



**Comisiwn Ffiniau  
i Gymru**

**Boundary Commission  
for Wales**

Boundary Commission  
for Wales

# **Revised Proposals Consultation: Representations**

Volume 13: 10613 - 10830

**BCW-10613 / [REDACTED] / Glyn Ceiriog**

Glyn Ceiriog is currently part of Wrexham, we are close to Chirk and have bus and train links and the A483 fast to Wrexham which is our nearest hospital.

The roads going south west from here go across a large rural area, the proposal that Chirk and Glyn Ceiriog are linked to Montgomeryshire is not practical in terms of local people being able to access health or emergency services. Wrexham is only a thirty minute drive whereas Welshpool is over an hours drive away. Most of the public services we need are easily accessible in Wrexham for us.

For these reasons I do not support this boundary change and hope these important points are taken into consideration and we remain part of Wrexham.

**BCW-10614 / [REDACTED] / Wrexham**

It seems odd that we are not connected to our local Council area, Wrexham, but to a vast and more rural area in another county.(Clwyd South was probably just as bad). It seems to be a very large area to cover and that we will have little in common with Montgomeryshire. We look to Wrexham and even beyond to Chester and other parts of NW England, though we are proud of the Welsh heritage here as well. The map itself reveals how ridiculous the southerly connection is, a tiny add-on pocket almost cut-off by the boundary. I guess the changes are an attempt to have equal numbers in each constituency but this new proposal seems weird to me. I wouldn't want to be the MP for such a constituency!

**BCW-10615 / [REDACTED] / Cwmbran**

Cwmbran is unusual in having two MPs in a small area. I'm in the Monmouth Constituency but I agree with the boundary change as this will put my area in with Torfaen along with my Borough Council and councillors as well as a Torfaen MP. However, I disagree with lowering the number of MPs to 32 as this will weaken Wales' voice in Westminster. Also that all elections being held use a proportional voting system, my preference being STV, thereby ensuring greater proportionality. As a trade-off, I believe that the Senedd should be increased to at least 80 members to enable greater scrutiny and more powers devolved such as the Police and Justice System.

**BCW-10616 / [REDACTED] / Caerphilly**

I support and adopt the counter-proposals as set out by MP Wayne David ( BCW 9929 ). Whereas Wayne David's counter-proposals satisfy all conditions of the criteria for determining changes to the Caerphilly Constituency boundaries, the Boundary Commission for Wales proposals fail to do so, for the reason given by Wayne David.

**BCW-10617 / [REDACTED] / Caerphilly**

I support and adopt the counter-proposals as set out by MP Wayne David in his submission (BCW 9929) with accompanying attachments. Whereas Wayne David's counter-proposals satisfy all the criteria for determining boundary changes to the Caerphilly Constituency, the Boundary Commission for Wales present proposals fail to do so, for the reasons given by Wayne David.

**BCW-10618 / [REDACTED] / Caerphilly**

The proposal to merge Caerphilly and Newport West is impractical. Caerphilly is in most respects almost a suburb of Cardiff. Links to Newport are poor and there are no cultural attachments between the two. Caerphilly functions well, has a strong local identity and poor links to Newport. You would also make the job of any elected representative for such a constituency very difficult due to the amount of travelling they would have to do.

**BCW-10619 / [REDACTED] / Hereford**

I worked for the Old Glamorgan County Council and its successor West Glamorgan as the Divisional Surveyor covering all highway matters up to the boundary with Powys at Ystradgynlais.

It was obvious from comments made by our gangs and the local representative at the time that all the area south of the mountain over to Cray ought to be associated with the Swansea Valley as most work and shopping was carried out down towards Swansea.

To add these areas to Brecon and Radnor appears to be a move to have average populations rather than looking at the needs of the people.. I sincerely hope this part of the plan is revised.  
People matter more than a tidy box of equal numbers.

**BCW-10620 / [REDACTED] / Caersws**

All three of us continue to support the proposals that retain Montgomeryshire in its entirety as a constituency. Montgomeryshire has very strong cultural and historic identity, with specific needs. We welcome local neighbouring communities that have similar landscapes and needs to our own.  
We strongly oppose any suggestion that Montgomeryshire be divided in any way whatsoever.

**BCW-10621 / [REDACTED] / Newport**

Absolutely ludicrous that Newbridge is part of the Newport West and Islwyn area. It was bad enough when the previous boundary put us in the Caerphilly area but this new proposal makes no sense.

The area would stretch from Wentlooge to Hollybush which is huge and would never be able to be managed efficiently.

Surely the only real solution is to separate the proposed Newport West and Islwyn in to 2 separate areas.

Merging them makes no sense at all.

**BCW-10622 / [REDACTED] / Bargoed**

Why is the move for the Bargoed area being put forward surely it makes more sense to stay as part of Caerphilly County Borough

**BCW-10623 / [REDACTED] / Conwy**

When so many of us have wasted votes we have to resort to tactical voting. How are we supposed to know which way to vote if you keep changing the boundaries?

**BCW-10624 / [REDACTED] On behalf of Michaelston-le-Pit and Leckwith Community Council / Michaelston-le-Pit and Leckwith**

Michaelston-le-Pit & Leckwith Community Council see no reason for the electoral boundaries to change. The River Ely (which runs past the bottom of Leckwith Hill) provides a natural boundary line between the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff.

**BCW-10625 / [REDACTED] / Risca**

i dont think the islwyn should be join with newport west as un fair to the poeple of islwyn as the constiucy are too diffenect from each othere . one is part of the city of newport the other valleys town and villages . they are in different local authority and are different communities and it would be un fair to have one mp to represent them

**BCW-10626 / [REDACTED] / Oswestry**

redrawing boundaries is not going to make electoral representation much fairer than at present. The only way to do this is to replace first past the post with proportional representation so that every vote counts and never again do we end up with one party with an 80seat majority from only 43% of the popular vote

**BCW-10627 / [REDACTED] / Wrexham**

I consider that putting this area together with Newtown does not make any sense at all. Our local council is Wrexham CBC therefore it make sense to put ourselves in the Wrexham Constance. By putting us in this new area will totally disenfranchise us from the constituency.

Please please reconsider this nonsensical decision.

[REDACTED]

**BCW-10628 / [REDACTED] / Merthyr Tydfil**

I agree with this constituency boundary change and it has my support



1. Wales should NOT be losing 8 constituencies while England gains 10 constituencies in the first place, as it will by choice of an unelected group of strangers design a democratic deficit between nations, in this case England and Wales, into the union, further compounding the existing democratic deficit between Wales and England. Either ALL nations lose an equal percentage/proportionate number of constituencies and MP's or ALL nations gain an equal percentage/proportionate number of constituencies and MP's. Anything else is simply divisive.
2. MP's of constituencies in Wales voting for losing 8 constituencies while England gains 10 constituencies is as moronic as turkeys voting for Christmas.
3. If the proposals of merging parts of 6 constituencies to create 5 constituencies in order to take away parliamentary representation from south Walian people by a factor of 1 MP are to be pursued, then at least have the intelligence to divide the Gower off as one constituency at it's most easternly point. Then divide Swansea City off as one constituency at the outermost limits of what can be defined the contiguous extent of "the City", merge Neath and Port Talbot county with Aberafon as three coastal towns, merge Bridgend and Porthcawl as another constituency given the extent of urban overlap between the two, then divide off "the County" of Swansea as a new constituency following the outermost extent of the valleys of the Tawe tributaries from the numerous sources of the various streams until the traditional boundaries of mid Walian constituencies are met.
4. The wards in the county of Swansea, i.e. outside of the city limits have always suffered from inequitable distribution of funding, investment and infrastructural development precisely because the City of Swansea has diverted such funding, investment and infrastructural development to focus exclusively on the city centre and further over-centralising resources away from those in the countryside, with millions of pounds wasted on never-ending roadworks and road moving in the city centre e.g. the one way single lane system, and the bus lane system for the short-lived bendy bus scheme, all while the rest of the county is neglected. The tawe valley wards which make up the rest of the county of Swansea, would therefore be better off by not being attached to the city of Swansea in any part, as a constituency.
5. All boundary proposals should be put to a public vote to prevent this failed stealth attempt at Tory biased gerrymandering from being implemented without proper scrutiny by the constituents who will ultimately be the most affected by this undemocratic ploy.
6. The Electoral Commission of the four nations has lost the trust of the electorate, and must face profound democratic reforms.

**BCW-10630 / [REDACTED] / Ammanford**

I am very disappointed to see that a narrow passage has been created which would place such locations as Pontardawe, Ystradgynlais, Gwaun-cae-gurwen and Lower Brynamman in the same constituency as Brecon and Rhayader.

Cwm Tawe is a very different place to Brecon and Radnorshire. Where I live, in Lower Brynamman we are not even in Cwm Tawe but in the Amman Valley.

My postal town is Ammanford, my county is Neath Port Talbot but now I'm not going to have the same MP as either of those places.

This change will mean the votes of people in these small towns and villages will be overwhelmed by votes in a very different area.

We should either all be returned to the Neath constituency or part back to Neath and part to Carmarthen.

**BCW-10631 / [REDACTED] / Denbigh**

To whom it may concern. I am writing this on behalf of myself; a resident of Denbigh, and for my dad, who is severely dyslexic and from Nantglyn.

We sincerely reject the Commission's proposal on the new boundaries, especially on the new boundaries for the existing Vale of Clwyd constituency.

My dad is from Nantglyn. He grew up there. He went to the shops in Denbigh, went to school in Denbigh, and worked in Denbigh, as did the majority of the community. He worked as an adolescent in the neighbouring villages; from Llansannan, Groes/Saron and the Denbigh Moors, who are also heavily reliant on Denbigh.

To have these areas attached to Bangor instead of Denbigh is absurd. You could cycle to Denbigh in the time it would take you to drive to Bangor. Before all expenses this makes absolutely no sense! These areas have nothing in common and to politically attach them; politely this could only be ignorance.

The proposed "Clwyd North" has dubious area links. The coastal communities of Colwyn Bay-Towyn-Rhyl-Prestatyn are very heavily linked. Whereas the latter is linked to Clwyd East in stead of its similarly linked communities in Clwyd North. As well as to the social and economic differences the these coastal communities makes little to no sense as to why the are separated. (Before mentioning the obvious common reliance on the tourist industry)

We also personally disagree on the attachment of the Ruthin-Llandyrnog-Bodfari area into Clwyd East. Ruthin and Denbigh hold very strong economic ties, in both employment and in consumerism. As well as strong ties in education and social linkage, it's also important to consider that many people from Denbigh attend school in Ruthin and vice-versa.

When you consider what Clwyd East is, and what there's areas have been attached to; like Nantglyn and Bangor, is frankly, insane. If I didn't believe in the ability of the commission I wouldn't be half measured to consider this deliberate gerrymandering.

Kind Regards.

[REDACTED]



**BCW-10632 / [REDACTED] / Bargoed**

Absolutely ridiculous

The authority of Caerphilly to be split into three constituencies.

One authority, one constituency.

The confusion it will cause will hinder people being able to get the support they need

**BCW-10633 / [REDACTED] / Cardiff**

The revised proposals, which will guarantee that Pontprennau & Old St Mellons, including St Edeyrn's, would remain a part of the Cardiff North Constituency, have our full support. As with other communities in Cardiff North, such as Lisvane, Whitchurch, and Rhiwbina, there are strong community ties and amenities between the places.

We urge the Commission to keep and approve the updated proposals in light of Cardiff North's continued status as a Parliamentary constituency, which includes Taffs Well.

**BCW-10634 / [REDACTED] / Cardiff**

Dear Sir/Madam

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

Specifically, I write regarding the proposal to move the ward of Cathays into the Cardiff South and Penarth constituency.

Moving Cathays has not been mentioned as an option during the consultation and engagement process followed thus far and to present it as a fait accompli at the last stage seems disingenuous, and not in the spirit of the statement made by at the beginning of the process by the Secretary to the Boundary Commission for Wales, Shereen Williams.

“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.”

As a resident of Cathays for over 35 years, I oppose this move. The Commission should return to the original proposal whereby the ward of Cathays remains in Cardiff Central (new Cardiff East) and the ward of Trowbridge remains in Cardiff South and Penarth.

This later 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.

It is worth noting that the Commission only received one submission suggesting the Cathays move and this was from somebody in Altrincham who may have no local knowledge and made the comment purely based upon numbers. A flawed approach as it gives no consideration to local community links.

The Commission, however, received many responses, from residents, who support keeping Cathays, Plasnewydd, Penylan and Adamsdown within the wider Roath community in the same constituency.

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.

Trowbridge is a ward with no direct road access to Splott, and I accept this point. However, the Commission proposed 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.

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

This sentence below appears to be the justification for the decision and is flawed in its assumption that Cathays, being highly populated, (not entirely of the relevance of this point) has good links with other wards in the south.

"The Commission is of the view that the Cathays electoral ward is a highly populated and well-connected ward that has good links and ties with the wards to the south and so is appropriate as part of the Cardiff South and Penarth constituency."

The area to the south of the ward is the City Centre which is less well populated and abuts wards with which there are no links. Cathays community links lie with Plasnewydd, Penylan, Cyncoed and Adamsdown. The statement is flawed in its assumptions and thus cannot be a valid justification for moving Cathays.

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 Ederm (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 my evidence here the Commission will now overturn the revised proposals and return to the initial proposals as published.

Regards

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

**BCW-10635 / [REDACTED] / Ammanford**

Dear Sir/Madam

I refer to my letter dated 24 October 2021, and 22 October 2022 regarding the above subject matter. The main thrust of my comments being in opposition to the Boundary Commission's draft proposal to transfer areas of the upper Amman and Swansea Valley to Brecon and Radnorshire.

I have just been made aware of the Assistant Commissioners' Report, which also disagrees with these proposals and suggests that, in respect of the Swansea area: *"Our proposals are driven by two main factors based on the local ties criterion. First, we strongly believe that the Swansea and Upper Amman Valleys should be part of the equation in this area and this necessitates a different shape of constituencies to meet the statutory electorate range. All of the area's social, economic, community and administrative ties are with the Swansea/Neath conurbation. Its inclusion within a Powys-based constituency meets few, if any, of the statutory factors in our view."* They suggest that the upper Amman and Swansea Valley areas be included in a new Dyffryn Lliw/Lliw Valley constituency.

In my letter dated 22 October 2022 I suggested an alternative, counter proposal where the upper Amman and Swansea valley areas be included within the proposed Neath and Swansea East Constituency. I also suggested other amendments to the draft proposals and I note from the Assistant Commissioners' Report that, my suggestion of transferring Blaen Hafren, Llanidloes, Llandinam, Kerry and Churchstoke from Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr to Brecon and Radnorshire, is shared by the Assistant Commissioners, who have included these areas in their proposals for a new Mid and South Powys constituency.

As stated, I was completely unaware of the Assistant Commissioners' Report until early this week. However, I can now advise that, if the counter proposal outlined in my letter dated 22 October 2022 is considered unacceptable, then I fully support the Assistant Commissioners' Report of a proposed new Dyffryn Lliw/Lliw Valley constituency as an alternative.

I trust that this is helpful and that these additional comments will be included in the Boundary Commissions' final considerations.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

**BCW-10636 / [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-10637 / Stephen Kinnock MP / Aberavon**

Following the publication of the revised proposals, please find attached my written submission to the consultation on the revised proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Kinnock

Member of Parliament for Aberavon

Shadow Minister for Immigration



**Stephen Kinnock**  
Member of Parliament for Aberavon

[Redacted]

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

Our Ref: SNK/CM

09 November 2022

Dear Chair,

**Re: Boundary Commission Wales 2023 Review Revised Proposals - Aberafan Porthcawl**

Firstly, I'd like to thank the Boundary Commission Wales for all the work you've done on the initial and revised proposals for the parliamentary constituency boundaries in Wales. The Commission has had a very difficult job to do, redrawing the parliamentary constituency boundaries within the strict, prescriptive criteria set out in the Parliamentary Constituencies Act and the significance the Act had afforded to the UK electoral quota.

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

It recognises and respects the historical, geographical and community ties that exist between the wards that make up the current Aberavon constituency and includes wards from the existing Bridgend constituency which share similar characteristics to the wards from Aberavon.

The wards of Cornelly, Pyle, Rest Bay, Nottage, Porthcawl East Central, Porthcawl West Central and Newton were part of the Aberavon constituency prior to the 1983 Boundary Review when they were used to create the current Bridgend constituency along with wards from Ogmere.

It is also welcome that the Commission has taken on board the concerns around the initial proposals which would have seen wards which contained parts of the town of Bridgend included in the proposed *Aberafan Porthcawl*. Putting the wards of Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr, Cefn Glas and Llangewydd and Brynhyfred in the revised proposals for *Bridgend*, instead of *Aberafan Porthcawl*, recognises and addresses those concerns.

The revised proposal also minimise the disruption to local government boundaries with just two local authorities, Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend, involved.

**Constituency Office:**

[Redacted]





**Stephen Kinnock**  
Member of Parliament for Aberavon

[Redacted]

The revised proposal for *Aberafan Porthcawl* meets the electoral quota and, as far as practically possible within the constraints of the legislation, recognises special geographical considerations, local government boundaries, boundaries of existing constituencies, local ties, and the inconveniences such changes inevitably create.

*Aberafan Porthcawl* is a proposal that meets the requirements set out in the Act and given time it is a proposal that can work for the local communities.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

**Stephen Kinnock**  
**Member of Parliament for Aberavon**

**Constituency Office:**

[Redacted contact information]

*politcs (Lord Carlile 1983 - 1997, Emlyn Hooson 1962 - 1979, Clement Davies 1929 - 1962, David Davies 1906 - 1929, Stuart Rendel 1880 - 1894, William Herbert 1604 - 1640) that attaching anything to it would be deemed an insult to the poeple of the county.*

In all the other proposed constituencies, no complaints or counter submissions were collected in the time between the opening of the consultation and today (November 9th 2022), therefore in closing I wish to thank the Commission for their work and hope that they will now be entitled to a rest having been on the job essentially every day for the last ten years.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Ceredigion

**BCW-10638 / [REDACTED] / Newport**

Dear Sir or Madam,

I live in the present parliamentary constituency of Islwyn.

I have no wish to be “merged” with Newport West. Neither the locals nor I have much to do with Newport.

My neighbours are apt to describe the people of Newport as “townies”, whereas we are Valleys residents. Although I deprecate the use of the term “townies”, I view its use as evidence of non-identification with Newport.

If you must rearrange the constituency of Islwyn, I urge you to redistrict it in with other valleys constituencies, not with Newport West.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



BCW-10639 / [REDACTED] / Porthcawl

I have a number of objections to these proposals.

Procedural

By what means have these proposals been communicated to the public? A consultation is only valid if effective and thorough communication has taken place across all groups within a community .

There doesn't appear to be much about this in the news media ?

Where is the rationale document to support this 'consultation' ? Apologies if I have missed it on this site or elsewhere

2 social, cultural and economic

Porthcawl already sits uncomfortably within the Bridgend constituency in terms of demography , economic and political basis. It is a generally middle class enclave with a part retirement, part tourist basis. It has far more in Common with the Heritage coast locations to it east

It has also potential to be a major tourist staycation attraction which is currently, under BCBC, is being woefully neglected.

These proposals appear to be inverted insofar as they reflect an imperative that meets the needs of artificially determined population number ratios. Rather, they should be creating cohesive communities that will be effectively served by the politicians rather than the other way around

**BCW-10640 / [REDACTED] / Aberdare**

I think this is a good idea to cut down on the number of council's that we have we don't need all these councillors to represent the people of the cynon Valley they are only in it for their own gain and nothing else they are getting money for doing nothing because if you go to them with any problems they will say we will see what we can do but when you get a reply back they tell you their leader has blocked it he doesn't care about the people in Aberdare only his ward and they get everything down in mountain ash look at the money that could be saved by cutting these council's in half Hope it goes through.

**BCW-10641 / [REDACTED] / Denbigh**

As you are aware, Dr James Davies submitted our views to the Commission by letter during both the initial and secondary consultation periods. He also presented at the Wrexham Public Hearing.

Happily, the views articulated were complementary to many of those made by others during the consultation that took place.

While the Commission's revised proposals do not fully reflect the counter-proposals which the Conservative Party had put forward, they do take on board many of the critical arguments that we were making, and which other political parties, individuals and councils had also made. I wish to express my gratitude to the Commission for listening to our M. P.

I am saddened to see the proposed break-up of the Vale of Clwyd constituency. In reality, any set of boundary proposals will fail to take account of all community ties that exist. However, I acknowledge that the constituencies of Clwyd North and Clwyd East form coherent entities. In particular, the reunification of Colwyn Bay and Rhos on Sea will I believe be well received, while the seaside, semi-rural and rural communities of the proposed Clwyd East sit together quite satisfactorily in the absence of industrial areas along the Dee Estuary. Those in Ruthin will also be heartened that neighbouring rural areas in the south of Denbighshire are now proposed to be included within the Clwyd East seat.

I thus support the latest proposal for Clwyd North and East

**BCW-10642 / [REDACTED] / Port Talbot**

I live on the main road linking Port Talbot with the upper Afan Valley in Pontrhydyfen Port Talbot.

I have no ties to Swansea or Neath communities which are in entirely different valley's.

People on both sides of our small row of houses along the main road with all our gardens backing onto the river Avon, will be represented by a different elected members who represent completely different areas.

Along our main road with a very small number of houses, we have strong community links with everyone in the Avon Valley and are concerned we will be represented by other elected members, causing to isolate our views and divide our strong sense of community

It makes no sense to place people who identify as being in and physically live in, a Port Talbot, Avon Valley community outside their locality when it comes to be represented by an elected member from another two areas which has different local issues.

I feel that I and my neighbour's will be severely disadvantaged by the current proposal and that our local issues in Port Talbot valley will be ignored or pale into insignificance when combined with the issues affecting Swansea and Neath which are different to our issues.

I am deeply concerned that it is impossible for an elected member to represent people in such different divergent communities and that our community values and Voice will not be heard

I strongly believe that Dan y bont Pontrhydyfen should be placed within the constituency with in the Avon Valley Port Talbot

**BCW-10643 / [REDACTED] / Blackwood**

Islwyn has nothing whatever in common with Newport, and should remain part of Caerphilly, a valley town. The proposed boundary separates Oakdale from Pontllanfraith , just one mile away whereas Newport West is at least 10 miles away. This makes no sense!

