal put forward by Wayne David MP, respects the boundary commissions population criteria, it is well thought out, and I would ask for you to strongly consider this workable proposal.

Many thanks,

Cllr James Pritchard

Dirprwy Arweinydd ac Aelod Cabinet dros Isadeiledd ac Eiddo | Deputy Leader And Cabinet Member For Infrastructure & Property

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili | Caerphilly County Borough Council

Mae'r e-bost hwn ac unrhyw ffeiliau sy'n atodol yn gyfrinachol a dim ond ar gyfer defnydd yr unigolyn neu'r sefydliad y cyfeiriwyd atynt. Os ydych wedi derbyn yr e-bost hwn ar gam rhowch wybod i reolwr eich system. Nodwch fod unrhyw sylwadau neu tarn o fewn testun yr e-bost yw sylwadau a barn yr awdur yn unig ac nid yn angenrheidiol yn cynrychioli barn Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili. I orffen, dylai'r person sy'n derbyn yr e-bost sicrhau nad oes firws ynghlwm nae mewn unrhyw ddogfen atodol i'r e-bost. Nid yw'r Cyngor yn derbyn unrhyw gyfrifoldeb am unrhyw ddifrod achoswyd gan unrhyw firws sy'n cael ei drosglwyddo gan yr e-bost hwn.

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog (yn unol a'ch dewis), ac mewn ieithoedd a fformatau eraill. Cewch ymateb yn unol a'ch dewis iaith os nodwch hynny i ni, ac ni fydd cyfathrebu a ni yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager. Please note that any views or opinions presented in this email are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of Caerphilly County Borough Council. Finally, the recipient should check this email and any attachments for the presence of viruses. The Council accepts no liability for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this email.

We welcome correspondence in English, Welsh or bilingually (according to your choice) or in other languages and formats. We will respond in your declared chosen language, and corresponding with us in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

BCW-10104/ Cllr Daniel Rowlands/ Newtown

Due to Montgomeryshire being a close knit community I support these new proposals.

BCW-10105/ [REDACTED] / Blackwood

I support Penmaen and Oakdale staying in the Islwyn constituency. Blackwood, Pontllanfraith and Oakdale have been of this constituency since the 1970s and remain so.

The proposals by Wayne David MP shows little regard for residents.

BCW-10106/ [REDACTED] / Llandinam

I fully support the proposal to maintain Montgomeryshire within a larger constituency of Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr. Montgomeryshire has been represented as such since about 1542. I accept the importance for Parliamentary Constituencies to be as far as possible even in terms of population size but consider that maintaining Montgomeryshire as a whole, within the proposed larger constituency would satisfy that requirement whilst maintaining the historical perspective.

BCW-10107/ [REDACTED] / Tregynon

It is vital that we keep the historic county and constituency of Montgomeryshire intact as well as adding other local neighbouring communities that have similar landscapes and needs. This also better represents the modern demographics of the population; and this proposal achieves this.

Montgomeryshire shares many strong links with parts of Clwyd South, including the area around Llangollen, I am happy to hear that current proposals will unite this area with Montgomeryshire as part of a larger Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr, creating a constituency more in line with national averages for electors per constituency. We are far better suited to being represented in a unified constituency than being split off and divided amongst other, further away constituencies with which we have fewer links or connections.

I support the proposal for Montgomeryshire with Glyndwr.

BCW-10108/ [REDACTED] / Tregynon

The proposals from the Boundary Commission are welcome. I was concerned by previous proposals that suggested dividing Montgomeryshire. As I am sure you are aware, Montgomeryshire is a historic and close-knit community, with many having close ties across the county. By maintaining Montgomeryshire within a new Parliamentary constituency shows a clear balance with meeting the commissions parameters, whilst also preserving communal identity.

BCW-10109/ [REDACTED] / Blaina

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 March 2022 08:05
To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>
Subject: Comment

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to make some comments about the area of Islwyn. I live part of the Month at [REDACTED]

However BG is connected to Islwyn, and I stood as the Conservative Parliamentary candidate 2019 , and for the Senedd in 2021.

I am also Chairman of Islwyn Conservatives and Deputy Chairman of South Wales East for the Conservative party and President of BG.

I wish to say that I fully support without any change the current plans for Islwyn. The small change of adding Nelson makes perfect sense indeed.

In general the plans for South Wales East are measured and appropriate.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

BCW-10110/ [REDACTED] Unknown

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 06 March 2022 16:30

To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>

Subject: Submission of an idea for a new tool for use by the Boundary Commissions

Dear Boundary Commission for Wales,

I would like to know if submitting the following proposal to the Commission at this email address is the appropriate avenue.

I have made presentations of this idea to the Northern Irish and English Commissions at secondary public hearings (so far Westminster, Belfast, later also Cambridge). I have also sent the following text to the Scottish Boundary Commission. To this end I would like to ensure that you also have a chance to consider this proposal as it benefits you and it is possible that it asks in some instances for your work to intersect with that of your neighbours. This is the latest text. This idea is intended to challenge and support you in making your work more representative, something this tool can succeed in doing whilst remaining within the rules as laid out by Parliament - all of which I understand is your fundamental duty. I have also attached some drawings as a guide.

Best wishes,

Shared Constituencies

This tool is not some form of replacement for existing agreements across perceived borders, although it be a powerful contributor to continuous, productive dialogue and development. It is intended to work in conjunction with the boundaries already drawn. Ideally, the reciprocal sharing of representative platforms of whole or sections of districts across boundary lines.

Where I say the word 'resource' I mean it to go beyond economics and the material to include ideas of what we love and care about, however these resources are still needed to be defined geographically.

The Boundary Commission has a relationship to a classical spectrum of power. This technocratic power can be used to create a tool which will address representational deficits in the democratic system.

These deficits have nothing to do with current ideas of proportional representation or gerrymandering.

It is the dislocation of resources away from the voter.

To begin to correct this all that is needed is for the Commissions to draw new lines on our maps with a different colour.

These boundaries are not drawn around voter allocation but instead around resources - complimenting existing boundaries.

Within these new boundaries Ministers of Parliament (MP's) from local

constituencies are allocated into the newly defined spaces along with the localities current representative. These boundaries are essentially integrated into the current boundary space, shared constituencies overlap, but do not convey votes in themselves, but instead they could convey everything else offered under the spectrum of power held by the Boundary Commission.

This adjustment could recognise, for example, how goods and services such as schools and the UK's National Health Service must be addressed as fundamentally apolitical resources shared across boundary lines in order that they prosper. Establishing Shared Constituencies can balance and reconnect voters to their dislocated resources.

Doing this can increase accountability of MP's towards our public services. It can guarantee investments against attempts to leverage 'value' out of public resources.

What we have at the moment is a fundamental structural failure, investments in our resources are leaking.

This problem is compounded as services are centralised and privatised - even though some centralisation is necessary.

A good example as a Shared Constituency could be Addenbrooke's Hospital which is located in Conservative South East Cambridgeshire. This hospital is used by many people from many different constituencies.

It is here that the public find themselves at their most vulnerable. In these instances a variety in representation would be a positive development.

A natural partner for this defined space is the Labour Cambridge City Constituency which borders a few hundred meters away.

While there are several constituencies that make use of Addenbrooke's - by associating just one other constituency that the hospital serves to this newly defined area, even if done in an arbitrary manner would make the outcome of the Commissions work more representative. Two heads are better than one.

The full scope of powers these shared constituencies can embody is ultimately a matter for Parliament, but the lines must be drawn first - then the vessel can be filled. This proposal is intended to create a greater obligation, accountability and challenge all parts of government.

It is intended to bring dialogue occurring between neighbouring MP's closer to the resources and closer to the public they serve.

Shared constituencies can help bridge the water between Northern Ireland and the British mainland - interests are more likely to be sewn together - across fishing communities and ports - for example. It can help re-develop democratic representation across this union and empower democracy, becoming a model of working with other countries. In this way it can assist in balancing the deficit that the Northern Ireland protocol has created.

As an example, the port of Belfast could be circled and offered up to the English and/or the Scottish Commission and see if they reciprocate by drawing a circle

around a reciprocal port area. Northern Irish representatives would also represent in this Scottish or English area and vice versa.

Shared Constituencies will be necessary to level up and to insure areas for positive environmental development.

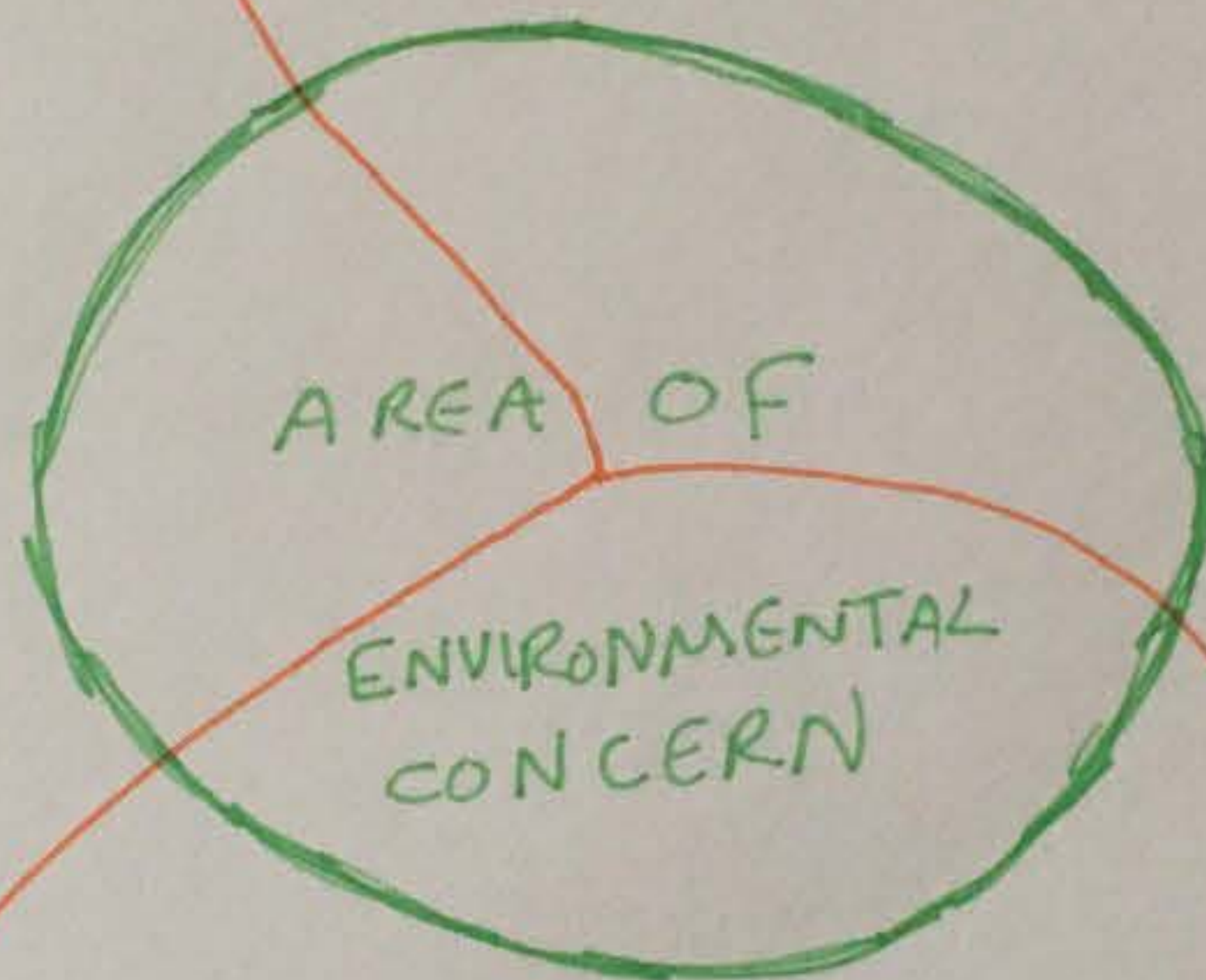
They can help rehabilitate the square mile which is historically a cannibal. In a Multi-Polar World the Pound cannot afford to show the kind of indifference it has done to its own populace and others, especially if it intends to offer the City of London as a vehicle for growth across the world. Everywhere needs investment now, but they don't need just 'any' investment. The old ways will not work, nowhere ever wanted to be a colony. This idea puts focus on regional development. Sustainability of investment is key and it must be demonstrated otherwise who in the world could believe it?

