



Comisiwn Ffiniau
i Gymru

Boundary Commission
for Wales

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for Wales

Revised Proposals Consultation: Representations

Volume 11: 10514 - 10611

BCW-10514 / [REDACTED] / Machynlleth

I support the proposals for Montgomeryshire & Glyndwr.

Boundary changes don't always affect a sense of identity but the three constituent shires of Powys are still very much attached to those descriptions as part of their identity. The retention of constituency boundaries on shire lines has continued to nourish that. "Powys" is just the name of the council and the health board, whereas people are 'from' Montgomeryshire, Radnorshire and Brecknockshire.

For us, in the west, there is a particular privilege of being Welsh-speaking Montgomeryshire people. Not just Welsh-speakers: Montgomeryshire Welsh speakers.

This would have been threatened by any destruction of the Montgomeryshire constituency. We are not Ceredigion or Gwynedd Welsh-speakers; all three are very different. These proposals permit us to continue to celebrate the happy differences, and their historic roots, in a contemporary Wales which overtly recognises their unique identities.

For Welsh-speakers in Rhosllanerchrugog, Talwrn and Ddol, it is only their constituency name that changes. All their other cultural references stay the same. Officially erasing "Montgomeryshire" goes further than that and asks us to change who we are.

BCW-10515 / [REDACTED] / Newtown

I wish to agree with the current boundary changes suggested as of Oct 31st 2022 - keeping Montgomeryshire as a whole as opposed to splitting it up. Please do not split it, it is such an old area, it deserves to be kept as one for all sorts of reasons.

BCW-10516 / [REDACTED] / Oswestry

It would become an historical catastrophe if the identity of Montgomeryshire was compromised in any way. It is a beautiful and proud county. Future generations depend on wise decisions to be made currently, politics should not be allowed to interfere in those decisions.

We live in difficult times at present, the entire world seems in turmoil. It would be so good to feel that common sense, decency, and intelligent thinking would prevail in this matter. Please, do not destroy Montgomeryshire!

BCW-10517 / [REDACTED] / Montgomery

I concur with the proposals and consider it is essential the size and scope of the boundaries proposed are retained to maintain the credibility of the representative.

BCW-10518 / Cllr Jan Jones / Blackwood

I wish to give my views on the proposed boundary changes for the Parliamentary Islwyn Constituency

I am not in favour of the proposal to split up the Islwyn Constituency. This will mean that Newport will be the focus of the new borough. The MP no doubt will be based in Newport. The constituents of, what will be the 'old' Islwyn Borough, will be an add-on to whatever decisions are made.

At the present time, my MP is accessed on a short journey to his constituency offices. His staff are well known to his constituents often on first name terms. Chris Evans MP and Don Touhig before him, were well known in the area. They knew their constituents and we knew them. They knew every issue, whether it be a 'Parliamentary' issue or a local Council Issue. They both attended many gathering/demonstrations. Chris would often come along with his family to march with his constituents and to attend local community meetings – baby in pushchair. This is what a local MP is all about – not some distant MP with no connection to the area but who was politically correct in that they had the correct number of constituents.

I would ask you to reconsider the commissions original proposal which would see Islwyn remaining largely intact with the addition of further wards from within the Caerphilly County Borough for the following reasons.

- The original proposals acknowledge the geographic links within our valley.
- The addition of Ystrad Mynach, St Cattwg, Llanbradach and Hengoed to Islwyn would be appropriate given the shared communities within the area.
- Hengoed and Maesycwmmmer are linked by the Viaduct flowing into Ystrad Mynach and Llanbradach. While St Cattwgs borders Pengam.
- These communities are therefore a natural addition to the constituency.
- The A472 runs from Newbridge through Pontllanfraith to Ystrad showing the clear connections between the area. There is ultimately no link between Newbridge and Newport which can compare to the links within the current Islwyn boundaries proposed by the review.
- In transport terms there is no train link between Islwyn and Newport.
- The area of Pontllanfraith, Newbridge and Blackwood are inextricably connected with shared families and communities. When Blackwood and Newbridge RFC play against each other it is described as a derby.
- As Islwyn currently stands, no Islwyn Primary schools feed into secondary schools outside of the constituency.
- The catchment area for the new Islwyn High based in Oakdale includes schools from Pontllanfraith.
- All the secondary schools, Blackwood, Islwyn High, Newbridge, Risca and Ysgol Cwm Rhymni, only feed into one further education college, Coleg Gwent, again based in the Islwyn constituency.

Yours faithfully
Cllr Jan Jones (Independent Councillor)

BCW-10519 / [REDACTED] / Cardiff

Dear Sirs

I wish to place on record my thanks and support for the decision that you've made regarding the Caerphilly Constituency boundary.

I believe that the integrity of the communities of the Caerphilly constituency has been recognised and that you've come to a sensible and welcome conclusion.

I hope now that we can move on without further changes.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

BCW-10520 / [REDACTED] / Unknown

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 October 2022 15:56
To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>
Subject: 'BCW Revised Proposals: Caerphilly'

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my agreement with the 2nd proposal for change of boundaries.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

BCW-10521 / [REDACTED] / Carmarthen

I have no objections to the boundary reform

BCW-10522 / [REDACTED] / Denbighshire

I am concerned that parts of the Western Dee Valley are included within the new Montgomery and Glyndwr. The specific towns and villages from Glyndyfrdwy to Llandrillo, including Corwen are more suited to be in Clwyd East due to their transport connections and movement of people to work, shopping etc to Llangollen and beyond via the A5.

BCW-10523 / [REDACTED] / Penprysg and Pencoed

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 01 November 2022 08:46

To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>

Subject: Proposed boundaries change

Dear Commissioner.

I am writing to express my dismay at the proposed changes for my area Penprysg and Pencoed.

We in the Bridgend area have no connection to the area you propose we join.

I hope you will realise this is a major mistake.

Yours sincerely [REDACTED]

31st October 2022

Ms Shereen Williams MBE OStJ
 Boundary Commission for Wales Secretariat
 Hastings House
 Fitzalan Court
 Cardiff
 CF24 0BL

Dear Ms Williams,

Further to the publication of the [revised proposals](#) of His Majesty's Boundary Commissioners for Wales I am writing to comment and suggest a Rule 2 compliant alternative to the revised proposals for the boundary between their proposed Swansea Central & North constituency and their proposed Neath & Swansea East seat.

My counterproposal is aimed at mitigating the unfortunate domino effect of the Commission's revisions around Bridgend; namely the switch of Landore ward to a seat otherwise entirely east of the river Tawe. I propose restoring Landore to Swansea Central & North and instead crossing the Tawe in the north and in the south of the Swansea unitary authority area. A balanced exchange compatible with Rule 2 also requires inclusion of the current community of Llangyfelach. In the electoral register for the Selected Date these areas are identified as Polling Districts of the former wards of Castle, Mawr & Llangyfelach.

From Neath & Swansea East to Swansea Central & North:	Total Electors
LANDORE <i>(4821 electors on House of Commons franchise)</i>	5017

From Swansea Central & North to Neath & Swansea East:

Castle XA polling district (Marina area; now western side of Waterfront ward)	2213
Mawr DW polling district (Craigcefnparc, now in the Clydach community / ward)	909
Mawr DX polling district (Felindre, now in the Llangyfelach community / ward)	292
Llangyfelach CH1(Llangyfelach community / ward)	1842
Llangyfelach CH2 (Llangyfelach community / ward)	123
	5379

I am indebted to the City & County of Swansea's democratic services unit for supplying me with the Polling District elector numbers for the Selected Date across Swansea. It should be noted that these totals are for ALL registered electors on the Selected Date. The House of Commons franchise is restricted to those 18 and over and excludes non-UK, Irish or Commonwealth nationals who can vote in other elections. For comparison these figures, where available, are given in *(grey italic)* brackets. The differences appear insubstantial. Although quite a number of international students live in the west of Waterfront ward it is unclear whether many register to vote at all. In such event the exchange could come even closer to balance.

For the purposes of Rule 2 the statutory electorate range of electors for non-protected constituencies in Wales is between 69,724 and 77,062. Under the Revised Proposal Neath & Swansea East constituency would have 72,172 electors. Swansea Central & North constituency would have 71,378 electors. Both are slightly below the UKEQ of 73393; but it is clear that the statutory electorate range would not be breached on either side by consequence of this exchange.

As I only have access to the necessary data in Swansea I am not in a position to determine whether it is possible to apply a similar approach to other proposed Welsh constituencies.

All the areas I propose switching clearly share quite significant local ties, such as; refuse collection dates; political representation on the unitary authority; and in Clydach & Llangyfelach a precept setting community council.

As the Commission are doubtless aware Landore ward comprises two broad geographic areas; those of Hafod and Plasmarl. Although the eastern boundary (the river Tawe) is clear, the boundaries with Castle, Cwmbwrwla, Mynyddbach & Morryston are far less so and the community of Landore is clearly more closely linked with them than it is with Bonymaen.

Both parts of Landore are overwhelmingly composed of small terraced houses erected in the immediate vicinity of the copper processing industry. In more recent years the relatively cheap private housing has seen the settlement of peoples from a diverse range of ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds in Landore ward linking to affinity networks across the central Swansea conurbation that are not mirrored in Neath. Private car ownership conversely is relatively low – owing both to the practical limits on parking and high levels of multiple deprivation. Pentrehafoed Comprehensive school in the centre of Landore has a catchment covering each of the neighbouring wards; in the proposed Swansea Central & North constituency.

The Castle XA / Marina polling district is comprehensively linked to its east by two pedestrian/cycle crossings and a 2 bridge gyratory crossing for motor traffic. This fairly affluent neighbourhood clusters around the former South Dock; regenerated in recent decades and now known as the Marina. Much of the housing stock consists of modern privately developed & managed blocks of apartments, a good proportion of which are rented, generating a significant churn of electors. These housing types are mirrored across the Tawe in the still more recent SA1 development clustered around the redundant Prince of Wales Dock. Both sides of the river appeal to young professionals and other affluent segments moving to Swansea who may not be from the locality.

Neither Clydach nor Llangyfelach were ever historically part of the old Swansea district, and both enjoy significantly better transport ties to a Neath centred constituency than Landore.

The community of Clydach links with Glais and Birchgrove in addition to Morryston and Pontardawe. Over time however the ward boundaries have failed to adjust to house building on the western edge of the ward. This is why Craigcefnparc housing estate straddles the boundary with Mawr in the east. It makes overwhelming sense to consider the entire Craigcefnparc polling district of Mawr ward as an extension of Clydach as that is the only way in or out for residents.

Most of the settled neighbourhood in Llangyfelach today is M4 commuter based clusters of mainly detached family housing with high car dependency. Llangyfelach ward can most usefully be divided into Junction 46 polling districts and the J47 ones; it being literally impossible to walk or cycle between the two. With the J46 polling districts of Llangyfelach it makes sense to join the vast & sparse Felindre polling district of Mawr, as J46 is the primary route in and out of Felindre. The M4 provides those who have access to a motor vehicle with excellent links to Llansamlet and Neath. Morriston hospital acts as a bus interchange for services from both Neath & Swansea.

Although the Llangyfelach boundary with Penderry (which is the historic boundary between Glamorgan County & Swansea District) stretches south almost to Cadle; Penderry and Penllergaer still remain geographically connected together by a narrow strip that fortuitously includes the A483 (Pontardulais Road). This connects to J47 and the M4 & A48 roads to Pontardulais.

Insofar as Welsh is spoken as a first (mother tongue) language anywhere in Swansea it tends to be in the north of the City & County that one finds rates more akin to those in Neath. Although a significant number of households in the Landore ward do not speak English as their primary language they do not, as a rule, prefer to communicate with their MP through the medium of Welsh instead.

In their introduction to their revised proposals, the Commission states (point 25, p14)

"The local government boundaries the Commission may take into account are those that existed in Wales on 1 December 2020 (because there were no prospective boundaries in Wales on that date). As such, the Commission will not consider new local government boundaries that did not exist, and had not been provided for by legislation, on that date."

This strikes me as a highly restrictive construction of the 2020 Parliamentary Constituencies Act; which is the first iteration since the original introduction of Rule 5 in the 1986 Act to include any mention of prospective local government boundaries at all. The introduction of the word 'may' has been construed to imply a 'may not' to a formerly grey area. In effect the Commission appears to have decided that a clause designed to be permissive must also prevent the Commissioners from taking a more pragmatic and practical approach to considering 'communities of interest'!