**BCW-10644 / [REDACTED] / Neath**

as you can see from my address . i live in briton ferry and was always under the neath constituency. until the last change when they lumped us with skewen and aberavon. now, although i live only 2 miles from neath and it is my address. i am being added to porthcawl which is over 15 miles away and comes under the bridgend area ... i don't know who worked these areas out and decided this was a good idea ?

but i think they should try again. from what i have experienced over the years is that you ask people for their opinion but never take any notice, no one that i know are happy about this in any way. i have written this in the consultation at the beginning and it seems that nothing has changed.

**BCW-10645 / [REDACTED] / Swansea**

a better name for Clwyd East, is Clwydian Hills, given that the area is the same as the Clwydian Hills AONB

**BCW-10646 / Dr James Davies MP / Vale of Clwyd**

Please find letter attached.

Thank you.

James

--

**Dr James Davies MP**

***Vale of Clwyd/Dyffryn Clwyd***

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Wales Office*

**Dr James Davies MP**

Member of Parliament for the Vale of Clwyd / Aelod Seneddol dros Ddyffryn Clwyd



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

By email to: [bcw@boundaries.wales](mailto:bcw@boundaries.wales)

8th November 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: The 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales – Revised Proposals**

Very many thanks for the copy of the Boundary Commission for Wales' report containing revised proposals for changes to Parliamentary constituencies in Wales.

As you are aware, I submitted my views to the Commission by letter during both the initial and secondary consultation periods. I also presented at the Wrexham Public Hearing.

Happily, the views I articulated were complementary to many of those made by others during the consultation that took place.

While the Commission's revised proposals do not fully reflect the counter proposals which I and the Conservative Party had put forward, they do take on board many of the critical arguments that we were making, and which other political parties, individuals and councils had also made. I wish to express my gratitude to the Commission for listening.

I retain sadness at the break up of the Vale of Clwyd constituency. In reality, any set of boundary proposals will fail to take account of all community ties that exist. However, I acknowledge that the constituencies of Clwyd North and Clwyd East form coherent entities. In particular, the reunification of Colwyn Bay and Rhos on Sea will I believe be well received, while the seaside, semi rural and rural communities of the proposed Clwyd East sit together quite satisfactorily in the absence of industrial areas along the Dee Estuary. Those in Ruthin will also be heartened that neighbouring rural areas in the south of Denbighshire are now proposed to be included within the Clwyd East seat.

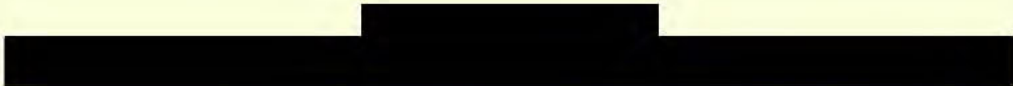
Finally, I believe the new nomenclature suggested for both constituencies is sensible and appropriate. Again, I appreciate the efforts that the Commission has made in this regard.

Kind regards.

Yours faithfully,



**Dr James Davies MA MB BChir (Cantab)**  
**Member of Parliament for the Vale of Clwyd**





**BCW-10647 / [REDACTED] Wales Green Party / Ceredigion**

Sir,

As the formally designated officer for the Welsh Green Party to comment on the boundary changes that you are currently undertaking, I wish to submit the following comments gathered from across Wales in the last few weeks. These comments are made in the names mentioned and are from the areas mentioned

[REDACTED] Brecon, Radnor and Cwm-Tawe: Opposed

*I wish to oppose the inclusion of the Pontardwe (4,283), Trebanos (1,092) and Allt-wen (2,023) wards from Neath Port Talbot into this constituency. These are all parts of the Neath Valley and have no connection in any shape or form to Brecon and Radnorshire, therefore call on them to be removed from the constituency as proposed and placed into the proposed Swansea Central and North constituency.*

[REDACTED] Wrexham: Opposed, Counter Submission

*I wish to formally request that the wards of Ponicaeu (3,521) and Esculham (2,013) be moved from the proposed Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr constituency to the proposed Wrexham constituency. By my calculations this will reduce the electorate in Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr to 71,419 and increase the electorate in Wrexham to 76,498 which I believe makes both constituencies still quorate. I am asking for this change to reflect the fact that these two wards have more connections (both physical and societal) with Wrexham than Welshpool, Machynlleth and Newtown.*

[REDACTED] (chair of Bridgend Green Party), Rhondda: Opposed, Submission

*I wish to see the ward of Penprysg (2,474), Hendre (3,175) and Felindre (2,087) removed from the proposed Rhondda constituency with Penprysg placed in the Bridgend constituency (78,938) and Hendre and Felindre placed in the Vale of Glamorgan constituency (75,688). I accept and understand this would make Bridgend unquorate and keep the Vale of Glamorgan as quorate, but wish to state that the Penprysg ward has always been part of Bridgend and has no connections to the Rhondda at all.*

[REDACTED] Montgomeryshire: Opposed

*I wish to complain about the inclusion of the Cefn (3,768), Chirk North (1,846), Chirk South (1,503), Esculsham (2,013), Johnstown (2,461), Pant (1,528), Penycae (1,525), Penycae and Ruabon South (2,026), Plas Madoc (2,078), Ponciau (3,521), Ruabon (2,078), Corwen (1,799), Llandrillo (931) and Ceirog Valley (1,685) in the proposed Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr constituency. I believe this to be an attack on the cultural identity of Montgomeryshire, a constituency that has remained unchanged since its formation in 1918, over a century ago, and during that time has elected such bastions of Welsh*

BCW-10648 / [REDACTED] / Corwen

Dear Sir,

Consultation and revised proposals of the boundaries in Wales.

Looking at the geographical and population density of the constituency of Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr

I ask that you take into consideration the following:

- a. The culture of the Corwen area is very different from the majority of the constituency.  
Corwen is a Welsh speaking area and the culture is very different from the areas close to the border with England.
- b. The population of the Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr proposed constituency is some 76000.  
The population of the Corwen being part of Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr is some 3000.
- c. The population of Dwyfor Meirionnydd is 29000
- d. The cultural diversity of the Dwyfor Meirionnydd is more in keeping with the Corwen area.

I would like to put forward that the Corwen area be included in the Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency.

Corwen's historical past was in the county of Meirionnydd.

This would adjust the population of Dwyfor Meirionnydd from 69000 to 72000, which would be more in keeping with the other areas of Wales.

Many thanks for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

**BCW-10649 / [REDACTED] - Rhosllannerchrugog Community Council / Wrexham**

31. Wrexham (Wreccsam)

Comments received from Rhosllannerchrugog Community Council members regarding the proposal to move Pant / Ponciau / Rhos and Johnstown wards into Glyndwr / Montgomery

The change to initial proposals made, sparked significant concern and apprehension from local residents, community groups and elected members.

Members unanimously agreed that Rhos Community Councils' wards should remain part of Wrexham and not pushed into a Glyndwr /Montgomery constituency for the sake of fitting within the set number restrictions and are disappointed that amendments have been made to this, what was unanimously felt to be a suitable and understandable proposal.

This proposal would also mean splitting our electoral ward which seems ridiculous and incredibly unfair. Rhos Community Council has little or no affiliation or association with Glyndwr /Montgomery, the area would be extremely large, containing 4/5 separate constituencies, and it was felt that Rhos Community Council would end up with very little representation. The community would have no idea what is happening within the constituency, along with the other areas having little or no knowledge or understanding of what is happening in ours.

Rhos Community Council have several WCBC Councillors as members of the community council who provide members with information, understanding and clarification of things happening within the constituency. This would sadly be lost and is felt to be of great benefit and importance.

Rhos and its wards have extremely close ties to Wrexham, historically and culturally, its workings, its events and people. The council regularly works collaboratively with Wrexham, as well as our residents, working within and attending the area.

Members feel that the initial proposal has only changed again due to objections being made from Brynteg being moved into Flintshire and this has resulted in Rhos being moved out of Wrexham.

Alongside this, members and local residents have felt very disappointed with the lack of information received about the proposal and also the changes made to initial proposed idea.

## **BCW-10650 / Cllr Bernard Gentry- North Wales Area Conservatives / Unknown**

Dear commission

North Wales Area Conservatives would like to make the following observations regarding the revised boundary proposals for the Clwyd North and Clwyd East proposed new constituencies.

1. Welcome that Bagillt and Flint have been moved out of Clwyd East into Alyn & Deeside.
2. Welcome that New Brighton, Argoed and Leeswood have been retained in Clwyd East rather than moved into Alyn & Deeside.
3. Welcome that Llanfair DC and Llangollen are now in Clwyd East, alongside Ruthin.
4. Welcome the names "Clwyd North" and "Clwyd East" instead of "Clwyd" and "Delyn"

Councillor Bernard Gentry  
Conservative Member Llanaelhaearn Community Council  
Deputy Chairman Political North Wales Conservatives  
Deputy Chairman Membership North West Wales Conservatives  
Vice -President Vauxhall Conservative Association  
Organising Secretary Streatham Conservative Association

## **BCW-10651 / [REDACTED] / Ystrad Meurig**

I oppose these boundary changes for a number of reasons. In the first instance, I believe that the reduction of constituencies in itself is contrary to the interests of Wales. Such a reduction will limit the diversity of Wales' representation in Parliament. Secondly, the new constituency will probably be too large in area for a single MP to serve. She/he will have to travel greater distances to local surgeries which undoubtedly will have to increase in number, and if they do not increase in number, then our ability to make contact with our MP will diminish since the MP will have to cover greater ground and spend more time traveling. And thirdly, Ceredigion has a unique social and political complexion, and by joining with Preseli that uniqueness may cease to be adequately represented in Parliament, and diversity in Parliament (for the sake of 'holistic' representation across the UK) is something that should be preserved at all costs. If diversity is not preserved then Parliament will become too homogenized, and with a first-past-the post electoral system, such homogenization should not, at any cost, be encouraged.

**BCW-10652 / [REDACTED] / Llangollen**

Sir/Madam

1. I welcome that Bagillt and Flint have been moved out of Clwyd East into Alyn & Deeside.
2. I welcome that New Brighton, Argoed and Leeswood have been retained in Clwyd East rather than moved into Alyn & Deeside.
3. I welcome that Llanfair DC and Llangollen are now in Clwyd East, alongside Ruthin.
4. I welcome that Rhos on Sea has been reunited with Colwyn Bay, in Clwyd North.
5. I welcome the names "Clwyd North" and "Clwyd East" instead of "Clwyd" and "Delyn".

Best

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**BCW-10653 / [REDACTED] / Clwyd East**

Having previously commented on the proposed boundary changes, I was interested to see the latest proposals.

The area is one that I know extremely well. I grew up in Prestatyn, my Mum taught supply in schools across region, my Dad worked at Point of Ayr on the coast road and in addition to principal education in Prestatyn, I also did one A Level in Holywell. Accordingly, I have a good feel for how the communities inter connect.

The most important change you have made, which I enthusiastically welcome, is the dropping of 'Delyn' and the proposed names of Clwyd North and Clwyd East. These are not only logical but also ones that the population at large can relate to and feel a connection with.

In terms of the more specific areas, I comments as follows;

I fully agree that Bagillt and Flint have been moved out of Clwyd East into Alyn & Deeside. Flint in particular has a massive connection to Deeside so on every level this makes sense. It therefore also follows that New Brighton, Argoed and Leeswood have been retained in Clwyd East rather than moved into Alyn & Deeside.

Given the nature and geographical location of Ruthin, I was pleased to see that Llanfair DC and Llangollen are now in Clwyd East, alongside Ruthin, these are a strong cultural fit.

It is most pleasing to note that Rhos on Sea has been reunited with Colwyn Bay, in Clwyd North. It would have been really appalling to see these natural bedfellows fragmented.

I do hope you find these comments helpful.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

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

To The Boundary Commission for Wales

1<sup>st</sup> November 2022

Please record my support of the final boundary proposal for the historic community of Montgomeryshire being retained in the new and enlarged constituency of Montgomeryshire & Glyndwr

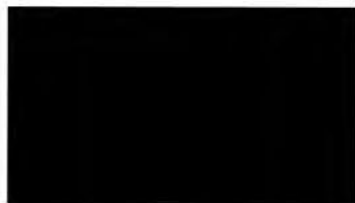
Signed

[REDACTED]



**BCW-10655 / [REDACTED] / Aberdare**

I believe that the proposed reduction of constituencies in Wales is driven by nothing more than a cynical attempt to reduce the number of Labour MPs. It will reduce representation & accessibility in an economically deprived area.



To The Boundary Commission for Wales

1<sup>st</sup> November 2022

Please record my support of the final boundary proposal for the historic community of Montgomeryshire being retained in the new and enlarged constituency of Montgomeryshire & Glyndwr

Signed



**BCW-10657/ [REDACTED] / Denbigh**

Can I firstly say what a nigh impossible challenge you have faced and how refreshing it is that a public body has clearly listened to the points raised in the consultation.

Moving Bagillt and Flint out of Clwyd East into Alyn & Deeside clearly makes sense to the folks living there as does the proposal to retain New Brighton, Argoed and Leeswood in Clwyd East.

I am sure including Llanfair DC and Llangollen in Clwyd East, alongside Ruthin is absolutely the right thing to do bearing in mind the geography and many trading links between these areas.

The idea that Rhos on Sea could ever be separated from Colwyn Bay had seemed a very strange from the beginning and to now propose to keep Rhos in Clwyd North makes eminent sense.

Finally, the names of "Clwyd North" and "Clwyd East" instead of "Clwyd" and "Delyn" are to be widely welcomed and make much more sense to those of us living here. They are immediately descriptive of areas.

Thank you for your revised proposals which go a long way to meeting local concerns and well done again for being prepared to listen and act. I only wish this was common practise with all such bodies!

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Parliamentary boundary review 2023

The Town Council have recently considered the revised draft proposals put forward within the consultation document and wish to make the following representations in regards to the proposed Clwyd North constituency.

The proposal will result in the separation of the towns of Rhyl and Prestatyn into different electoral constituencies with Rhyl becoming part of the Clwyd North constituency and Prestatyn joining the revised Clwyd East constituency.

Members of the Town Council do not believe that this is appropriate for the following reasons:

Historically Rhyl and Prestatyn have developed as sister holiday resort towns (always marketed as a single destination entity) and have always been located within the same electoral and administrative areas. The towns have always been linked and have always returned the same Parliamentary Member. There is no green barrier or other separation between the two urban settlements. If the proposals proceed then effectively there will be next door properties electing different Members of Parliament. This the Council submits will create confusion and inconvenience for electors and weaken/break the current shared identity/ties between the communities.

To the West of Rhyl, the River Clwyd flows into the sea through the Foryd estuary. This River has always been the natural barrier between Rhyl and the Communities to the West. It is also the existing local government boundary. By joining Rhyl westwards with the communities of Kinmel Bay, Towyn, and Abergele this natural division will be lost. Going further west Rhyl has never been associated with the Colwyn Bay area and the proposal will potentially create a constituency which the Council believes will lack community cohesion or any relationship between electors.

**BCW-10659 / [REDACTED] / Clwyd South**

Dear Commissioners,

We would like to express our views regarding the proposals put forward for the new boundaries affecting the old Edeirnion ( Clwyd South ).

We find them completely unviable as far as interest and compatibility with the political system is concerned. We feel that the present proposals can only lead to disinterest.

There is virtually no daily connections between this area and Newtown, Welshpool and Machynlleth.

We are separated by the Berwyn mountains and the interchange between communities on one side of the mountain and the other is very low. There is no public transport between the two areas.

Anyone wishing to travel to Newtown or Welshpool by public transport would have to cross the Wales England border before coming back in to Wales.

On conducting a small survey of local people we have yet to find anyone who has been to Newtown or Welshpool for a specific purpose. Although many have passed through on their way to Cardiff. (I.e. Rugby matches ).

To be fair there is a bit more connection with Machynlleth, but even this journey means passing through the Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency for a considerable distance.

We would wish to note here that the FUW has kept their connections with Meirionnydd.

The local newspaper is Pethe Penllyn based in Bala.

Children go to Secondary School in Bala, Rhuthun and Llangollen.

Doctors surgeries are in Corwen, Cerrigydrudion and Bala.

On checking the population figures between Llandrillo and Glyndyfrdwy ( the old Edeirnion ) in the region of 3,000 this would even up the numbers required between the various constituencies to an almost perfect match.

Therefore we would suggest that the Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency would be a much fairer option. However were that option be found to be not acceptable, we would humbly suggest that the Aberconwy constituency be the next best option as there is at least interections with Cerrigydrudion, Llanrwst and Llandudno.

We remain

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

BCW-10660 / [REDACTED] / Plasnewydd

Hi,

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.



Resident of Plasnewydd Ward, Cardiff Central Constituency.

**BCW-10661 / [REDACTED] / Bangor**

Thank you for the new revised boundaries of Bangor Aberconwy. I am happy to see that Pentir ward has been included along with other wards such as Mynydd Llandygai & Tregarth and the city of Bangor, with which we have close connections. This is an important change to ensure that we will have the same UK Parliament representation for both where we live and where many of us work.

I also support the inclusion of the wards of rural Denbighshire (what could be considered Clywd South?) in this constituency. This is an important change that ensures that the Welsh language remains prominent in this constituency, which was in danger of disappearing under the original proposals.

I fully support the revised proposals for the new boundaries for Bangor Aberconwy. The only minor suggestion is that the name could be changed to Bangor ac Aberconwy to illustrate that these are two distinct geographical regions.

**BCW-10662 / [REDACTED] / Bridgend**

The community of Pencoed being transferred to the Rhondda constituency is an easy but ill founded option based on numbers rather than practicality. There are extremely poor transport links between Pencoed and Rhondda and it would be more sensible to add the Ogmore Vale wards with the Rhondda Constituency given that they abut the Constituency and have better transport links. The Valley communities have strong cultural and historical links as a result of their coal mining past whereas Pencoed has much closer cultural, historical and economic links with the Towns and communities in the new Bridgend Constituency and should remain within that constituency as first proposed.

**BCW-10663 / [REDACTED] / Swansea**

The proposed boundary change would place this part of the Swansea Valley in a constituency with which it has little in common in relation to historical or current land use and demographics. It is a post-industrial area and I believe the interests of residents would not be well-represented in the proposed new constituency, which is broadly agricultural in terms of land use. This is a badly-thought through proposal and I believe it should be strongly resisted.

**BCW-10664 / [REDACTED] / Cardiff**

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

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.

Like many residents in Cathays, I have strong links with neighbouring Roath communities, which cannot be said of the communities of Cardiff South and Penarth. I work in Plasnewydd, shop in Plasnewydd, my doctors is located in Plasnewydd and my community links are with here and the neighbouring wards.

The Commission's review states that "Cathays ward is a highly populated and well connected ward that has good links and ties with wards to the south and so is appropriate as part of Cardiff South and Penarth constituency." This is the only logic presented to explain the decision yet is fundamentally flawed.

1. Being highly populated would not seem relevant to the decision. Nowhere else in the review is an area being highly populated mentioned as an explanation for a decision. Other wards of the city are highly populated, this offers no rational for the decision and is merely commentary. The ward would now be included in a constituency with wards of a vastly different characteristic, of a more rural, less densely populated nature.

2. There is a mention of strong ties with wards to the South, yet no evidence is put forward to confirm this. The community links, as will be set out in greater detail below, are not between Butetown or Splott and Cathays. Indeed, simply looking at a map of the proposed constituency shows how small the boundary is with wards to the South, with arterial roads and rail creating distinct communities.

I firmly believe 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).

**BCW-10665 / [REDACTED] / Pontypool**

The proposal to make Croesyceiliog and Llanyravon part of Torfaen makes sense. However. I would like the name to be Gwent. Gwent has historic significance whereas Torfaen means nothing and nobody knows how to pronounce it, including a lot of the people who live here!

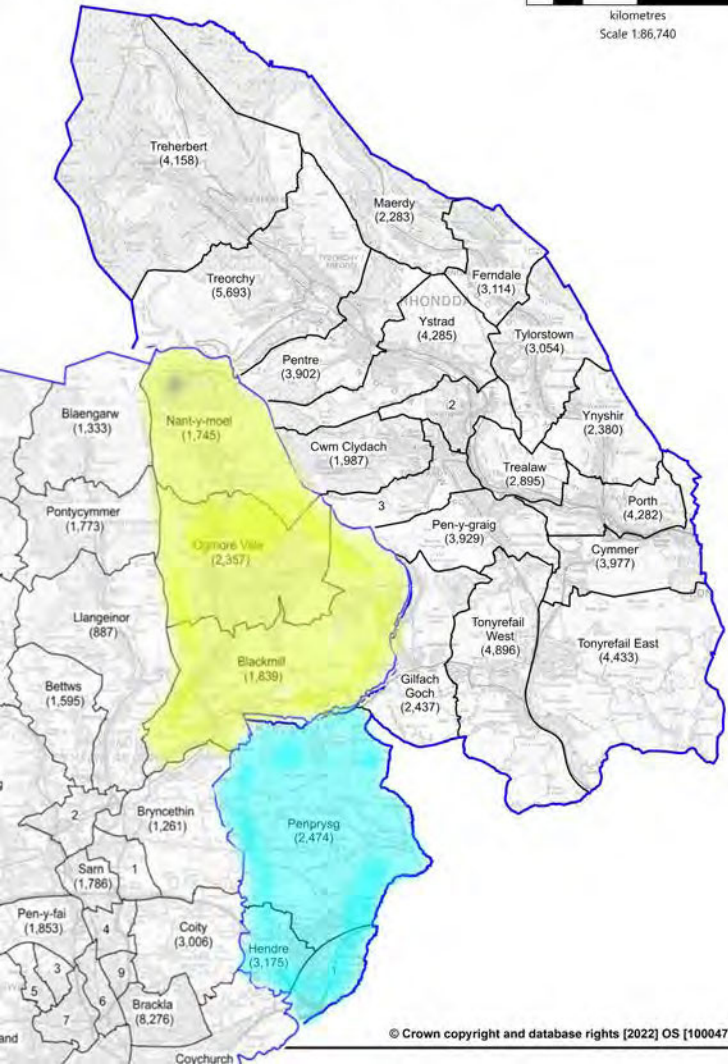
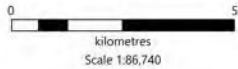
I am a resident of the town of Pencoed and object in the strongest possible terms to the inclusion of the town within the proposed new Rhondda parliamentary constituency. In addition, I find the timescale given to submit these views, on what is a vitally important matter which has an impact on the future of the town in which I live, to be wholly inadequate and unacceptable. If there is a serious desire to obtain the honest, considered, and open views from individuals, groups and organisations on this proposed change then far more time should have been allotted. None of the previous proposals had suggested that Pencoed be included within the Rhondda boundary so to then see the huge change suggested here is a complete shock and surprise.