Shared Constituencies can help resolve representational deficits across Ukrainian and Russian interests amongst others. This tool aids work between different political systems. There does not need to be a conflict to recognise the potential here.

This tool if applied will not affect the choices that are currently being considered by these Commissions unless Parliaments will it. The marks will simply exist. So why not try?

DISTRICT 1

DISTRICT 2



DISTRICT 3

— VOTER DEFINED DISTRICT/CONSTITUENCY

— RESOURCE DEFINED DISTRICT/CONSTITUENCY

SHARED

QUALIFIED
LEVEL OF
INTEGRATION
DUE TO SPECTRUM
OF POWER GUARENTEED
BY BOUNDARY COMMISSION

DEFINITION
ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES /
OCCUPY SHARED
CONSTITUENCIES / DISTRICTS

EACH SIDE OFFERS THE OTHER
THEIR SPACE ACROSS THE
LINES

BRIDGE THE DIVISION

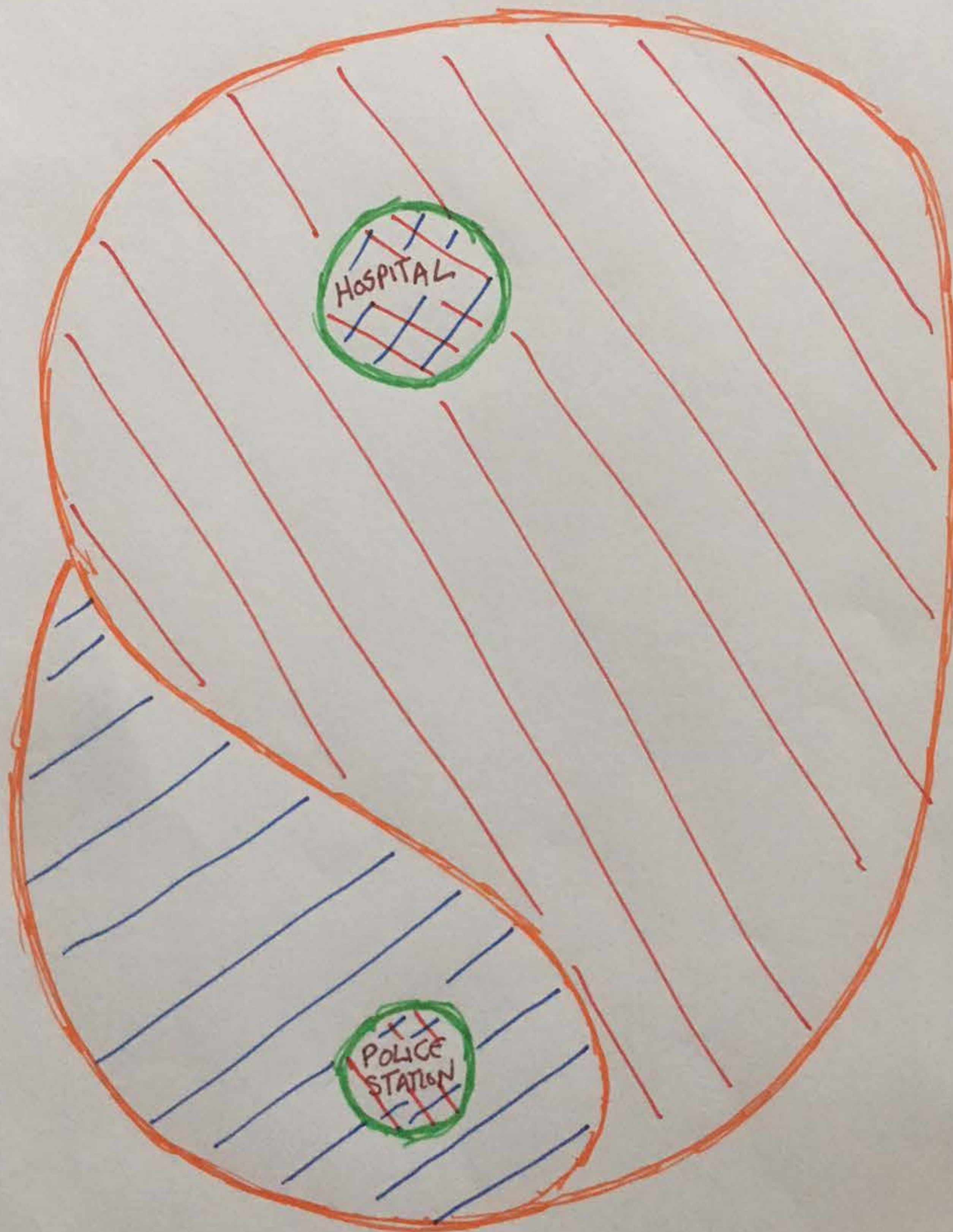
BELFAST DISTRICT

SEA

IRISH

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT

GERRYMANDER'D DISTRICT LINES
Shared Constituencies (Districts) Line



BCW-10111/ [REDACTED] Bay of Colwyn Town Council/ Colwyn Bay

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 08 March 2022 09:31

To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>

Subject: FW: URGENT - Review of Parliamentary Constituencies (late response)

Importance: High

Please accept the following, alongside the representations to be made to the commission at the hearing tomorrow (written transcription submitted earlier today), as the official response from Bay of Colwyn Town Council to the proposals for the review of parliamentary constituencies ...

Dear Sir/Madam,

Members of the Town Council have considered the proposed boundary changes for our area and wish to submit objections in the strongest possible terms to the separation of the Llandrillo yn Rhos electoral ward into a different parliamentary constituency than the adjoining wards forming the town council area. The Bay of Colwyn Town Council area comprises of the Conwy County Council's electoral wards of Llandrillo yn Rhos, Rhiw, Glyn, Eirias and Colwyn. Moving one of these into a different parliamentary constituency than the others would create a lot of confusion and duplication at a very local level. For example, which MP would we contact to invite to civic and municipal events in the local community, who would we contact to lobby about local matters, etc, especially if the two MPS are from different political parties and are not, therefore, working closely together.

Our concern is the damage this would do to local democracy, with our communities being seen as the local building blocks on which the larger electoral areas are built. Splitting a community at this most local level is just not acceptable and another way must be found to meet the required electoral quotas for the two parliamentary constituencies.

I would be grateful if you would confirm receipt of this response.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Clerc y Dref / Town Clerk

Cyngor Tref Bae Colwyn / Bay of Colwyn Town Council

[REDACTED]
4 March 2022

To The Boundary Commission for Wales

WELSH PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES REVIEW 2023

I am writing in connection with the various proposals for the reduction of Welsh Parliamentary Constituencies from 40 to 32.

I do not wholeheartedly support the principle of revision solely on population numbers without giving due weight to the loyalties of history, the character of the areas - the balance and diversity of industry, agriculture, commerce and tourism and the geographical spread.

My particular personal concern, based on the information available to me, is the proposal to split Montgomeryshire rather than enhance it by expanding it to include additional areas to the north of the county. "Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr".

I support the proposal put forward by The Montgomeryshire Conservatives and ask you to consider this favourably.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

BCW-10113/ Cllr Peter Lewis/ Llanfyllin

Montgomeryshire is best represented as a whole, and maintaining it in this manner, with the addition of the area around Llangollen to form Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr will achieve the goal of establishing greater parity between constituency populations to improve democratic decision making. Splitting Montgomeryshire would achieve little and would create uncertainty for those living in boundary areas with overlapping county council jurisdictions.

BCW-10114/ [REDACTED] / Monmouth

I support the proposals of the Boundary Commission for Wales to make the Monmouth constituency match with the local authority boundaries.

Monmouthshire is a specific community with its own identity which the proposed constituency matches. This is sensible and convenient and an improvement on the current position.

I would be opposed to any proposals which would see Monmouthshire split between 2 or 3 different constituencies.

BCW-10115/ Craig Williams MP/ Welshpool

I'm writing to you regarding the proposed boundary review for the Montgomeryshire Parliamentary Constituency. I fully understand that the Boundary Commission for Wales are currently considering a number of proposals affecting Montgomeryshire following your initial proposals in 2021.

As I am sure you are aware, Montgomeryshire has been represented in one way or another since 1542. Whilst I would wish for the constituency to remain as it always has been, I accept the importance for Parliamentary constituencies to be relatively even in terms of population size. Maintaining Montgomeryshire as a whole within a larger seat of Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr acknowledges the area as a historic county and Parliamentary seat, while also meeting the parameters of the review.

I welcome the changes suggested by the boundary commission, unlike previous proposals that threatened the integrity of the region, dividing a close-knit community would only complicate matters. Ensuring the continued existence of Montgomeryshire through the incorporation of parts of Clwyd South will help rebalance electorate sizes to ensure each Welsh constituency better reflects public opinion.

BCW-10116/ [REDACTED] Llanbradach & Pwllypant Community Council/
Caerphilly

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 March 2022 10:42

To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>

Subject: RESPONSE - Parliamentary Boundary Review - Caerphilly constituency

Dear Boundary Commission

I am writing on behalf of local residents and members of Llanbradach & Pwllypant Community Council.