Simply because the new local boundaries in Swansea were not created by Statutory Instrument prior to the commencement date of this Review on 2nd March 2020 does not in my reading oblige the Welsh Commissioners to absolutely disregard their credentials as communities of interest under Rule 5 totally; not least because being comprised from units that exist as polling districts in the electoral register for the Selected Date they are fit for use under Rule 2.

It is my contention that parliament's intent was to place 'prospective' wards on an identical footing to those still in existence on the commencement date; understanding that wards have been the primary building blocks employed by boundary commissions and that Rule 2 renders it impossible to use any boundaries for which robust electorate data is unavailable. In short the intent of parliament was to avert precisely the sorry situation the Revised Proposals now create in Swansea (and presumably elsewhere in Wales too).

The Commissioners have however clearly already determined on their preferred interpretation; so I am obliged to develop the case for my counterproposal purely under Rule 5 on the basis that these polling districts also describe communities which share substantial local ties that are broken or inconvenienced by inclusion in separate constituencies.

In my [submission](#) to the first consultation I discussed the basis of the 'whole ward assumption' and its difficulties in application to Swansea alongside Rule 2. A blanket 'whole ward solutions only' approach leads to a potential inequity arising in urban areas like the former Swansea District where average ward electorates are far larger. With Rule 2's 5 percent threshold ward sizes of over circa 8,000 present particular issues; particularly when the dense, urban settlement has to be combined with a peninsula hinterland as necessary in the Swansea unitary authority area.

Returning to the Commissioners introduction to their Revised Proposals (Ch 2, pt 17, pages 13/14)

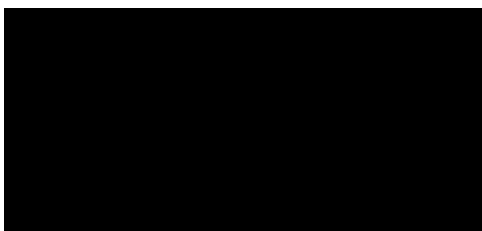
The Commission will seek to avoid dividing electoral wards between constituencies. Electoral wards are well-defined and well-understood units. They generally indicate areas that have a broad community of interest. However, there may be circumstances in which it will be desirable to divide electoral wards, particularly when considering all the factors identified in Rule 5, although our revised proposals do not divide any electoral wards.

In my first submission I suggested three questions that might guide the Boundary Commissioners in Wales in considering proposed ward splits. First, is an alternative available which does not split wards and is equally satisfactory? If the answer is Yes, then the ward split may be rejected. Secondly, does the proposal minimise ward splitting or engage in it wholesale? Large scale ward splitting is generally undesirable. Thirdly, does the ward being split have any clear lines along which it may be divided? If the answer is No, and ward splitting is still necessary for the greater good, consideration should be given to splitting a different ward.

Taking these in turn, the alternative of removing Landore ward does not appear equally satisfactory as it is more disruptive of local ties than the counterproposed ward-splitting option. The counterproposal does indeed make a technical split of three defunct wards; but it does so in the interests of bringing Communities sharing local ties back together and in circumstances where there are indeed clear lines of division that would be largely accepted by the vast majority of members of those communities in question. Ultimately on Rule 5 grounds I submit they are superior to the Landore crossing of the Tawe proposed by the Commissioners which breaks many more important ties to central Swansea.

I hope the Commissioners will consider these points with care and agree that Swansea presents a special case, justifying a bespoke and innovative approach.

Yours faithfully



BCW-10525 / [REDACTED] / Cardiff

I don't see a problem with the proposal in my area.

I am shocked that this is the first I've heard of it though.

BCW-10526 / [REDACTED] / Bridgend

I am extremely dismayed at the proposed changes to lump in the Penprysg ward as part of RCT councils boundary. Historically Penprysg has always come under Pencoed and as part of BCBC/Bridgend council. The people of Penprysg ward feel an affinity for Bridgend with many working and living in the area and to just tack us on to the end of RCT shows a lack of planning and foresight and would erase years of local cooperation and relationships already built up over the same period. I would strongly urge you to reconsider this proposal as there are more viable options both geographically and structurally which would be seen if common sense was used. This re-zoning of councils whilst I understand needs to take place, I do not believe putting us in with RCT is the best way to achieve the stated aims.

To whom it may concern.

I am writing following the publication of the revised proposals from the Boundary Commission for Wales on Wednesday 19th November.

I write with regard to the proposal to move the ward of Cathays into Cardiff South and Penarth.

I oppose this move. The ward of Cathays is intrinsically linked to the remaining wards in the wider community of Roath; namely Penylan, Plasnewydd, Cyncoed and Adamsdown. For example I live on the boundary of Plasnewydd ward but my son attends school just over the border in Cathays ward. Likewise we worship at a church in Cathays and often shop on Crwys Road.

The Commission should return to the original proposal whereby the ward of Cathays is in Cardiff Central / Cardiff East and the ward of Trowbridge is in Cardiff South and Penarth.

This proposal meets the Commission's Rule 5 and involves only two wards moving from their existing constituencies, opposed to the four that are moved in the revised proposals.

All previous Boundary Commissions have recognised the close links between Cathays, Plasnewydd and Penylan and have ensured that those areas have been within the same Parliamentary seat for more than sixty years. Indeed the Commission in its previous aborted reviews since 2010 have never looked to separate Cathays and Plasnewydd.

I understand the Commission received one submission (from a resident based in Altrincham) suggesting this change, but the Commission received dozens of responses (from residents of Cardiff) backing the keeping of Cathays, Plasnewydd, Penylan and Adamsdown within the wider Roath community in the same constituency.

I accept that Trowbridge is a ward with no direct road access to Splott. However the Commission proposed exactly the same situation within its revised proposal for Rhondda. Splott and Trowbridge bring with them decades of history as part of the same constituency unlike the proposed solution in the new Rhondda seat.

Cathays has no community links with the wards in Cardiff South and Penarth - cut off from other urban wards by the City Centre which has a limited population, and to position it within the same constituency as Dinas Powys and Sully is frankly absurd and will not be easily understood by the electorate.

However, Cathays, Plasnewydd, Penylan and Adamsdown have many community ties - for example those I've outlined above but also:

- Overwhelmingly the student population from Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan University and the Cardiff campus of the University of South Wales live in Cathays and Plasnewydd. Cardiff University buildings span Cathays, Plasnewydd and Penylan, with halls of residence in close proximity in Cathays and Plasnewydd.
- Cardiff Council considers the wards of Cathays and Plasnewydd so intertwined that planning rules have been passed solely to cover HMOs and letting agents board in those two wards (<https://www.landlordzone.co.uk/news/cardiff-to-vote-through-extension-to-large-student-area-hmo-licensing-scheme/>)
- The secondary school catchment area for Cathays High School includes Cathays, Adamsdown, Penylan and Plasnewydd.
- The children at primary schools in Cathays and Plasnewydd go on to attend Cathays High School, Bro Edern (situated in Penylan) or Cardiff High School (situated in Cyncoed).
- The community connections across Cathays, Plasnewydd and indeed Penylan and parts of Cyncoed, are such that residents in all three electoral wards consider themselves part of the Roath community centred around the shopping districts of Crwys Rd, Albany Rd and City Rd.

- The public transport links that are shared between Cathays and Plasnewydd, are long-standing and were correctly respected by the Commission's initial proposals.
- The Church in Wales is organised within the existing Cardiff Central boundaries (<https://www.roath.org.uk/rcma/images/map.jpg>)
- General Practitioners' surgery catchment areas also cross the boundaries of Cathays, Adamsdown, Penylan and Plasnewydd and share common concerns and demographics.

Thank you for reading this submission. I hope that having read the evidence here the Commission will now overturn the revised proposals and return to the initial proposals as published.



Boundary Commission for Wales – 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies – Initial Proposals

“In developing its proposals, the Commission has had regard, where possible, to existing Parliamentary and local government boundaries. It has also sought to avoid or minimise the breaking of local ties. On occasion, the Commission has had regard to special geographic considerations.”

P.4 Boundary Commission for Wales – 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies – Initial Proposals

1. The initial proposals of the Boundary Commission for Wales have profound implications for the existing Vale of Clwyd Constituency and for the town of Rhyl in particular.
2. In presenting its proposals the BCW has rehearsed the numerical imperatives causing Wales to lose a large proportion of its current seats. Constituencies may range between 69,724 and 77,062 electors. The Vale of Clwyd currently has around 56,000 voters.
3. In tasking the BCW with preparing proposals for change, however, the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (Schedule 2, Rule 5) provides that it may consider the following factors, alongside numerical considerations:
 - a) Special geographical considerations;
 - b) Local government boundaries and local ties;
 - c) Existing constituency boundaries;
 - d) The inconvenience any changes may create; and
 - e) The interplay of all the above considerations.
4. Notwithstanding its statement above that it has taken account of local ties and existing boundaries, the Commission has stated its *policy* clearly:

“The policy of the Commission is to consider all the factors listed in Rule 5 as far as possible, subject to the primacy of the statutory electorate range under Rule 2.”

P.5 Boundary Commission for Wales – 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies – Initial Proposals

5. It is my view that the Commission's policy has not taken sufficient account of the factors outlined in Rule 5 in arriving at its proposals for 2023.

6. *Special geographical considerations*

Rule 5 mentions the size, shape and accessibility of the proposed constituency. The 2023 proposals refer expressly to such physical features as mountains, hills, lakes, rivers, estuaries and islands. Rhyl sits on the eastern bank and at the mouth of the River Clwyd. The river is not just a physical but also a territorial barrier, separating the town from communities to the west. The direction of travel for Rhyl has always been eastwards rather than westwards – in more ways than one.

Physical accessibility in the form of transport links – relied upon a great deal in the proposals – is confined mainly to coastal routes common to all communities along the N Wales coast. The Commission has used the term 'cohesive' to justify its proposals, generally relying on good transport and communication links. A marriage of Colwyn Bay with Rhyl is no more 'cohesive' – and we would argue a great deal less so – than one between Rhyl, Prestatyn and Flint.

7. *Local government boundaries and local ties*

The proposals recommend bisecting the current Denbighshire County Council area, part being hived off to Clwyd and the rest to Delyn. This seems to me a crude exercise in achieving the 'right' numbers without considering the factors mentioned in Rule 5.

Pre-1974 Rhyl and Prestatyn together were contained within Flintshire County Council and enjoyed a healthy rivalry as independent district councils. Post-1974 the two urban districts were combined, along with St Asaph, to form Rhuddlan Borough Council within the new County of Clwyd. Admittedly the ill-fated Clwyd County Council did extend to Colwyn Bay but any suggestion that there was a community of interests between the districts of Colwyn and Rhuddlan is misplaced.

The local ties between Rhyl and Prestatyn are plain for all to see. Rhyl and Prestatyn have always been the 'go-to' destination for holidays and resettlement for families from North East Wales and the North West of England.

Both towns have tended to look east rather than west. This is the case in terms of travel, commerce, employment and cultural activities. They share a wide range of facilities in education, leisure and the arts

To suggest a partnership extending as far west as Colwyn Bay would be to stake Rhyl's future in tourism and agriculture. My preference is to see our future in tourism and high quality jobs in manufacturing. Locating both Rhyl and Prestatyn in neighbouring Delyn would provide a significant tourism hub within that constituency.

Rhyl currently has two of the most deprived areas (Lower Super Output Areas - LSOAs) in Wales according to the last all Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD). Six of its LSOAs are in the top 10% of deprived areas across Wales. My fear is that, in a new Clwyd constituency, the interests of Rhyl in particular would be so at odds with those of the largely rural hinterland of that area that it could render Rhyl residents and their concerns unrepresented. A similar fate could befall the number of rural wards it's proposed could be slotted into the new Delyn.

My conclusion is that economically, culturally and linguistically, Rhyl has more in common with Prestatyn, Delyn and N E Wales than with its neighbours to the west.

Conclusion

My preference is for Rhyl to remain linked with Prestatyn in any new arrangements and therefore to be included in a new Delyn constituency.

BCW-10529 / [REDACTED] / Colwyn Bay

The name proposed for the new constituency, Clwyd North, is extremely ambiguous since Clwyd as a county name disappeared years ago. The river Clwyd still exists of course and the river flows through the eastern part of the proposed constituency, but this does not reflect the Colwyn area and for that matter Abergele. The communities in the Colwyn Bay Town Council area and the Mochdre area are the most populated part of the proposed constituency and Abergele used to be part of the old Colwyn Council area. The name 'Clwyd North' is not relevant and accurate for the area as a whole.