For over a century the people of Pencoed have identified with Bridgend and not with the Rhondda, indeed our postal town is Bridgend. We have a campus of the highly respected Bridgend College located within the town. Our schools have a wealth of evidence to show that they interact with their counterparts in Bridgend and not with the Rhondda.

Surely the rationale behind any boundary changes should be to ensure the economic and cultural stability of communities but the connecting of Pencoed to Rhondda through Gilfach Goch via the thinnest of strips of land with no vehicular link is just preposterous. There are no direct rail or road links to the new constituency from Pencoed.

When considering the map of the proposed boundary changes it is obvious that a much more simple and viable solution would be to replace Pencoed with the whole of the Ogmore Valley which has far greater links with the Rhondda with two separate roads, the A4061 and the A4093, directly connecting it to the Rhondda constituency. The Ogmore Valley also shares a border on the whole of its eastern side with the Rhondda. It is also the case that the communities of the Ogmore Valley i.e Nantymoel, Ogmore Vale, and Blackmill have far more in common with the communities of the Rhondda economically, and culturally than Pencoed

# Rhondda





BCW-10667 / [REDACTED] / Pencoed

To: Boundary Commission

I am a resident of the town of Pencoed and object in the strongest possible terms to the inclusion of the town within the proposed new Rhondda parliamentary constituency. In addition, I find the timescale given to submit these views, on what is a vitally important matter which has an impact on the future of the town in which I live, to be wholly inadequate and unacceptable. If there is a serious desire to obtain the honest, considered, and open views from individuals, groups and organisations on this proposed change then far more time should have been allotted. None of the previous proposals had suggested that Pencoed be included within the Rhondda boundary so to then see the

huge change suggested here is a complete shock and surprise. For over a century the people of Pencoed have identified with Bridgend and not with the Rhondda, indeed our postal town is Bridgend. We have a campus of the highly respected Bridgend College

located within the town. Our schools have a wealth of evidence to show that they interact with their counterparts in Bridgend and not with the Rhondda.

Surely the rationale behind any boundary changes should be to ensure the economic and cultural stability of communities but the connecting of Pencoed to Rhondda through Gilfach Goch via the thinnest of strips of land with no vehicular link is just preposterous. There are no direct rail or road links to the new constituency from Pencoed.

When considering the map of the proposed boundary changes it is obvious that a much more simple and viable solution would be to replace Pencoed with the whole of the Ogmore Valley which has far greater links with the Rhondda with two separate roads, the A4061 and the A4093, directly connecting it to the Rhondda constituency. The Ogmore Valley also shares a border on the whole of its eastern side with the Rhondda. It is also the case that the communities of the Ogmore Valley i.e. Nantymoel, Ogmore Vale and Blackmill have far more in common with the neighbouring communities of the Rhondda in terms of economy, heritage and culture than Pencoed.

The residents of Pencoed once again being targeted for the Politics of this Country to thier detriment. This decision is certainly not been taken for the benefit of those within our town. As a resident I personally object for all the reasons stated and think it would be utter folly to make these changes.

I trust you will give this the consideration it deserves.

Regards [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**BCW-10669 / [REDACTED] / Haverfordwest**

That looks a lot more sensible than the earliest horror when we were separated from our main town. I now see the area where we largely live shop and access services.

BCW-10670 / [REDACTED] / Cardiff

Please find my objections to Cathays being taken out of the proposed boundaries for the new constituency of Cardiff East.

[REDACTED]

10 November 2022

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.

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.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

BCW-10671 / [REDACTED] / Pencoed

To: Boundary Commission

I am a resident of the town of Pencoed and object in the strongest possible terms to the inclusion of the town within the proposed new Rhondda parliamentary constituency. In addition, I find the timescale given to submit these views, on what is a vitally important matter which has an impact on the future of the town in which I live, to be wholly inadequate and unacceptable. If there is a serious desire to obtain the honest, considered, and open views from individuals, groups and organisations on this proposed change then far more time should have been allotted. None of the previous proposals had suggested that Pencoed be included within the Rhondda boundary so to then see the huge change suggested here is a complete shock and surprise.

For over a century the people of Pencoed have identified with Bridgend and not with the Rhondda, indeed our postal town is Bridgend. We have a campus of the highly respected Bridgend College located within the town. Our schools have a wealth of evidence to show that they interact with their counterparts in Bridgend and not with the Rhondda.

Surely the rationale behind any boundary changes should be to ensure the economic and cultural stability of communities but the connecting of Pencoed to Rhondda through Gilfach Goch via the thinnest of strips of land with no vehicular link is just preposterous. There are no direct rail or road links to the new constituency from Pencoed.

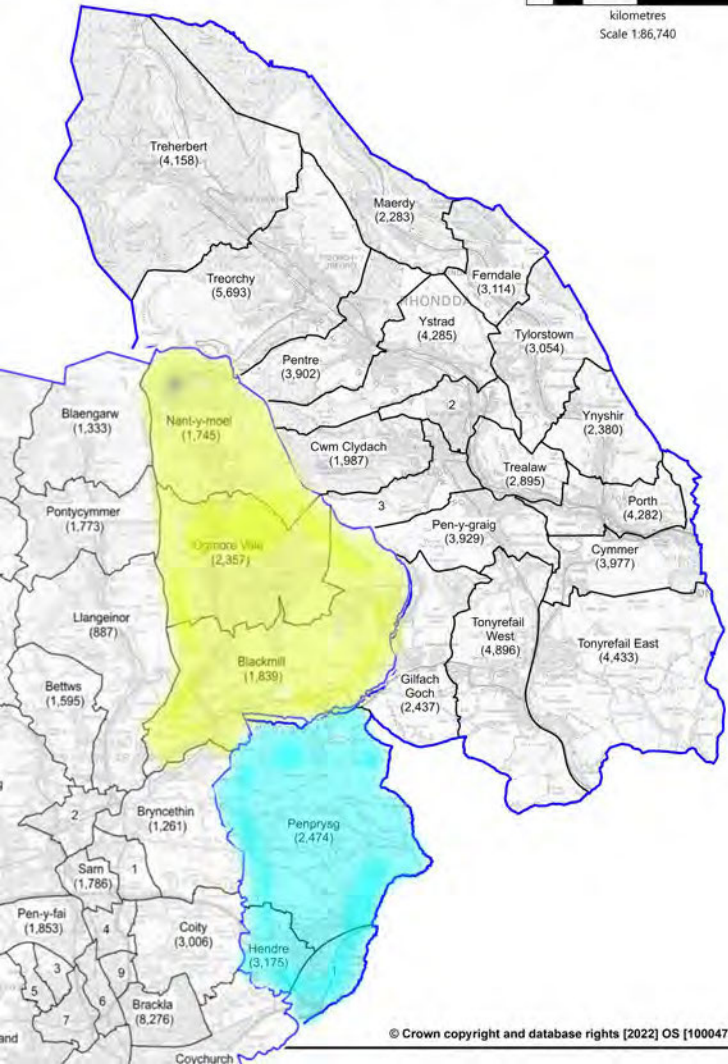
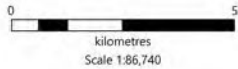
When considering the map of the proposed boundary changes it is obvious that a much more simple and viable solution would be to replace Pencoed with the whole of the Ogmores Valley which has far greater links with the Rhondda with two separate roads, the A4061 and the A4093, directly connecting it to the Rhondda constituency. The Ogmores Valley also shares a border on the **whole of its eastern side** with the Rhondda. It is also the case that the communities of the Ogmores Valley i.e. Nantymoel, Ogmores Vale and Blackmill have far more in common with the neighbouring communities of the Rhondda in terms of economy, heritage and culture than Pencoed.

I trust you will give this the consideration it deserves.

Regards

[REDACTED]

# Rhondda





**BCW-10672 / [REDACTED] / Bridgend**

I wish to stay within the boundaries of Bridgend for everything, it is our County Borough and it should not be changed.

**BCW-10673 / [REDACTED] / Tenby**

To be honest I am fuming about this  
Once more the identity of Pembrokeshire is being whittled away. For what reason, certainly not for the benefit of the residents. If this goes ahead, then it is obviously against our wishes, just steamrolled again. I seriously wonder why you give us the vote at all, as all these so called consultations are a joke.

**BCW-10674 / [REDACTED] / Bridgend**

I am writing to express my sheer disappointment re the proposed Parliamentary Boundary changes for Pencoed.

I am a resident of the town of Pencoed and object in the strongest possible terms to the inclusion of the Town within the proposed new Rhondda Parliamentary constituency.

I find the timescale allocated to submit these views, on what is a vitally important matter which has an impact on the future of the Town in which I live, to be completely inadequate and totally unacceptable.

Should such a proposal seek a serious desire to obtain the honest, considered, and open views from individuals, groups and organisations then far more time should have been allotted.

None of the previous proposals had suggested that Pencoed be included within the Rhondda boundary, therefore such a huge change suggested here is a complete shock and surprise.

For over a century the people of Pencoed have identified with Bridgend and not with the Rhondda, our postal Town is Bridgend.

The highly respected campus of Bridgend College is located within the town, and our schools have a wealth of evidence demonstrating that they interact with their counterparts in Bridgend and not with the Rhondda.

Surely the rationale behind such boundary changes should be to sustain and ensure economic and cultural stability of Communities but the connecting of Pencoed to Rhondda through Gilfach Goch via the thinnest of strips of land with no vehicular link is just preposterous.

There are no direct rail or road links to the new Constituency from Pencoed. This is in contrast to the close proximity of Pencoed to Bridgend Town, with its associated road and public transport links, its strong affinity with The Town and shared social, local government health and commercial services and common bonds with various local faith communities.

When considering the map of the proposed boundary changes it is obvious that a much more simple and viable solution would be to replace Pencoed with the whole of the Ogmores Valley, which has far greater links with the Rhondda with two separate roads, the A4061 and the A4093, directly connecting it to the Rhondda Constituency. The Ogmores Valley also shares a border on the whole of its Eastern side with the Rhondda.

It is also the case that the communities of the Ogmores Valley I.E Nantymoel, Ogmores Vale and Blackmill have far more in common with neighbouring communities of the Rhondda in terms of economy, heritage and culture than Pencoed.

I trust you will give this the consideration it deserves.

[REDACTED]

**BCW-10675 / Cllr Andrew Davies / Llangadog**

I write to express my opposition to your proposed changes to electoral boundaries in Wales. Firstly, I see this as a significant erosion of our Welsh voice in Westminster. Of course, fewer Members of Parliament sitting in the House of Commons means a lesser voice for the people of Wales, and this is a blow to democracy.

Secondly, I do not want to see the erosion of the northern boundaries of the (*proposed*) Caerfyrddin constituency, and the 'contribution' of the relevant areas to Ceredigion. There is no justification for this, and these areas belong to Carmarthenshire.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr. Andrew Davies

(County Councillor for Llangadog ward, Carmarthenshire County Council).

**BCW-10676 / Cllr Arwel Davies / Carmarthenshire**

Good Morning

I refer to the consultation request of Parliamentary Review Revised Proposals and would state as follows.

I support the latest boundary review for Carmarthen but feel that the proposal submitted to include 3-4 northern wards in the Ceredigion Constituency would cause much confusion amongst voters. For instance, Cynwyl Gaeo is now part of Cilycwm Ward since the review of Electoral Arrangements of the County of Carmarthenshire/ Boundary Commission for Wales final recommendation report August 2019.

The residents of villages in Cilycwm, Llanwrda and Llansadwrn and surrounding areas have no affinity with Ceredigion.

Kind Regards

County Councillor Arwel Davies

**BCW-10677 / [REDACTED] / Unknown**

Dear Sir or Madam,

The revised proposals appear to have been well thought out. In particular Flint and Bagillt being transferred to the constituency to their East is preferable and the name East Clwyd rather than Delyn would be a better title.

[REDACTED]

## **BCW-10678 / Kevin Brennan MP / Cardiff**

Kevin Brennan MP response to the Revised Proposals of the 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales:

I strongly welcome the Commission's decision to retain its initial proposal for the Cardiff West constituency which involves the inclusion of Pont-y-clun. Through significant housing development in the north-west of the city, the ward of Pont-y-clun will develop strengthened local ties to the existing Cardiff West constituency. This will also ensure that the whole of the Cardiff West seat as it currently exists to the west of the River Taff is retained.

I also welcome the Commission's rejection of counterproposals from the Conservative Party, the Liberal Democrats and Plaid Cymru as well as the proposal of the Assistant Commissioner. Each of these would have inexplicably included wards to the east of the River Taff in the Cardiff West constituency, and/or to include wards to the west of the river in constituencies to its east, ignoring well-established community ties and transport connections.

I refer to my response to the previous consultation, which I include below, for more detailed objections to the above-referenced counterproposals.

The Commission's initial proposals successfully maintain the continuity, community ties and geographical boundaries of the existing Cardiff West constituency to the greatest extent possible.

BCW-10179/ Kevin Brennan MP/ Cardiff

Boundary Commission response to Counter Proposals for Cardiff West

Welsh Conservatives proposal

I wish to register my opposition in the strongest terms to the counter-proposal from the Welsh Conservatives with regard to the Cardiff West constituency.

This suggests (without any apparent compelling reasoning) removing Riverside ward, which is situated on the west of the River Taff, from the Cardiff West constituency. It also proposes

to add Llandaff North, which is situated on the east side of the River Taff, to the Cardiff West constituency.

It is difficult to discern any logic in these proposals in comparison with the Commission's initial proposal, which meets rule 5 criteria in terms of existing constituencies and geographical considerations by retaining the whole of the current Cardiff West seat located on the west of the River Taff.

The Commission adds Pontyclun to the North West part of the constituency where considerable new housing development is taking place which is strengthening local ties between Cardiff West and Pontyclun.

Riverside ward is in fact very different in character to the city centre, all of which is on the east of the Taff. The city centre consists mainly of commercial properties (shops, restaurants, bars, offices, the stadium, the castle, the railway station etc) with some city centre apartments. Riverside ward is mainly residential and despite its name extends a long way from the immediate vicinity of the river. South Riverside is one of Wales's most diverse areas, with very close local ties to neighbouring Canton with the district shopping area of Cowbridge Road East (which is also the main bus route) forming a spine linking the 2 wards.

Most local people go to shop along Cowbridge Road rather than the city centre. In fact the Riverside ward covers large parts of the area which most local residents would regard as Canton, ending as it does at Leckwith and Llandaff Roads. Where Canton and Riverside wards meet near the historic crossroads on Cowbridge Road East is the place local residents regard as the heart of the Canton community.

The Pontcanna part adds to Riverside ward's unique diversity by being the home to a large number Welsh speakers as increasingly is neighbouring Canton. Children from Riverside ward overwhelmingly attend schools in the west of the city. At secondary level predominantly they attend the highly diverse Fitzalan High School (Canton Ward), the Welsh medium Ysgol Gyfun Plasmawr (Fairwater), and Church in Wales Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales School (Llandaff).

Similarly the ties between Riverside ward and Llandaff are strong. The major public open space of Llandaff Fields is itself situated in Riverside Ward.

In practice there are no particularly strong community links across the river, as the residential areas of Riverside and the Cardiff Central residential areas are separated, not only by the Taff, but by the commercial city centre, the civic centre, and large swathes of park land.

Turning to the proposal for Llandaff North it is again difficult to see how this would be anywhere near as coherent as the Commission's original proposal. Llandaff and Llandaff North have little in common other than that they both contain the word Llandaff. They are on opposite sides of the river with a bridge situated well away from the housing in the Llandaff ward. The historic City of Llandaff is very distinct from the community of Llandaff North, which has its own district shopping centre. In practice the two communities are not strongly linked.

The Danescourt housing estate area of Llandaff ward, which also has its own shopping centre, is part of the catchment area for Radyr Comprehensive School with has no close links across to Llandaff North. Indeed Llandaff North's local ties are with the neighbouring areas of Whitchurch and Gabalfa on the east of the Taff, rather than Llandaff ward to the west. This proposal is therefore again inferior to the Commission's on Rule 5 criteria.

#### Liberal Democrats proposal

This suggestion would constitute a very radical departure from the Commission's criteria and create a seat that could not credibly be described as a Cardiff West constituency at all. It would appear to be an afterthought and consequential of changes that the Liberal Democrats are proposing elsewhere in Cardiff, rather than a coherent proposal for Cardiff West based on the Rule 5 criteria.

It would remove Radyr, which is closely linked to its neighbouring wards in Cardiff West and whose Comprehensive School mainly serves those wards e.g. Danescourt (Llandaff Ward) and Creigiau. Pentyrch also has strong links with Creigiau. The ongoing housing development in the area is strengthening the ties between these wards in Cardiff West. It makes little sense to carve them out just as they are becoming more closely tied by new housing.

The addition of Llanharan, Llanharry and Brynna wards makes no sense at all, as they have no ties with Cardiff West. They appear to have been added here purely to make up the numbers and reach the quota, rather than to meet the criteria in rule 5, particularly geographical considerations, existing constituencies and local ties.

I therefore oppose changing the Boundary Commission proposal for Cardiff West. As a consequence I see no need to change the proposals for Cardiff as a whole which enables 4 coherent Parliament constituencies to be retained for Wales' Capital City.

For ease of reference I reproduce my original submission below.

'I have consistently argued, with the support of local constituents, in recent boundary reviews that it is desirable to retain a parliamentary seat located to the west of the River Taff, reflecting the community and transport connections of Cardiff West.

The Commission in its proposals has in slightly different forms supported that approach in its most recent proposals. The latest draft proposal returns to a previous approach supported by the Commission by adding the ward of Pontyclun. Although this lies outwith the boundaries of the City and County of Cardiff, it does reflect the recent housing development in the north-west of the constituency which extends in the direction of Pontyclun. Given the constraints that the Commission is working under it is difficult to see how any alternative proposal would meet the principles the Commission is required to follow without significantly affecting the coherence of parliamentary representation across Cardiff as a whole.

I therefore not only support the proposals for Cardiff West, but for Cardiff as a whole.'

## **BCW-10679 / Chris Evans MP & Rhianon Passmore MS / Islwyn**

Thank you for making the 2023 Review of the Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales revised proposals available. As the two national representatives of Islwyn, we wish to make a further submission of evidence to the Commission having received the revised proposals.

The changes set out in the new proposals will see the Islwyn Constituency split in two between the new seat of Islwyn and Newport West and Caerphilly. We must say that we are extremely disappointed that the Commission reached this conclusion.

Having studied the reasoning, we believe that there are strong grounds for the Commission to revisit these proposals. This is predicated on a number of issues as addressed in our original submission to the Commission which supported the commission's original proposal. Further to this, we would like to reiterate our view that there is no traditional link geographically, socially or culturally between Pontllanfraith, Cefn Forest and Pengam with Caerphilly town. All three wards were a part of the Islwyn Valleys Borough Council and not Caerphilly.

In transcripts of the oral evidence, deep concern was raised that there is very little that rural Argoed has in common with the diverse city of Newport.

Islwyn has long identified as a mining constituency and many constituents have been in touch with their fears that they would not be properly represented by a Member of Parliament who needs to balance the concerns of people in an urban city and people who live in rural towns or villages. Having read the Commission's own evidence, we would also note that neither the Welsh Conservatives nor Welsh Labour opposed the original proposals.

Further to this, Plaid Cymru and the Liberal Democrats came up with alternative proposals that the Commission disregarded. Newport West Labour Party also proposed changes that the Commission yet again disregarded. We find it difficult to understand why these proposals were not considered, whilst those of Caerphilly were. You will note from the original pack of evidence a consensus that the Islwyn Labour Party, alongside ourselves as the Member of the Senedd and Member of Parliament for Islwyn, supported the original proposals alongside the two national political parties. In accepting the original proposal, we wonder what has materially changed to alter the commission's position?

Islwyn in its entirety was supportive of the proposals and with the original evidence that there is a stronger link between the Caerphilly Constituency and Newport through Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen than there is with Islwyn. This is further evidenced by the main town of Caerphilly being geographically closer to Newport than the main town of Islwyn, Blackwood. We hope that the Commission will revisit these proposals and revert to the original accepted proposals, which we wholeheartedly supported and would be best for participatory democracy, citizens and wider population acceptance.

We look forward to your comments.



Chris Evans MP

Rhianon Passmore MS

**BCW-10680 / [REDACTED] / Caernarfon**

Not happy to have half the Arfon constituency to be named as Dwyfor Meirionnydd and to lose Arfon all together it's like a loss of identity - why the need for change?

I would rather it stayed the same - surely a change of this magnitude across Wales is going to cost money that could be put to better use in the current climate.

**BCW-10681 / [REDACTED] / Welshpool**

I support the draft proposal for the Montgomeryshire & Glyndwr Constituency. Local feeling is very strong in support for this proposal, as it helps ensure that representative democracy can continue by making our constituencies more balanced, ensuring all of us have a greater, and more equal say in the governing of the UK.

In addition, this is a great solution in maintaining the historic status of Montgomeryshire, which has been represented in Parliament since 1542. The addition of parts of Clwyd South also helps to rebalance the demographic anomalies that exist due to the population changes over the last twenty years whilst helping increase our connections to people we are already closely connected to.

I support the proposal.

**BCW-10682 / [REDACTED] / Machynlleth**

I think that the proposed area to include where I live makes much more sense than Powys, which covers such a huge area geographically

**BCW-10683 / [REDACTED] / Abergavenny**

The changes to the representation of Wales in the Westminster Parliament should be accompanied by a corresponding (or greater) increase in the number of members in the Welsh Senedd. I am very mistrustful of the Westminster government's reasons for changing representation in this way, and suspect that there are purely political motives behind the whole process, to make it easier for the Conservatives to hold on to power. Alas, my attitude to the so-called consultation process is equally cynical. The whole charade will not make the slightest difference to the final schemes.

**BCW-10684 / [REDACTED] / Newtown**

The Boundary Commission decision to keep Montgomery intact will ensure Montgomeryshire will remain under a new Montgomeryshire & Glyndwr constituency, this has my full support.

To the Boundary Commission,

We are writing on behalf of the Cathays Branch Labour Party following the revised proposals from the Boundary Commission for Wales. Our position is that we support the initial proposals and oppose the revised proposals which will see Cathays moved to Cardiff South and Penarth and Trowbridge retained in Cardiff South and Penarth.

The proposal contained within the Secondary Consultation moved Rumney and Llanrumney into a new Cardiff Central and left Trowbridge in Cardiff South and Penarth. This proposal meets the Commission's Rule 5 and involves only two wards moving from their existing constituencies, as opposed to the four that are moved in the revised version. 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 since 1950.