Members are strongly opposed to the split in constituency whereby Llanbradach & Pwllypant would be joined to western Newport in the proposed newly formed Newport West and Caerphilly constituency.

We wholeheartedly support the counter proposal submitted by Wayne David Labour MP for Caerphilly, which maintains the integrity of the lower Rhymney valley.

The residents of Llanbradach and Pwllypant have an affinity to the Rhymney valley and the town of Caerphilly and Cardiff and definitely not with the City of Newport.

Travel to work and recreational travel is very much North - South and not East - West due to excellent road and rail links.

It makes more sense when taking on board the geographic, transport and socio-economics of the area to not divide as per your proposal, which would be very confusing for people and somewhat unnatural.

To re-iterate, we fully support the counter proposal submitted by Wayne David MP and urge the Boundary Commission to give his counter proposal serious consideration.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Diolch yn fawr iawn.

Cofion cynnes / Warm regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Clerc i'r Cyngor / Clerk to the Council
Cyngor Cymuned Gelligaer Community Council



**CYNGOR CYMUNED
LLANBRADACH & PWLL-Y-PANT
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Wayne David MP

11th March 2022

Dear Mr David

Parliamentary Boundary Review – Caerphilly constituency

I am writing with reference to your letter dated 4th February 2022, which was duly presented at our Community Council meeting on 14th February 2022.

I can confirm that Council and local residents fully support your counter proposal which maintains the integrity of the Rhymney Valley, and I have emailed the Boundary Commission with our comments.

Members and residents alike are strongly opposed to the split in constituency whereby Llanbradach & Pwllypant would be joined to western Newport in the proposed newly formed Newport West and Caerphilly constituency.

The residents of Llanbradach and Pwllypant have an affinity to the Rhymney valley and the town of Caerphilly and Cardiff and definitely not with the City of Newport.

Travel to work and recreational travel is very much North – South and not East – West due to excellent road and rail links.

It makes good sense when taking on board the geographic, transport and socio-economics of the area to not divide as per the Boundary Commission's proposal, which would be very confusing for people and somewhat unnatural.

To re-iterate, we fully support your counter proposal and have urged the Boundary Commission to give it serious consideration.

I am hoping to forward to your office our completed petitions next week.

Yours sincerely

Clerk to the Council & Proper Officer

BCW-10117/ [REDACTED] / Swansea

I don't not agree that the Brec & Rad boundary should be extended to Pontardawe. In fact, I believe the constituency should NOT include Abercrave & Ystradgynlais area either.

Reason:

1. The above towns & villages historically are old mining areas.

They have nothing in common with the rest of Brec / Rad which are mainly farming areas. The problems & requirements of these areas are completely different to the farming areas and should be represented accordingly.

2. Brec / Rad and Powys council is a very large area - in fact too large to manage efficiently. Make these authorities larger still does not make sense and does not serve these regions effectively and provide a good democratic representation.

I fully oppose this change. This area should be tied to Swansea and NOT Brecon / Rad - after all this area is called the Swansea Valley and is historically tied to Swansea.

BCW-10118/ [REDACTED] / Newtown

I support the boundary commission Wales recommendation that the new constituency consist of Montgomeryshire together with Parts of counties to the North of Montgomeryshire, including Llangollen, etc.

BCW-10119/ [REDACTED] / Pontardawe

I fundamentally disagree with the proposal to amalgamate Pontardawe and Trebanos wards into Brecon.

We are an active community with extremely close ties to Neath Port Talbot, but none with Brecon. Moving us would only serve to isolate our community.

BCW-10120/ [REDACTED] / Pontardawe

I do not think Pontardawe should be included with a rural area such as Brecon. Pontardawe has totally different social needs and requirements. We would end up being a satellite town to Brecon which would exacerbate the social and economic deprivation in the area. Pontardawe should be included with adjacent towns of similar standing, Brecon is far too distant and NOT inline with Green policies are also taken into account. How would residents travel to Brecon particularly considering the elderly electorate? This change is not taking into consideration the elderly or the disabled electorate.

BCW-10121/ [REDACTED] / Pontardawe

Brecon is remote to Pontardawe. It's in a different county, has a different culture and even different accents. We have NO affinity with Brecon.

BCW-10122/ [REDACTED] / Pembrokeshire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED] arch 2022 19:16
To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>
Subject: Boundary Commission Parliamentary Consultation relating to Pembrokeshire

Good evening,

I wish to agree with the recommendations of the Boundary Commission for Wales which say the Maenclochog Ward would be in the Mid and South Pembrokeshire constituency. I live in the Maenclochog Ward and therefore feel I am well placed to comment.

I would strongly suggest that the vast majority of residents of the Maenclochog Ward look to the south for many of their services and links rather than to the north. On a daily basis I see people from the New Moat and Maenclocog area travelling south towards Haverfordwest or Narberth for their work, their leisure activities and many other links. Likewise I would suggest that those living in the Clunderwen and Llandissilio areas have many links with Narberth to the south. I would suggest not many look north to Cardigan, which would entail a journey over the Preseli Mountains.

I would strongly agree with the Boundary Commission for Wales that the Maenclochog Ward should be in the new Mid and South Pembrokeshire constituency.

Thank you for listening to my views.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

BCW-10123/ [REDACTED] / Caerphilly

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 March 2022 08:18
To: Enquiries <enquiries@boundaries.wales>
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Proposals Caerphilly / Islwyn/ Newport West Boundary Changes - Parliamentary

Dear Sirs,

I have been reading a report in the Caerphilly Observer Newspaper dated 10/3/22 in regard a counter proposal with a map in regard to Pontllanfraith and Blackwood being put into a new Caerphilly Constituency which I would like to reject.

These towns are in the Western Valley with all residents believing there is common ground between the Islwyn and Bedwellty Constituency previously and as the Councillor since 1999 (left for a period of 5 years to work in London) I do not believe the electorate within these wards would accept this with a formation of a new Caerphilly Constituency at Parliamentary Level

I also believe and stand to be corrected that other areas like Penmaen and Argoed Wards would be part of Newport Constituency – this is not feasible I believe, and I see including Newbridge will form part of Newport, including Abercarn, Risca and Crosskeys.

Islwyn should remain I believe with the original areas as you suggest, and this is my personal opinion only, and I have copied in other interested parties who may wish to comment

My personal opinion having stood in 2001 for Parliament and twice for the Senedd Elections within the Islwyn Constituency and lived in Risca, Ynysddu, Pontllanfraith and Blackwood Wards

[REDACTED]
Cyngorydd Sir - Coed Duon | County Councillor - Blackwood
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili | Caerphilly County Borough Council

Boundary Commission For Wales

8/3/22

Proposed Boundary Change - Montgomeryshire

Dear Sir,

The Boundary Commission proposals are welcomed by us.

We were extremely concerned that previous proposals had intimated the division of Montgomeryshire. You are aware of course that Montgomeryshire is a historic and close knit community with many people having close cross country ties.

Maintaining Montgomeryshire within a new Parliamentary constituency would result in a good and acceptable balance by meeting the Commission's parameters whilst maintaining community identity.

BCW-10125/ [REDACTED] / Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant

It is a welcome change to the previous proposals to see new proposals that will keep Montgomeryshire together as an independent constituency, we feel that this is a far more appropriate result, as we have far more in common with each other, in terms of community links, which helps explain why Montgomeryshire has been a whole constituency for hundreds of years, rather than being split up, as was initially suggested.

BCW-10126/ [REDACTED] / Meifod

I'm excited to hear the updated proposals including the addition of the Llangollen area to Montgomeryshire, we have much in common and have strong inter-community links with our northern neighbours, and I look forward to this unification. The previous proposals were certainly far from favourable for many living here, especially for those living on the borders, with several divided county councils, separate boundaries in the Senedd/Assembly and in Parliament would only complicate matters.

BCW-10127/ [REDACTED] / Sarn

Whilst we may be divided by hills and separated into our own valleys, I believe there is a real community spirit in Montgomeryshire that has for centuries overcome these geographic difficulties, which is why the region has nearly always been represented (as one) in parliament over the last five-hundred years, and I am glad that the previous proposals that threatened the unity of our wonderful, unique and vibrant community are no longer being considered.

BCW-10128/ [REDACTED] / Welshpool

It is clear that the former proposals to split up Montgomeryshire were never practical, and I'm glad to hear a far more satisfactory proposal that keeps Montgomeryshire whole, whilst still achieving the goals of the Boundary commission. It has been kept together since Tudor times, represented under a single seat, and there is no good reason for this to change.

BCW-10129/ [REDACTED] / Berriew

Since 2000, the demographic makeup of many seats has changed, and I believe it is vital to ensure representative democracy can continue, and I am glad to hear that the boundary commission will help to make our constituencies more equal, ensuring all of us have a greater, and more equal say in the governing of the UK. By combining Montgomeryshire with part of Clwyd South we can bring together communities that are already closely connected, and that we have much in common with.

BCW-10130/ [REDACTED] / Berriew

In one form or another, Montgomeryshire has nearly always been represented in Parliament as a single region. I am glad that the new proposals ensure its continued existence, as we are a closely integrated community, with similar issues and worries. The addition of parts of Clwyd South also helps to rebalance the demographic anomalies that exist due to the population changes over the last twenty years whilst helping increase our connections to people we are already closely connected to.

BCW-10131/ [REDACTED] / Welshpool

I welcome to proposals from the Boundary Commission that my constituency of Montgomeryshire becomes Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr. I disagree with a counter proposal which splits Montgomeryshire in half! As you must know Montgomeryshire is an historic and tight-knit community and should be maintained. Montgomeryshire has been represented since the 16th century and, whilst I would wish the constituency to remain as it always has been, I fully appreciated that we must ensure relative equality in population sizes. To meld Montgomeryshire with Glyndwr keeps Montgomeryshire intact, whilst still meeting the parameters of the review

BCW-10132/ [REDACTED] / Welshpool

Although I would have preferred the Constituency to remain following the old County boundaries, if changes need to be made, I believe that this more recent proposal to be more appropriate.

The initial proposal appeared to extend the boundary north and include a significant section of Wrexham, which would have altered the rural nature of the Constituency. This revision maintains the largely rural balance is retained with the addition of 4 small market towns.

BCW-10133/ Tonia Antoniazzi MP/ Gower

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 March 2022 13:53
To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission

Please find attached my submission to the second consultation.

Regards,

Tonia

Tonia Antoniazzi

Member of Parliament for Gower

I am writing to outline my support for the alternative proposed by Welsh Labour to the commission's current proposals. I think this alternative proposal feels better and more reflects the communities of natural interest in Swansea and Gower while remaining within the guidelines on size. Additionally, this proposal is within the current proposed constituencies so will not have a knock-on effect for other constituencies.