In order to reflect the area fairly, the name of the constituency should be 'Colwyn a Chlwyd'. This would also be completely acceptable in both Welsh and English and would avoid the need for a name in each language.

BCW-10530/ [REDACTED] / Swansea

The current proposed changes of the boundaries for Swansea East, Neath Port Talbot etc, are beyond the pale. ... these are not minor changes, and they don't make any sense. It is as though some child sitting with a spreadsheet and some population data has moved boundaries to fit the new rules, without any attempt to retain as much of the old constituency as possible. I deem these proposals to be so bad that I cannot fathom how they have been allowed to get to this stage.

BCW-10531 / [REDACTED] / Betws-y-Coed

Changing the boundaries as seen on the map is a completely presumptuous and unnecessary course of action. Constituencies should be considered in the context of communities that share similar needs in order to be able to maintain successful and strong local government. The Bangor Aberconwy constituency is far too large and will be impossible to manage for the benefit of the diverse population that exists within its boundaries. I oppose your effort to reduce people's power and to weaken the voice of Wales in Westminster. This is an atrocious course of action devised by self-righteous bigwigs in London, with the support of Welsh people who lack a backbone, to diminish our influence on policies yet again.

BCW-10532 / [REDACTED] / Aberdare

I am in total agreement with the new proposals and feel they are long overdue.

BCW-10533 / [REDACTED] / Haverfordwest

Tyddewi/St Davids and south Pembrokeshire' have little in common historically or linguistically and it is perplexing that this ward has been tacked on to the unbelievably titled 'mid and south pembrokeshire' constituency when it would sit far better in the Preseli/Ceredigion constituency.

BCW-10534 / [REDACTED] / Bridgend

I'm assuming that there will not be an Ogmore consistency, if this is the case then Pencoed should be in Bridgend not RTC

BCW-10535 / [REDACTED] / Llandrillo yn Rhos

Rhos on Sea/ Llandrillo yn Rhos has more affinity with Penrhyn Bay, Llandudno and proposed district of Bangor than the newly proposed Abergele, Rhyl etc.

Coleg Llandrillo Menai which includes Llandrillo College, situated in Rhos on Sea would be severed from the other group colleges. Would this mean changes in support or funding for the local college? Ties to the Bangor University could be at risk.

Apart from emotional and family links In the area what impact could this have on health spending, transport and infrastructure?

BCW-10536 / [REDACTED] / Resolven

Why combine part of Swansea with Neath? Neath is completely independent, and factors that affect Swansea are irrelevant to the residents of this area (and vice versa).

A stupid idea, with no common sense involved. I do not support this change.

BCW-10537 / [REDACTED] / Cardiff

This has been badly shared and communicated. No presence for general public to realise consultation is going on or changing being made.

BCW-10538 / [REDACTED] / Taffs Well

Will Cardiff north continue the services RCT have provided to Taffs well? Eg all the dog poo bins and excellent response times to reported issues such as street lights not working?

It seems a shame to separate Taffs Well and Gwaelod y Garth as they have a strong connection.

Maybe settlements north of Cardiff need joining (Pentrych, Gwaelod y Garth, Taffs Well, Tongwnglais)?

BCW-10539 / [REDACTED] / Llanidloes

Glad to hear the initial consult. proposed keeping Montgomery intact. Proposals to split the county take no account of community cohesion

BCW-10540 / Craig Williams MP / Welshpool

I'm writing to support the final proposal boundary review for the new Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr Parliamentary Constituency.

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-10541 / [REDACTED] / Llandudno

So pleased that the peninsula of Creuddyn - Llandudno is being returned to what used to be eastern Gwynedd as chosen by the Bishop of Bangor centuries ago. The new suggested constituency will stop the confusion between the town and county of Conwy and we will not have to financially support eastern Conwy as we have since Conwy was established.

BCW-10542 / [REDACTED] / Pencoed

Has some 5 year old with a crayon drawn up this map for Pencoed to be annexed from Bridgend?

Shambles. Should be looking at communities that are closely related to on another, not simply using the number of residents to make the figures work.

BCW-10543 / Sioned Williams MS / Pontardawe

This response deals with the specific proposal regarding the wards of the Swansea Valley that contained in the current Neath Constituency.

The Boundary Commission for Wales should look again at the revised proposals which would see the communities of the Swansea Valley who currently come under the Neath constituency sharing an MP with the towns and villages of Brecon and Radnorshire. This new seat which would stretch from Trebanos and Pontardawe to Rhayader and Presteigne.

As a resident of Alltwen, and its regional MS, I believe the changes proposed to the representation for these wards in the Swansea Valley are completely unacceptable.

You received countless responses in your last consultation phase as to why this proposal undermines democratic representation, is contrary to your own published criteria and most importantly makes no sense to the people you are meant to serve as an advisory public body funded by Government. A consultation must be meaningful. In ignoring the responses, you are reinforcing the perception that people have no say in the way they are governed. This is socially dangerous, politically disingenuous and damaging to democracy.

Placing the tight knit, post-industrial valley towns and villages of Cwm Tawe together with distant, and radically different wards in term of culture, socio-economic nature, character and geography in Brecon and Radnorshire - which are served by a different police force, local authority, health board and have no connecting direct public transport or any rail links - will make serving these communities effectively impossible.

In forming your proposals you stated you were able to take into into account geographical considerations and barriers such as mountains, the "accessibility" of a constituency, local government boundaries, linguistic nature of communities as well as "local ties" that would be broken by changes and the "inconveniences" of changes.

The proposals for the Swansea Valley wards of Trebanos, Pontardawe, Alltwen, Ystalyfera, Godre'rgraig, Rhos, Cwmllynfell, Gwauncaegurwen, fit *all* of these criteria and yet all the representations pointing this out have been completely ignored.

At this tumultuous time in politics and with more and more people requiring support in our communities, it is more vital than ever that people have faith in the political process and the system of democratic representation. I urge you to reconsider this proposal as I believe it will diminish access to that representation and damage the confidence of people in the democratic process and in the validity of their

representation.

The aim should surely be to create a constituency of culturally and economically similar communities, with strong local ties between the communities and towns included in the proposed constituency. When constituencies fail to have these kind of links, they produce unaccountable representatives.

The vast and obvious imbalance in this proposal will inevitably shift focus from the needs of the Swansea Valley communities and many people will simply disengage with the democratic process. It is a significant problem in socio-economically deprived areas that people lack investment in their own governance. This proposal will exacerbate this problem which should be something we are trying to tackle, not worsen, for the sake of democracy.

The convoluted nature of this proposal has already engendered cynicism and despair. A political constituency should reinforce a shared identity, so that constituency must therefore be meaningfully identifiable as a geographical and socially cohesive place. As such, combining the wards of the Swansea Valley with a constituency that has links to the Neath or Swansea areas, or the valley communities of the Neath, Amman or Dulais valleys or places such as Clydach, Morriston, Pontarddulais etc would avoid this result. I refer you to the submission made by Plaid Cymru on alternatives.

I hope that you will take note that undermining the effectiveness of democratic representation in this way is thus morally wrong and in my opinion, an act of negligence by the Boundary Commission. If no changes are forthcoming, then these opinions will be vindicated.

BCW-10544 / [REDACTED] / Bridgend

Why does Pencoed have to become part of RCT, it has been part of Bridgend for years.

I don't understand why it has to be moved, it makes no sense and it won't stop there make my word.

BCW-10545 / Hefin David MS / Caerphilly

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to echo the comments of my colleague Wayne David MP, in support of the revised proposals from the Boundary Commission for Wales ('the Commission') relating to the parliamentary constituencies of Caerphilly and Newport West.

I am appreciative that the Commission has clearly listened to a groundswell of public opinion in the lower Rhymney Valley against its initial proposals. The Commission has recognised that there was strong opposition to the proposal to link the communities of the Caerphilly Basin to the existing Newport West constituency. You have recognised that this suggestion is unsustainable because it sought to link two areas that have few geographic, communication, social, historic, and cultural links.

You have also recognised that it is far more sensible, and in line with public opinion, to maintain the links between the Caerphilly Basin and its Valleys hinterland to the north. At the same time, you have recognised that the neighbouring Sirhowy and Ebbw Valleys provide a more natural orientation towards the western part of Newport.

The revised proposals have been warmly received by the many individuals and the community groups in the greater part of the existing Caerphilly constituency who made representations to you.

Yours sincerely

Hefin David MS
Member of the Senedd, Caerphilly

BCW-10546 / Alex Davies-Jones MP / Pontypridd

Hi there,

I would like to formally feedback my thoughts that the Pontypridd constituency be re-named to Pontypridd + Llantrisant. I feel that this makes most sense with the wards gained in the south west part of the constituency. Their community is far more aligned with Llantrisant, and the history of that area, than it is with Pontypridd town centre. This also makes sense from a transport perspective too.

I do hope these representations are considered during the consultation process, and if you require any further information from me then please do let me know.

Best wishes/dymuniadau gorau,

Alex



Alex Davies-Jones MP

Labour Member of Parliament for Pontypridd/Aelod Seneddol Llafur dros Bontypridd

BCW-10547 / [REDACTED] Monmouthshire County Council / Monmouthshire

Please find attached the representation from Monmouthshire County Council relating to the Parliamentary Boundary Review.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]
Rheolwr Democratiad Lleol / Local Democracy Manager
Cyngor Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire County Council



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

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

The person dealing with
This matter is:
Telephone: [Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Dear Sir / Madam

Parliamentary Boundary Review 2023 – Monmouth Proposals

At a meeting of its full council on the 27th October 2022, Councillors considered a motion in response in relation to the proposed new Parliamentary Constituencies for Wales.

This Council agreed a motion at a recent Council meeting which reads as follows:

*‘This Council:
Supports the proposal of the Boundary Commission for Wales
of a Monmouthshire parliamentary constituency that is
coterminous with the local authority however this Council
regrets the proposal by the Boundary Commission to reduce
the number of parliamentary constituencies in Wales.*

The Council wish to submit this motion to the Commission in response to the consultation.

Yours Sincerely

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Local Democracy Manager
Monmouthshire County Council

BCW-10548 / [REDACTED] / Cardiff

I am writing following the publication of the revised proposals from the Boundary Commission for Wales on Wednesday 19th November.

I write with regard to the proposal to move the ward of Cathays into Cardiff South and Penarth.

I oppose this move. The ward of Cathays is intrinsically linked to the remaining wards in the wider community of Roath; namely Penylan, Plasnewydd, Cyncoed and Adamsdown.

The Commission should return to the original proposal whereby the ward of Cathays is in Cardiff Central / Cardiff East and the ward of Trowbridge is in Cardiff South and Penarth.

This proposal meets the Commission's Rule 5 and involves only two wards moving from their existing constituencies, opposed to the four that are moved in the revised proposals.

All previous Boundary Commissions have recognised the close links between Cathays, Plasnewydd and Penylan and have ensured that those areas have been within the same Parliamentary seat for more than sixty years. Indeed the Commission in its previous aborted reviews since 2010 have never looked to separate Cathays and Plasnewydd.

The Commission received one submission (from a resident based in Altrincham) suggesting this change.

The Commission received dozens of responses (from residents of Cardiff) backing the keeping of Cathays, Plasnewydd, Penylan and Adamsdown within the wider Roath community in the same constituency.

I accept that Trowbridge is a ward with no direct road access to Splott. However the Commission proposed exactly the same situation within its revised proposal for Rhondda. Splott and Trowbridge bring with them decades of history as part of the same constituency unlike the proposed solution in the new Rhondda seat.

Moving the Cathays ward into Cardiff South and Penarth has not been mentioned as an option during the previous proposals and consultation processes. To present it as a 'fait accompli' at the last stage seems disingenuous, and not in the spirit of the statement made by the Secretary to the Commission, Shereen Williams, at the beginning of the process.

"We're determined to develop the best possible proposals for Wales' new constituencies, and we know that we can only do that by having the greatest public

involvement we've ever had." "Accessibility is at the heart of what we're trying to achieve. Everyone in Wales has a valuable voice to add to the discussion about Wales' boundary changes, and we want to make sure everyone can express their views."