### COMMUNITY LINKS

The Commission received one submission suggesting this change. The Commission received many other alternative solutions. The Commission received dozens of responses backing the keeping of Cathays and the other wards within the wider Roath community in the same constituency.

Moving 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 Boundary Commission for Wales, 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." and she also said "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." These statements seem to bear no resemblance to the proposal that has denied Cathays residents proper consultation and has ignored clear community links. Cathays has no community links with the wards in Cardiff South and Penarth whereas Cathays and Plasnewydd 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.
- 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.

Thank you for reading our objection to the proposals that we believe ignore long-standing community links and go against the Boundary Commission Wales Secretary's own statements.

Thank you again.

██████████ Chair of Cathays Branch Labour Party

██████████ Treasurer of Cathays Branch Labour Party

**BCW-10686 / [REDACTED] / Abermule**

I can't comment on how the proposals affect other areas of Wales, as I don't live in them, but I am glad to see that the proposed boundaries will keep Montgomeryshire intact and not carved up.

**BCW-10687 / [REDACTED] / Welshpool**

You need to keep the name of our county as Montgomeryshire.

**BCW-10688 / [REDACTED] / Welshpool**

I am writing to you in support of your proposed boundary change to our Montgomeryshire Constituency, expanding the area to include parts of Clwyd South.

When I addressed you at your hearing in Wrexham earlier this year I also suggested a change to the proposed name, from Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr to Montgomeryshire and the Vales. This recognises the valleys of Ceiriog and Llangollen and, as a reference based upon location, I believe is more inclusive. I do hope that you are able to reconsider the name.

**BCW-10689 / [REDACTED] / Pencoed**

I do not agree to the proposal to remove Pencoed and Heol-Y-Cyw from Bridgend County Borough Council and make it part of Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Pencoed has strong links and infrastructure with Bridgend County Borough and is close in proximity to Bridgend Town.

I do not see that there will be any benefit to residents in moving from BCBC to RCT. It seems an awful lot of costly bureaucratic changes for absolutely no gain for the residents. A waste of time, effort and money. Surely there are better things to focus on then moving boundaries just for the sake of it.

**BCW-10690 / [REDACTED] / Caernarfon**

Based on population, the changes may make sense, but the size of the constituency makes an MP's work almost impossible. Once again, we are being punished for living in rural Wales.

The Westminster government needs to realise that there is more to politics than just the House of Commons in London. It is ordinary people who are important.

**BCW-10691 / [REDACTED] / Welshpool**

I wish to fully support the proposal recently published by The Boundary Commissioners in relation to the new Montgomeryshire Glyndwr constituency..

I feel that this justifiably retains the ancient seat within mid-Wales and also adds to its present boundary part of Clwyd South which will enhance the present constituency with particular regard to farming and tourism.

**BCW-10692 / [REDACTED] / Dolgarrog**

I do understand that these boundaries are based on population but this leaves some, like my ward very large and very diverse. It will mean more travelling time will be eating in to the time our representative can spend working for their constituents. On that basis I believe them to be unfair and unbalanced.

**BCW-10693 / [REDACTED] / Meifod**

The Boundary Commission for Wales has a difficult job and has recognised the Historic old County of Montgomeryshire. I fully support the Commissions proposal.

**BCW-10694 / [REDACTED] / Machynlleth**

Machynlleth and Bro Ddyfi are predominantly Welsh. I believe we have more in common with Ceredigion or Arfon Dwyfor. To include this area with south east Clwyd shows staggering misunderstanding of the geographical and cultural situation of the constituency and has obviously been completed by people who have little understanding nor concern for the area. It is also sad to have representation. If I have to be represented in London I want that done properly. This is a time when the UK government are eroding the powers of Welsh Government and planning less representation for my constituency in London. I would prefer full representation in Cardiff and independence from England/the UK government.

**BCW-10695 / [REDACTED] / Blackwood**

I object to the merger of a small valleys constituency like Islwyn with a coastal city.

There are no strategic benefits to the people of Islwyn with this proposal and it risks all political influence and investment attention gravitating towards the largest municipal and population centre, which is the city of Newport.

This proposal does not take into account the socioeconomic imbalance between the two present constituencies and therefore risks alienating and further embedding inequalities in public service provision within already deprived valleys communities.

My preference is that Islwyn remains an independent constituency.

However, Islwyn and it's communities would be better served with a merger with an adjacent valleys constituency such as Caerffili, Blaenau Gwent or Torfaen should the need for a merger be unavoidable.

**BCW-10696 / [REDACTED] / Pontardawe**

Placing Pontardawe and the upper Swansea Valley in the same constituency as north Powys is completely nonsensical. There is no connection between the Swansea Valley and areas on the other side of the Brecon Beacons.

**BCW-10697 / [REDACTED] / Wrexham**

Whilst I understand the brief is to equalise numbers as far as possible, the villages of Rhos, Jonstown, and Penycae are tied historically, and culturally, to the North East Wales coalfield, and to Wrexham, and it is difficult to identify local ties to the bulk of the proposed, and strangely named, Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr seat. I therefore fail to understand the logic of this proposal.

[REDACTED]

**BCW-10698 / [REDACTED] / Newport**

It is appreciated that with Monmouthshire and Torfaen having the correct number of electors in their existing local authority areas it makes sense for these to be constituencies and thus it becomes inevitable that Newport is left with an unfortunate division between two constituencies weaving through the city centre. This is to be regretted but understandable given the constraints placed on this review.

I can see a logic in linking places such as Risca and Newbridge with Newport, they are included in the ONS urban area footprint of Newport.

However, as one gets further north into Islwyn there is some awkward geography with Blackwood being separated from Pontllanfraith despite the two settlements being adjacent and similar. One possible alternative to this would be for the wards of Blackwood, Argoed, and Penmaen to be included in Caerphilly constituency. To balance the numbers it would then be feasible for Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen ward and St James ward to be included in the Newport West and Islwyn seat. While St James does have a fringe that is in effect part of Caerphilly town, the majority of St James is similar in character to Graig. This change would also unite Machen with lower Machen.

As I live in Newport, I will give way to opposing views in the Caerphilly part of the constituency if those respondents feel I have misrepresented their communities, but based on my own knowledge this small amendment which is consistent with the electorate numbers appears a reasonable improvement on the proposals.



I'm commenting on the revised proposals from the Boundary Commission for Wales published on Wednesday 19th November. In particular the proposal to move the ward of Cathays into Cardiff South and Penarth. I completely oppose this move. The ward of Cathays is an integral part of Roath and is therefore intrinsically linked to the other wards that form part of the community of Roath; Penylan, Adamsdown, and especially Plasnewydd. A more natural fit is 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. The Commission should revert to this original proposal.

Maintaining this natural fit 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 from Plasnewydd.

The Commission received only one submission (from a resident based in Altrincham, 178 miles from the Cathays) suggesting this change. The Commission received dozens of responses (from residents of Cardiff) backing keeping Cathays, Plasnewydd, Penylan and Adamsdown within the wider Roath community in the same constituency.

Moving 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 is disingenuous, and not within 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 absurd and will not be understood by the electorate. However, Cathays, Plasnewydd, Penylan and Adamsdown have many community ties:

- 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-10700 / [REDACTED] / Pencader**

Thank you for the recent review by the Boundary Commission in Wales, I support the review regarding Carmarthenshire.

I do not agree with the submitted recommendation suggesting that 3 or 4 wards in north Carmarthenshire should be moved to the Ceredigion constituency and that the constituency should be called Ceredigion a Dyffryn Teifi.

Such a change would create confusion for the electorate, the existing border follows the river Teifi and is clear to all.

The fact that the residents of the two counties move from one to the other in order to access relevant facilities is something that is acceptable to all and this is the situation across the country.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

**BCW-10701 / [REDACTED] / Pencoed**

Want to stay in Bridgend county, don't understand why it would even be changed. The next stop on the train is Bridgend so why would we be considered Rhondda?

**BCW-10702 / [REDACTED] / Gower**

I feel that "Gower" itself, being a rural and farming area, with tourism also a part of the area, is being overwhelmed by leaving the areas around Waunarlwydd/Grovesend, and the North West of Swansea City Centre incorporated into Gower, especially at the same time as adding a further highly populated area of Sketty, Fforestfach, and surrounding areas into it. These areas have entirely different values in my opinion and it will be impossible for anyone to represent the people as a whole when there is such a wide range of needs. I feel the area will have inbuilt problems that cannot be represented by one person. The people who live in Gower (the area not the constituency boundary) need to have better representation as an area in itself, I feel this proposal will mean Gower will be lost as an area and so will the people who make it into a place people want to visit, work, and live in.

I am writing following the publication of the revised proposals from the Boundary Commission for Wales. I write to oppose the proposal to move the ward of Cathays into Cardiff South and Penarth. The ward of Cathays has strong links to the remaining wards in the wider community of Roath; namely Penylan, Plasnewydd, Cyncoed and Adamsdown.

Cathays to Adamsdown and the surrounding communities, that make Roath is a unique, vibrant and multicultural area of Cardiff. There is a large arts community in these areas, bolstered by the student community that traditionally lives in Cathays.

Made in Roath is a community arts organisation that was set up to celebrate the vibrant community and show cases the range of talent from Cathays, Penylan, Plasnewydd, Cyncoed and Adamsdown

I feel the Commission should return to the original proposal, the ward of Cathays is in Cardiff Central / Cardiff East and the ward of Trowbridge becomes part of Cardiff South and Penarth. The proposal meets Rule 5 and involves only two wards moving from their existing constituencies, opposed to the four that are moved in the revised proposals.

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 this 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.

All previous Boundary Commissions have recognised the close links between Cathays, Plasnewydd and Penylan and have looked to ensure that those areas have been within the same Parliamentary seat for more than sixty years.

The Commission in its previous aborted reviews since 2010 have never looked to separate Cathays and Plasnewydd.

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

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 very strange, with the needs of communities being very different.

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, Adamsdown. It is common for these students when leaving university to then settle down in Roath.

- 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. Sharing many of the same community facilities, such as the Mackintosh Centre, Roath Recreational ground ect..
- The public transport links that are shared between Cathays and Plasnewydd, are long-standing.
- 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 this Commission will now overturn the revised proposals and return to the initial proposal, the ward of Cathays is in Cardiff Central / Cardiff East and the ward of Trowbridge becomes part of Cardiff South and Penarth.

**BCW-10704 / [REDACTED] / Risca**

I broadly agree with the Newport West Islwyn boundary as CCBC has been a disaster for the former Islwyn area. However, I think Newport West and Lower Islwyn, as far as Crosskeys would be a better northerly extent. Caerphilly, Bedwas and Machen areas would be better linked to Cardiff.

**BCW-10705 / [REDACTED] / Maesycwmmmer**

I would propose Maesycwmmmer stays in Islwyn constituency our village is in close proximity to the area and would be swallowed up by a big area of Caerphilly constituency.

**BCW-10706 / [REDACTED] / Llanybydder**

I write to object to Ceredigion's proposal of boundary changes and the creation of "Ceredigion and Dyffryn Teifi".

The original proposals as published by the commission for the Caerfyrddin boundary accurately reflect the genuine connections of Llanybydder with its neighbouring Carmarthenshire wards and take account of the history and local geography - including the river network.

Indeed the inclusion of Highmead Terrace, Llanybydder within Caerfyrddin would be much more prudent and beneficial to those residents as they often declare they are neglected by Ceredigion. Their inclusion in Llanybydder would certainly support those residents and the exceptional work Carmarthen is doing to work on local flood defences, as praised recently at consultation meetings!

The residents of Llanybydder do not wish to be subsumed into Ceredigion.

**BCW-10707 / [REDACTED] / Neath**

I believe now would be a good time too disband Coed Franc council to save money and hopefully reduce council tax in our area.

**BCW-10708 / [REDACTED] / Pontllanfraith**

Other than being part of Caerphilly Council, Pontllanfraith has no historical connection or current affinity with Caerphilly. Historically it has always been Islwyn. Our main retail and commerce area has been and always will be Blackwood which under your proposals will remain part of Islwyn whilst Pontllanfraith moves to Caerphilly. It seems ludicrous and totally unnecessary to change the status quo which has worked successfully for so many years. Islwyn as a Borough has already been lost and absorbed by a Council that had no relationship with Islwyn. Let's not make the same mistake again by changing the constituency boundaries unnecessarily.

**BCW-10709 / [REDACTED] / Llanybydder**

Llanybydder is unfortunately split by the counties of Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion and with the majority of Llanybydder coming under Carmarthenshire including the livestock market, school, shops, Doctors surgery and Churches.

Due to this I believe the boundary should be moved for the village to be covered by Carmarthenshire rather than Ceredigion and the boundary line being drawn up on the roundabout on the B4338 West side of the river beyond the Llanybydder village sign therefore the caravan site and quoits area and Highmead Terrace would come under Carmarthenshire.

Although this has not been a major issue in the past it has been noticed that the area of the village covered by Ceredigion has been more neglected than the Carmarthenshire area for reasons unknown to myself.

I don't suggest this with a political view but only for the sake of the village and it's continual development improvements by the various village communities and council.

To correspond with one CC and to cover all village residents would be the sensible and less complex way to go and would speed up any proposals or requests made for community improvements and events.

**BCW-10710 / [REDACTED] / Llantrisant**

Name of constituency should be Pontypridd and Llantrisant. Furthest southwest community Brynna should be with the Rhondda constituency as the current proposal leaves a bit of a mess between the south if the Rhondda seat and the south west of my constituency.

Has the commission talent in to consideration the expected population growth in the Creigau and Radyr wards of the large moungnif new housing to the north west of the city centre. A development which will increase the population of Cardiff West significantly, prior to moving Miskin and Pontyclun in to Cardiff West?

**BCW-10711 / [REDACTED] / Colwyn Bay**

Not happy. Do not want to be in Clwyd North which will be dominated by Denbighshire towns and see separation of Colwyn Bay and Rhos on Sea. Ludicrous as Colwyn Bay and Rhos on Sea are practically one anyway.

**BCW-10712 / [REDACTED] / Crosskeys**

With reference to moving part of Islwyn in with Newport.

I totally disagree that part of Islwyn should be married with Newport. this should not happen. The city Newport and the valleys have nothing in common. Neither from my experience do the people get on, as there appears to be a total disconnection with their daily lives.

The Ebbw train line runs from Ebbw to Cardiff and is well used, running through Islwyn, with no connection to Newport. The A467 runs through Islwyn circumnavigating Risca, Crosskeys to Ebbw vale. comes from the M4 Motorway and is connected equally, and extremely well used from both Cardiff and Newport. Other roads are feeder roads from both cities to Risca the start of Islwyn.

Islwyn (an ancient name from Myndd Islwyn - a local mountain and used by our famous poet Islwyn, of Ynysddu) has already been swallowed up when becoming Caerphilly, but our ancient ward still stands. To get rid of our MP representative, who understands the area and people - will be a disservice to all of Islwyn.

As a council tenant, and a representative volunteer of tenants in the Caerphilly council housing department, I voted along with many to stay under a council regime. I do not wish to go under any other regimes, nor do many. Here in Caerphilly we have a better chance to be managed properly, than that of being part of a city.

**BCW-10713 / [REDACTED] / Builth Wells**

I fully support any proposals to reduce the number of democratically elected members. We have far too many at present.



Llŵchwr Town Council wishes to make the following comments-

The Revised Recommendations report acknowledges that a counter proposal was submitted stating 'the Commission is sympathetic to the alternative arrangements proposed. However, the Commission did not feel that the evidence received justified the splitting of the Community of Mumbles and as part of the counter-proposal, the Community of Mumbles would be split across the proposed Gower and Swansea West, and Swansea Central constituencies'.

The Town Council wishes to submit a counter-proposal to the Revised Recommendations to the effect that the Pontarddulais, Penllergaer, Llangyfelach and Mawr wards (total electorate 12,891) would be included in Gower and Swansea West and the Sketty ward (electorate 11,304) would be included in Swansea Central and North.

This would:

- address the lack of geographic cohesion of the proposed Swansea Central and North
- be within the numeric quota within which the Boundary Commission is to operate
- recognise the historic administrative, social, economic and geographic links between Pontarddulais, Mawr, Penllergaer and Llangyfelach wards with the Gower constituency, being wards that were all previously within the Borough of Lliw Valley
- recognise the historic administrative, social, economic and geographic links between Sketty and the centre of Swansea
- Use a natural boundary (Hendrefoilan woods, Nant yr Olchfa and Clyne Valley woods) as the boundary between the two constituencies, thus avoiding the constituency boundary crossing the continuous urban area which forms much of the boundary between Sketty and Uplands.

**BCW-10715 / [REDACTED] Landore Cwmbwrla Labour Party/ Swansea**

I am the Labour Party branch secretary of Landore Cwmbwrla ward. This branch has been joined as a branch for over 20 years.

During a recent meeting our members noted that Landore and Cwmbwrla are to be split into the two new boundaries with Landore going into Swansea East Neath and Cwmbwrla into Swansea Central North.

We are extremely disappointed in the decision to split our branch.

I feel we will lose our identity as we are so closely linked with similar issues uniting the two wards. It seems inconceivable that the two wards are to be split in this matter and would have made more sense to keep Landore this side of the Tawe river being the most natural split of the new boundary.

I would urge you to reconsider this decision given the impact it will have on the two communities and of course a branch which has been a thriving and united branch for over 20 years.

**BCW-10716 / [REDACTED] / Meifod**

I write to support the proposed changes to the constituency of Montgomeryshire, as the least worst option which importantly retains Montgomeryshire in its entirety. The county of Montgomeryshire is historically and socially important, and I am only able to support the proposed changes because this has been recognised by the Commission. My preferred name for the new constituency would be Montgomeryshire and the Vales.

## Neath Port Talbot Greens Response to Boundary Commission

As a point of principle, the Neath Port Talbot Green Party fundamentally opposes the reduction of MPs from 650 to 600 while still having a unelected chamber in Westminster. In Wales we are losing 20% of our democratically elected MPs, thus losing our voice in Westminster. The UK is in need of true democratic reform.

That being said, unless the Government decides not to proceed with the proposed reduction of MPs the plans, in some form, will be taken forward. As a result, below are the views of NPT Greens regarding the revised boundaries published in October 2022.

### General

Neath Port Talbot currently have two constituencies within the County Borough. It would be looked upon more favourably if one or two of the proposed constituencies could have been accommodated within the Borough boundary. However, residents of Neath Port Talbot have been carved into three neighbouring Councils, Bridgend, Powys and Swansea. Therefore, this attempt is seen as a high-level mathematical exercise rather than a true attempt to try and draw constituencies with social cohesion at their heart.

### Brecon, Radnor and Cam Tawe

There are longstanding connections between Pontardawe, Neath and Swansea in terms of local connections, local government, public services and culture. The Cwmtawe area is ex industrial and semi-rural with some urban areas with high deprivation, which is similar to the rest of Neath port Talbot and not similar with Powys which is far more rural. The Cwmtawe area has a high number of Welsh speakers, which south Powys does not, so culturally Cwmtawe is different to South Powys. This is all besides the fact that the new boundary area is vast, with a long mountain road between the rest of it and Cwmtawe which is often impassible in winter months. This move would alienate constituents from their MP and from representation in Parliament. This is a desk exercise to move numbers of electors around which will have a negative effect on the ability of Cwmtawe residents to actively engage with democracy.

### Neath and Swansea East

The initial proposal published in September 2021, included Coedffranc Central, Coedffranc West and Coedffranc North within the proposed Neath and Swansea East constituency. Whilst the decision to reduce the quantum of Westminster constituencies in Wales is opposed, the outcome to locate 'the Coedffrancs' in the proposed Neath and Swansea East constituency was the most logical.

Residents of Coedffranc have a Swansea landline number and most closely affiliate with the town of Neath. Through a social cohesion perspective, it is most rational to locate the Coedffrancs in the proposed Neath and Swansea East constituency. To

choose to put 'the Coedffrancs' to in the Aberafan and Porthcawl Constituency is unsound and unreasonable through a social cohesion perspective. Whilst geographically also illogical as there are many physical barriers which influence residents of Coedffranc to go to Neath or Swansea above Port Talbot, Aberafan or Porthcawl. Therefore, NPT Greens would urge the boundary commission to revert back to the initial proposal published in September 2021.

#### Aberafan and Porthcawl

Geographically, the Coedffrancs are isolated from the remainder of the proposed constituency as the Neath River physically separates the settlements of Skewen, Llandarcy, Jersey Marine and Crymlyn Burrows from Aberafan and Porthcawl. NPT Greens would urge the boundary commission to revert back to the initial proposal published in September 2021.

With the exception of the above, and noting that it is not our preference to merge constituencies, the allocation of Porthcawl with Aberafan seems the least worse option. Though, this proposal also lacks the physical and social links required have a cohesive constituency.

**BCW-10718 / [REDACTED] / Pencoed**

I am a resident of the town of Pencoed and object in the strongest possible terms to the inclusion of the town within the proposed new Rhondda parliamentary constituency. In addition, I find the timescale given to submit these views, on what is a vitally important matter which has an impact on the future of the town in which I live, to be wholly inadequate and unacceptable. If there is a serious desire to obtain the honest, considered, and open views from individuals, groups and organisations on this proposed change then far more time should have been allotted. None of the previous proposals had suggested that Pencoed be included within the Rhondda boundary so to then see the huge change suggested here is a complete shock and surprise.

For over a century the people of Pencoed have identified with Bridgend and not with the Rhondda, indeed our postal town is Bridgend. We have a campus of the highly respected Bridgend College located within the town. Our schools have a wealth of evidence to show that they interact with their counterparts in Bridgend and not with the Rhondda.

Surely the rationale behind any boundary changes should be to ensure the economic and cultural stability of communities but the connecting of Pencoed to Rhondda through Gilfach Goch via the thinnest of strips of land with no vehicular link is just preposterous. There are no direct rail or road links to the new constituency from Pencoed.

When considering the map of the proposed boundary changes it is obvious that a much more simple and viable solution would be to replace Pencoed with the whole of the Ogmore Valley which has far greater links with the Rhondda with two separate roads, the A4061 and the A4093, directly connecting it to the Rhondda constituency. The Ogmore Valley also shares a border on the whole of its eastern side with the Rhondda. It is also the case that the communities of the Ogmore Valley i.e., Nantymoel, Ogmore Vale and Blackmill have far more in common with the neighbouring communities of the Rhondda in terms of economy, heritage and culture than Pencoed.

I trust you will give this the consideration it deserves.