This alternative would create a core urban constituency and a peripheral 'horseshoe' constituency including the Gower peninsula and the rural area to the north of Swansea. This would meet the criteria to which the commission have been working to, in terms of geographic and community cohesion, far more closely than the initial proposals.

The adjustments can be undertaken within the envelope of the initial proposals and will not have a knock-on effect on other constituencies.

Counter-proposal

Change Swansea West and Gower to exclude Sketty and Mayals (combined electorate 13452) but take in Gorseinon, Penyrheol, Kingsbridge, Upper Loughor, Lower Loughor, Penllergaer, Llangyfelach and Mawr (combined electorate 12890). Sketty and Mayals would then be included in the proposed Swansea North and Central seat (renamed Swansea Central). This would result in two constituencies well within the boundary commission's quota:

Swansea Central: 76760

Gower: 74653

The current proposals

Swansea North and Central taking in Pontarddulais and Swansea City Centre is hard to justify in terms of community of interest. The constituency would extend from the village of Garnswllt on the outskirts of Ammanford, take in the upland area of Mynydd y Gwair and distinct villages such as Pontlliw and Penllergaer along with Swansea city centre and its urban hinterland.

Swansea West and Gower would be an incongruous amalgamation of distinct communities such as Gorseinon, Loughor, Gowerton, Penclawdd, the villages along the Gower peninsula and Mumbles with areas that gravitate naturally towards the city centre in the Sketty ward (e.g. Sketty itself, Tycoch, Parklands, and the Derwen Fawr area, along with the Singleton university campus), which are all part of Swansea's geographical core. Locally there is a clear delineation of where "town" begins and that it is distinct from surrounding villages. Notably the commission has rejected the inclusion of Mayals in the Gower constituency on a number of occasions for similar reasons.

The proposals as they stand fail to take into account how areas and their identity are understood locally as well as the importance of community identities in much of the current Gower constituency.

Supporting arguments

This counterproposal would create two far more cohesive constituencies.

The Swansea central constituency would avoid creating an artificial division between the closely intertwined areas of Sketty and Uplands. It would retain ensure that that university/student areas remain aligned and that they retain their natural links with the city centre.

The proposed extended Gower constituency would maintain the strong community ties between Gorseinon, Pontarddulais and the surrounding villages. These communities have been traditionally part of the same local authority (Llwchwr and Lliw Valley prior to local government reorganisation) and are part of the same hubs in terms of accessing services. Specifically:

- Those parts of Swansea which are closest to the city centre would be included in Swansea Central.
- Gower would continue to contain a variety of small towns and villages of varying sizes (which make up the current constituency) each with its own distinct identity and would take in distinct communities such as Dunvant, Killay and Waunarlwydd (part of the Cockett ward) each of which has a distinct local identity.
- Both major hospitals serving the area would be located on the proposed Swansea Central.
- The main student/university areas would be included within the Swansea Central constituency.
- The traditional Welsh-speaking communities in Pontarddulais and Gorseinon-Loughor together with the surrounding villages would be included in the Gower constituency.
- The rural area/tourist destination of the Gower peninsula would remain in the same constituency as the rural/tourist destinations of Cefn Drum and Mynydd y Gwair on the edge of the Black Mountain.
- The proposed arrangement would align better with Senedd constituencies, minimising potential confusion and ensuring access to and understanding of political representatives remains as easy as possible.

The commission rightly sets out the importance of ensuring constituencies reflect communities of natural interest and it is essential that these boundary changes for want of a better phrase 'make sense' to residents and don't create further disconnect from the political process. The counterproposal set out above does that, in contrast to the commission's proposals it offers a solution that would be easily understood by people across Swansea and Gower as it reflects the way their communities function and have developed over time.

I support Welsh Labour's proposals as outlined below:

Labour's Submission – The Key Points

Against the current proposal

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The proposed arrangement would align better with Senedd constituencies, minimising potential confusion and ensuring access to and understanding of political representatives remains as easy as possible.

BCW-10135/ [REDACTED] / Llanymynech

I strongly disagreed with the previous suggested boundary changes that would have broken Montgomeryshire up, we are a closely connected community and share far more in common with each other than in faraway constituencies, some which face very different issues to our own issues. I am glad to hear the new proposals keep Montgomeryshire together and will also include the expansion to include the area surrounding Llangollen, with whom we share strong ties, here in the North of the constituency.

BCW-10136/ [REDACTED] / Llanfair Caereinion

The peoples of Montgomeryshire and Clwyd South share the same history and have strong ties, therefore the merging of areas of Clwyd South into a new Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr constituency would in a single move help strengthen ties between these communities whilst also helping rebalance the demographic irregularities created by internal migration over the last two decades. This is a far more sensible proposal than previous ones which suggested breaking Montgomeryshire to add to other constituencies, with far fewer ties to local populations.

BCW-10137/ [REDACTED] / Welshpool

Historically, Montgomeryshire was established as a Parliamentary seat following the Laws in Wales Act in the 16th Century. To propose to separate this constituency would be deeply concerning to me as someone who recognises the historical importance of the Montgomeryshire community. I therefore welcome the proposed changes which maintain the integrity of Montgomeryshire.

BCW-10138/ [REDACTED] / Swansea

I am writing in support of the Welsh Labour party's alternative proposals regarding the suggested boundary changes.

BCW-10139/ [REDACTED] / Swansea

I agree with welsh labour's alternative proposal as it makes more sense than the current proposal.

BCW-10140/ [REDACTED] / Swansea

I support Welsh Labour's alternative proposals.

BCW-10141/ [REDACTED] / Swansea

I support the alternative amendments to the Swansea and West Gower and Swansea Central constituencies put forward by the Labour Party as being a much more cohesive redrawing of the boundaries. The existing proposals create artificial divides between traditionally close communities while forcing areas that are culturally, geographically and linguistically disparate into an artificial entity.

BCW-10142/ [REDACTED] / Swansea

I support the alternative proposed by the Labour Party.
Fairness matters.

The Labour Party proposal recognises the difference between urban town constituencies within the Swansea City and County area and coastal rural communities which have definable differences which need to be the primary characteristic of each constituency.
It is not a matter of numbers but culture.

BCW-10143/ [REDACTED] / Swansea

I support Welsh labours proposals for the boundaries...

BCW-10144/ [REDACTED] / Swansea

I fully support Tonia Antoniazzi and Welsh Labours alternative proposals for boundaries.

[REDACTED]

BCW-10145/ [REDACTED] / Swansea

Under the circumstances of how Swansea and it's people live, work, raise their families, take care of their elderly, spend their past times for all ages, students dynamics, health and relaxation etc I am for the alternative suggestion/arrangements of boundaries areas proposed by the Welsh Labour Party

Against the current proposal

Swansea North and Central taking in Pontarddulais and Swansea City Centre is hard to justify in terms of community of interest. The constituency would extend from the village of Garnswllt on the outskirts of Ammanford, take in the upland area of Mynydd y Gwair and distinct villages such as Pontlliw and Penllergaer along with Swansea city centre and its urban hinterland.

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In favour of the counterproposal

This counterproposal would create two far more cohesive constituencies.

The Swansea central constituency would avoid creating an artificial division between the closely intertwined areas of Sketty and Uplands. It would retain ensure that that university/student areas remain aligned and that they retain their natural links with the city centre.

The proposed extended Gower constituency would maintain the strong community ties between Gorseinon, Pontarddulais and the surrounding villages. These communities have been traditionally part of the same local authority (Llwchwr and Lliw Valley prior to local government reorganisation) and are part of the same hubs in terms of accessing services. Specifically:

Those parts of Swansea which are closest to the city centre would be included in Swansea Central.

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The rural area/tourist destination of the Gower peninsula would remain in the same constituency as the rural/tourist destinations of Cefn Drum and Mynydd y Gwair on the edge of the Black Mountain.

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[REDACTED]

2023 Review Consultation
Boundary Commission for Wales
Ground Floor, Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff
CF24 0BL

Dear Sir/Madam,

The proposals of the Commission to merge Montgomeryshire and parts of Clwyd South into the Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr seat are very welcome, as it will ensure that Montgomeryshire's historic status as a Parliamentary seat and formerly a Council are maintained.

Whilst we may be divided by hills and separated into our own valleys, I believe there is a real community spirit in Montgomeryshire that has for centuries overcome these geographic barriers, which is why the region has nearly always been represented (as one) in Parliament over the last five-hundred years.

I was very glad that the previous proposals that threatened the unity of our wonderful, unique and vibrant community were dropped, and I would strongly urge to Commission to throw out any subsequent proposals which would seek to split this unique and historic constituency in two.

Yours sincerely,



14th March 2022

2023 Review Consultation
Boundary Commission for Wales
Ground Floor, Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff
CF24 OBL

Dear Sir/Madam,

The proposals of the Commission to merge Montgomeryshire and parts of Clwyd South into the Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr seat are very welcome, as it will ensure that Montgomeryshire's historic status as a Parliamentary seat and formerly a Council are maintained.

I was very glad that the previous proposals that threatened the unity of our wonderful, unique and vibrant community were dropped; and I would strongly urge the Commission to throw out any subsequent proposals which would seek to split this unique and historic constituency in two.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**2023 Review Consultation
Boundary Commission for Wales
Ground Floor, Hastings House
Fitzalan Court, Cardiff
CF24 0BL**

17th March 2022

Dear Sirs/Madam

If Montgomeryshire were to be divided, according to the initial and now shelved proposals, it would have divided a tight-knit community and created concern and uncertainty over the confusing differences in boundaries, with Montgomeryshire still being represented fully in the Assembly/Senedd yet divided in Parliament and across county Councils.

Therefore, I am very glad that ensuring Montgomeryshire continues to be represented is now part of the new proposals suggested.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I support Labour's Submission – The Key Points

Against the current proposal

Swansea North and Central taking in Pontarddulais and Swansea City Centre is hard to justify in terms of community of interest. The constituency would extend from the village of Garnswllt on the outskirts of Ammanford, take in the upland area of Mynydd y Gwair and distinct villages such as Pontlliw and Penllergaer along with Swansea city centre and its urban hinterland.

Swansea West and Gower would be an incongruous amalgamation of distinct communities such as Gorseinon, Loughor, Gowerton, Penclawdd, the villages along Gower peninsula and Mumbles with areas that gravitate naturally towards the city centre in the Sketty ward (e.g. Sketty itself, Tycoch, Parklands, and the Derwen Fawr area, along with the Singleton university campus), which are all part of Swansea's geographical core. Locally there is a clear delineation of where "town" begins and that it is distinct from surrounding villages. Notably the commission has rejected the inclusion of Mayals in the Gower constituency on a number of occasions for similar reasons.

In favour of the counterproposal

This counterproposal would create two far more cohesive constituencies.