Cathays has no community links with the wards in Cardiff South and Penarth. To position it within the same constituency as Dinas Powys and Sully is frankly absurd and will not be easily understood by the electorate. However, Cathays, Plasnewydd, Penylan and Adamsdown have many community ties:

- Overwhelmingly the student population from Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan University and the Cardiff campus of the University of South Wales live in Cathays and Plasnewydd. Cardiff University buildings span Cathays, Plasnewydd and Penylan, with halls of residence in close proximity in Cathays and Plasnewydd.
- Cardiff Council considers the wards of Cathays and Plasnewydd so intertwined that planning rules have been passed solely to cover HMOs and letting agents board in those two wards (<https://www.landlordzone.co.uk/news/cardiff-to-vote-through-extension-to-large-student-area-hmo-licensing-scheme/>)
- The secondary school catchment area for Cathays High School includes Cathays, Adamsdown, Penylan and Plasnewydd.
- The children at primary schools in Cathays and Plasnewydd go on to attend Cathays High School, Bro Edern (situated in Penylan) or Cardiff High School (situated in Cyncoed).
- The community connections across Cathays, Plasnewydd and indeed Penylan and parts of Cyncoed, are such that residents in all three electoral wards consider themselves part of the Roath community centred around the shopping districts of Crwys Rd, Albany Rd and City Rd.
- The public transport links that are shared between Cathays and Plasnewydd, are long-standing and were correctly respected by the Commission's initial proposals.
- The Church in Wales is organised within the existing Cardiff Central boundaries (<https://www.roath.org.uk/rcma/images/map.jpg>)
- General Practitioners' surgery catchment areas also cross the boundaries of Cathays, Adamsdown, Penylan and Plasnewydd and share common concerns and demographics.

Thank you for reading this submission. I hope that having read the evidence here the Commission will now overturn the revised proposals and return to the initial proposals as published.

BCW-10549 / [REDACTED] / Pontypool

Why not reduce the numbers further. Torfaen has incredibly high council tax. A great council leader who has limited support from staff. Never get any response from them or any issue raised. There has to be a way to be better than Torfaen is. Let's get rid of layers of bureaucracy

BCW-10550 / Geraint Davies MP / Swansea West

Dear Shereen Williams & BCW,

Thank you for your revised boundary proposals for Gower & Swansea West and Swansea Central & North on 18 October.

I am pleased to propose **two further alternatives**(starting from your revised boundary proposals) which strongly reflects your reasoning and criteria and

A) Re-unite Sketty and Uplands

These wards are seamlessly connected in geography and have closely inter-connected communities. Uplands accommodates many of those who work and study in Sketty at the University and at Singleton Hospital there.

Equally, many of the communities in Sketty travel through Uplands for work, leisure and worship in Swansea Central and North.

B) Keep Mumbles Community Council in the same constituency

These proposals also unite Mayals with the other wards of West Cross, Oystermouth and Newton which form Mumbles Community Council.

Alternative One

1. Move Sketty (**11,304**) from Gower & Swansea West into Swansea Central and North.
2. Move Pontardulais (4954), Llangyfelach (3946) and Penllergaer (2553) – a total of **11,453** – back from Swansea Central & North into Gower & Swansea West.

This creates two more coherent constituencies Gower & Swansea West 75,363 (2.6% above UKEQ) and Swansea Central and North 71,229 (-2.9% below UKEQ).

Alternative Two

1. Move Sketty (**11,304**) from Gower & Swansea West into Swansea Central & North.
2. Move Pontardulais (4954), Mawr (1438) and Penllergaer (2553) – a total of **8,945** - from Swansea Central & North into Gower & Swansea West.

This creates two even more coherent constituencies of (renamed) Gower 72,855 (0.7% below UKEQ) and (renamed) Swansea Central 73,737 (0.4% above UKEQ).

Both alternatives more closely respect the boundaries of the existing constituencies.

Alternative One retains Sketty in the current Swansea West constituency and Pontardulais, Llangyfelach and Penllergaer in the current Gower constituency

Alternative Two retains Sketty in the current Swansea West constituency and Pontardulais, Mawr and Penllergaer in the current Gower constituency

Both these alternatives are less radical than the BCW revised proposals as they

- provide a more coherent geographical fit and connections
- more strongly retain existing community ties and reduce inconvenience

- solve the “splitting Sketty from Uplands” problem
- unite Mumbles Community Council into one constituency.

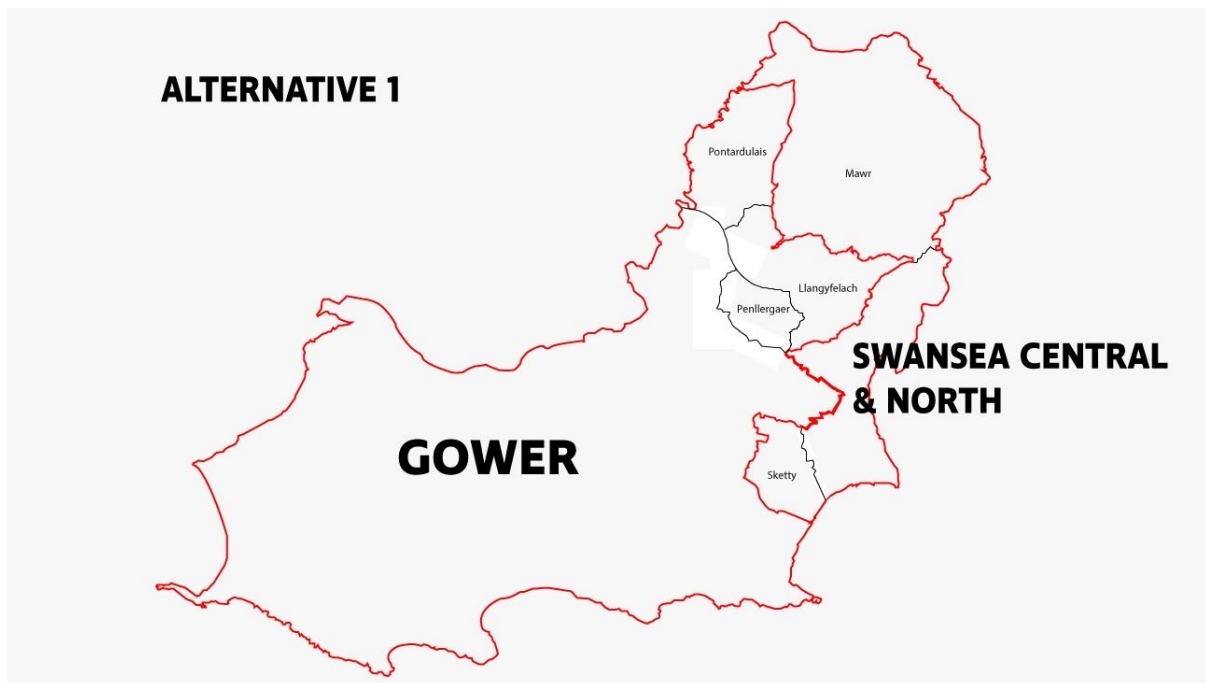
I favour Alternative Two as

- it creates a new ‘Swansea Central’ seat that embraces Llangyfelach
- and a more consistent new ‘Gower’ seat
- creates two constituencies each within one per cent of UKEQ 73,393 (capable of more population variation).

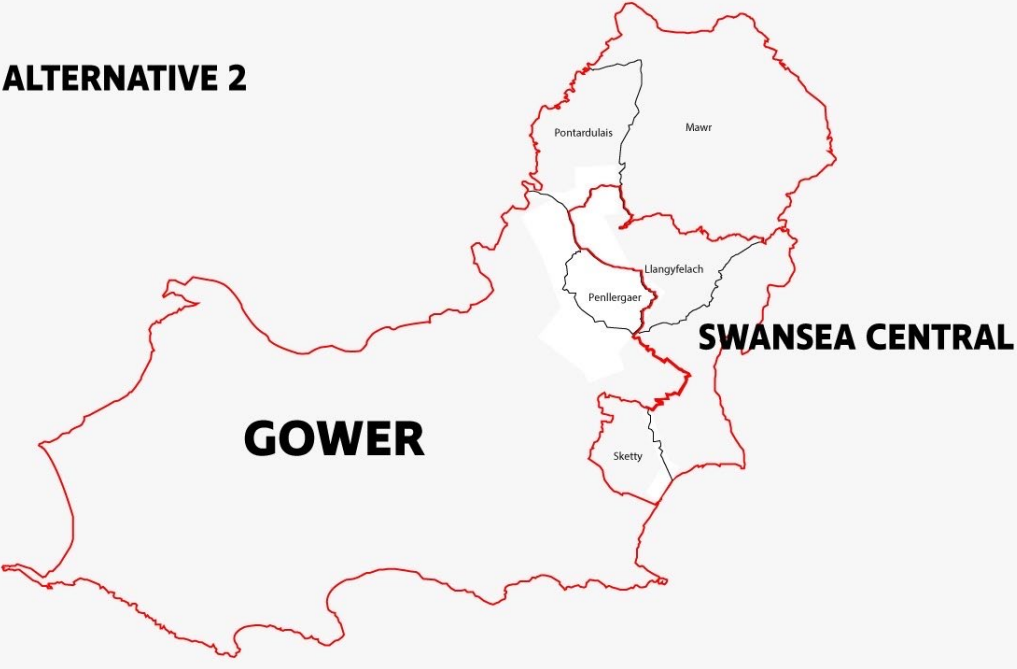
I therefore strongly recommend these alternatives to you. Guide maps of the two alternatives are below for your convenience.

Very best wishes

Geraint Davies MP
Swansea West



ALTERNATIVE 2



BCW-10551 / [REDACTED] / Taffs Well

I live in Taffs Well. I am happy for my constituency to be moved as long as the council and healthboard area is also moved to Cardiff north and Cardiff and vale UHB. Under current plans only a tiny amount of the constituency would be in rct and cwm taf morganwg health board. This means that the mp is unlikely to be able to develop a strong relationship with these bodies and is less likely to be able to adequately understand and address the issues that arise for the small rct population within this constituency. Any parliamentary boundary change should be linked to changing council and health board area

BCW-10552 / [REDACTED] / Newport

The proposal is unworkable it contains no major population centres and looks like what was left when you took out Caerphilly and Newport East. The disparate area has no medical facility other than g p surgeries, no major transport links no sensible train service to connect any areas within the constituency.

It looks like a child drew this line when the original including Caerphilly and Newport west was discarded.

The Caerphilly Newport west version was not great but better than this mess. Why lump Duffryn Newport in with Islwyn nothing links them.

BCW-10553 / [REDACTED] / Machynlleth

Machynlleth feels a million miles away from the East side of Powys and Wrexham. We have much closer ties to Aberystwyth and it would make more sense to put them in the same constituency.

BCW-10554 / [REDACTED] / Ruthin

The new proposed boundaries removes Pwllglas and several other small villages and communities away from the town of Ruthin

THIS TOWN IS OUR CENTRAL HUB. Separating us from this hub is isolating us away from our local community.

BCW-10555 / Cllr Elizabeth M Aldworth / Caerphilly

Dear Commissioners,

CAERPHILLY CONSTITUENCY.

Please accept this correspondence, as full support to retaining Caerphilly as a Parliamentary Constituency seat. This is as per your revised proposals and following the submissions made to maintain this seat.

To join Caerphilly basin with Wards within Newport West, found no favour with those I spoke with on this amalgamation. The title Caerphilly and Newport West just does not ring true as Newport is a City should not be a joined with another County Borough.


Thank you for recognising and noting the representations and allowing full consultation.

Much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Elizabeth M. Aldworth.

Borough Mayor.



BEDWAS/TRETHOMAS WARD OF C.C.B.C.

2nd November 2022

BCW-10556 / [REDACTED] / Unknown

Absolute nonsense. How can you split cynon valley.
Hugh mountain between merthyr and cynon. Very different communities.
Total lack of understanding of valleys differing needs and requirements.
It shouldn't always be about numbers and stats!

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

<https://www.bcw-reviews.org.uk/>

Dear Boundary Commission,

I am very concerned about the revised proposals to dismantle the Valleys constituency of Islwyn. The greater part of the constituency would be added to, and swallowed by, Newport West. Other wards would be *caNed* away from their neighbours in Islwyn and allocated elsewhere.

These proposals would tear apart historically linked communities, destroying our long-standing identity and shared heritage. They disregard the natural geography of this Valleys community and yoke together very different and unrelated communities across the proposed new constituency of Islwyn and Newport West. These two districts face different social and economic challenges and combining them will not serve either Islwyn or Newport West well.