**BCW-10719 / [REDACTED] / Blackwood**

I live in Cefn Fforest which has been part of the Islwyn constituency since its inception in 1983. Your revised proposals destroys our long standing identity, and totally disregards the natural geography of these valley towns. Your original proposal to keep Cefn Fforest in Islwyn, and retain Islwyn as a constituency was far more logical and practical than the revised proposal that will keep Caerphilly as a constituency and move Cefn Fforest into it.

Cefn Fforest has no link to the Caerphilly constituency, and Pengam which will also be detached from Islwyn, is separated from it by a natural river boundary. These new proposals also completely ignore the close proximity of Cefn Fforest to Blackwood. These are adjacent, cohesive wards. Yet these proposals will separate these adjacent wards, because under this new plan, Blackwood will remain in Islwyn.

That is manifestly unjust, especially as there are no physical boundaries between these wards to allow for such a detachment. These revised proposals also detach Pontllanfraith, a ward that runs right through the Islwyn constituency. How on earth does detaching this ward meet the specified criteria?

I note previous objections to aligning Caerphilly with Newport West, but the stark reality is that if any merger has to take place with Newport West, then it surely has to be with those parts of Caerphilly which border it. In your most recent report, you say you have decided to reverse your original decision to link parts of the Caerphilly constituency with Newport West because there was a 'passionate' defence of that constituency. Well if that is the case then a passionate defence of Islwyn should see the original proposals being re-instated!

Moreover, stripping out wards such as Cefn Fforest from Islwyn and merging the remaining wards with somewhere as distant and unrelated as Newport West, shows criteria doesn't matter, geographical links do not matter, long standing identity and heritage do not matter. There simply is no justification to split up the Islwyn constituency in this manner, which detaches wards such as Cefn Fforest and Pengam and Pontllanfraith from it and tears apart historically linked communities.

I trust in the interest of fairness, you will look again at this plan and revert back to your former proposals and retain the Islwyn constituency.

**BCW-10720 / [REDACTED] / Neath**

To locate Skewen in the constituency of Aberafan has always been an area of confusion for the residents of Coedffranc Central. We have a close affinity with the town of Neath and identify with that area more than Aberafan, Port Talbot or even Porthcawl. While the decision to reduce MPs is disappointing as we will lose a certain level of scrutiny in our democracy, the decision to initially place the 'Coedffrancs' in the proposed Neath and Swansea East constituency seemed the most logical. So, to my surprise when the revised plans relocated the Coedffrancs from Neath and Swansea East to Aberafan and Porthcawl it gave the perception to me and many residents that this is merely a desk-based exercise generated on mathematics and not social cohesion.

The most logical output would be to restore the 'Coedffrancs' in the Neath and Swansea East constituency. I would strongly urge the commission to do this.

**BCW-10721 / [REDACTED] / Wrexham**

why are we in Johnstown being put into the Powis constituency, we are nowhere near them, we are part of Wrexham it is within walking distance to Johnstown, please look again at this and leave us in Wrexham

**BCW-10722 / [REDACTED] / Skewen**

I would like to object that Coedffranc ward being put in with Port Talbot/ Bridgend ward.

No one in the ward identifies with Port Talbot/ Bridgend, it was a mistake in the first place being put into their ward we have no affiliation with them at all.

**BCW-10723 / [REDACTED] / Neath Port Talbot**

I have concerns about the boundary changes overall and the impact that this will have on democracy in reducing the amount of MPs and creating larger constituencies. As a resident of Coedffranc Central in Skewen and a County Borough Councillor I do feel that local residents may feel that they are more closely related to the Neath constituency than that of Aberavon and Porthcawl. Although I do appreciate that there may be differing views from the Swansea East ward in relation to Skewen joining but I would have thought that Skewen would have been more closely attached to Neath in terms of location and transport links.

**BCW-10724 / [REDACTED] Returning Officer for Swansea / Swansea**

The Returning Officer within Swansea favours the Assistant Commissioners proposals as they are closer aligned to the way in which the public view communities. The revised proposals take no account of existing communities. The revised proposals will lead to voter confusion with boundaries crisscrossing other electoral boundaries.

The use of defunct Wards needs to be addressed and the proposals updated to reflect the Wards used in the Local Government Elections in May 2022. This affects areas within the former Castle, Mawr & St Thomas Wards. Any revised proposal must include the boundary changes as used in May 2022. Finally, bringing Landore into Neath and Swansea East is confusing. The current river boundary should be retained as a natural boundary.

**BCW-10725 / [REDACTED] / Swansea**

I strongly object to the proposal to include the Swansea and Amman Valleys in the Brecon, Radnor and Cwm-Tawe ward. All of our local links are with Neath and Swansea, not Brecon. We would be a ridiculous distance from our elected representative's office. The Swansea and Amman Valleys have a very different character to Powys - more Welsh speaking, more deprived, and with a far less rural economy. An MP elected to represent the majority of the constituency will not represent us.

While it is true that Ystradgynlais has more in common with the Swansea Valley than it does with the rest of Powys, historically Ystradgynlais was always part of Brecknockshire while the Swansea Valley has always been part of Glamorganshire and its successor bodies. There is a stronger argument for including Ystradgynlais in a constituency to the south, as admitted in your proposal report. From that report it is obvious that you accept that the inclusion of the Swansea and Amman Valleys in the new constituency is far less than ideal from a geographical and cultural standpoint, but changing the boundaries would make the numbers too difficult for the surrounding areas. We appear to be acceptable collateral damage, which frankly is not good enough for an exercise that's supposed to be about improving democratic representation.

**BCW-10726 / [REDACTED] Maesycwmmmer Community Council / Maesycwmmmer**

The Community Council wish to object to the proposal to split the constituency of Islwyn.

None of the proposals for splitting and merging different parts make sense in regards to geographical / historical consistency.

We echo the concerns raised by Wayne David MP.



## **BCW-10727 / Cllr Lises / Pontypridd**

The Assistant Commissioners Report, published in 2022 makes reference to a number of Essential or Other Statutory Factors at page 7. Equal weighting was given to each, including coterminosity, namely that the boundaries of existing constituencies and their alignment with principal local authority areas. Other factors include any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies and the inconveniences such changes create and the avoidance of creating any new constituencies with 'detached parts'. This process also helps to make boundaries which are coherent and recognizable in communities. This report makes reference to trying to act as sensibly as possible rather than 'simply bolting on communities such as Taffs Well and Pontyclun to make up the numbers." (P.16).

Electoral administrators also made representations that; "the less there are coterminous boundaries between constituencies and principal local authorities, the more complex it becomes in administrative terms." (P.24)

However, the final proposals appear to have thrown these sorts of considerations out of the window in relation to some of the new constituency areas which will cover the county area of RCTCBC. Often, it does appear as though a ward has just been 'bolted on' to make up the numbers with no thought as to the links etc between wards/counties etc. The 'semi-detached' area added to the Rhondda constituency is the oddest part of all.

The RCTCBC Taff's Well ward, on its own is going into Cardiff North constituency. It seems odd to have it just on its own. The RCTCBC Pontyclun ward is going into Cardiff West constituency, again on its own. Taffs Well ward doesn't really have much in common with the other Cardiff North wards but more in common with the other wards in the Cardiff West constituency eg Pentyrch/Creigiau. It will also mean that the only college offering sixth form education in the whole of the Taf valley comes under a different MP.

However, in the Rhondda constituency – this does not follow the guidelines. As noted above as there is a 'detached' part, it seems very odd to include the Pencoed/Velindre/Hendre area and they may sit better in one of the other adjoining wards.

Llanharan and Brynna, from the same local authority, with more of a geographical connection to the Rhondda constituency than the Pencoed/Velindre/Hendre which are in a different local authority. It wouldn't make much difference to the figures of the Pontypridd constituency if Llanharan and Brynna were removed from the Pontypridd constituency and added into the Rhondda constituency.

Nantymoel and the Garw valley could be included in this constituency as they have much more in common than Pencoed etc.

## **BCW-10728 / Cllr Lises / Pontypridd**

The Assistant Commissioners Report, published in 2022 makes reference to a number of Essential or Other Statutory Factors at page 7. Equal weighting was given to each, including coterminosity, namely that the boundaries of existing constituencies and their alignment with principal local authority areas. Other factors include any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies and the inconveniences such changes create. This is emphasised on this consultation page where it is stated; "What is most valuable to us is evidence from the local area of community ties, which we can balance against this need to ensure the right amount of electors in each constituency." Another factor that is mentioned is that the creation of constituencies with 'detached parts' should be avoided. This process also helps to make boundaries which are coherent and recognizable in communities. This report makes reference to trying to act as sensibly as possible rather than 'simply bolting on communities such as Taffs Well and Pontyclun to make up the numbers." (P.16).

Electoral administrators also made representations that; "the less there are coterminous boundaries between constituencies and principal local authorities, the more complex it becomes in administrative terms." (P.24)

However, the final proposals appear to have thrown these sorts of considerations out of the window in relation to some of the new constituency areas which will cover the county area of RCTCBC. Often, it does appear as though a ward has just been 'bolted on' to make up the numbers with no thought as to the links etc between wards/counties etc. The 'semi-detached' area added to the Rhondda constituency is the oddest part of all.

As noted above as there is a 'detached' part, it seems very odd to include the Pencoed/Velindre/Hendre area and they may sit better in one of the other adjoining constituencies.

Additionally, Llanharan and Brynna, from the same local authority, with more of a geographical connection to the Rhondda constituency than the Pencoed/Velindre/Hendre which are in a different local authority. It wouldn't make much difference to the figures of the Pontypridd constituency if Llanharan and Brynna were removed from the Pontypridd constituency and added into the Rhondda constituency. Nantymoel and the Garw valley could be included in this constituency as they have much more in common than Pencoed etc.

**BCW-10729 / Cllr Frank Little- Aberavon and Neath Liberal Democrats / Neath**

On behalf of myself and of local Liberal Democrats, I must express our extreme dissatisfaction that not only have you rejected our contention that almost none of the Neath wards which you propose be added to Brecon have any connection with that area, but you have also removed the one redistribution that we agreed with. Although not entirely happy with being tied to a Swansea City ward, the reuniting of Coedffranc with the rest of Neath was something we had consistently pressed on previous Boundary Commissions. There are no local ties between Coedffranc and Porthcawl. Indeed, there two or three rivers between us. We wish to register our objection to this revised redistribution and repeat our objection to the Swansea Valley moves.

I stress that these objections are made solely on the basis of local ties and not on political considerations. Indeed, your proposals on the face of it may actually benefit the Welsh Liberal Democrat party in the region. However, we are concerned about localism and democracy overall.

- Frank Little

Secretary, Aberavon and Neath Liberal Democrats

Councillor, Coedffranc Town Council

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-10731 / [REDACTED] / Carmarthen**

I write to support the Boundary Commission for Wales' extremely well thought through proposals for the Caerfyrddin constituency including the addition of Llangunnor Ward. They accurately balance communities and the geography of Carmarthenshire taking into account community links, public facilities and commuting patterns.

The addition of Llangunnor to Caerfyrddin is particularly welcome as Llangunnor is an inalienable part of Carmarthen Town and has strong connections with its neighbouring wards of Llanddarog and Abergwili as well as Capel Dewi and Llanarthne. Moreover, the major population centre in Llangunnor is Tre-gunwr which is built on a hillside directly facing and overlooking Carmarthen town from the south. It is home to Carmarthen railway station, Carmarthen Police Station, Carmarthen's Royal Mail Sorting Office and Carmarthen's Bro Myrddin School. Local residents are in the catchment areas for Carmarthen primary and secondary schools and access the NHS through the nearby Glangwili Hospital and GP practices based in Carmarthen Town.

Given that placing the ward in Caerfyrddin does not unduly impact on the numbers of either Llanelli or Caerfyrddin it is a welcome and wise decision to place it in the Caerfyrddin constituency.

Overall, these are an excellent set of proposals which enhance democratic accountability in Carmarthenshire.

## Revised Proposals – 2023 Parliamentary Boundary Review

In response to the Boundary Commission for Wales' consultation and the publication of its revised proposals for the 2023 Parliamentary Boundary Review, as Returning Officer for the Neath Port Talbot Council area, I am submitting the following points of principle for consideration.

For reference, the commentary as outlined below in relation to the proposed new constituencies of Aberafan Porthcawl, Brecon Radnor, and Cwm-Tawe and Neath and Swansea East was discussed and duly noted by members during a meeting of the full council held on Wednesday, 9, November 2022.

### Points of Principle

It is clear that the revised proposals which are almost identical to the Commission's initial proposals, with only small amendments including those to the three Coedffranc electoral wards, continue not to take proper account of natural communities, actual local ties, and easily identifiable boundaries, with absolute primacy, focused on achieving the statutory electorate range at the expense of all other matters.

The Commission due to the legislative constraints placed on them has undertaken an arithmetic exercise, re-arranging the electoral ward building blocks to achieve the desired result, with little regard for the quality of local governance and creating constituencies that are no longer easily identifiable to the electorate.

The revised proposals as published do not adequately take account of the geography of the area or the natural boundaries between local communities built up over nearly a century.

The most prominent concern remains the unchanged proposal to include the Pontardawe, Amman, and Upper Swansea Valley areas within the proposed Brecon, Radnor, and Cwm-tawe constituency.

In effect, this would democratically segregate the residential communities of the Swansea Valley wards from the rest of the Neath Port Talbot County Borough area.

To ensure the statutory electorate range is attained, the vibrant residential, commercial, and industrial areas of the current Aberavon and Neath constituencies will be dissected and reassembled to create new constituencies in which large swathes of electors will have no strong affiliation or connection. This in turn will inevitably erode engagement with the democratic process.

While the Commission is adhering to the relevant rules in making their determinations, the modeling will inevitably cause significant discrepancies in the shape and size of Welsh constituencies resulting in a democratic deficit that cannot be remedied easily or quickly.

Coupled with this concern, is the added complexity that creating new parliamentary constituencies will generate for the different tiers of government within Wales.

The Commission's revised proposals, if adopted will no longer mirror the current constituency boundaries for the Senedd Cymru, reshaping both the Aberavon and Neath constituencies dramatically and resulting in significant overlap with current neighboring constituencies in the north, east, and west.

In addition, the revised proposals also require principal authority boundaries to be crossed in order to reach the statutory electoral quota as set by UK Government.

Such significant alterations will result in the gradual erosion, overlap, and added complexity in the accountability of elected representatives (MSs, MPs, and Elected Members) particularly in dealing with critical matters, such as economic regeneration or infrastructure investment at a Welsh and UK Government level.

Furthermore, the proposals will result in significant confusion and misunderstanding for local electors who can no longer easily identify or establish who represents them at each tier of government.

This will inevitably lead to an increased level of risk in the safe administration of electoral events with overly complex multiple cross-boundary issues and the heightened potential of administrative failure in the event of any future combined electoral events where different boundary types will be in effect.

#### Assistant Commissioners' Report

On this basis, while there remains no perfect solution, the Returning Officer concurs with the view of the Assistant Commissioners in their independent report that there exists a viable 'alternative route' in determining a configuration that far better reflects the communities concerned while adhering closely to the statutory factors.

The Assistant Commissioners' strongly believed that all of the social, economic community, and administrative ties of the Pontardawe, Amman, and Upper Swansea Valley areas are with the Swansea/Neath conurbation and in their view, its inclusion within a Powys-based constituency meets few, if any, of the statutory factors.

In addition, they also had particular reservations and noted the numerous objections to the joining of Swansea East with Neath, particularly from the Llansamlet electoral ward underlined via evidence given at a public hearing.

There were strong arguments that this community faces Swansea, not Neath, in terms of historical economic and transport links.

On that basis, the Assistant Commissioners favoured a 'hybrid' model of sorts made up of an east/west design north of the City of Swansea (along the M4 motorway essentially).

This design is not without precedent and bears a close similarity to the area of the former Lliw Valley/Dyffryn Lliw District Borough Council which existed from 1974 to 1996. The name of this proposed constituency would be Lliw Valley.



Based on this 'hybrid' model, in relation to the current Neath and Aberavon constituencies, the Assistant Commissioners also proposed a constituency made up of Neath town, the existing Aberavon constituency in large part, and the Maesteg East and West electoral wards plus Caerau from the Bridgend County Borough administrative area, due to the transport, community and other links between the Afan Valley and Maesteg.

The proposed name for this constituency would be Neath, Aberavon, and Maesteg.

The Commission's proposals should be for change that is desirable effective and convenient for local communities. These revised proposals would diminish the effectiveness of elected representation, be inconvenient for the electorate and increase the complexity and risk of administrative error in the running of elections.

For the reasons addressed above and following discussion at a recent meeting of Neath Port Talbot Council, as Returning Officer I fully endorse and support the considered position and proposals as adopted by the Assistant Commissioners detailed in their independent report and strongly urge the Commission to reconsider its position in rejecting this carefully considered alternative scheme.

Yours faithfully

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the Returning Officer.

Returning Officer

**BCW-10733 / [REDACTED] / Cardiff**

I am writing, as a Council Ward Member for Cathays, 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-10734 / [REDACTED] / England**

My first question is what is the makeup of the boundary commission for Wales in terms of Welsh members and English members?

Secondly why is it that only 4 weeks is allowed for this consultation that is disgraceful given the importance of the question and it's consequences?

Thirdly as a Welshman living in England I have hardly heard anything about these proposals why have they not been publicised more vigorously beyond the borders of Wales?

This whole process has been kept very quiet which together with the actual proposals could be viewed as somewhat slanted towards the preservation of English power and even possibly retention of Tory influence.

I maintain that a more objective and unbiased viewpoint should prevail and to that end I would like an answer to my above questions please.

**BCW-10736 / [REDACTED] / Tredegar**

I wish to comment on the name of the constituency. I propose that it should be called Blaenau Gwent & The Rhymney Valley as this would cover the wards from the Rhymney side of the constituency as this would relate to the former Council name, Rhymney Valley District Council and would encompass the wards in this new constituency.

**BCW-10737 / [REDACTED] / Caersws**

Your map shows Trefeglwys, Llawr y Glyn and Staylitttle as part of Blaen Hafren ward whereas we have been dumped with Llanbrynmair despite our objections. It rather shows your contempt for grass roots politicians.

## **BCW-10738 / Nick Thomas-Symonds MP / Torfaen**

I write, in this further submission, to strongly support the proposal for the Torfaen Constituency which is unchanged from the initial proposal.

My support is for the reasons I have previously set out, which I have included below, for ease of reference.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds MP

Speaking Notes for Boundary Commission for Wales to Accompany Evidence of 17 February 2022 at 16:50 by Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds, MP for Torfaen

1. I support the proposal for the Torfaen Parliamentary Constituency that consists of 100% of the existing seat, plus those remaining wards within Torfaen County Borough Council that are currently in the Monmouth Parliamentary Constituency. My position on this is also the position of the Welsh Labour Party. I set out below why I take this view.
2. Special Geographic Considerations: physical geography supports this proposal, with the Afon Lwyd river running through the constituency from its source north of Blaenavon down to Cwmbran before joining the River Usk.
3. Local Government Boundaries: this proposal corrects an anomaly since it ends the situation of wards being within the Torfaen Local Authority Area but in the Monmouth Parliamentary Constituency. As local MP since May 2015, I can confirm that the existing situation has frequently caused confusion, with people contacting my office on issues of policy and casework which then had to be re-directed to the MP for Monmouth.
4. Boundaries of Existing Constituencies: the proposals keep the whole of the existing Torfaen Parliamentary Constituency intact.
5. Local Ties: having the whole of the Torfaen Local Authority area co-terminus with the parliamentary constituency reflects very deep historical ties that are cultural and socio-economic.

**BCW-10739 / [REDACTED] / Holywell**

This change will confuse people. You will have a constituency that will cover two different Local Authority areas. I would rather stick with what we know. Delyn! If it ain't broke don't fix it.

**BCW-10740 / [REDACTED] / Aberdare**

I'm glad that the Commission has seen sense and added the wards of Aberaman North and Aberaman South to the initial proposal for a Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare constituency. However, I can't say I agree with the Commission's decision to alter the name to Merthyr Tydfil and Upper Cynon.

Upper Cynon is not a name generally used by people in everyday life. Most people in the north of the Cynon Valley identify as being from the Aberdare area not upper Cynon or north Cynon. After all the whole of the area (with the possible exception of one or two properties at the edge of RCT close to Glynneath/Pont-Nedd-Fechan) is in the Aberdare (CF44) postal town district. Also, with the exception of Rhigos, Penderyn and part of Hirwaun the whole area and the vast majority of the population was in the old Aberdare Urban District Council area. Even today every single property falls within the catchment area of Aberdare Community School. Aberdare is a perfectly good name to describe the area and is much more widely used than upper Cynon, which, to be honest, I've rarely heard anybody use in everyday speech.

It's almost guaranteed that the new constituency will be lazily referred to as Merthyr by the media (just as they often insist on calling RCT Rhondda even though the majority of the population of RCT don't live in the Rhondda valley). I feel using Upper Cynon for the second part of the name will just encourage that laziness whereas Merthyr and Aberdare would be more likely to be said almost in full (Tydfil probably getting dropped more often than Aberdare).

The bilingual name Merthyr Tudful-Aberdâr is another worthwhile possibility.

**BCW-10741 / [REDACTED] / Welshpool**

It is sad that the ancient and historic county of Montgomeryshire will be divided due to its lack of population.

**BCW-10742 / [REDACTED] / Prestatyn**

I just wanted to say thank you for taking on board the suggestions made at the Hearing in Wrexham regarding the proposed boundary changes to Clwyd East and North.

I personally am really pleased to see that the names have been changed to "Clwyd North" and "Clwyd East" instead of "Clwyd" and "Delyn" and it seems eminently more sensible that New Brighton, Argoed and Leeswood have stayed in Clwyd East as opposed to being moved into Alyn & Deeside and that Bagillt and Flint have also been moved out of Clwyd East into Alyn & Deeside. Likewise that Ruthin, Llanfair DC and Llangollen are now in Clwyd East, and conversely that Rhos on Sea is back with Colwyn Bay in Clwyd North.

It's very nice to see that sensible suggestions were implemented, thank you!

**BCW-10744 / [REDACTED] / Skewen**

I think it's stupid that skewen and porthcawl are in the same constituency due to the distance between them - how is that a fair view of what issues need to be addressed

**BCW-10745 / [REDACTED] / Neath**

Skewen should not be in the same constituency as Porthcawl . We are nowhere near them . Why aren't we Swansea or Neath . Where is the common sense .