The Swansea central constituency would avoid creating an artificial division between the closely intertwined areas of Sketty and Uplands. It would retain ensure that that university/student areas remain aligned and that they retain their natural links with the city centre.

The proposed extended Gower constituency would maintain the strong community ties between Gorseinon, Pontarddulais and the surrounding villages. These communities have been traditionally part of the same local authority (Llwchwr and Lliw Valley prior to local government reorganisation) and are part of the same hubs in terms of accessing services. Specifically:

Those parts of Swansea which are closest to the city centre would be included in Swansea Central.

Gower would continue to contain a variety of small towns and villages of varying sizes (which make up the current constituency) each with its own distinct identity and would take in distinct communities such as Dunvant, Killay and Waunarlwydd (part of the Cockett ward) each of which has a distinct local identity.

Both major hospitals serving the area would be located on the proposed Swansea Central.

The main student/university areas would be included within the Swansea Central constituency.

The traditional Welsh-speaking communities in Pontarddulais and Gorseinon-Loughor together with the surrounding villages would be included in the Gower constituency.

The rural area/tourist destination of the Gower peninsula would remain in the same constituency as the rural/tourist destinations of Cefn Drum and Mynydd y Gwair on the edge of the Black Mountain.

The proposed arrangement would align better with Senedd constituencies, minimising potential confusion and ensuring access to and understanding of political representatives remains as easy as possible.

BCW-10154/ [REDACTED] / Llangland

I support Welsh Labour's alternative proposals for Swansea West and Gower together with those for Swansea North and Central

BCW-10155/ [REDACTED] / Swansea

I wish to support the proposal submitted by Welsh Labour.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2023 Review Consultation
Boundary Commission for Wales
Ground Floor, Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff
CF24 DBL

March 18th 2022

Dear Boundary Commission for Wales,

We are writing to you regarding the proposed boundary review for the Parliamentary Constituency of Montgomeryshire.

As constituents we are deeply concerned that the historic county of Montgomeryshire is not split up and parts joined to other adjoining constituencies. We therefore welcome the initial proposals from the boundary commission for Wales as it maintains the historic county of Montgomeryshire as a whole, with the addition of the communities around Llangollen.

Montgomeryshire has been represented in one way or another since 1542. Whilst ideally we would wish for the constituency to remain as it always has been, we accept the importance for Parliamentary constituencies to be relatively even in terms of population size. Maintaining Montgomeryshire as a whole within a larger seat of Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr acknowledges the area as a historic county and Parliamentary seat, while also meeting the parameters of the review.

In one form or another, Montgomeryshire has nearly always been represented in Parliament as a single region. We are glad that the new proposals ensure its continued existence, as we are a closely integrated community, with similar issues and worries. The addition of parts of Clwyd South also helps to rebalance the demographic anomalies that exist due to the population changes over the last twenty years, whilst helping increase our connections to people we are already closely connected to.

If Montgomeryshire were to be divided, according to the initial and now shelved proposals, it would have divided a tight-knit community and created concern and uncertainty over the confusing differences in boundaries, with Montgomeryshire still being represented fully in the Assembly/Senedd yet divided in Parliament and across county Councils. Therefore, we are very glad that ensuring Montgomeryshire continues to be represented is now part of the new proposals suggested.

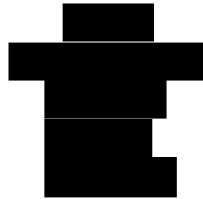
Yours,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

BCW-10157/ Cllr Les George/ Caersws

Cllr Les George



2023 Review Consultations
Boundary Commissioner for Wales
Ground Floor, Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff
CF24 0BL

19th March 2022

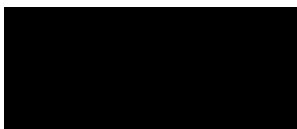
Dear Sirs

Help Us Save Montgomeryshire!

As a resident, born, bred and educated in Montgomeryshire, I write to support the proposals for the Boundary Commission to maintain the name of Montgomeryshire in the new boundary changes. I have been a member of Caersws Community Council for thirty years and for five years a member of Powys County Council for the Caersws and Carne Ward representing 1850 residents.

Overwhelmingly, the constituents in my ward, which is the very heart of the County are passionate also to support the proposals from the Boundary Commission to maintain the name of Montgomeryshire.

Yours faithfully



Cllr Les George

BCW-10158/ Cllr Louise Brown/ Chepstow

I am a county councillor and my ward lies in-between Chepstow and Caldicot. I fully support the proposal to align the MCC boundary with the proposed parliamentary constituency. It is the most logical to have the MP to cover the same area. People in my ward shop in both the Chepstow and Caldicot towns and often commute from Severn tunnel railway. It is all part and parcel of the same local area and party politics are irrelevant as the people in the area are free to vote for whoever they wish to represent them in both local and MP elections. There has been investment in Caldicot to regenerate the town centre and it is important for the local authority area to be the same as the MP area. It is the most sensible and logical boundary proposal.

BCW-10159/ [REDACTED] / Monmouth

I fully support these initial proposals by The Boundary Commission for Wales in respect of the new parliamentary constituency of "Monmouthshire" This is a logical solution and will help the public understand that their elected Member of Parliament speaks for the County of Monmouthshire.

BCW-10160/ [REDACTED] / Newtown

I support the proposals for Montgomeryshire and Glandwr

BCW-10161/ Christina Harrhy/ Ystrad Mynach

Dear Sir / Madam,

Many thanks for undertaking a review of parliamentary constituencies in accordance with the requirements placed on you by Parliament.

As Returning Officer for the county borough of Caerphilly I would like to support many of the representations you have received from members of the public and politicians concerning the proposals affecting Caerphilly.

In particular I would echo the views concerning the proposal to split the county borough into 4 different constituencies. Whilst I accept that it is not always possible to develop your proposals along county borough lines, there seems to be little or no attempt to do so in Caerphilly. In particular the large number of electors from Newport West joining with an equally large number of electors from Caerphilly will make the administration of parliamentary elections extremely challenging and increase the risks involved in running an election. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, it could lead to a lower turn out as electors, in many cases, will have little in common or links with the proposed constituencies.

I would also support the comments you've received concerning community links and geography. Neither the proposed areas in the Blaenau Gwent constituency or Newport West and Caerphilly constituency share many local ties. For example to travel from the Gilfach area of Caerphilly to Ebbw Vale in Blaenau Gwent to meet the Returning Officer/Elections Team to collect a re-issued postal vote would involve a considerable journey cutting across different valleys, each of which has its' own identity. This would be considerably inconvenient for electors and in many cases public transport is difficult and dis-jointed.

As Returning Officer it would be inappropriate for me to comment on any of the alternatives put forward as part of the consultation, but I would urge that my concerns outlined above are considered. It is important that elections remain relevant to electors, take place in constituencies they can identify with and where they can access assistance and service from Returning Officers easily.

Kind regards
Christina Harrhy

BCW-10162/ [REDACTED] / Llanidloes

I think that the creation of an enlarged Montgomeryshire constituency is the best solution for a difficult problem. For me it is very important that Montgomeryshire remains as one intact entity. I know it is a very important part of local identity. Even though Powys is our county name, many still see themselves as residents of Montgomeryshire rather than Powys.

I do, however, understand the concerns of those in the Glyndŵr part of the new constituency, who feel they have been attached to an area with which they feel they have no strong connection either now or historically. Nevertheless I still think this proposal represents the best solution in the circumstances. Here in Mid Wales we also feel ignored by Cardiff, so we have that in common, and we share many common problems with those living in the very rural Glyndŵr area.

BCW-10163/ [REDACTED] / Meifod

I welcome the changes made by the boundary commission which maintains the integrity of the county of Montgomeryshire which has an identity of its own. To have split the county would be dividing communities who have lived cohesively together, which share many approaches to local issues and which share a common identity. The county has been a constituency since 1542 and as such the area has established governance. Maintaining the county within the new constituency shows a clear balance between meeting the commissions' parameters whilst preserving community identity.

I support the proposals to create Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr.

BCW-10164/ [REDACTED] / Llanfair Caereinion

I support the changes made by the boundary commission which maintains the integrity of the county of Montgomeryshire. The county has been a constituency since 1542 and as such the area has established governance and an identity of its own. Maintaining the county within the new constituency shows a clear balance between meeting the commissions' parameters whilst preserving community identity. To have split the county would be dividing communities who have lived cohesively together, which share many approaches to local issues and which share a common identity. Such an upheaval is costly, unsettling and entirely unnecessary.

I support the proposals to create Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr.

BCW-10165/ [REDACTED] / Llanymynech

I have great pleasure in adding my endorsement to the proposal of retaining Montgomeryshire and expanding it to include communities adjoining our northern boundary.

[REDACTED]

Montgomeryshire Resident

BCW-10166/ [REDACTED] / Portishead

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: [REDACTED] arch 2022 16:37

To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>

Subject: Wales new constituencies

I support the Boundary Commissioners proposals for new constituencies for Wales

Having lived in Montgomeryshire for 28 years I know the area well and before that in Wrexham . I now live in Portishead near Bristol

I understand that the initial consultation period ended late last year, and the Boundary Commission's proposal is for Montgomeryshire to be retained and enlarged to include Llangollen and the surrounding communities. This new constituency is set to be called Montgomeryshire & Glyndwr.

I believe that this proposal is a very good one, especially as it not only keeps the historic county and constituency of Montgomeryshire intact, but it also gives local neighbouring communities that have similar landscapes and needs . This is very important that people can have a voice in a large sparsely populated area . Additionally, it is vitally important to maintain as close an alignment as possible between both Westminster's and the Senedd's Montgomeryshire constituencies, given that the Senedd constituency boundary will be unchanged by this review.

I fully support the Boundary Commissions proposals for the new constituency to be called Montgomeryshire & Glyndwr

[REDACTED]

BCW-10167/ [REDACTED] / Berriew

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 March 2022 16:59
To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>
Subject: Montgomery

Dear Sir

We think the proposal put forward by the Boundary Commission is very well thought out and be adopted. [REDACTED]

BCW-10168/ [REDACTED] / Llansantffaid

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 March 2022 14:14
To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>
Subject: Montgomeryshire Boundary Commission Review

Dear Sirs,

I find the proposals from the Boundary Commission an acceptable solution. I would not be happy to accept the previous proposals that suggested dividing Montgomeryshire. It is important to me that we maintain the tradition that has made Montgomeryshire a historic and close-knit community, with many having close ties across the county. I agree that by maintaining Montgomeryshire in a new Parliamentary constituency as previously proposed it will yield a clear balance with meeting the commissions parameters, whilst also preserving communal identity of the place I am proud to call home, Montgomeryshire

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

BCW-10169/ [REDACTED] / Unknown

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 March 2022 15:06
To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>
Subject: Swansea West and Gower Constituency

Hi,

Please see attached my response for the Swansea West and Gower Constituency to support the boundary commission.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

I am fully backing the Boundary Commission proposals for the new Swansea West and Gower Constituency. Please see below the reasons for my support.