I urge you to return to the former proposals which retain the Islwyn constituency.

Your sincerely,

[REDACTED]

BCW-10558 / [REDACTED] / Johnstown

I find the proposal baffling. To say that Johnstown has no strong links with Wrexham is just wrong. From as far back as the early 1900s a tram line ran between Johnstown and Wrexham and the sheds in Johnstown that housed the trams were only demolished in the 1980s or 1990s when new houses were built on the site. Surely this alone demonstrates there have been links between the two for over 100 years.

A large proportion of the residents of Johnstown also work in Wrexham.

It appears that very little research into the links between Johnstown and Wrexham has been conducted prior to the drafting of the proposal.

It appears on the face of it to be an attempt by the conservatives to remove those areas close to Wrexham and that vote for parties other than them from the equation.

BCW-10559 / [REDACTED] / Caernarfon

I don't think that sufficient consideration has been given regarding the rural and geographically extensive nature of the new constituency. In urban areas, the MP would be able to go from one end to the other quite easily, but this does not apply in rural areas. It doesn't make any kind of sense. Perhaps in terms of the number of people, but surely there is some rural 'premium' to make up for the lack of services in rural areas – public transport, health etc.

So basically, less representation from Wales and more from England? How is that fair, bearing in mind England's existing overwhelming majority?

Also, a small matter perhaps, but Arfon, Dwyfor and Meirionnydd are all included in this constituency, so the name is not appropriate either.

Bonkers!

BCW-10560 / [REDACTED] / Bridgend

We are part of Bridgend council so we should be in Bridgend not Rhondda.

BCW-10561 / [REDACTED] / Neath

This is disgusting and surely we the people should of been consulted. I have never been happy that Briton Ferry was put under Aberavon instead of Neath, I am was born and as far as I'm concerned will always be a Neath girl. I will never vote for anyone from Aberavon let alone Porthcawl!

BCW-10562 / [REDACTED] / Lampeter

I support the Ceredigion preseli boundary change - gives a fair representation of population and hopefully boosts economy for a deprived areas.

BCW-10563 / [REDACTED] / Aberystwyth

I would like to suggest some changes to the Dee Valley area, which will have the effect of strengthening local ties, and make constituencies more equal in terms of population.

The Corwen area is currently placed in the Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr constituency, where there are no strong transport or community links at all. The area's main links are along the A5 – with Cerrigydrudion / Pentrefoelas to the west and Llangollen to the east.

The wards of Llandrillo, Corwen and Llanfair DC could be moved to the Bangor Aberconwy constituency, where the neighbouring Denbighshire wards of Efenechtyd and Llanrhaeadr-Yng-Nghinmeirch are already placed. This change would unite the historic Edeirion area within one constituency and place Corwen in a constituency where it has far greater natural connections than Montgomeryshire.

This change would keep all constituencies in the area within the electorate range and there would be no knock-on effects on other areas.

But I would like to suggest 2 more minor changes.

Llangollen Rural ward could be moved to the Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr seat (a change that would move the constituency boundary so that it corresponds with the county boundary), and Esclusham ward could be moved to the constituency of Wrexham (since most of its population is in the villages of Rhostyllen and Bersham, in the east of the ward, not far from the centre of Wrexham).

Again, these changes should keep all seats within the appropriate population range, and indeed, make them more equal.

BCW-10564 / [REDACTED] / Neath

TO THE SECRETARY AND MEMBERS OF THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES.

I write in response to the revised proposals that were published on 19th October and to reiterate my total opposition to your published proposal for the Upper Amman and Swansea valleys. I wish to refer you to my previous response to this proposal which was given the ref no: BCW 9651

I have taken the opportunity since I responded to your first draft proposal to talk to my fellow residents in the Upper Amman and Swansea valleys and the thing that has struck me most is the very low level of public awareness even of the existence of The Boundary Commission for Wales itself let alone your published draft proposals for these valley areas.

I genuinely feel that this is an opportunity lost as I have heard interesting thoughts from young people about their future governance. Why has there been so little involvement of young people when they can vote at sixteen in Welsh elections ?

I have raised awareness with OAP groups and Community Councils and have not found any support for your draft proposal.

People really feel that they have nothing in common with Brecon and Radnor and strongly wish to retain their traditional, historical, community and geographical links with the Neath and Dulais valleys and with the preserved county of West Glamorgan.

I am not offering an alternative proposal as I am aware that Plaid Cymru and Former Cllr Arwyn Woolcock (Your Ref: BCW-10434) have put forward alternatives respectively and I would find it eminently easier to support either one of these alternatives.

I am aware that "Welsh Labour" has supported your proposal for the Upper Amman and Swansea Valleys and your statement that " this is an area if no easy solution". I find this description of my home area insulting and it suggests to me that an area of 17000+ voters has had to fit into the Brecon and Radnor Constituency as a convenient set of numbers.

You write about your draft proposal having been supported by The Labour Party but I would like to make clear, as a Labour Party member of over 45 years, that although "We in Welsh Labour" has voiced its support for the proposal for the Upper Amman and Swansea Valleys this proposal has been unanimously rejected by the Neath Constituency Labour Party. The Neath constituency deserves equal prominence with "Welsh Labour" as the constituency members particularly members from the Upper Amman and Swansea valleys are the most affected by this impractical proposal. If this proposal is adopted as final there is a feeling that communication would be expected to be predominantly by electronic means which will result in some older people feeling isolated and excluded from the democratic process. Face to face exchanges due to geographical difficulties could become problematic.

Even at this last stage of this process I urge you as individual members of the Commission to reconsider your proposal and to recognise that this is the worse proposal that could have been made for my area. I genuinely feel that the geographical difficulties alone make this proposal nonsensical. Travel by public transport from Gwaun Cae Gurwen to Llandrindod where the present MP has her office would be impossible and easy access to the democratic process would be severely restricted. I urge you to reconsider this proposal and to treat the right of the people of the Upper Amman and Swansea valleys to convenient governance with respect and with due regard to the inconvenience and unnecessary disruption that your proposal will cause.

I also urge you to respect the community links with the Neath and Dulais valleys, with the preserved County of West Glamorgan, our traditions, our heritage and our history and indeed our very way of life all of which have been built on coal not crops essential though the latter are.

[REDACTED]
Former Member for Neath of the Welsh Assembly. (as it then was)

BCW-10565 / [REDACTED] On behalf of the Swansea CLP / Swansea

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 04 November 2022 10:26

To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>

Subject: Support for Revised Boundary Proposal by Geraint Davies MP

Dear Shereen and BCW team,

I refer to your boundary proposals for Gower & Swansea West and Swansea Central & North of 18th October 2022.

As Chair of the Swansea CLP, I wish to convey my absolute support and recommendation for the revised boundary proposal submitted by Geraint Davies MP, and which is stated below:

A) Re-unite Sketty and Uplands

These wards are seamlessly connected in geography and have closely inter-connected communities. Uplands accommodates many of those who work and study in Sketty at the University and at Singleton Hospital there.

Equally, many of the communities in Sketty travel through Uplands for work, leisure and worship in Swansea Central and North.

B) Keep Mumbles Community Council in the same constituency

These proposals also unite Mayals with the other wards of West Cross, Oystermouth and Newton which form Mumbles Community Council.

Alternative One

1. Move Sketty (**11,304**) from Gower & Swansea West into Swansea Central and North.
2. Move Pontardulais (4954), Llangyfelach (3946) and Penllergaer (2553) – a total of **11,453** – back from Swansea Central & North into Gower & Swansea West.

This creates two more coherent constituencies Gower & Swansea West 75,363 (2.6% above UKEQ) and Swansea Central and North 71,229 (-2.9% below UKEQ).

Alternative Two

1. Move Sketty (**11,304**) from Gower & Swansea West into Swansea Central & North.
2. Move Pontardulais (4954), Mawr (1438) and Penllergaer (2553) – a total of **8,945** - from Swansea Central & North into Gower & Swansea West.

This creates two even more coherent constituencies of (renamed) Gower 72,855 (0.7% below UKEQ) and (renamed) Swansea Central 73,737 (0.4% above UKEQ).

Both alternatives more closely respect the boundaries of the existing constituencies.

Alternative One retains Sketty in the current Swansea West constituency and Pontardulais, Llangyfelach and Penllergaer in the current Gower constituency

Alternative Two retains Sketty in the current Swansea West constituency and Pontardulais, Mawr and Penllergaer in the current Gower constituency

Both these alternatives are less radical than the BCW revised proposals as they

- provide a more coherent geographical fit and connections
- more strongly retain existing community ties and reduce inconvenience
- solve the “splitting Sketty from Uplands” problem
- unite Mumbles Community Council into one constituency.

I favour Alternative Two as

- it creates a new ‘Swansea Central’ seat that embraces Llangyfelach
- and a more consistent new ‘Gower’ seat
- creates two constituencies each within one per cent of UKEQ 73,393 (capable of more population variation).

I strongly believe that you will give this revision due consideration.

Kind regards,



Chair, Swansea West CLP

BCW-10566 / [REDACTED] On behalf of the African community in Swansea West / Swansea

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 November 2022 10:41
To: BCW <bcw@boundaries.wales>
Subject: Support letter for Geraint Davies MP's proposal

Good morning BCW,
Following the announcement of the boundary revision, we would like to support the revisions that have been made by the Member of Parliament, Geraint Davies MP, on behalf of the African community in Swansea West. He has suggested two alternatives and we are happy to support and recommend these.

A) Re-unite Sketty and Uplands

These wards are seamlessly connected in geography and have closely inter-connected communities. Uplands accommodates many of those who work and study in Sketty at the University and at Singleton Hospital there. Equally, many of the communities in Sketty travel through Uplands for work, leisure and worship in Swansea Central and North.

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Both these alternatives are less radical than the BCW revised proposals as they

- provide a more coherent geographical fit and connections
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- solve the “splitting Sketty from Uplands” problem
- unite Mumbles Community Council into one constituency.

I favour Alternative Two as

- it creates a new ‘Swansea Central’ seat that embraces Llangyfelach
- and a more consistent new ‘Gower’ seat
- creates two constituencies each within one per cent of UKEQ 73,393 (capable of more population variation).

We hope that this request will be given consideration.

Yours sincerely,



On behalf of the African community in Swansea

BCW-10567 / [REDACTED] / Caersws

My response to the Boundary Review is fully in support of the revised Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr proposal for which there appears to be overwhelming support. This follows the grave disappointment in the original proposals to divide the county after centuries of history as a parliamentary constituency. On a quick count I found at least 14 Montgomeryshire societies and associations with thousands of past and present members who will greet these latest proposals with a sigh of relief. Some merging of the old counties will be inevitable given the Commission's brief but where possible those areas such as Montgomeryshire should remain intact with additions where necessary to achieve required numbers. Montgomeryshire identifies neither as North or South Wales and is proud of its separate Mid-Wales identity.

The parts of South Clwyd adjoining the Montgomeryshire borders has largely similar rural agricultural communities with similar road network, communications, rural schools and broadband issues, all familiar to the present MP. Other communities to the north of Chirk have more populated areas in rural surroundings but its inclusion is the best option to achieve the required count.

The Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr option has my full support.

BCW-10568 / [REDACTED] / Carmarthen

I think that the revised proposals for the Caerfyrddin constituency more accurately reflect local ties and connections than the initial proposals. I certainly feel a greater affinity with the other communities included in the proposal than with those of the current constituency. I am pleased that Carmarthen town has now been made whole. It did not make sense to hive off communities, that consider themselves very much part of the town, into a Llanelli constituency.

BCW-10569 / [REDACTED] / Usk

Too many constituencies across the valleys and Cardiff areas with very few in mid and North Wales.

BCW-10570 / [REDACTED] / Gilfach Goch

Gilfach Goch is a small village divided . Half of my village is in the Bridgend Council area and the other half is in RCT council area but we are united in that the whole village is in the Ogmores constituency, however these proposals will split this community further . Let us keep our village together and let us remain in the Ogmores area where our heritage lays and we have a common thread between us. Have some compassion when dealing with small communities like ours , a drawn line is not the answer.

BCW-10571 / [REDACTED] / Swansea

Pontardawe is and always has been physically and culturally a part of the Swansea valley .. The previous Neath Port Talbot boundary was also not a true reflection of where the boundary should have been.