**BCW-10746 / [REDACTED] / Skewen**

I think its utterly disrespectful to lump my area again with a completely different town who has completely different needs to ours. If anything we should be linked with Seansa East/Neath as at least we have simular demographics and they know my area better as many people work work more in these areas than the ones proposed we are linked with.

**BCW-10747 / [REDACTED] / Neath**

The new boundary suggestions are absolutely ridiculous! It doesn't seem logical at all to have parts of Swansea added to Neath and parts of Neath to be removed. At a time where the public are finding things extremely difficult and have to fight to get things for their communities, these changes will make it more complicated. Why can't things be made easier for the public by having constituencies based on local authorities? The proposed boundary changes might also make it harder to get to their representatives because of public transport issues ( buses are usually based on local authorities). How would any of this benefit the public?

**BCW-10748 / [REDACTED] / Caersws**

I wish to support the proposed revision of the boundaries of the Montgomeryshire parliamentary constituency.

I objected on behalf of Caersws Community Council to the previous proposed revisions in 2012 and 2016 on the grounds that they would lead to the fragmentation of Montgomeryshire and deprive the community of the representation it has enjoyed since Tudor times. The current proposals mitigate this issue to an acceptable extent, at least in so far as Montgomeryshire is concerned.

I appreciate the voters in Glyndwr may now feel they face a similar difficulty but I believe the proposed solution is the best on offer given the maximum permitted variation in constituents of +/-5%. It is this limited variation that is at the root of the problem. I quote from our submission in 2012.

"We do not particularly object to the reduction in the number of MPs, but we do object to the over-narrow limits on the allowed variation in the size of constituencies. This may be acceptable in a large urban area but is wholly inappropriate for the sparsely populated areas and scattered communities of rural Wales. It will lead to the breakup of previously coherent communities and joining together of disparate ones, it will in effect break the link between an MP and his or her constituency, the most crucial feature of the British system of parliamentary democracy."

[REDACTED]  
14/11/2022



It was slightly confusing that some representations given were unhappy about the name of Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr; I felt like it was a naturally fitting name given that the new wards taken in were largely from the District of Glyndwr which was a constituent area of the Preserved County of Clwyd. I think if I were to alter the name it would be to the triple-barrelled name Montgomeryshire, Maelor and Glyndwr to better represent the inclusion of wards that were a part of the Wrexham Maelor District in Clwyd.

I do not feel very positively towards the revised M and G constituency as it really does feel like the communities from Wrexham County have been just tacked on with little respect for community ties in the area – the exclusion of Llangollen and Llan Rural stands out as one of these poorly made choices as the villages in the Ceiriog Valley rely on services in Llangollen and there is a lot of cross use of services between Llangollen and the Cefn Mawr/Acrefair, in this proposal Trevor is severed from its closely connected neighbouring wards in Wrexham which also ignores community ties – Llangollen really should not be separated from the Ceiriog Valley or the Cefn Mawr area. The shape of the constituency to the north is chaotic and jagged; seemingly the result of some haphazard exchanges of wards between constituencies.

I also feel negatively about this constituency in general as the Montgomery and some Wrexham/Denbighshire wards are separated by the Berwyn Mountain range – needless to say, they are \*very\* geographically isolated from each other and share no significant community ties. It is also a ward where to travel from North to South in any reasonable manner you have to leave not only the constituency, but you have to leave Wales too, it takes 20 minutes by car to find yourself back in the constituency travelling north or south via Oswestry (And it takes even longer by bus and there are not even direct trains between the North and South of the constituency).

It really does feel like the north portion of this constituency has had much less thought and attention paid to it as has been done in the south of the constituency (Montgomeryshire).

-----

I have attached a proposed version of this constituency that includes more of Clwyd South so that the areas of Wrexham added to this constituency feel like less tacked on and have more communities represented in the constituency which they share ties with too - this is to mitigate the issues I have with Wrexham South and Montgomeryshire being so very separate for the reasons outlined above.

Given the new requirements for constituencies to contain a larger electorate some constituencies are unfortunately going to look a bit unusual – my proposal for M and G is one of these but I do believe the communities ties are much better considered in this proposal than the last two. From the proposed Wrexham constituency, I have taken Marchwiel, Overton and Bronington (which form the east side of the existing

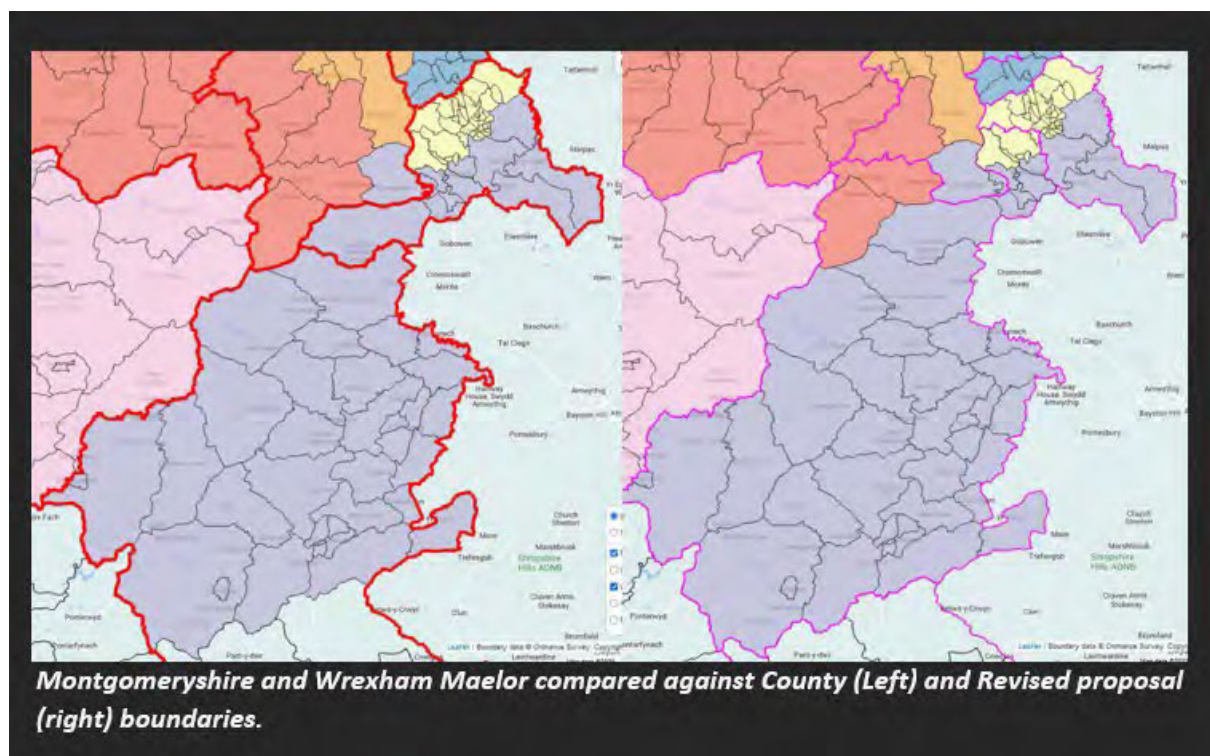
Clwyd South Constituency). So that Wrexham does not exceed the electorate quota, Holt also joins this constituency justified by the ties between Marchwiel and Pentre Maelor.

In this proposal Penycae and Ruabon South (PaRS) MUST be split as is shown on the map or the English Maelor section of the Constituency becomes an exclave which is very much not allowed in constituencies.

There are a few possible names for this potential constituency: Montgomeryshire and Wrexham Maelor; Montgomeryshire and Maelor; Montgomeryshire, Glyndwr and Maelor. Personally, I have chosen Montgomeryshire and Wrexham Maelor; Montgomeryshire is still fully preserved in this proposal and the majority of new wards formed part of the Wrexham Maelor Borough when it existed as part of Clwyd, not to mention that many recognise the parts of this constituency that are taken from Wrexham County as parts of Wrexham hence the inclusion of the word “Wrexham” in the constituency name.

I would not consider Montgomeryshire and Clwyd South to be a particularly interesting name even if you could argue that it is representative of the area the constituency would cover.

The downside to this constituency is of course that it simply cannot fit the wards of Corwen and Llandrillo in without exceeding the electorate quota for either this proposed constituency or without causing my proposed Wrexham constituency to exceed its own quota – Corwen and Llandrillo less than ideally become a part of my proposed Clwyd West justified by their somewhat looser ties to settlements in the rural Uwchaled, Efenechtyd and Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd Wards. Another downside is that Llangollen is in Denbighshire which means this proposed constituency does span 3 Local Authorities.



**BCW-10750 / [REDACTED] / Wrexham**

I'm delighted to see that the commission has taken on board the strong representations given by the community regarding the original inclusion of Minera and Brymbo in Alyn and Deeside rather than the Wrexham Constituency it is so much better tied to the wards that are part of the new proposed Wrexham constituency.

However with the Wrexham Constituency it feels like the commission has taken two steps forwards and one step back as this new proposal has excluded Rhos from the Wrexham constituency – I do believe the ties in Rhostyllen to be closer to Wrexham than Rhosllanerchrugog to the south, the A483 makes them [Rhostyllen and Rhos'gog] feel more separate.

**BCW-10751 / [REDACTED] / Wrexham**

I have attached below a full and extensive alternative proposal for North Wales and Montgomeryshire that is a bit too big to fit in one individual comment - please so take the time to look over it and consider what I have said!

I have commented some excerpts of this onto the map where I felt strongly!

My thoughts and feelings are going to focus on the Wrexham and Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr proposals as they are the area I am most familiar with.

Firstly, I'm delighted to see that the commission has taken on board the strong representations given by the community regarding the original inclusion of Minera and Brymbo in Alyn and Deeside rather than the Wrexham Constituency it is so much better tied to the wards that are part of the new proposed Wrexham constituency.

However with the Wrexham Constituency it feels like the commission has taken two steps forwards and one step back as this new proposal has excluded Rhos from the Wrexham constituency – I do believe the ties in Rhostyllen to be closer to Wrexham than Rhosllanerchrugog to the south, the A483 makes them [Rhostyllen and Rhos'gog] feel more separate.

It was slightly confusing that some representations given were unhappy about the name of Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr; I felt like it was a naturally fitting name given that the new wards taken in were largely from the District of Glyndwr which was a constituent area of the Preserved County of Clwyd. I think if I were to alter the name it would be to the triple-barrelled name Montgomeryshire, Maelor and Glyndwr to better represent the inclusion of wards that were a part of the Wrexham Maelor District in Clwyd.

I do not feel very positively towards the new M&G constituency as it really does feel like the communities from Wrexham County have been just tacked on with little respect for community ties in the area – the exclusion of Llangollen and Llan Rural stands out as one of these poorly made choices as the villages in the Ceiriog Valley rely on services in Llangollen and there is a lot of cross use of services between Llangollen and the Cefn Mawr/Acrefair, in this proposal Trevor is severed from its closely connected neighbouring wards in Wrexham which also ignores community ties – Llangollen really should not be separated from the Ceiriog Valley or the Cefn Mawr area. The shape of the constituency to the north is chaotic and jagged; seemingly the result of some haphazard exchanges of wards between constituencies.

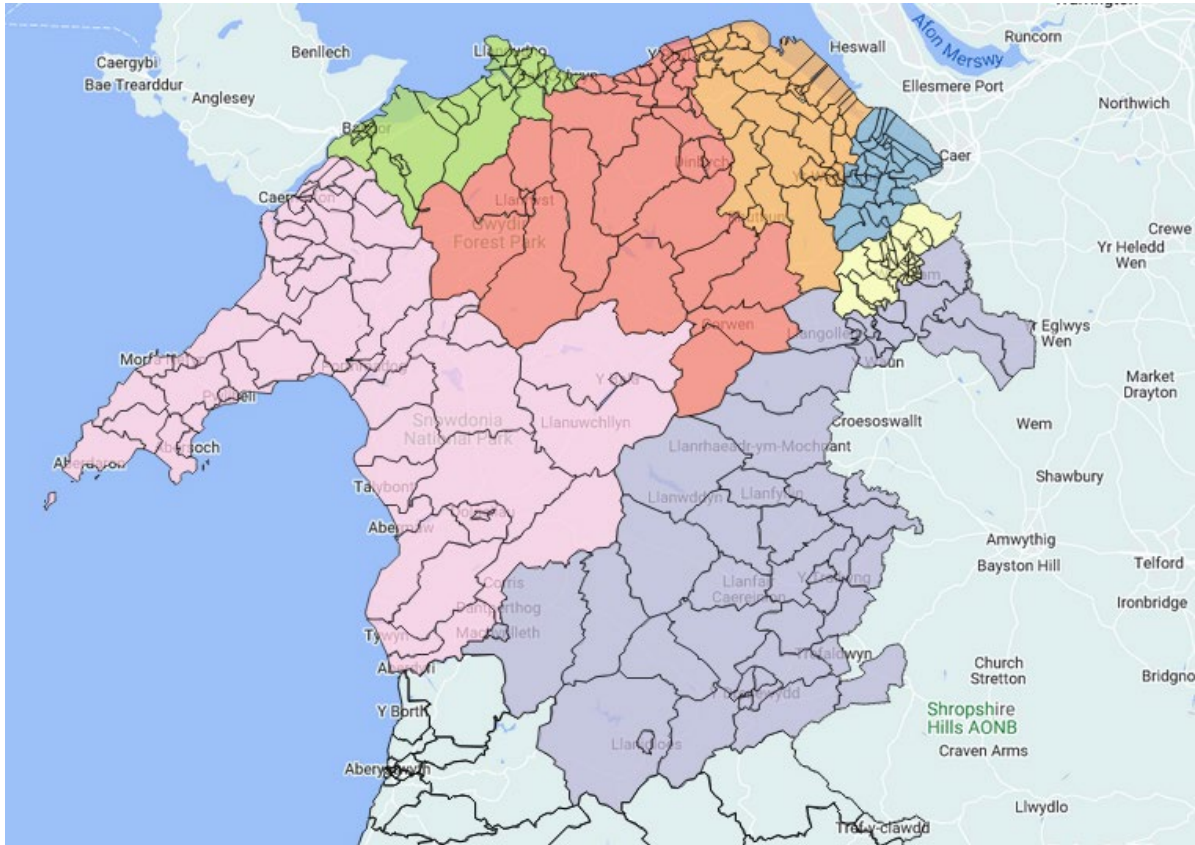
I also feel negatively about this constituency in general as the Montgomery and some Wrexham/Denbighshire wards are separated by the Berwyn Mountain range – needless to say, they are *\*very\** geographically isolated from each other and share no significant community ties. It is also a ward where to travel from North to South in any reasonable manner you have to leave not only the constituency, but you have to leave Wales too, it takes 20 minutes by car to find yourself back in the constituency travelling north or south via Oswestry (And it takes even longer by bus and there are not even direct trains between the North and South of the constituency).

I also worry as to what implications this has for what MP will represent the constituency when the new proposals are written into law – will the MP be from Wrexham South or will they be from Montgomeryshire? They are two separate communities different in character and separated by both a mountain range and by a piece of England... it's unlikely the selected MPs will be able to effectively represent both communities given so few people have a strong connection or presence in \*both\* areas.

I understand that this is a result of the new requirements and that we cannot change those, but I will use this as an opportunity to say that little consideration was given to how the new rigid electorate requirements would affect the overall more rural areas of Wales – for any proposal to work the boundaries of Denbighshire have to be completely ignored which is unfair as leaves this one county with 3 representatives.

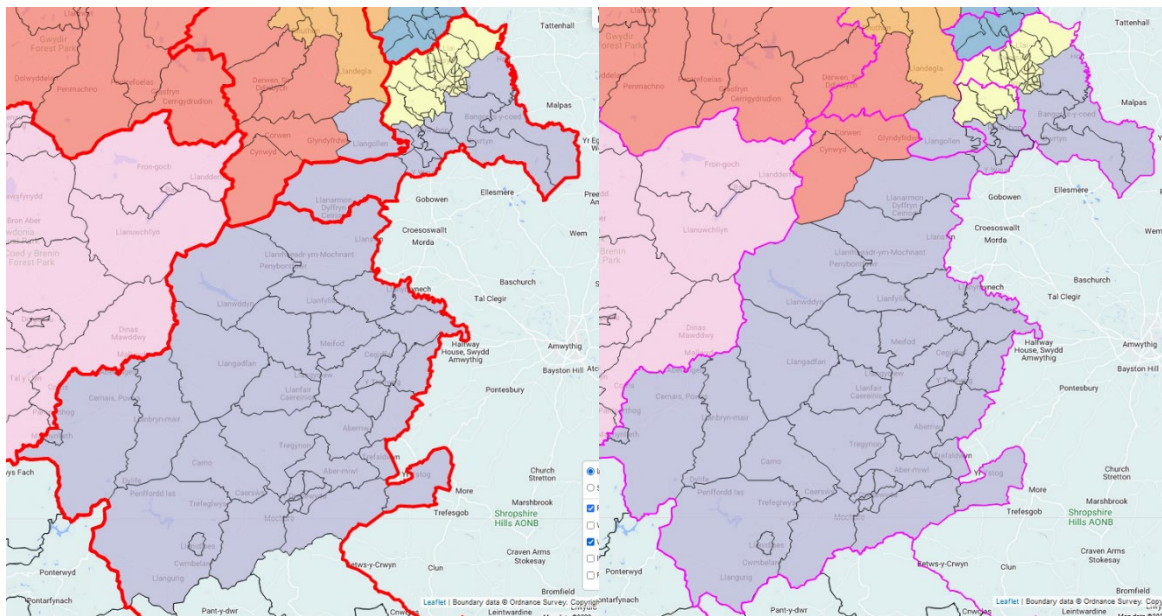
The constituencies on the North coast are quite untidy – Clwyd West is especially unruly looking. Clwyd West also spans 3 local authorities which should be avoided if possible. In my proposals below I have proposed a new version of Clwyd West which only spans Conwy County and Denbighshire no longer including wards in Gwynedd. Clwyd North also seems like it doesn't need to exist – it is a very unusual shape and splits up closely tied communities on the north coast.

Here are a set of my own proposals that adhere to the electorate quotas which I believe to consider community ties better and which has only Denbighshire being represented by 3 MPs – the rest of the counties have 2 Representatives at most and I have kept constituencies within one county where it is possible. The borders to the south of my proposal are completely preserved and so this does not have an impact on the wards in South Wales which I would be much less able to give a personal representation on.



**1) Montgomeryshire and Wrexham Maelor**





**Montgomeryshire and Wrexham Maelor compared against County (Left) and Revised proposal (right) boundaries.**

Given the new requirements for constituencies to contain a larger electorate some constituencies are unfortunately going to look a bit unusual – my proposal for M&G is one of these but I do believe the communities ties are much better considered in this proposal than the last two. From the proposed Wrexham constituency, I have taken Marchwiel, Overton and Bronington (which form the east side of the existing Clwyd South Constituency). So that Wrexham does not exceed the electorate quota, Holt also joins this constituency justified by the ties between Marchwiel and Pentre Maelor.

In this proposal Penycae and Ruabon South (PaRS) MUST be split as is shown on the map or the English Maelor section of the Constituency becomes an exclave which is very much not allowed in constituencies.

There are a few possible names for this potential constituency: Montgomeryshire and Wrexham Maelor; Montgomeryshire and Maelor; Montgomeryshire, Glyndwr and Maelor. Personally, I have chosen *Montgomeryshire and Wrexham Maelor*; Montgomeryshire is still fully preserved in this proposal and the majority of new wards formed part of the Wrexham Maelor Borough when it existed as part of Clwyd, not to mention that many recognise the parts of this constituency that are taken from Wrexham County as parts of Wrexham hence the inclusion of the word “Wrexham” in the constituency name, it also provides an opportunity to give the Wrexham Constituency an interesting name...

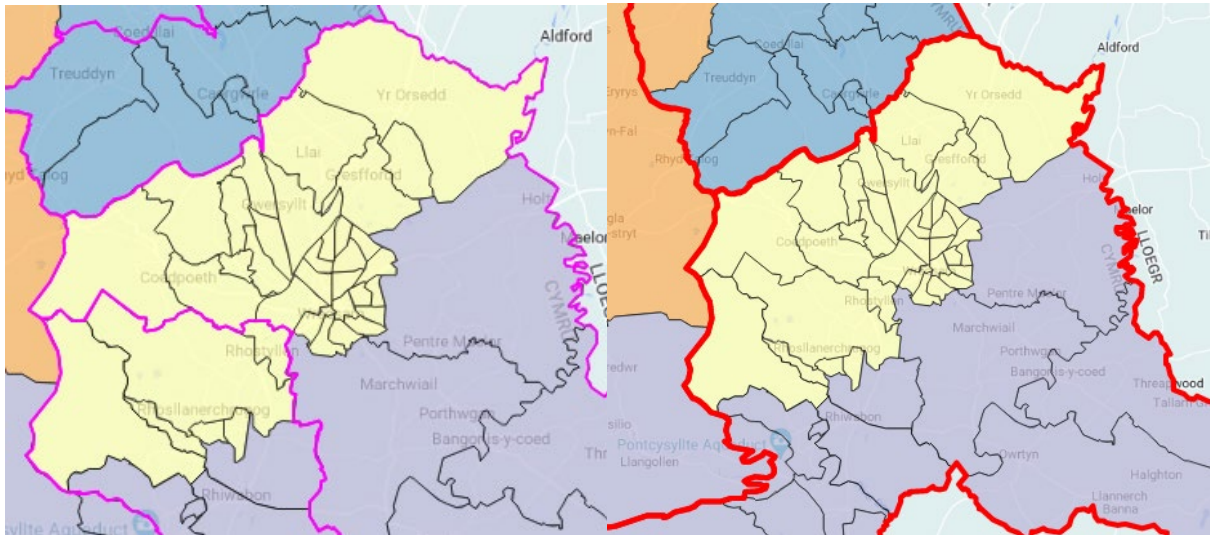
I would not consider Montgomeryshire and Clwyd South to be a particularly interesting name even if you could argue that it is representative of the area the constituency would cover.

The downside to this constituency is of course that it simply cannot fit the wards of Corwen and Llandrillo in without exceeding the electorate quota for either this proposed constituency or without causing my proposed Wrexham constituency to exceed its own quota – Corwen and Llandrillo less

than ideally become a part of my proposed Clwyd West justified by their somewhat looser ties to settlements in the rural Uwchaled, Efenechtyd and Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd Wards. Another downside is that Llangollen is in Denbighshire which means this proposed constituency does span 3 Local Authorities.