1. Mayals is the gateway to Gower, and as such, should be part of the Gower constituency to ensure consistency when dealing with issues that involve the area as a whole.
2. Gower plays a vital role in tourism for Swansea, which helps to boost the economy, which then in turn, supports the Gower area in the re-development and new construction of facilities. I feel it is important that all residents of Mayals are supported by, and represented by, one MS and Senedd Member, the same member that represents the other wards within the Mumbles community to ensure solidarity and togetherness on decisions and opportunities.
3. It is essential to unite the community of Mumbles by ensuring that Newton, Oystermouth, West Cross and Mayals all fall into the Gower Parliamentary Constituency, considering that these are all represented under the Mumbles Community Council. This will, in turn benefit all residents across Mumbles and strengthen and unify the area. It is important that decisions being made by the community council are replicated and supported by that of the MS. Something which is difficult at present, due to the fact that the one council is represented by two MS.
4. Being a teacher, I understand how important education is, and how important it is to have pupils' opinions on their school and local community. Currently, pupils from the Mayals area naturally progress to Bishopston Comprehensive. Bishopston Comprehensive currently falls within the Gower Parliamentary Constituency, and with the legal voting age being lowered to 16, it is important that they are able to vote on matters arising in the area that will shape their future education and careers. It seems nonsensical, that pupils educated in the Gower Constituency have to vote, and be represented, by the Swansea West Constituency because of where they live.
5. Furthermore, with my understanding of the current policing structure, Mayals falls within the Gower unit. Therefore, crime statistics will be being reported as within the Gower boundary, and as local councillors deal closely with the PCSOs to combat and prevent crime, it would be a more coherent outcome if the Gower Parliamentary Constituency included Mayals.

I understand there are some proposals which suggest changing the Monmouthshire Constituency where I live from being co-terminus with the local authority to being split between either 2 or 3 constituencies.

I disagree with these alternative proposals.

The Commission's original proposal was very sensible and convenient and an improvement on the current position.

Making Monmouthshire co-terminus also allows Torfaen to be co-terminus. This improves the position for both constituencies and I urge the Commission to stick to its original proposals in South East Wales and reject the alternatives which are more disruptive and don't link in as well with local authority boundaries.

BCW-10171/ [REDACTED] Chinese in Wales Association/ Swansea

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 27 March 2022 23:56

To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>

Subject: Counterproposal for Swansea boundaries supported by Chinese in Wales Swansea

To the Secretary to the Commission of Wales,
Shereen Williams MBE OStJ

Dear Shereen Williams,

On behalf of the Chinese communities in Swansea I am writing to support the counterproposal presented by [REDACTED] on March 1st 2022 in Swansea.

Chinese people are the second largest minority community in Swansea after the Bangladeshis.

We particularly support the counterproposal attached below to create two new Swansea West & Gower and Swansea North constituencies as it

1. Reunites the Chinese communities, and other minority communities, into one constituency
2. The proposed Swansea West & Gower would keep the natural boundary of the River Tawe and include all land westwards to the Gower peninsular
3. Keeps Sketty and Uplands together and, more broadly, the close connections between Sketty, Mayals, Dunvant and Killay with Uplands, the city centre and Town Hill. This includes the university campus with its students and local Chinese and non-minority communities.
4. Creates a sensible free-standing Swansea North constituency of rural and semi-rural villages and towns with established community connections.
5. Maintains and builds upon local ties within our communities built over many years. We have worked with Geraint Davies MP since 2010, and before him Alun Williams, and it would be disruptive and damaging to divide our community and other minority communities between different constituencies. It is easier to work with one Member of Parliament and it takes time to build confidence. The voting habit is not well established within the Chinese community and new opportunities to engage together should not be avoidably disrupted by boundary changes dividing established minority communities. Having one MP as a point of contact and support is particularly important during uncertain times in UK and abroad.
6. We strongly prefer this counterproposal for Swansea West & Gower constituency as it looks westwards not eastwards as historically we have received a warm and sympathetic reception.

7. This consideration will become more important during changing times both economically with spiralling inflation and politically as tensions between countries can be blamed incorrectly on local minority communities (as with the impacts of trade sanctions and wars).

Therefore we strongly support the attached counter-proposals in terms of community cohesion and well-being of the Chinese and other minority communities.

In addition, the counterproposal is strong in terms of the geography, local ties and convenience for working, leisure, retail so we are happy to give our support.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

Founder and Chairperson

BCW-10172/ [REDACTED] / Swansea

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 March 2022 23:25
To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>
Subject: Re: Public Hearing

To the Secretary to the Commission of Wales, Shereen Williams MBE OStJ

Dear Shereen,

I hope you are well.

It was a pleasure to present to you and your colleagues on St. David's Day in the Grand Hotel Swansea.

I am writing again to you to re-iterate and clarify some of the points that I made orally.

I attach again the slides in favour of my counterproposal for a new Swansea West & Gower constituency extending westwards from the River Tawe to the Gower Peninsula together with a Swansea North constituency of inter-connected rural and semi-rural, often Welsh-speaking, communities.

My presentation, supported by [REDACTED], has the backing of communities - including the Muslim communities, the Chinese community and African communities as well as non-minority communities - across the city and county of Swansea.

The counterproposal

1. reunites the various communities from the River Tawe (Castle, Town Hill Uplands) which seamlessly run west into Sketty, Dunvant & Killay and Mayals & Mumbles towards the Gower Peninsular, by reuniting Sketty and Uplands, to create a new Swansea West & Gower
2. reunites Penyrheol and Gorseinon, Loughor, Kingsbridge with connected communities (Pontardulais etc) into a coherent Swansea North constituency.

The arguments for reuniting Sketty and Uplands include community cohesion, geography and convenience for minority and non-minority communities in terms of work, leisure and worship and that the university campus and students should also be in the same constituency.

There is strong and growing support, in particular in the minority communities, that this reunification should be part of a Swansea West & Gower constituency **looking westwards** from the River Tawe.

This is because the evolution of these minority communities has occurred around the City Centre, Uplands and Sketty looking westwards and historically there has been a more sympathetic and welcoming integration westwards.

The minority communities are aware of difficulties, including hate crimes, that have arisen in the past from being wrongly associated with terror attacks, coronavirus (blamed on Chinese people), over-seas conflict and local economic difficulties being blamed on minorities assumed to be 'foreigners' even though they are often second or third generation Swansea citizens. Such problems have been fewer to the west.

At a time that the cost-of-living crisis is being worsened by inflation and trade sanctions and difficulties, and overseas conflict means we must provide a safe haven for refugees, it is therefore important for minority communities to be mainly in one constituency looking westwards with one Member of Parliament to work with.

The building of engagement and confidence has been important in the past (e.g. with the Afghanistan evacuation crisis) and splitting communities and pointing them eastwards would be confusing and disruptive in the future for our well-being and coherence.

We need to move forward on previous good work over many years and build confidence and inclusion in the democratic process which would be harmed by division.

For instance, the voting habit is not well established amongst minority communities, in particular within the Chinese community, and new opportunities to engage together should not be avoidably disrupted by boundary changes dividing this and other established minority communities. Having one MP as a point of contact and support is particularly important during uncertain times in the UK and abroad.

For these reasons my proposals have received growing support across minority and wider communities for community cohesion and well-being. We support the Swansea West & Gower constituency extending westwards from the River Tawe. The counterproposals are strong in terms of geography, local ties and convenience and reinforce community interest and resilience for the uncertain times ahead.

I hope this is a helpful elaboration of my attached presentation which I commend for your approval. I am naturally grateful for the Muslim, Chinese, African and other minority communities for their support.

Many thanks and best wishes



Sketty resident and member of the Swansea Muslim community



SWANSEA BOUNDARIES COUNTER PROPOSALS

**[REDACTED] Regional Community Cohesion
Coordinator, Member of Swansea Muslim
community & Sketty Resident**

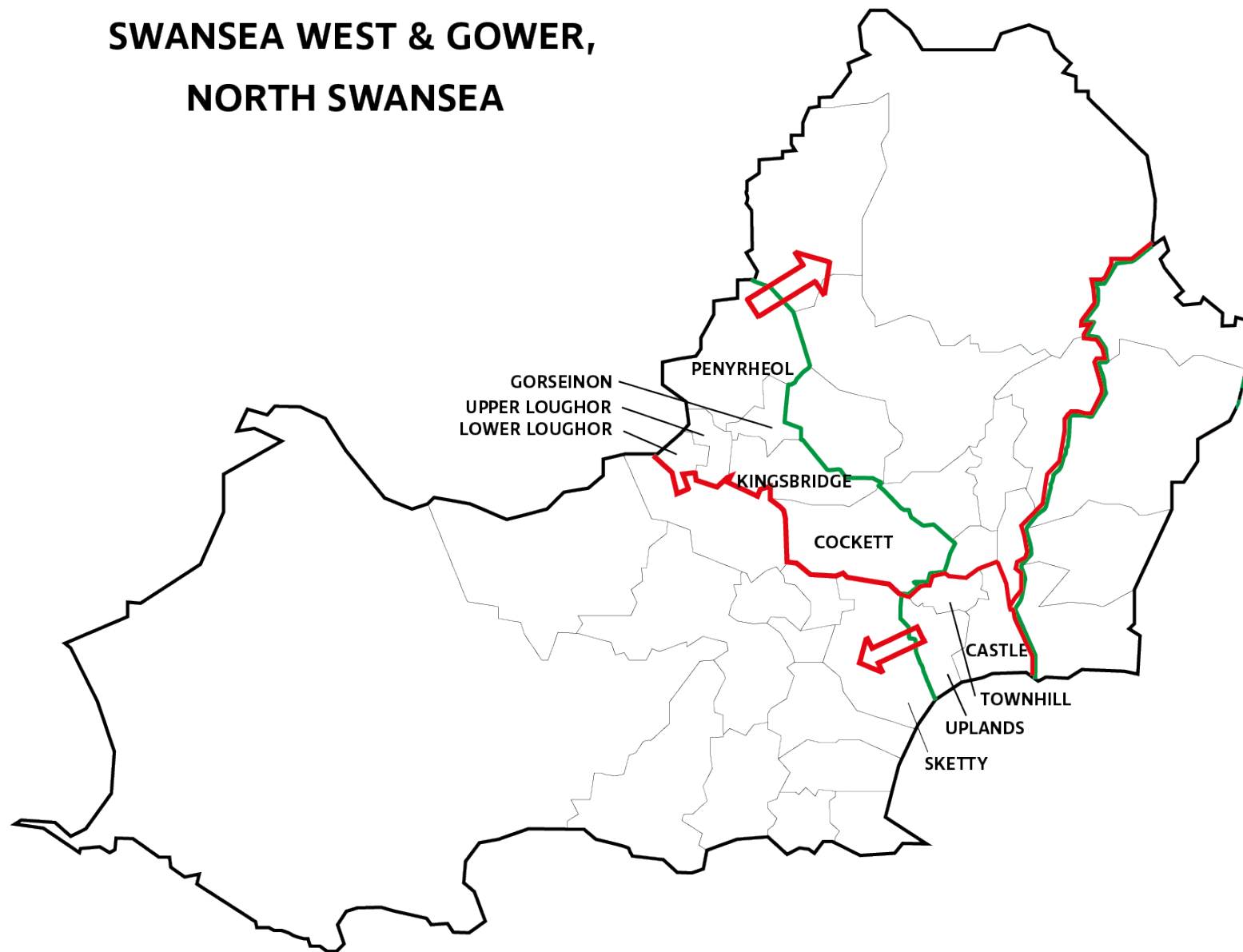
Supported by **[REDACTED]** working at Swansea
University, Leading Member of Swansea Muslim Community, +
Governor of Parkland Primary and Olchfa Secondary School