The natural boundary should be further up the Swansea/Tawe valley perhaps linking up with the Brecon Beacons national park

BCW-10572 / [REDACTED] / Cwmbran

After many years I still don't identify with Torfaen. Gwent was tolerable. What has never been tolerable is that Monmouthshire doesn't cover the original County boundary. I was born in Monmouthshire which was in England. I don't and never have been from Torfaen or in fact Wales. I call it the occupied West Bank of the Severn.

I think Torfaen as an administrative area has proved it doesn't work. We now have small ineffective local authorities that have no influence, no financial clout and bring nothing to their communities.

Bring back the original Monmouthshire that evolved as a proud county. Stop this insane false "Welshness" and celebrate the fact we're a border area and a mixture. Stop wasting money and put it where it is needed so desperately.

Put our boundaries back where they belong! Stop ruining our great history and rewriting it to suit political ends. I want the old Monmouthshire county back - why should it only belong to Chepstow, Usk, Abergavenny and Monmouth?

Incidentally this is the first time I've seen this consultation - I'm unhappy that Torfaen isn't being abolished.

BCW-10573 / [REDACTED] / Pentwynmaur

Very happy with the Newport West and Islwyn map, the older proposal had the the address right on the boundary, the new map is much better keeping our address more inclusive.

BCW-10574 / [REDACTED] / Cwmcarn

The constituency of Islwyn and Newport West is ridiculous. As an Islwyn resident, we have nothing in common with Newport West, the area is completely different and the things that matter to us in the valley are different to that of Newport. If anything we should have Pontllanfraith in it and remain as Islwyn. Our MP and Councillors know what matters to us, extending us with Newport West will not give either area any benefit, councillors and MPs will be unable to cover a larger area and deal with what matters.

If Islwyn can't be on its own area due to population, it should be merged with Caerphilly and readjust the other boundaries on the other sides of Caerphilly. If merging with Caerphilly makes the population too large, split it into Caerphilly North and Caerphilly South or Caerphilly East and Caerphilly West.

Stick to Council Boundaries as wards i.e, if it's Newport council keep it as Newport, if it's Caerphilly keep it as Caerphilly, you've done that with Torfaen when you have moved Llanfrechfa and that area into the Torfaen area instead of keeping it in Monmouth. Llanfrechfa is part of Torfaen council. Apply the same to Islwyn please.

BCW-10575 / [REDACTED] / Skewen

Linking Skewen with Porthcawl is even more stupid than than the current link with Port Talbot. Skewen, Neath and Briton Ferry have been historically connected and it is quite extraordinary to break this. Making a law that is based on the number of inhabitants is irrational. The linkage should be based on geography and historical connection. If a political representative of an area should have a vote on national issues, that representative should have a fractional vote reflecting the population. Just another example of complete lack of analytical thinking from Welsh politicians.

BCW-10576 / [REDACTED] / Corwen

How has Llangollen been carved out to be included in a separate constituency to the Dee Valley? The majority of the secondary school students don't live in the proposed constituency for Llangollen. Villages like Carrog in the Dee Valley need to be represented by the same constituency which represents Llangollen, as this is our largest town containing the local secondary school.

BCW-10577 / [REDACTED] / Taffs Well

I think it's ridiculous that in Taffs well we will come under cardiff north in cardiff for one thing whilst for everything else we are under Rct, a different county!! This will surely lead to complex issues and confusion!

BCW-10578 / [REDACTED] / Miskin

Dear sir/madam, as a resident of Miskin/Pontyclun in RCT I object to the proposed change of my area to move to the Cardiff west constituency. Looking at the map it indicates that the local secondary school which is in walking distance for young people living in Miskin and Pontyclun will no longer belong to the constituency. This will mean that children in Miskin Pontyclun constituency will not be in the catchment area for YPant secondary school anymore and will need to be bussed into Cardiff. This is stupid. For one it will increase carbon footprint which at this time we should all be reducing and it will also impact on the young peoples' independence and friendships that they have built up during primary school years. Secondly, Residents of Miskin and Pontyclun feel part of the larger community of Llantrisant and Talbot Green which is easily accessible on foot, by public transport and car. Thirdly, this would surely increase carbon footprint for bin and recycling services, too. I understand that changes need to be made but splitting a community in half does not make sense and I urge you to reconsider.

BCW-10579 / [REDACTED] / Pontlottyn

While people in Rhymney may feel an affiliation to the communities in Blaenau Gwent, as they were all in "Monmouthshire" at one time, on the other side of the Rhymney River, the towns and villages of Butetown, Fochriw, Pontlottyn, Deri, Brithdir and Bargoed have no connection to this area. We were always Mid Glamorgan.

All transport in the area goes from North to South, down the valleys to Caerphilly. It takes more than 2 hours by public transport to reach Ebbw Vale, even if it is near by car. Imagine someone wants to visit an MP's surgery in Ebbw Vale, how would they be able to travel there and back on a bus from Bargoed?

Our affinity is with the Rhymney Valley.

You've already moved us once from Caerphilly to Merthyr, and now you want to move us again.

Our local authority is Caerphilly, we should be in the same one for constituency. I object to this boundary change.

BCW-10580 / [REDACTED] / Conwy

What's the point

Democracy has failed. Westminster and especially the Welsh Assembly are a self servicing shower of doo doo

Don't waste my time

BCW-10581 / [REDACTED] / Prestatyn

Happy that Clwyd East is separate from Rhyl.

BCW-10582 / [REDACTED] / Pontardawe

I don't want this to happen as it's silencing the Welsh voice in Westminster

BCW-10583 / [REDACTED] / Llanrwst

THE NEW BOUNDARIES WILL WEAKEN AREAS OF WALES.

IT WOULD BE BETTER TO RETURN TO THE COUNTIES IN NORTH WALES BEFORE CONWY WAS CREATED -

- GWYNEDD

- CLWYD

SEPARATING BETHESDA FROM BANGOR IS DISGRACEFUL!

MORE ATTENTION NEEDS TO BE GIVEN TO THE COMMUNITIES IN THESE AREAS, AS OPPOSED TO NUMBERS -

- PEOPLE IN RURAL AREAS SHOULD HAVE A VOICE EQUAL TO THAT OF PEOPLE IN TOWNS.

IT IS PEOPLE WHO MATTER, NOT NUMBERS.

BCW-10584 / [REDACTED] / Aberystwyth

There can be no way that joining Ceredigion and Sir Benfro can work. Please abandon this ill-conceived idea. Thanks.

BCW-10585 / [REDACTED] / Capel Garmon

A well hidden agenda by South Wales to marginalise North Wales.

No consideration to help the rural community.

Drakeford is bringing this country to its knees

BCW-10586 / [REDACTED] / Aberystwyth

I strongly object to the proposal of the new Ceredigion Preseli ward. It is too large an area to cover as it is, and I would be concerned that many individuals' needs would not be addressed.

I understand that there is a need to have an equal number of voters in each constituency and that the South is more densely populated (hence why they have more constituencies), however it feels as though the Mid and North regions are already forgotten about, so by lumping us all together into one large constituency, will make it even more difficult for us to see any positive changes or feel like we're really being listened to.

BCW-10587 / [REDACTED] Aber Valley Male Voice Choir / Caerphilly

Dear Sir

I am writing on behalf of the 35 choristers, accompanist and musical director of the Aber Valley Male Voice Choir, all of whom live in the present constituency of Caerphilly to thank the Welsh Boundary Commission for listening to public opinion, and urging them to adhere to their revised counter-proposal.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

Musical Director of the Aber Valley Male Voice Choir

BCW-10588 / [REDACTED] Chinese In Wales Association / Swansea

Dear Boundary Commission,

I am writing on behalf of the Chinese community in Swansea to support the alternatives to your revised proposals below from Geraint Davies MP.

Our Swansea Chinese community is the second largest minority community after the Bangladeshi community in the city and we support keeping Sketty and Uplands together in the way suggested.

We also support the Mumbles Community Council being in one constituency and are very pleased that the first Chinese person, councillor Tim Zhou, has just been elected to it!

We particularly support alternative two which most closely maintains the current constituencies of Gower and Swansea West.

Many thanks.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

BCW-10589 / [REDACTED] / Swansea

Dear Boundary Commission of Wales,

I am writing to support the alternatives to your revised boundary proposals as set out below by Geraint Davies MP. (Attached)

Crucially BCW reunite Sketty and Uplands which are seamlessly connected physically and through their communities so should remain in the same constituency. The Muslim and other minority communities strongly support Option Two to create a Swansea West & Gower constituency “looking westwards” which is more sympathetic to diversity. It is important to Swansea minority communities to have one MP to work with and that worshippers and mosques are in the same constituency (by re-uniting Sketty with Uplands,). This will also solve the intrinsic problem in the original BCW proposal of splitting Sketty from Uplands – and the university campus from where the students live with different MPs representing each. As UCU Vice Chair of Swansea University staff Union and Vice Chair of School Governors Forum, I believe this will also keep the school catchment area for pupils in the constitution, who are enrolling in Bishopgore and Olchfa that both are in Sketty. (At the moment there is no comprehensive school in option 1 area in original BCW proposal)

These alternatives achieve this and also ensure that the wards of Mumbles Community Council are in the same constituency. We particularly support the alternative which most closely reflects the current constituencies of Gower and Swansea West ie Alternative 2 which would also mean those constituency names could be kept. (names of the constituencies become Gower (for what was Gower & Swansea West) and Swansea West (for what was Swansea Central and North) on the basis that it is west of the river Tawe and east of it is called Neath & Swansea East.

I know these alternatives are supported in the Muslim communities and other communities across Swansea and also welcomed at Swansea University staff union where I work. I hope sincerely consider the option 2 proposed by Mr Davies MP as our collective voice.

Very best wishes

[REDACTED]

A) Re-unite Sketty and Uplands

These wards are seamlessly connected in geography and have closely inter-connected communities. Uplands accommodates many of those who work and study in Sketty at the University and at Singleton Hospital there.

Equally, many of the communities in Sketty travel through Uplands for work, leisure and worship in Swansea Central and North.

B) Keep Mumbles Community Council in the same constituency

These proposals also unite Mayals with the other wards of West Cross, Oystermouth and Newton which form Mumbles Community Council.

Alternative One

1. Move Sketty (**11,304**) from Gower & Swansea West into Swansea Central and North.
2. Move Pontardulais (4954), Llangyfelach (3946) and Penllergaer (2553) – a total of **11,453** – back from Swansea Central & North into Gower & Swansea West.

This creates two more coherent constituencies Gower & Swansea West 75,363 (2.6% above UKEQ) and Swansea Central and North 71,229 (-2.9% below UKEQ).

Alternative Two

1. Move Sketty (**11,304**) from Gower & Swansea West into Swansea Central & North.
2. Move Pontardulais (4954), Mawr (1438) and Penllergaer (2553) – a total of **8,945** - from Swansea Central & North into Gower & Swansea West.

This creates two even more coherent constituencies of (renamed) Gower 72,855 (0.7% below UKEQ) and (renamed) Swansea Central 73,737 (0.4% above UKEQ).