## 2) City of Wrexham

### ***City of Wrexham compared against Revised Proposals (Left) and County (right) boundaries.***



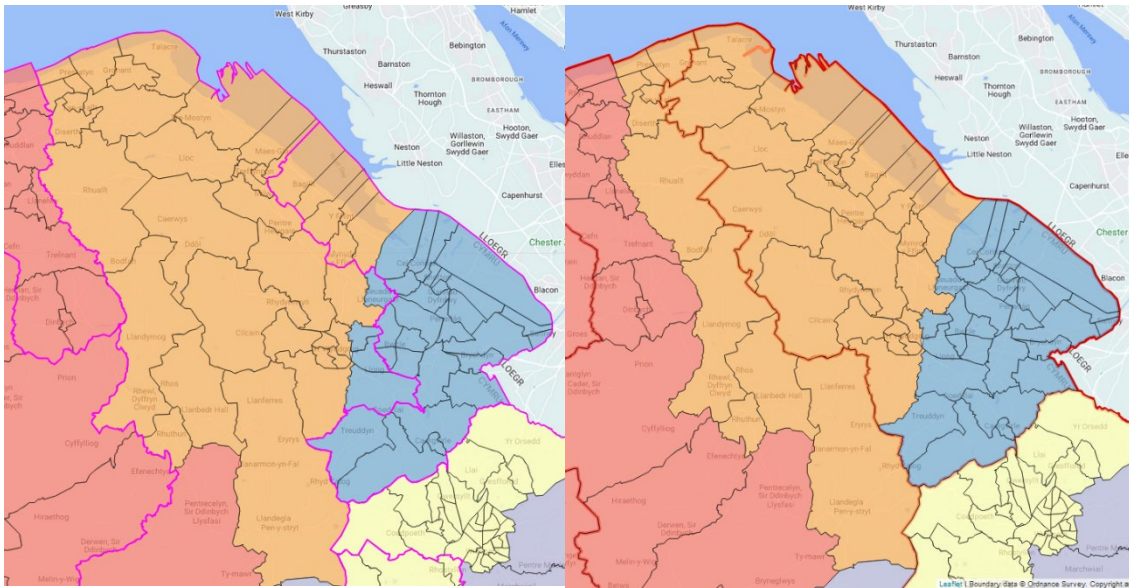
This constituency would see significant changes compared to the last two proposals, mainly the exclusion of large rural wards to the east of the constituency. To form a much more streamlined and well-shaped constituency with a more consistent makeup in terms of urbanicity. The constituency also lies entirely within WCB – some other representations included parts of south Flintshire like Hope and Caergwrle, this simply does not make sense when considering community ties and should only be done if 100% unavoidable (It is absolutely avoidable).

The change of name to “City of Wrexham” would be representative of Wrexham’s recent award of City Status by the late Queen as part of her Jubilee Celebrations but would also be representative of the proposed wards majority Urban Makeup centred around the city.

An alternative name could be “Wrexham [City] and Rhosllanerchrugog” or simply just “Wrexham” as perhaps the name “City of Wrexham” is not entirely representative of the inclusion of Rhosllanerchrugog in this constituency.



## Alyn and Deeside & Clwyd East

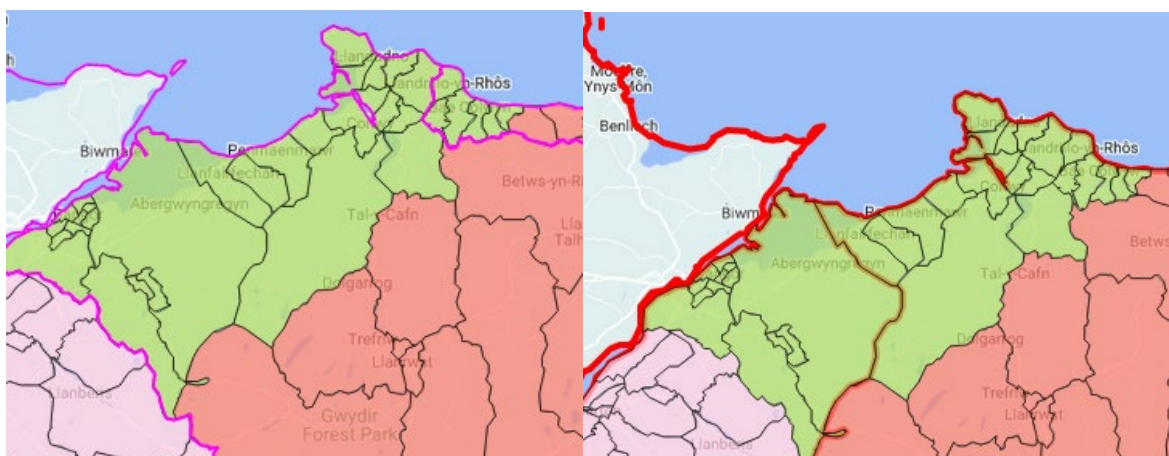


***Alyn and Deeside & Clwyd East compared against Revised Proposals (Left) and County (right) boundaries.***

These two constituencies are almost exactly as they were in the first Proposal with the only differences being Alyn and Deeside takes in the two Northop Wards to make up for the Inclusion of Minera and Brymbo in Wrexham and that “Delyn” is renamed to Clwyd East as has been done in the revised proposals.

Although Ruthin and Denbigh ought to be in the same constituency due to their very strong ties this is not possible under the new electorate quota and trying to make them share a constituency has undesirable, significantly worse, knock on effects on every other constituency.

## Creuddyn, Conwy and Bangor



***Creuddyn, Conwy and Bangor compared against Revised Proposals (Left) and County (right) boundaries.***

This constituency is very similar to a constituency that has existed before – Conwy (1950-2010) – the

main difference is that this constituency is expanded significantly to include Rhos on sea, Colwyn bay and Old Colwyn. This would be a very good constituency as it keeps the Llandudno-Rhos-Colwyn coastal conurbation all together in one constituency which was an issue many had with the old Conwy constituency.

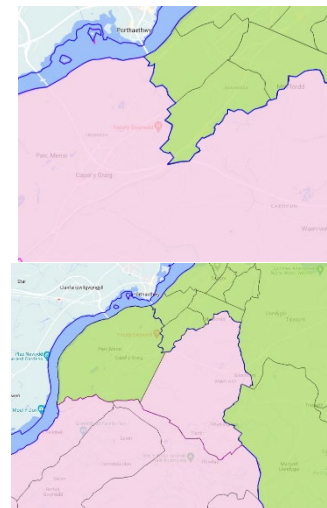
Potential names for this constituency could be: Creuddyn, Conwy and Bangor; Aberconwy and Bangor; Bangor Aberconwy; Bangor, Conwy and Llandudno. I chose the word "Creuddyn" to represent the inclusion of the Creuddyn peninsula on which Llandudno and Rhos-on-sea lie.

Unfortunately, in this proposal Bangor and Caernarfon still need to be separated as you simply cannot have them be together all while respecting the south borders of Gwynedd and Montgomeryshire.

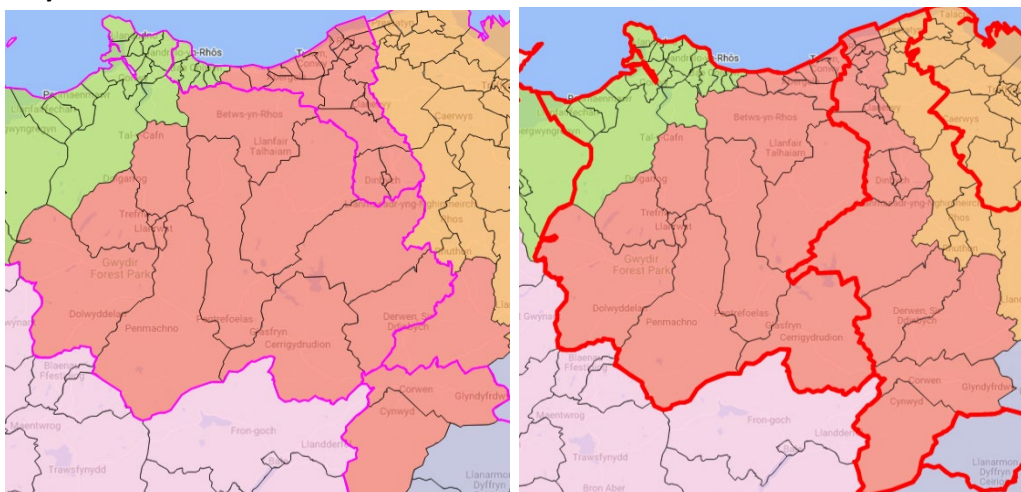
One glaring issue with this constituency is it is actually 58 people over the quota – there two solutions to this I have considered

- Including Pentir ward in Dwyfor Meirionnydd (top), I understand there is strong pushback against this but it is the only way the have CCaB constituency fit the quota without splitting wards

- My preferred option (pictured below) would be to split Pentir into two, that way the rural lower half could become a part of Dwyfor M thus removing at least 58 people from CCaB meaning it will fulfil the electorate quota.



## Clwyd West



***Clwyd West compared against Revised Proposal (Left) and County (right) boundaries.***

The final constituency I propose is an alternative Clwyd West which no longer spans 3 local authorities, no longer taking in Bangor from Gwynedd. This constituency alongside the above proposed constituency completely replace the undesirable Clwyd North which would have divided Llandudno from Rhos-on-sea and Colwyn Bay/Old Colwyn.

The downside to this proposed constituency is the Llanrwst is a bit removed from the rest of the constituency without the northernmost bits of Aberconwy sharing a constituency with it – it is however tied to the rural communities to the south of it. Also as discussed in the MM&G proposal Corwen and Llandrillo do not get to share a constituency with Llangollen due to number restraints.

**Dwyfor Meirionnydd**

Almost entirely Unchanged. Just includes lower half of split Pentir ward in my proposal.

I have pasted below the totals (with split Pentir ward solution implemented)

	City of Wrexham	73386	Yes
1	City of Wrexham	73386	Yes
2	Montgomeryshire, Maelor and Glyndwr	76734	Yes
3	Clwyd West	74058	Yes
4	Alyn and Deeside	70651	Yes
5	Clwyd East	74676	Yes
6	Creuddyn, Conwy and Menai	77062	Yes
7	Dwyfor Merionnydd	69861	Yes

BCW-10752 / [REDACTED] / Swansea

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Sirs,

I wish to support a counter-proposal to that made by the Commissioners in their Revised Recommendations as it affects the Gower and Swansea West/Swansea Central and North constituencies to propose the following alternative:

- That the Pontarddulais, Penllergaer, Llangyfelach and Mawr wards (total electorate 12,891) would be included in Gower and Swansea West
- That the Sketty ward (electorate 11,304) would be included in Swansea Central and North.

Pontarddulais, Penllergaer, Llangyfelach and Mawr wards have historically been part of the Gower constituency and prior to the last local government reorganisation were part of the Borough of Lliw Valley. Prior to that, ninety per cent of the electorate of those areas lived in what was the Llŵchwr Urban District.

There are public transport links between Pontarddulais, Pontlliw, Penllergaer and Gorseinon whereas none exist with the Sketty area and the areas concerned (together with villages that comprise the Mawr Ward such as Garnswllt and Felindre) access the same commercial and administrative centres.

This counter proposal would mean that the small towns and villages on the banks of the rivers Llŵchwr and Lliw would continue to form part of the same constituency -a state of affairs that has existed since 1885 while retaining the longstanding historic link between Sketty and the centre of Swansea.

Given that this arrangement could be accommodated within the electoral quota set as parameters for the Commission there is no case to divide wards in southern Lliw Valley that have traditionally been part of the same parliamentary constituency.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

BCW-10753 / [REDACTED] Gower Constituency Labour Party / Swansea

PLAID LAFUR ETHOLAETH GŴYR

GOWER CONSTITUENCY LABOUR PARTY

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Gower Constituency Labour Party (CLP) has considered the Revised Recommendations report and wishes to reiterate its support for a different arrangement of wards in the Gower and Swansea West/Swansea Central and North constituency. Further, the CLP notes that the Revised Recommendations report states 'the Commission is sympathetic to the alternative arrangements proposed' following representations made in response to the Draft Proposals. We believe that the case remains for an alternative arrangement whereby the Pontarddulais, Penllergaer, Llangyfelach and Mawr wards (total electorate 12,891) would be included in Gower and Swansea West and the Sketty ward (electorate 11,304) would be included in Swansea Central and North. This would:

- address the unusual geographic shape of the proposed Swansea Central and North
- be within the numeric quota within which the Boundary Commission is to operate
- recognise the historic administrative, social, economic and geographic links between Pontarddulais, Mawr, Penllergaer and Llangyfelach wards with the Gower constituency as wards that formed part of the former Borough of Lliw Valley
- recognise the historic administrative, social, economic and geographic links between Sketty and the centre of Swansea as an area that was historically part of the Swansea County Borough and its successor authorities
- Use a natural boundary (the Hendrefoilan woods, Nant yr Olchfa and Clyne Valley woods) as the boundary between the two constituencies
- Create a far clearer boundary between the two constituencies in the Sketty/Uplands area where the two wards (Sketty and Uplands) form a continuous urban conurbation north of Singleton park
- Create a constituency comprised of the city centre and Swansea's core suburbs and a separate constituency containing the outlying towns and villages
- Ensure that the areas of the City and County of Swansea that are served by Town and Community Councils in the two constituencies involved would be in the Gower constituency.

We are aware that some mention has been made of the fact that policing units include Sketty with Gower but would argue that by the same token Loughor and Gorseinon form part of the same police unit as Penlan, and that this argument does

not take account of the current constituencies nor established local government structures. We note that in other parts of Wales the Commission has taken account of physical geography and historic administrative units as far as possible. We ask that this be applied in the Swansea area where constituencies could be drawn taking greater account of physical boundaries and historic administrative units, as outlined above.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the Secretary.

Secretary

**BCW-10754 / [REDACTED] / Newport**

These proposals are flawed on so many levels. There has been little or no publicity about the proposed changes, the degree of secrecy is alarming. Every single person I have mentioned these changes to has been unaware of them. Launching a consultation and then failing to publicise it does not constitute a public consultation. Surely changes of this magnitude should have warranted an explanatory leaflet to each household together with radio and TV broadcasts?

As for the proposed changes themselves, combining my constituency - Islwyn - with Newport West is nonsensical. These constituencies, whilst adjoining, have little in common and rather are distinct in terms of culture, geography and history. Islwyn consists of communities firmly rooted in the South Wales valleys, Newport West is one half of the city of Newport. Anyone can draw lines on a map, as in the partitioning of Africa in the 19th century, but please employ someone for the task who has local knowledge.

Most importantly, this exercise is blatant gerrymandering by the current Conservative government, a not even disguised attempt to reduce the number of Labour, or opposition, MPs, thereby engineering a permanent majority in Westminster for the Conservative party.

It goes without saying that during these troubled times the general public needs more democracy and representation, not less. If these proposals go ahead Wales will have a much reduced voice at Westminster which, in the present circumstances, is very worrying.

Shoddy proposals by an abject government.

**BCW-10755 / [REDACTED] / Cardiff**

i see that Cardiff West constituency is proposed to take in an area from Creigiau to Pontyclun which is not in Cardiff council area. At the same time about 7000 new houses are being built in the area of Radyr/ Danescourt / Fairwater which will have at least 7000 new electors and many more residents. Has this been taken in account?

**BCW-10756 / [REDACTED] / Swansea**

This a travesty. I object wholeheartedly and with every atom of my being.

This is nothing more than a political manoeuvre to make it easier for the government to stay in government.

Disgusted.

I object to the proposals of the Upper Swansea and Amman areas being placed into the constituency of Brecon and Radnorshire and taken away from the Neath on the following points.

1. The Swansea Valley and Amman Valleys of Neath port Talbot that are proposed are historically industrial areas. Many are coal tip areas with no connection to the agricultural rural areas of Brecon and Radnorshire and are more suited to the industrial heartlands of South West Wales. This proposal cuts ties that we already have with the other valley communities within Neath. Our communities share a history of culture, heritage and traditions.

2. NPTCBC has never been represented on the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority thus showing no links or ties with Brecon or Radnorshire.

3. Our communities have no links to the areas of Brecon and Radnorshire and travel time from Pontardawe in the south of the proposed area to Rhyder would involve a journey of over 4.5 hours by public transport. Road links make even travelling by private car at least 2 hours to travel 80 miles. Our communities look to the town of Neath or the city of Swansea for shopping, socialising and services. I believe special geographical considerations should be taken into account.

4. I am concerned that we would fall under a different health board, police force and local authority as well as other statutory and regional partnerships which could provide difficulties with parliamentary representation.

To conclude there are several reasons why this is unacceptable including issues of geography, history, community links and cohesion, demographics and the local economy. I strongly believe an individual's right to access parliamentary representation would be severely weakened.

I urge that these proposals are relooked at.



1. I would like to submit that the name of the proposed 'Dwyfor Meirionnydd' constituency be changed to 'Caernarfon a Meirionnydd' or 'Caernarfon Meirionnydd'.
2. The name 'Caernarfon a Meirionnydd' or 'Caernarfon Meirionnydd' would be a more appropriate reflection of the geographical and historical profile of the proposed constituency than the name 'Dwyfor Meirionnydd'. The name 'Dwyfor Meirionnydd' completely ignores Caernarfon's historical leading role, and to this day it remains the main political, administrative, cultural and economic centre of the region (and within Wales as a whole).
3. The proposed constituency will cover not just the entire existing Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency area, but also half of the current Arfon constituency. Similarly, the proposed constituency will cover all the areas encompassed by the old 1974-1996 district councils of Dwyfor and Meirionnydd, but also approximately half of the area of the old borough of Arfon from the same period. In that respect, the name Dwyfor Meirionnydd does not provide a complete description of the proposed constituency.
4. Caernarfon has a long and unbroken history as a constituency name in the parliaments in London and Cardiff, dating back as far as 1536. In the UK Parliament at one time, there were two constituencies: one for rural Caernarfonshire and the other for the county town, Caernarfon Boroughs. Between 1890 and 1945, David Lloyd-George, who was Prime Minister of the UK from 1916 to 1922, was MP for Caernarfon Boroughs. Between 1974 and 2001, Dafydd Wigley was MP for Caernarfon, and between 1999 and 2003 he was the AM for Caernarfon.
5. Traditionally, a constituency called Caernarfon has included a significant portion of the old Caernarvonshire which existed before 1974, and all of what is known today as the Dwyfor area, i.e. Llŷn and Eifionydd.
6. Dwyfor is a relatively recent name used in the electoral context. The name Dwyfor has only existed in a constituency name since 2007, when the Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency was established for the Assembly elections that year.
7. Dwyfor is a name that has no relevance – or has ever been relevant – in describing either Caernarfon or the part of the current Arfon constituency that will be included in the new constituency. The name refers specifically to a combination of two areas on either side of the river Dwyfor, i.e. the Llŷn area (the peninsula west of Pwllheli and south of Yr Eifl) and the Eifionydd area (i.e. the Porthmadog and Cricieth area). The boundaries of the old Dwyfor district council which existed between 1974 and 1996 confirm this.
8. Caernarfon, on the other hand, is a name that all parts of the proposed constituency outside of Meirionnydd can relate to, from Caernarfon, the Peris Valley and the Nantlle Valley, right down to the far end of Llŷn and Porthmadog. Until 2001, this area was part of a single UK Parliamentary constituency called Caernarfon.

9. Changing the name of the proposed constituency to Caernarfon a Meirionnydd (or Caernarfon Meirionnydd) will provide a more accurate and inclusive name. It would also maintain continuity for Caernarfon's central role (as a town and as the name of an area) in the new electoral system.

**BCW-10759 / [REDACTED] / Skewen**

For many years our village has been part of the Aberavon constituency. Little or no consideration is given to the residents by anyone connected to overseeing this area. Port Talbot has taken priority over our village. It's time the needs of Skewen are looked after

**BCW-10760 / [REDACTED] / Pontardawe**

I am not happy with the proposed changes, i identify myself as as a resident of Neath Port Talbot and feel that the change of boundaries to Brecon is totally unacceptable. I live 10 minutes from Neath and 30mins from Brecon so cannot understand how this makes any sort of sense. I totally understand how town's like Ystradgynlais would be grouped in with Brecon as they ate on the edge of the Beacons, but anything past that does not make sense. Please take this as my disapproval of the suggested change.

**BCW-10761 / [REDACTED] / Llangefni**

On Anglesey, the boundaries should remain as they are!

**BCW-10762 / [REDACTED] / Pontardawe**

Does it really matter, if it means that we are saving tax payers money and still get the same service then it's a no brainier

I believe in making changes for the better so therefore I can only assume that these changes will have a reduction in my already high council tax bill !

**BCW-10763 / [REDACTED] / Pontardawe**

It's grossly unfair to the people of Pontardawe through to Ystalyfera to make this boundary change. We'd be sharing an MP with places absolutely nowhere near us, who have completely different priorities. This new constituency could not possibly be in the best interests of us who are far closer aligned with the Swansea and Neath areas than Breconshire. It's a vile, desperate rouse by the conservatives to cling to power by moving a Labour voting constituency into a Tory one. I would like to hear even one argument for how this change will benefit my area.