Counterproposal for new **Swansea West and Gower** constituency of 76,071 voters and a new **North Swansea** constituency of 75,342 voters:

- Add Uplands (10,834), Castle (10,312), and Townhill (5,592), comprising 26,738 voters to the BCW proposed Swansea West and Gower constituency
- Remove Penyrheol (4,621), Lower Loughor (1,795), Upper Loughor (2,146), Gorseinon (3,340), Kingsbridge (3,506) and Cockett (10,473) comprising 25,881 voters from the BCW proposed Swansea West & Gower constituency.

SWANSEA WEST & GOWER, NORTH SWANSEA



Swansea West & Gower and North Swansea counterproposal

- **Geographically cohesive** as it continues to use the River Tawe and coastline as natural boundaries with the revised Swansea West and Gower running along the coast from west of the River Tawe through Castle, Townhill, Uplands, through Sketty and Mayals to the Gower peninsular.
- **Respects existing boundaries** – keeping Dunvant, Killay South and Killay North as well as Mayals and Sketty joined with Uplands, Townhill and Castle to the river Tawe and embraces the Gower Peninsula whilst creating a coherent North Swansea seat.
- **Reinforces local ties** – community, work, leisure and services - in all key areas including our two universities, students' accommodation, Singleton Hospital, the Council and services, key regeneration development such as city centre, maximising convenience nicely together in one constituency.

Swansea West & Gower and North Swansea counterproposal

- **Retains Muslim community cohesion** - Sketty, Uplands, and Castle Wards are heavily populated by Swansea's Muslim communities, both the Central Mosque, Shia Mosque, and a new proposed Islamic Community Centre will be in this geography in Sketty. The Muslim community is until now represented by one MP and MS.
- **Other minority community cohesion** - These wards are also heavily populated by other minority groups, in particular the Chinese and African origin, and it would be detrimental to community coherence if they were divided into two different constituencies.
- **Democratic coherence** – More closely aligns with the Senedd constituency representation



BCW-10173/ [REDACTED] / Llanllwni

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED] arch 2022 16:59
To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>
Subject: Re: Llanfihangel ar Arth Boundary Proposals

Dear Sirs,

The original proposals as published by the commission for a new Carmarthen seat accurately reflect the genuine connections of Llanfihangel-Ar-Arth with its neighbouring Carmarthenshire wards and take account of local geography including the river network;

Inclusion in the new Carmarthen seat is the most logical outcome because of these community connections and historic links such as our General Hospital at Glangwili;

I strongly oppose the suggestion that Llanfihangel-Ar-Arth could instead be added to a Ceredigion constituency, as our area has never had any connection with Ceredigion save for the much disliked "Dyfed" county which we were forced to live with for some years;

Residents in Llanfihangel-Ar-Arth do not have any community links or connections with Ceredigion. Our community connections are predominately with the towns of Carmarthenshire such as Llandovery, Llandeilo or Carmarthen town itself;

Llanfihangel-Ar-Arth has always historically been located in the main rural Carmarthenshire constituency and not in one linked to Ceredigion as it would involve crossing significant natural boundaries such as rivers and mountains.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

BCW-10174/ [REDACTED] / Whitland

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: March 2022 08:45

To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>

Subject: Against the Change in the Laugharne/Carmarthenshire Constituency

Dear Sir

We live in the Laugharne/Carmarthen constituency and we are against the boundary changes for the reasons below.

kind regards

[REDACTED]

The original proposals as published accurately in the second consultation reflect the genuine connections of Laugharne with its neighbouring Carmarthenshire wards and take account of local geography including the river network;

I strongly oppose the inclusion of Laugharne in the Llanelli constituency as it has never had any connection with Llanelli, which is predominantly heavy industrial area, whereas Laugharne has a tourist economy;

Residents in Laugharne do not have any community links or connections with Llanelli nor do they share local services;

Laugharne has always been located in the main rural Carmarthenshire constituency and not in one linked to Carmarthenshire's industrial south.

BCW-10175/ [REDACTED] Swansea African communities in Swansea/ Swansea

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 March 2022 16:02
To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>
Subject: Support for alternative boundaries proposal

Dear Shereen Williams MBE OStJ

I am writing on behalf of the various African communities in Swansea in support of the attached counter-proposal to the Boundary Commission for Wales presented by [REDACTED], and supported by [REDACTED], on March 1st 2022 in Swansea. I believe I may have emailed our support to you before and apologies if I have.

This is to confirm to you that we support the arguments and map included in the attached presentation and would like to re-iterate that the counter-proposal:-

1. Reunites the African communities, alongside other minority communities into one constituency ie Swansea West & Gower
2. Continues with the natural boundary of the River Tawe and extends westwards to the Gower peninsular
3. Brings back together Sketty and Uplands i.e. the university campus with its students but also many closely-linked African and other minority and non-minority communities. The counterproposal maintains links between Sketty, Mayals, Dunvant and Killay with Uplands, the city centre and Town Hill
4. Allows a coherent Swansea North constituency of rural and semi-rural villages and towns with connected welsh-speaking communities
5. The local ties within communities and between different minority communities have been built over many years and it would be disruptive and damaging to divide them between different constituencies. It has been helpful to organise often small individual African communities to work with one Member of Parliament (Geraint Davies since 2010) on particular, sometimes local and sometimes international, problems.
6. We welcome the attached counterproposal of a Swansea West & Gower constituency that looks westwards not eastwards which is something that the African and other minority communities strongly support as historically we have received a warmer reception to the west
7. This consideration will become more important during the growing cost of living crisis and when migration is increasing from war zones like Afghanistan and Ukraine.

Therefore we strongly support the attached counter-proposals in terms of community cohesion and well-being of the African and other minority communities. I

As the counterproposal is also an improvement in terms of the geography, local ties and convenience in terms of working, leisure and worship we naturally hope that it will receive your blessing.

Very best wishes,



Director, Nigerians in Wales Association
Swansea West Labour party Ethnic Minority officer and Chair


On behalf of the Swansea African communities in Swansea



SWANSEA BOUNDARIES COUNTER PROPOSALS

**[REDACTED], Regional Community Cohesion
Coordinator, Leading Member of Swansea
Muslim community & Sketty Resident**

Supported by **[REDACTED], working at Swansea
University, Leading Member of Swansea Muslim Community, +
Governor of Parkland Primary and Olchfa Secondary School**

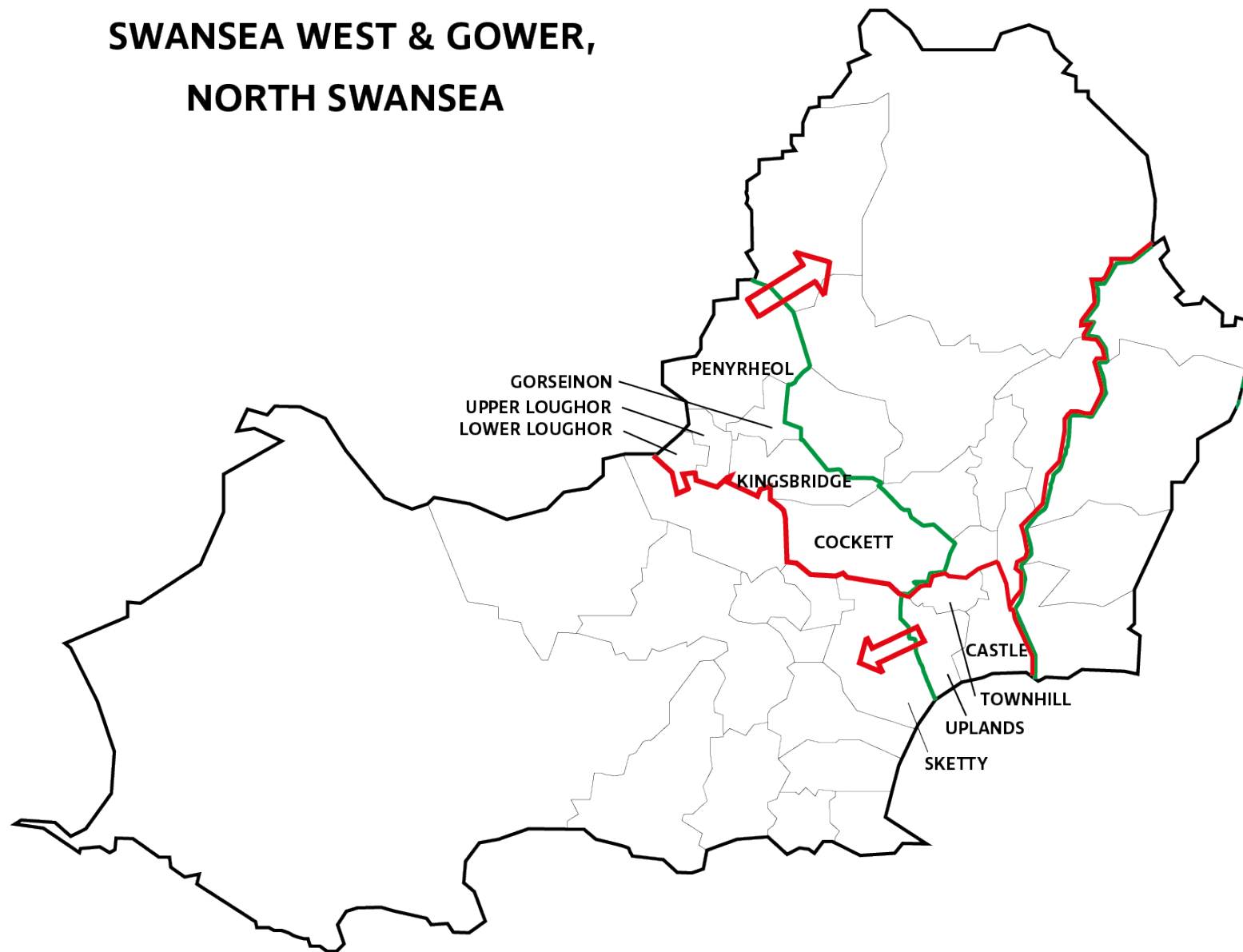


 - Regional Community Cohesion Coordinator, Leading Member of Swansea Muslim community & Sketty Resident.