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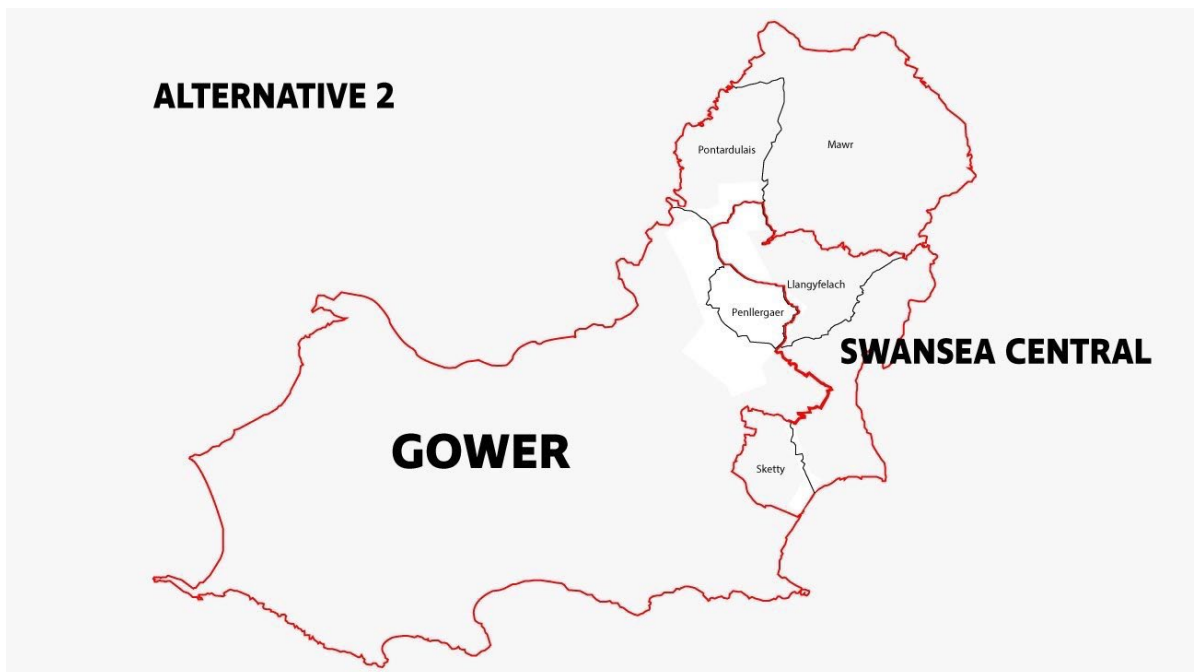
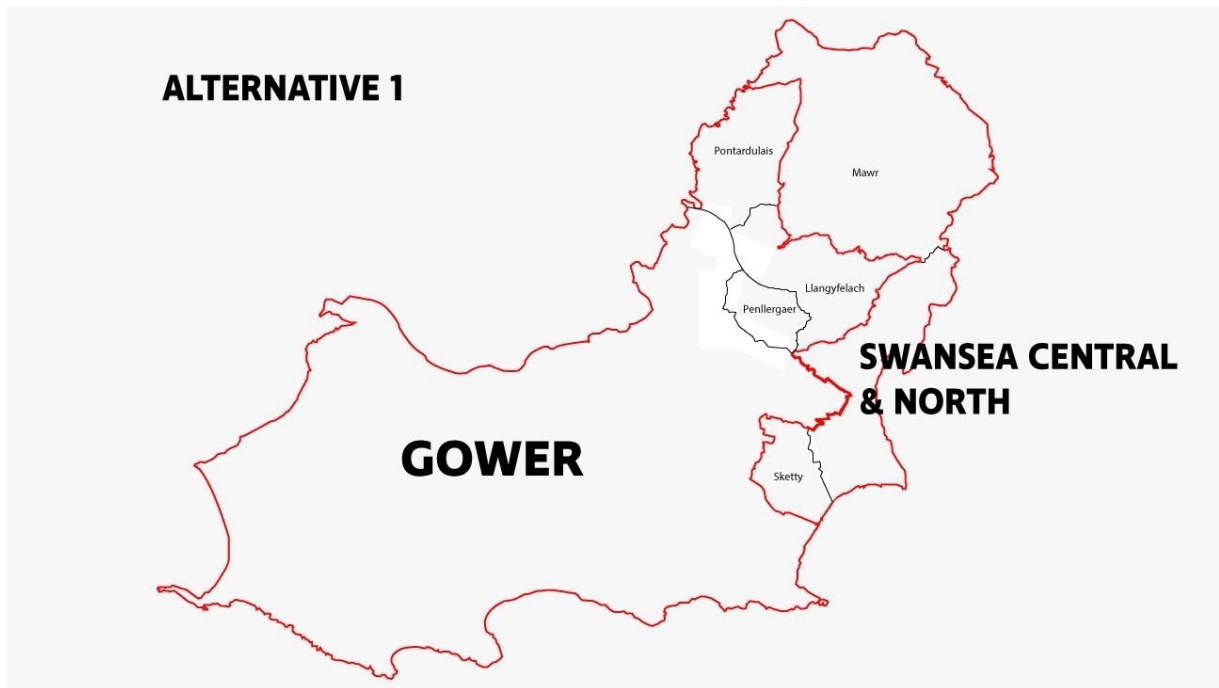
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I favour Alternative Two as

- it creates a new ‘Swansea Central’ seat that embraces Llangyfelach
- and a more consistent new ‘Gower’ seat
- creates two constituencies each within one per cent of UKEQ 73,393 (capable of more population variation).

I therefore strongly recommend these alternatives to you. Guide maps of the two alternatives are below for your convenience.

Very best wishes



BCW-10590 / [REDACTED] / Pembrokeshire

Good afternoon,

I am very disappointed that the Boundary Commission decided to move the Maenclochog ward as at Dec 2020 from the Mid and South Pembrokeshire constituency into Ceredigion Preseli. My previous comments in my e-mail of representation dated 13th March 2022 are below.

You may be aware that the New Moat Community Council that I live in was in the Maenclochog County Council Ward until the local Government elections in May 2022. However it now sits in the Wiston County Council Ward. I am the County Councillor for that ward. I write this in a personal capacity.

If the latest proposals are adopted the Wiston County Council Ward would see part of it (the New Moat Community Council area) being in Ceredigion Preseli, and the remainder (Wiston Community Council area and Ambleston Community Council area) being in Mid and South Pembrokeshire. I do not see this as sensible. I see huge advantages in only having to engage with one MP as opposed to two.

I feel your previous proposals were sensible. The previous proposals did not have any splitting of County Council wards, and the new proposals do.

The reasons for keeping the old Maenclochog Ward are here –

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.

Now in addition the new proposals would also see this splitting of County Council wards. With all these factors in mind I would urge you to keep the old Maenclochog County Council ward in the Mid and South Pembrokeshire constituency.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

BCW-10591 / [REDACTED] Cardiff Labour Students / Cardiff

We are writing on behalf of the Cardiff Labour Students. We wish to make specific representations regarding the nature of Cathays's population in relation to much of the rest of the proposed Cardiff South constituency.

Cathays is a student-dominated ward, with a population which rarely ventures beyond the boundaries of Plasnewydd, Adamsdown and Cathays. The idea of separating Cathays from Plasnewydd involves lumping us in with Dinas Powys, which many students have not so much as heard of, let alone visited. It is an area with a different population, a different list of political concerns, and little connection other than tenuous geography. Indeed, one member was heard to remark "what the hell is a Dinas Powys?" when reading over the proposed boundaries. We have more in common by far with the population of the Cardiff Central seat proposed in the Secondary Consultation and it represents a more accurate picture of a constituency formed around a cohesive community than these new boundaries.

Overwhelmingly the student population from Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan University and the Cardiff campus of the University of South Wales live in Cathays and Plasnewydd. Cardiff University buildings span Cathays, Plasnewydd and Penylan, with halls of residence in close proximity in Cathays and Plasnewydd. A constituency that does not reflect this fact fails to reflect the local area as a whole. In short, then, these new proposals divide the student community and lump many of us in with an area to which we feel absolutely no connection. We hope this chance is reconsidered in favour of earlier proposals which recognise the concerns set out herein, such as the Secondary Consultation's reconstituted Cardiff Central seat.

BCW-10592 / [REDACTED] / Welshpool

It is sad that one of oldest and most historic counties will be eradicated because of its lack of population.

BCW-10593 / [REDACTED] Caerphilly Town Council / Caerphilly

Caerphilly Town Council supports the revised proposals for the Caerphilly Constituency and is pleased to note that the Commission has accepted that there are greater local ties between Newport West and Islwyn rather than Newport West and the Caerphilly basin. The revised proposals link the Caerphilly basin with its natural hinterland in the lower Rhymney Valley.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Town Clerk

BCW-10594 / [REDACTED] / Wrexham

I've often thought that the county boundary for Wrexham is too close in places to the town itself. The town should be at the focal point for decisions being made in and around the area. As it stands, it appears the lines are drawn to fit into the numbers needed rather than covering the issues that impact on those that live there. These boundaries are even worse and will cause exactly the same issues. why would you cut villages on the doorstep of Wrexham out of the area? I can only imagine these lines are drawn up outside of the area.

BCW-10595 / [REDACTED] / Newport

I can not beleive that this is possible and. Makes no sence. Newport is a growing city getting larger, pulling in residents from across the English border, and having a large city split in 2 with seperate MPs has made sense in terms of making political representation easier for the residents. We have little to do with Caerphilly and to share an MP seems to recognise nothing of our democratic rights to local representation more luke a land grab to reduce representation in Wales... We are appalled

BCW-10597 / [REDACTED] / Bethesda

Why is Westminster choosing to interfere with our boundaries?! We are supposed to be devolved so Westminster should have no say on this! As a ward that is loyal to plaid, always has been, to suddenly be mixed up and placed with a historically tory favouring ward will literallt be detrimental to my ward. Bethesda only used to get European funding and is a poor ward, putting it with affluent ward Aberconwy will NOT mean money will be spent here.

These plans are only a disgusting way to get a larger tory area as our influence is vastly outnumbered by the already tory Aberconwy!

BCW-10598 / [REDACTED] / Swansea

Dear Boundary Commission of Wales,

I have carefully considered the alternative proposals from Geraint Davies MP. I am writing to support the alternatives to your revised proposals set out below. It is particularly important to keep Sketty and Uplands in the same constituency as they are interlinked in many ways. In addition, keeping Mumbles Community Council in one constituency is appropriate. We particularly support alternative two set out by Geraint Davies MP which most closely maintains the current constituencies of Gower and Swansea West. This view is shared across a number of different communities including the Indian one.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
Chair of the Indian Society South West Wales

Dear Shereen Williams & BCW,

Thank you for your revised boundary proposals for Gower & Swansea West and Swansea Central & North on 18 October.

I am pleased to propose **two further alternatives**(starting from your revised boundary proposals) which strongly reflects your reasoning and criteria and

A) Re-unite Sketty and Uplands

These wards are seamlessly connected in geography and have closely inter-connected communities. Uplands accommodates many of those who work and study in Sketty at the University and at Singleton Hospital there.

Equally, many of the communities in Sketty travel through Uplands for work, leisure and worship in Swansea Central and North.

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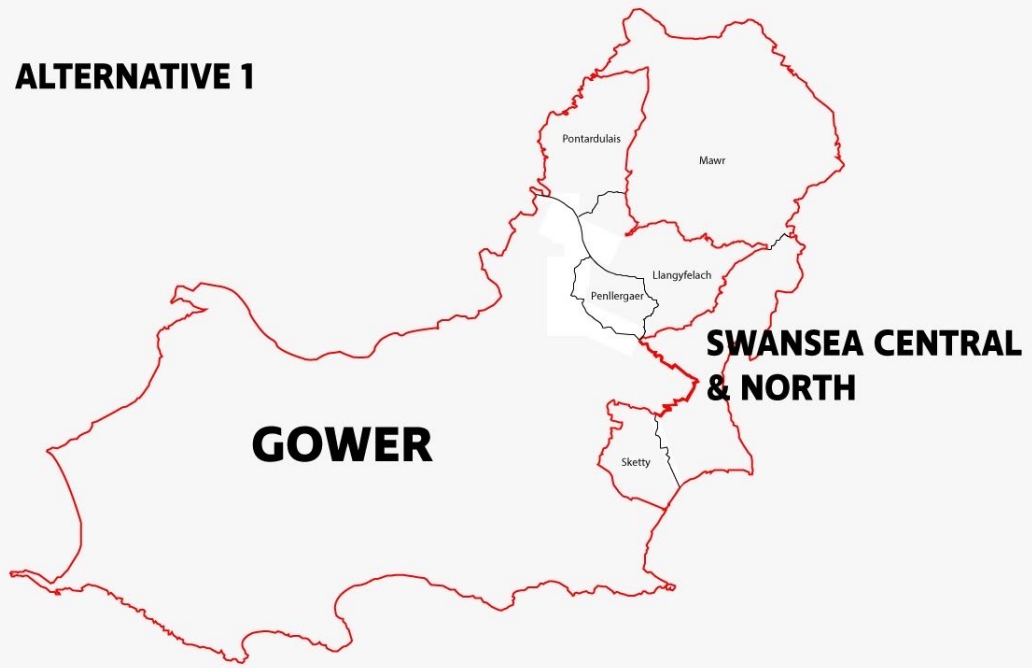
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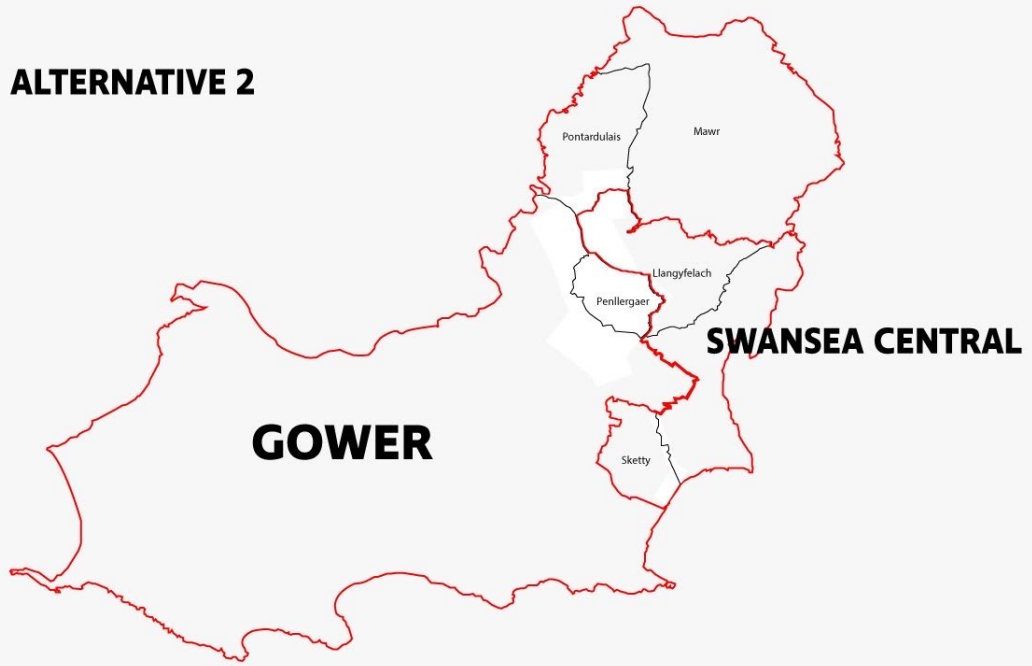
Very best wishes

Geraint Davies MP
Swansea West

ALTERNATIVE 1



ALTERNATIVE 2



BCW-10599 / [REDACTED] / Gwaun Cae Gurwen

Dear Commissioners

As a resident of the village of Gwaun Cae Gurwen, I am writing in concern about planned changing to electoral constituency boundaries that will mean that we are part of a new electoral boundary of 'Brecon, Radnor and Cwm-tawe'.

Being part of the present constituency of 'Neath and Swansea East' makes sense to me in many ways. This area shares an industrial heritage with its fellow constituents, and we hold many concerns and values in common, and share common problems too - problems which are urban problems, not rural problems. Brecon, Radnor and the further stretches of Cwm-tawe don't feel close enough and I'm not sure our little community will be able to pull its own weight and be heard by new representatives from that area, who may not appreciate our very different circumstances and needs, and, being in general from lower-income households, I fear that voices may not be heard and the community here not fully represented by people who have very little in common with us. Brecon etc are more of a farming/rural area - an area that would hardly ever be visited by people from round here, except perhaps as a very occasional day out.

I am afraid that such changes might mean that our community loses out, and our voting voice - which is predominantly labour, but also Plaid Cymru - will get lost too, which is simply not fair, and may lead to people becoming disillusioned with the electoral process full stop.

Please take my thoughts into consideration and don't make this change.

Yours faithfully, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

BCW-10600 / [REDACTED] / Unknown

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to support the revised proposals from the Boundary Commission for Wales (BCW) relating to the parliamentary constituencies of Caerphilly and Newport.

BCW has clearly listened to public concerns about its initial proposals to link the communities of the Caerphilly Basin to the existing Newport West constituency. I believe this suggestion sought to link two areas that have few geographic, communication, social, historic, and cultural links.

Your revised proposals recognise that it is far more sensible and in line with public opinion, to maintain the links between the Caerphilly Basin and its Valleys hinterland to the north. The revised proposals also recognise that the Sirhowy and Ebbw Valleys have much clearer links with the western part of Newport.

Yours faithfully,
[REDACTED]

You state on your website that 'We will be particularly interested to hear from people about the extent to which the proposals reflect the local ties in the area, and if people disagree with our proposals, how they think they should be amended.' I believe that your proposals take no regard of local ties for Cathays and are purely a numbers game.

I am astounded that you are proposing to move Cathays into Cardiff South and Penarth. This option has not been properly consulted on and seems to have come about from one suggestion made by someone from Altringham. This option is now being served up as an irreversible decision. Even your Secretary to the Boundary Commission claimed that the public would have "the greatest public involvement we've ever had... Everyone in Wales has a valuable voice to add to the discussion about Wales' boundary changes, and we want to make sure everyone can express their views." this has clearly not happened.

It is clear to me as a resident of nearly 35 years that Cathays has no community links with the wards in Cardiff South and Penarth whereas Cathays and Plasnewydd have many community ties. Here are just a few of our links to Plasnewydd, I am sure that any thorough investigation by the commission would reveal many more:

- Overwhelmingly the student population from Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan University and the Cardiff campus of the University of South Wales live in Cathays and Plasnewydd. Cardiff University buildings span Cathays, Plasnewydd and Penylan, with halls of residence in close proximity in Cathays and Plasnewydd.
- The secondary school catchment area for Cathays High School includes Cathays and Plasnewydd.
- The children at primary schools in Cathays and Plasnewydd go on to attend Cathays High School, Bro Edern (situated in Penylan) or Cardiff High School (situated in Cyncoed). The catchment areas for Mynydd Bychan and St Monica's Church in Wales school are all within the wider Roath area which includes Cathays.
- The community connections across Cathays, Plasnewydd and indeed Penylan and parts of Cyncoed, are such that residents in all three electoral wards consider themselves part of the Roath community centred around the shopping districts of Crwys Rd, Albany Rd and City Rd.
- The public transport links that are shared between Cathays and Plasnewydd, are long-standing and were correctly respected by the Commission's initial proposals.
- The Church in Wales is organised within the existing Cardiff Central boundaries.
- General Practitioners' surgery catchment areas also cross the boundaries of Cathays and Plasnewydd and share common concerns and demographics.

Your revised proposals go against the spirit of your own rule 5 – you are moving 4 wards rather than 2 as previously proposed.

The proposals are taking no account of community links and the boundary proposals proposed during the Secondary consultation should be reinstated.

BCW-10602 / [REDACTED] / Unknown

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you today to speak in support of the revised proposals from the Boundary Commission for Wales ('the Commission') relating to the parliamentary constituencies of Caerphilly and Newport West.

I am appreciative that the Commission has clearly listened to a groundswell of public opinion in the lower Rhymney Valley against its initial proposals. The Commission has recognised that there was strong opposition to the proposal to link the communities of the Caerphilly Basin to the existing Newport West constituency. You have recognised that this suggestion is unsustainable because it sought to link two areas that have few geographic, communication, social, historic, and cultural links.

You have also recognised that it is far more sensible, and in line with public opinion, to maintain the links between the Caerphilly Basin and its Valleys hinterland to the north. At the same time, you have recognised that the neighbouring Sirhowy and Ebbw Valleys provide a more natural orientation towards the western part of Newport.

The revised proposals have been warmly received, and I encourage them to be maintained during the third consultation period.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

BCW-10603 / [REDACTED] / Swansea

The upper Swansea Valley is an area with a very strong identity, both historically and currently. Ystalyfera's natural links are to the south and east - along the Tawe Valley to Swansea, and across into the Nedd valley and Neath.

The current proposal rips my ward out of its established and natural context, and lumps us in with a neighbouring existing constituency of quite a different character. I understand that the current proposals are based largely on arithmetic, but surely there has to be some flexibility. Literally, being subsumed into any of the other neighbouring seats would be better than the current proposal.

BCW-10604 / [REDACTED] / Ystrad Meurig

I object to the new constituency boundary. It is much too large for a single MP, and his/her local surgeries would undoubtedly be fewer in number because of it. I also believe that the social and political complexion of Ceredigion is radically different from virtually any part of Pembrokeshire, therefore this uniqueness would probably lose its voice in Parliament. The people of Ceredigion need to keep their constituency as it is and the county must preserve its political identity.

BCW-10605 / [REDACTED] / Swansea

This is clearly a politically motivated change to ensure more votes for the Conservatives. I do not think the boundary changes show respect to individual communities based on history or the present. Gower (a largely rural community) is clearly separate (though linked) from Swansea West (urban) as is Neath from Swansea East.

The cost of doing this now will be huge administratively all at a time when local services are being brought to the brink by increasing costs and underfunding.

I would like to see proportional representation replacing first past the post which is clearly unrepresentative of the people. When will we get to vote on PR? This if adopted would be a much fairer representation of peoples views.

BCW-10606 / [REDACTED] / Swansea

The boundaries are arbitrary putting making the constituencies of equal size above local ties and links. eg Pontardawe is a dormitory suburb of Swansea not part of rural Powys

BCW-10607 / [REDACTED] / Ruthin

Given the objective of gerrymandering being pursued by a government using every means to neuter opposition - especially any voicing independent views - these proposals come as little surprise.

There are many who hold that the tentacles of Westminster are a pernicious anachronism which need to be severed completely. Such proposals as these are likely to make justification of such views easier

The many and sensible comments calling out the cultural and social insensitivity of these proposals should be listened to carefully and a complete rethink undertaken.

BCW-10608 / [REDACTED] / Prestatyn

Why are you doing this is it to reduce the MPs that Wales will have is it gerrymandering to help the Tories stay in power.

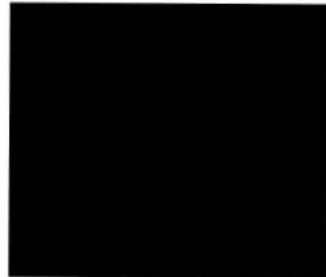
Does the Senedd have any say in this.

We have had enough of boundary changes in Wales imposed on us by Westminster. I have lived in 3 different counties Flintshire Clwyd Denbighshire . without even moving its very annoying.

Is it to diminish Wales voice in parliament..

BCW-10609 / [REDACTED] / Ystrad Meurig

I do not support the Ceredigion Preseli proposal. The constituency, which enjoys an intimate and specific cultural identity, would become too large. Our MPs would undoubtedly become less accessible and I fear I would be even more poorly represented - but perhaps that is the motivation for the changes, given that the proposals are being imposed by a far off government based in London.



3rd November 2022

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

Dear Boundary Commission,

I would like to voice my concerns about the proposed boundary changes for the Islwyn constituency. Islwyn has been a parliamentary constituency for nearly 40 years with a real constituency identity. It covers much of Caerphilly County Borough, including the towns of Blackwood, Newbridge, Abercarn and Risca.

However, under the recently revised proposals, the constituency would cease to exist and the majority of it would be submerged into a larger Newport West seat.

The original proposals of September 2021 to revise Gwent's electoral map would have seen Islwyn survive and be combined with four wards in the Caerphilly area. The addition of Ystrad Mynach, St Cattwg, Llanbradach and Hengoed to Islwyn would be fitting, given the shared communities within the area. Hengoed and Maesycwmmmer are linked by the Viaduct flowing into Ystrad Mynach and Llanbradach, while St Cattwgs borders Pengam. These communities are therefore a natural addition to the constituency.

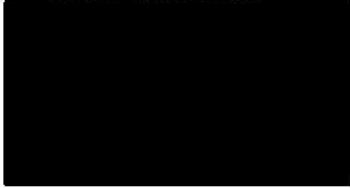
Instead, the adopted counter proposal would amend the proposed Newport West & Caerphilly constituency.

Pontllanfaith, Cefn Fforest, Maesycwmmmer and Pengam would be taken from Islwyn, creating a Caerphilly seat and a so-called Newport West and Islwyn seat would be created from the rump of the existing constituency.

To divide Newbridge from Blackwood and Pontllanfraith makes no sense. The area of Pontllanfraith, Newbridge and Blackwood are inextricably connected with shared families and communities. No Islwyn Primary schools feed into secondary schools outside of the constituency. The catchment area for the new Islwyn High based in Oakdale includes schools from Pontllanfraith. In transport terms, there is no train link between Islwyn and Newport.

As a concerned resident of Islwyn, I oppose these new proposals and I oppose the decision to remove Islwyn as a constituency. I do not wish my resident town to be absorbed into Newport West. I do not feel that there are enough important local, historic or cultural ties with Newport West to warrant the loss of the Islwyn constituency.

Yours faithfully,



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