Counterproposal for new **Swansea West and Gower** constituency of 76,071 voters and a new **North Swansea** constituency of 75,342 voters:

- Add Uplands (10,834), Castle (10,312), and Townhill (5592), comprising 26,738 voters to the BCW proposed Swansea West and Gower constituency
- Remove Penyrheol (4,621), Lower Loughor (1,795), Upper Loughor (2,146), Gorseinon (3,340), Kingsbridge (3,506) and Cockett (10,473) comprising 25,881 voters from the BCW proposed Swansea West & Gower constituency.

SWANSEA WEST & GOWER, NORTH SWANSEA



Swansea West & Gower and North Swansea counterproposal

- **Geographically cohesive** as it continues to use the River Tawe and coastline as natural boundaries with the revised Swansea West and Gower running along the coast from west of the River Tawe through Castle, Townhill, Uplands, through Sketty and Mayals to the Gower peninsular.
- **Respects existing boundaries** – keeping Dunvant, Killay South and Killay North as well as Mayals and Sketty joined with Uplands, Townhill and Castle to the river Tawe and embraces the Gower Peninsula whilst creating a coherent North Swansea seat.
- **Reinforces local ties** – community, work, leisure and services - in all key areas including our two universities, students' accommodation, Singleton Hospital, the Council and services, key regeneration development such as city centre, maximising convenience nicely together in one constituency.

Swansea West & Gower and North Swansea counterproposal

- **Retains Muslim community cohesion** - Sketty, Uplands, and Castle Wards are heavily populated by Swansea's Muslim communities, both the Central Mosque, Shia Mosque, and a new proposed Islamic Community Centre will be in this geography in Sketty. The Muslim community is until now represented by one MP and MS.
- **Other minority community cohesion** - These wards are also heavily populated by other minority groups, in particular the Chinese and African origin, and it would be detrimental to community coherence if they were divided into two different constituencies.
- **Democratic coherence** – More closely aligns with the Senedd constituency representation



BCW-10176/ Stephen Kinnock MP/ Aberavon

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 28 March 2022 10:13

To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>

Subject: Boundary Commission Wales 2023 Review Initial Proposals – Aberafan Porthcawl

Further to my submission at the evidence session on 1 March, please find attached a written submission.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Kinnock

Member of Parliament for Aberavon

Shadow Minister for Immigration



Stephen Kinnock

Member of Parliament for Aberavon

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

Our Ref: SNK/CM

28 March 2022

Dear Chair,

Re: Boundary Commission Wales 2023 Review Initial Proposals – Aberafan Porthcawl

Further to my submission at the evidence session in Swansea on 1 March, I wanted to follow up with this written submission.

The Boundary Commission Wales has a very difficult job to do given the strict and prescriptive criteria set out in the legislation and the significance the Act gives to the UK electoral quota.

The task is even more problematic when you factor in the topography in Wales and the contrasting population patterns whereby areas around the M4 and A55 are densely populated, as opposed to the sparsely populated areas in mid-Wales.

The Commission's proposals in relation to the existing Aberavon constituency and *Aberafan Porthcawl* are welcome.

They recognise and respect the local ties that exist between the thirteen wards from Aberavon that are proposed to form part of the *Aberafan Porthcawl* constituency.

There are historical ties with these wards all share an industrial heritage. Whether that be the communities that grew up around the steelworks or the mining heritage in the communities of the Afan valley.

There are economic ties with the communities looking to the town of Port Talbot as their economic centre, and it is from these communities that the workforce of the steelworks is drawn. Many of the local businesses in these communities rely on the steelworks, either through the supply chain or from the workforce using their business.

There are transport ties with these communities served by the Port Talbot railway station and the bus services are linked to Port Talbot.

Constituency Office:

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And there are also community ties. Children from the Afan valley and from Briton Ferry receive their secondary education in schools based in the Aberavon, Baglan and Taibach areas of the constituency.

The Afan valley is intrinsically linked to Port Talbot. Transport and economic links are with the town. The Afan Valley takes its name from the river Afan in the same way that Aberavon does.

It is disappointing that three Coedffranc wards that include Skewen, Jersey Marine and Crymlyn Burrows do not form part of the proposed *Aberafan Porthcawl* constituency, but it is understandable that they will be included in a constituency with Neath, which they have great affinity to.

Turning to the 'Porthcawl' part of *Aberafan Porthcawl*, the wards of Cornelly, Pyle, Rest Bay, Nottage, Porthcawl East Central, Porthcawl West Central and Newton were part of the Aberavon constituency prior to the 1983 Boundary Review when these areas, along with areas from Ogmore, were used to create the current Bridgend constituency.

Like the coastal communities in Aberavon, they share many of the same characteristics. Port Talbot is a port town and Porthcawl used to be a coal port. Like Aberavon, Porthcawl has a history as a seaside resort and is still a tourist destination.

Pyle is geographically very close to the Aberavon ward of Margam and there is a small number of Aberavon constituents that have a Pyle address. It also has an industrial heritage (collieries, coking plant and ironworks) like the communities in Aberavon.

There are good transport links between Port Talbot and Porthcawl via the A48.

By creating the new constituency out of thirteen wards from the Aberavon constituency and ten from the Bridgend constituency, it limits the disruption across the existing constituency boundaries.

While it is preferable for constituencies to be coterminous with local authority boundaries, the prescriptive nature of the legislations means that this is not always possible. This proposal minimises the disruption to local government boundaries with just two local authorities, Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend involved.

Having looked at the responses to the initial proposals for *Aberafan Porthcawl*, I am aware of concerns around including wards which form part of the town of Bridgend in this proposal.

Constituency Office:



However, the alternative proposals that have been suggested which would include the Llynfi, Garw and Ogmore valleys with the thirteen wards from Aberavon, create problems around transport links. Poor transport links can lead to residents feeling cut off from those elected to represent them.

While the Llynfi, Garw and Ogmore valleys are similar to and share many of the same characteristics as the Afan valley, the topography of these valley communities make links between them difficult.

The counter proposals for *Aberafan Porthcawl* would either mean an arduous journey to reach parts of the constituency or involve travelling through the neighbouring Bridgend constituency.

The most straightforward route to travel from Port Talbot to the Llynfi, Garw and Ogmore valleys is along the M4 motorway, however under the counter proposals that would mean traversing the neighbouring Bridgend constituency.

To travel from Port Talbot to the Llynfi, Garw and Ogmore valleys and stay in the counter proposal *Aberafan Porthcawl* constituency, you would have to travel up the Afan valley. While the road links between the Afan valley and Caerau and Maesteg are good, in order to reach communities like Pontycymmer and Blaengarw in the Garw valley you would have to travel up the Afan valley, down the Llynfi valley and back up the Garw valley, a journey of approximately 1 hour.

Another alternative would be to travel up the Afan valley, across to the Ogmore valley, down the Ogmore valley, and back up the Garw valley, again a journey of approximately 1 hour.

In reality people will use the shortest and most direct route along the M4, going through the neighbouring constituency.

Public transport linking the Garw and Ogmore valleys would also involve travelling via the neighbouring constituency of Bridgend. Public transport is available from Port Talbot to Maesteg, but public transport from Port Talbot to either Blaengarw or Nant-Y-Moel requires a bus journey to Bridgend town, in the neighbouring constituency, and then back up the respective valley.

The *Aberafan Porthcawl* proposal is welcome but given the concerns around including wards which form part of the town of Bridgend in the *Aberafan Porthcawl* proposal, and given the close community ties these residential areas have with Bridgend, should the Commission be minded to look again at the proposal and address these concerns then a

Constituency Office:



more minor adjustment would be the ward of 'Llangewydd and Brynhyfryd' and the ward of 'Cefn Glas' becoming part of the proposed Bridgend.

This would leave the *Aberafan Porthcawl* constituency with 73,554 which is at the lower end of the UKEQ (UK Electoral Quota) and mean the proposed Bridgend constituency would exceed the UKEQ with an electorate of 77,626.

To accommodate this, the ward of Cefn Cribwr could move from the proposed Bridgend constituency to the proposed *Aberafan Porthcawl* constituency, which would leave them with electorates of 76,446 and 74,734, respectively.

Cefn Cribwr has a mining background like much of the Afan valley and it also has close links with Kenfig Hill, which is already proposed to be part of *Aberafan Porthcawl*.

The Boundary Commission Wales have the unenviable task of implementing this legislation. Whatever proposals are put forward are bound to upset some but that is because of the narrow and rigid parameters set out in the legislation that the Commission must work to.

Aberafan Porthcawl is a proposal that meets the electoral quota and as far as is practically possible recognises special geographical considerations, local government boundaries, boundaries of existing constituencies, 'local ties' and the inconveniences such changes create.

While the proposal is by no means perfect, we cannot let the perfect be the enemy of the good. *Aberafan Porthcawl* is a proposal that meets the requirements set out in the legislation and given time it can work for the electorate.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Kinnock
Member of Parliament for Aberavon

Constituency Office:



Russell George

Aelod Senedd Cymru dros Sir Drefaldwyn
Member of the Welsh Parliament for Montgomeryshire



2023 Review Consultation
Boundary Commission for Wales
Ground Floor, Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff
CF24 0BL

RG /GB/ BCW250322

25 March 2022

Re: 2023 Review Consultation - Montgomeryshire

Dear Sir/ Madam

As the Member of the Senedd for Montgomeryshire, I write to support the current proposal as I feel that it is vital that Montgomeryshire remains whole and undivided.

This has obvious administrative and electoral benefits. Montgomeryshire will continue to be represented in the Senedd. Therefore by maintaining Montgomeryshire (with the welcome addition of Llangollen and its neighbouring communities) in Westminster, clarity and certainty for the electorate can be maintained.

Additionally, Montgomeryshire is a very historic seat. In Parliamentary history it was granted a seat in Parliament under the reign of Henry VIII. Since then, Montgomeryshire has almost always had a representative in Westminster. The current proposal is therefore welcome as it preserves Montgomeryshire as an entity and provides it's communities confidence for the future.

Kind Regards

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Russell George MS | AS

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