I write on behalf of Neath Constituency Labour Party in response to the Boundary Commission for Wales' revised proposals, published on the 19 October 2022. I would be grateful if you would consider the following further observations, which should be read in conjunction with our original submission. We note that the revised proposals do not deviate from the original proposal to transfer the upper Amman and Swansea valley areas to Brecon and Radnorshire, with the proposed new constituency named Brecon, Radnorshire and Cwmtawe. As stated in our original submission, the upper Amman and Swansea valley areas have no traditional links with Brecon and Radnorshire, as they have always been part of the industrial constituencies of either Gower or Neath. We note from the revised proposals that it is considered that there are good road links between Pontardawe and Ystradgynlais. That may be so. However, the distance between Pontardawe and Ystradgynlais is only around 6 miles. In contrast, distance between Trebanos in the south of the proposed new constituency to Beguildy in the north is just over 79 miles and takes 1 hour 58 minutes to travel. This is based on travelling by private car. Travelling by public transport is almost impossible. Indeed, we understand that travelling by public transport from Pontardawe to Rhyder involves a journey of over 4.5 hours, one way. That would also rely on the availability of relevant public transport routes, of which there are none from the Amman Valley. Therefore, a constituency that is arguably already geographically too big, would be extremely difficult for members of the public who reside in the upper Amman and Swansea valleys to access. Consequently, we must once again register our objection to these proposals. We therefore reaffirm the benefits of our original counter proposal and draw your attention to the following: A Neath and Swansea East would include the current Neath constituency in its entirety, plus the proposed 3 wards from the current Swansea East constituency (Bonynmaen 5,391; Llansamlet 11,107; St Thomas 5,514), 1 ward from the current Gower constituency (Clydach 5,821) and 3 wards from the current Aberavon constituency (Coedffranc Central 2,892; Coedffranc North 1,811; Coedffranc West 3,587). This proposal would see the re-inclusion of the current Neath wards of Rhos (1,997), Pontardawe (4,283), Lower Brynaman (1,040), Alltwen (2,023), Godre'r Graig (1,514), Trebanos (1,092), Gwaun Cae Gurwen (2,220), Ystalyfera (2,169), Cwmllynfell (921), for a total 17,259 electors. This would result in a newly proposed Neath and Swansea East constituency of 92,900 electors. The removal of these electors from the newly proposed Brecon and Radnor would leave a constituency of 54,854. However, the Brecon and Radnor constituency should join Ynys Mon in being "not subject to the operation of the UK Electoral Quota", because whilst it would have the smallest electorate it is the largest and most geographically rural constituency in Wales. Ynys Mon is an island with specific geographical and local ties, whilst Brecon and Radnor is a landlocked rural expanse, with specific geographical and local ties. Equally so, a Swansea East and Neath should "not subject to the operation of the UK Electoral Quota", given its cultural and geographic ties with both Neath Town and Swansea City Centre. This is justifiable given the unique characteristics of each constituency. Whilst it is difficult to realign constituents

within the context of a reduction in the overall number of Welsh parliamentary seats, it is clear that carving off the northern part of the current Neath constituency is unacceptable. The placing of communities that are in the Swansea and Aman Valleys into a Brecon and Radnor constituency makes no sense geographically – it would create a huge distance from border to border, would not link with relevant local government boundaries, and does not respect local community ties. In addition, the Swansea and Aman Valleys have no cultural or historical links with Brecon and Radnor; the people of these communities have an industrial heritage and the culture that accompanies such a history. Its institutions and organisations such as miners' welfare halls, choirs and rugby clubs mirror those of every other part of Neath, and sit in direct contrast with the rural, disparate, farming nature of Brecon and Radnor. The social-economic differences are also stark. Wards in the Swansea and Aman Valleys have previously been recognised as Communities First areas because of their relative deprivation and lack of services, completely different to the more affluent communities in Brecon and Radnor. The main purpose of our counter proposal is, and always has been, to retain the upper Amman and Swansea valley areas in a parliamentary constituency where they have traditionally been associated. We must again stress that the upper Amman and Swansea valleys do not have any close ties with Brecon and Radnorshire and are more suited to the industrial heartland of south west Wales. Additionally, all the areas contained within the current Brecon and Radnorshire are represented on the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority by their respective local authorities. Neath Port Talbot is not, and never has been. This further strengthens the case that the upper Amman and Swansea valleys have no ties whatsoever with Brecon and Radnorshire. Therefore, I sincerely hope that the Boundary Commission for Wales will see fit to consider and implement these counter proposals in their final report.

Neath Constituency Labour Party

November 2022

**BCW-10765 / [REDACTED] / Llanymynech**

I am writing to the Welsh Boundary Commission to support the boundary change proposals to retain the historic community of Montgomeryshire within the proposed new and enlarged constituency of Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr. I am however disappointed to see the overall number of constituencies in Wales reduced and fear that we will further lose representation from its most rural areas.

**BCW-10766 / [REDACTED] / Wrexham**

The Community Council do not support the proposal to transfer to Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr, geographically it is a large area for one MP to cover, from Cefn Mawr to Llanidloes is over 50 miles.

We have no connection with mid Wales. No transport links, work opportunities are not going to be in Mid Wales for people living in Cefn Community.

The proposed change is not well thought out, our local ties, historical interest has been totally disregarded.

Cardiff constituency boundary proposals

I am writing in response to the revised boundary proposals for Wales published on 19th November, to register my opposition to the proposal to break the link between Cathays and Roath, by moving Cathays into the revised Cardiff South and Penarth constituency.

Cathays is strongly linked to our neighbouring communities of Roath/Plasnewydd, Penylan, Cyncoed and Adamsdown. Previous Boundary reviews have always recognised the clear physical, social, transport, and community links between Cathays and Roath/Plasnewydd in particular, as did the original boundary proposals. I would hope the Commission will recognise these links and return to the original proposal where Cathays remains in Cardiff Central/Cardiff East.

Compared to the almost complete lack of community links to new areas of Cardiff South and Penarth such as Dinas Powys and Sully, Cathays has many links to Roath, Penylan, Adamsdown. This includes the large student population that we share across these areas, with University buildings in these wards and University accommodation and student housing primarily found in these wards as well. Cathays shares specific planning guidance with Plasnewydd based on the similar and linked communities we represent, specifically around a ban on To Let Boards and Additional HMO Licensing schemes. School catchment areas are closely linked, with the catchment for Cathays High including Cathays, Adamsdown, Penylan and Plasnewydd.

Our shopping, socialising, and business links with the wider 'Roath' area are strong and clear - Crwys Road, City Road and Albany Road all meet and form a significant district shopping area. The Church in Wales organises its ministry as Cathays and Roath, reflecting the longstanding links of the area, and which forms a significant community link for people and organisations here.

The proposal to separate Cathays from Roath and other wards we border and share community links with is a significant one, and I hope will be rejected in favour of earlier draft proposals. Whilst I accept that Trowbridge has no direct road access to Splott, it shares decades of history with Splott and other wards in Cardiff South and Penarth that form a stronger link that could be reflected in constituency boundaries.

## **Response to the Parliamentary Boundary Commission Review 2023 from Welsh Labour Group of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.**

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Labour Group agreed unanimously to object to the revised proposals put forward by the Parliamentary Boundary Commission. Our concerns focus in particular on the inclusion of the Upper Swansea and Amman Valleys, currently part of the Neath Constituency and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, within the Parliamentary Constituency of Brecon, Radnor and Cwmtawe.

We were very disappointed to note that despite numerous representations from individuals, communities and even the Welsh based Assistant Commissioners, all of whom have more local knowledge of the area, the Commission continues to place these post-industrial, valley communities as a somewhat, dissociated add-on to a Powys focused, rural constituency.

Establishment of a large Brecon, Radnor and Cwmtawe Constituency will mean that residents will struggle to get representation on their issues. The variation of boundaries between constituency links for UK Parliamentary and Wales Senedd would be difficult for residents and there would be additional confusion caused by cross cutting local authority boundaries.

We understand that the Commission has a requirement to meet the specified number of electors per ward. But we also are aware that Rule 5 in Schedule 2 of the 1986 Act provides for a number of other factors that the Commission may, and should take into account in establishing a new map of constituencies for the 2023 Review and we would like to make a number of very relevant points in relation to these. The factors that need consideration are laid out in the bullets below with our specific concerns outlined below:

- special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;

We feel that it is clear just from looking at the maps and then from viewing the Brecon Beacons range of Mountains that are between the Upper Swansea Vally and the rest of the Brecon and Radnor area that there is little linking the post-industrial, ex-mining communities of the Upper Valleys with rural Brecon and Radnorshire. It would make more sense to bring Ystradgylas into line with other valley communities than to dissociate more communities from their natural geographical and cultural ties.

- local government boundaries as they existed on 1 December 2020
- boundaries of existing constituencies

Residents of the Upper Swansea and Amman Valley will be in differing UK Parliamentary, Wales Senedd and Local Authorities groupings. This will make representation of these communities difficult and getting appropriate democratic representational support on issues very difficult for local residents.

The Neath Port Talbot / Powys county boundary forms the basis of a number of other administrative boundaries, including the South West / Mid Wales economic region, South Wales / Dyfed Powys Police territories, and the Powys and Swansea Bay Health Boards. A



constituency crossing all of these boundaries will cause considerable administrative complications and confusion.

Historically the Swansea Valley was always part of Glamorganshire and local ties are all with Neath and Swansea, not with Brecon and Mid Wales in general.

- any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies

The proposed constituency will have a southern tip that is very different in character to the remainder. The Swansea and Amman Valley wards have an average of 38% Welsh speakers, compared with just 16% in the rest of the proposed constituency (2011 census figures, weighted by ward population). Lower Brynamman ward stood at over 60% Welsh Language Speakers one of the highest in Wales. As such we have been appalled that no Welsh Language Impact Assessment has been undertaken or is required. This appears to disregard this significant cultural link.

The Swansea and Amman Valley wards are also significantly more deprived, with an average WIMD ranking of 813 compared with 1159 for the Brecon and Radnor wards (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, lower ranking indicating more deprivation). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards will include just 25% of the constituency's population, giving a real risk that the very different needs of the area will not be reflected in the electoral choices made by the constituency as a whole.

It is also clear that these wards will be placed into a constituency that does not share its mining heritage and the very real issue of Coal tip safety is of concern in this regard. Neath Port Talbot County Borough and Neath Constituency has one of the highest levels of coal spoil tips and consequently, there is expertise and knowledge in the Neath constituency that promotes working with the Coal Authority to deal with issues as they arise. This is very much not the case for Powys or Brecon and Radnor constituency. Issues of land slips and schools under threat in the Upper Swansea Valley make this a very current issue.

- the inconveniences attendant on such changes

The proposed constituency is very large in size with poor transport links. The current MP's office is in Llandrindod Wells – a journey of over 55 miles and 1 hour and 20 minutes by car from the Amman Valley Communities. It is not possible to make the return journey by public transport in one day.

It is clearly apparent that none of these factors have been taken into account when considering the placement of the Swansea and Amman Valley wards. This appears to be totally a numbers exercise, bearing little or no regard to geographic, local and historic ties.

**As an alternative, we support the Assistant Commissioners' proposals for the Swansea and Neath, Aberafan & Bridgend areas ([https://bcomm-wales.gov.uk/sites/bcomm/files/review/ACs%20Report\\_e\\_final.pdf](https://bcomm-wales.gov.uk/sites/bcomm/files/review/ACs%20Report_e_final.pdf)) The inclusion of the Swansea and Amman Valleys within their proposed Lliw Valley constituency far better reflects existing and historic boundaries, geography and local characteristics.**

**BCW-10769 / [REDACTED] / Swansea**

I am writing to support the alternatives to the Boundary Commission of Wales revised proposals from Geraint Davies MP set out below.

Most importantly, they re-unite Sketty and Uplands, which make up a continuous urban environment with intimately connected communities, so should remain in the same constituency. Both alternatives enable this, whilst also bringing Mayals and the other wards of the Mumbles Community Council into one constituency.

Alternative 2 most closely preserves the current established constituencies of Gower and Swansea West and delivers two almost equally-sized electorates both within one per cent of the UK target constituency population.

Therefore, Alternative 2 allows the constituency names of Gower and Swansea West to be retained whilst allowing maximum flexibility for population change without a future boundary change.

I appreciate that these changes are more significant than would be usual at this stage of the process but the results, in my opinion, are more coherent and sustainable constituencies than the latest revised proposals.

I personally know these alternatives have wide support amongst the diversity of communities across the City and County of Swansea and that these communities are keen to be listened to in this process.

People appreciate that it is what is right, in terms of the criteria, and not who is right or what was said last, that is most important to the BCW.

Therefore, I would be grateful if you would carefully consider and ideally accept one of these alternatives moving forwards.

**BCW-10770 / [REDACTED] / Blackwood**

I am writing to you as a constituent of Islwyn to object to your latest proposals to detach wards from Islwyn and merge with Newport West. It beggars belief who on this planet let alone somebody in Wales came up with this proposal. I live in Blackwood within the Islwyn constituency. I work in the constituency of Newport West that now see your proposals merging both constituencies together.

Do you have any idea at all what this means in reality?

Your latest insensitive proposals see the detachment of the following wards from the Islwyn constituency:

Pontllanfraith

Maesycwmmmer

Pengam

Aberbargoed

Cefn Fforest

Blackwood is currently coalesced with Pontllanfraith and Cefn Fforest wards. There are no physical boundaries that separate them.

Your proposals see the complete detachment of Pontllanfraith, I would like to draw your attention you state in your decision making “ do not contain detached parts”. You have completely not only detached Pontllanfraith from its constituency of Islwyn but from its very mountain of Mynyddislwyn that has helped forge its existence “ a mountain is a physical geography”. Also please note the historical listed structures and buildings that have been forged with Pontllanfraith and are directly attached to adjoining wards: the former Urban Mynyddislwyn district offices, now known as groundwork wales, Gelligroes Mill (historical titanic links to Artie Moore), bridge over Sirhowy river, Gelligroes, Tram Road bridge (partly in the Pontllanfraith ward),

Our current MP has been a strong positive voice on our behalf in Westminster and is completely cohesive with our communities and local concerns. At present, I oppose your proposals to detach wards from Islwyn and merge with Newport West. I trust your next approach ensures that our voices are not insensitively diminished and certainly more thoughtful of our communities that are cohesively attached to each other. The constituency of Islwyn deserve to be represented in a fair and equal manner without the removal of a mountain and historic titanic links from the very heart of our communities within the Islwyn Constituency.

**BCW-10771 / [REDACTED] Pontardawe Conservation Volunteers / Pontardawe**

Pontardawe Conservation Volunteers strongly object to the Boundary Commission proposal to include Pontardawe and Trebanos wards, and other Swansea and Amman Valley wards, within the new Brecon, Radnor and Cwm-tawe constituency.

It is very disappointing to see that despite numerous objections, including that of the Assistant Commissioners, the plan for our area remains unchanged from the initial proposal.

As well as the necessity to meet the required number of electors per ward, Rule 5 in Schedule 2 of the 1986 Act provides for a number of other factors that the Commission may take into account in establishing a new map of constituencies for the 2023 Review, specifically:

- special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
- local government boundaries as they existed on 1 December 2020
- boundaries of existing constituencies
- any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies
- the inconveniences attendant on such changes

It is apparent that none of these factors have been taken into account when considering the placement of the Swansea and Amman Valley wards.

The proposed constituency is very large in size with poor transport links. The current MP's office is in Llandrindod Wells – a journey of 50 miles and 1 hour and 20 minutes by car from Pontardawe. It is not possible to make the return journey by public transport in one day.

The Neath Port Talbot / Powys county boundary forms the basis of a number of other administrative boundaries, including the South West / Mid Wales economic region, South Wales / Dyfed Powys Police territories, and the Powys and Swansea Bay Health Boards. A constituency crossing all of these boundaries will cause considerable administrative complications and confusion.

Historically the Swansea Valley was always part of Glamorganshire and local ties are all with Neath and Swansea, not with Brecon.

The proposed constituency will have a southern tip that is very different in character to the remainder. The Swansea and Amman Valley wards have an average of 38% Welsh speakers, compared with just 16% in the rest of the proposed constituency (2011 census figures, weighted by ward population). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards are also significantly more deprived, with an average WIMD ranking of 813 compared with 1159 for the Brecon and Radnor wards (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, lower ranking indicating more deprivation). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards will include just 25% of the constituency's population, giving a

real risk that the very different needs of the area will not be reflected in the electoral choices made by the constituency as a whole.

As an alternative, we support the Assistant Commissioners' proposals for the Swansea and Neath, Aberafan & Bridgend areas. The inclusion of the Swansea and Amman Valleys within their proposed Lliw Valley constituency far better reflects existing and historic boundaries, geography and local characteristics.

**BCW-10772 / [REDACTED] / Corwen**

Historically and administratively, for centuries until recently, Corwen and Edeirion were part of old Meirionnydd. The last reorganisation, combining areas from Brymbo to Glyn Ceiriog to Llandrillo, and Rhos and Penley, was a mistake, just to make the numbers work. It seems that this recent effort to balance the electorate is leading us yet again to similar problems – but some will be even deeper this time. There is no effective relationship between the Corwen area, which is in the Dee Valley, and areas such as Welshpool, Newtown and Llanidloes, which are far beyond the Berwyn mountain.

It would be fairer and more meaningful to include the old Edeirion in Dwyfor/Meirionnydd where cultural, agricultural, educational and administrative ties continue to be important to residents.

This would also bring approximately 3,000 more people into Dwyfor/Meirionnydd and thus bring the electorate of the two proposed constituencies closer to the target range.

Given the importance of democratic representation and the opportunity for each individual to express their opinion and make a difference, the feeling of belonging is a core issue – to belong to a village, an area, a community, a constituency.

It will be difficult if not impossible to sustain the feeling of belonging in a constituency such as the one proposed by the Board, which will weaken rather than promote democracy.

I trust that you will give careful consideration to the points noted above and that you agree that the opportunity to be a meaningful part of the democratic process is essential to the success of any changes to constituency boundaries. The current proposals will not ensure this.

**BCW-10773 / [REDACTED] / Bala**

I wish to express my opinion regarding the recent proposals regarding the new constituency boundary for Clwyd South, formerly known as Edeirion.

I believe that these new plans are completely unviable. There are no connections between Edeirion and Welshpool, Machynlleth or Newtown, be that a political connection or otherwise. Most of the local residents do their shopping in Bala, Ruthin or Llangollen. Moreover, almost all the local children attend schools in these towns. No children attend school in Newtown, Welshpool or Machynlleth. Our local paper is also situated in Bala.

Due to these existing connections, I propose that the Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency would be a much more suitable option for us. Alternatively, if this was found to be unachievable, Aberconwy constituency would be an acceptable second choice. There are at least connections between Edeirion and Aberconwy which are not present whatsoever between the areas in the new proposed boundary.

I strongly object to the Boundary Commission proposal to include Pontardawe and Trebanos wards, and other Swansea and Amman Valley wards, within the new Brecon, Radnor and Cwm-tawe constituency. It is very disappointing to see that despite numerous objections, including that of the Assistant Commissioners, the plan for our area remains unchanged from the initial proposal. As well as the necessity to meet the required number of electors per ward, Rule 5 in Schedule 2 of the 1986 Act provides for a number of other factors that the Commission may take into account in establishing a new map of constituencies for the 2023 Review, specifically:

- special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
- local government boundaries as they existed on 1 December 2020
- boundaries of existing constituencies
- any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies
- the inconveniences attendant on such changes

It is apparent that none of these factors have been taken into account when considering the placement of the Swansea and Amman Valley wards.

The proposed constituency is very large in size with poor transport links. The current MP's office is in Llandrindod Wells – a journey of 50 miles and 1 hour and 20 minutes by car from Pontardawe. It is not possible to make the return journey by public transport in one day. The Neath Port Talbot / Powys county boundary forms the basis of a number of other administrative boundaries, including the South West / Mid Wales economic region, South Wales / Dyfed Powys Police territories, and the Powys and Swansea Bay Health Boards. A constituency crossing all of these boundaries will cause considerable administrative complications and confusion. Historically the Swansea Valley was always part of Glamorganshire and local ties are all with Neath and Swansea, not with Brecon. The proposed constituency will have a southern tip that is very different in character to the remainder. The Swansea and Amman Valley wards have an average of 38% Welsh speakers, compared with just 16% in the rest of the proposed constituency (2011 census figures, weighted by ward population). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards are also significantly more deprived, with an average WIMD ranking of 813 compared with 1159 for the Brecon and Radnor wards (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, lower ranking indicating more deprivation). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards will include just 25% of the constituency's population, giving a real risk that the very different needs of the area will not be reflected in the electoral choices made by the constituency as a whole. As an alternative, we support the Assistant Commissioners' proposals for the Swansea and Neath, Aberafan & Bridgend areas. The inclusion of the Swansea and Amman Valleys within their proposed Lliw Valley constituency far better reflects existing and historic boundaries, geography and local characteristics.

**BCW-10775 / [REDACTED] / Bala**

I would like to express my opinion regarding the recent publication detailing new constituency boundaries, specifically the new boundary for Clwyd South (formerly Edeirnion).

I believe that the new plans are completely unviable because there are no ties (political or otherwise) between Edeirnion and Newtown, Welshpool or Machynlleth.

Our local newspaper is based in Bala. There are no local children attending secondary schools in Newtown, Machynlleth or Welshpool. They attend secondary schools in Bala, Ruthin and Llangollen. Most local residents also shop in these towns, rather than over the mountain.

Given these ties, the Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency would be a much fairer choice for us, in my opinion. The Aberconwy constituency would be an acceptable second choice, if uniting our constituency with Dwyfor Meirionnydd presents difficulties. At least there are ties between Edeirnion and Aberconwy, which simply is not the case for the areas covered by the proposed new border.



I strongly object to the Boundary Commission proposal to include Pontardawe and Trebanos wards, and other Swansea and Amman Valley wards, within the new Brecon, Radnor and Cwm-tawe constituency.

It is very disappointing to see that despite numerous objections, including that of the Assistant Commissioners, the plan for our area remains unchanged from the initial proposal.

As well as the necessity to meet the required number of electors per ward, Rule 5 in Schedule 2 of the 1986 Act provides for a number of other factors that the Commission may take into account in establishing a new map of constituencies for the 2023 Review, specifically:

- special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
- local government boundaries as they existed on 1 December 2020
- boundaries of existing constituencies
- any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies
- the inconveniences attendant on such changes

It is apparent that none of these factors have been taken into account when considering the placement of the Swansea and Amman Valley wards.

The proposed constituency is very large in size with poor transport links. The current MP's office is in Llandrindod Wells – a journey of 50 miles and 1 hour and 20 minutes by car from Pontardawe. It is not possible to make the return journey by public transport in one day.

The Neath Port Talbot / Powys county boundary forms the basis of a number of other administrative boundaries, including the South West / Mid Wales economic region, South Wales / Dyfed Powys Police territories, and the Powys and Swansea Bay Health Boards. A constituency crossing all of these boundaries will cause considerable administrative complications and confusion.

Historically the Swansea Valley was always part of Glamorganshire and local ties are all with Neath and Swansea, not with Brecon.

The proposed constituency will have a southern tip that is very different in character to the remainder. The Swansea and Amman Valley wards have an average of 38% Welsh speakers, compared with just 16% in the rest of the proposed constituency (2011 census figures, weighted by ward population). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards are also significantly more deprived, with an average WIMD ranking of 813 compared with 1159 for the Brecon and Radnor wards (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, lower ranking indicating more deprivation). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards will include just 25% of the constituency's population, giving a

real risk that the very different needs of the area will not be reflected in the electoral choices made by the constituency as a whole.

As an alternative, we support the Assistant Commissioners' proposals for the Swansea and Neath, Aberafan & Bridgend areas. The inclusion of the Swansea and Amman Valleys within their proposed Lliw Valley constituency far better reflects existing and historic boundaries, geography and local characteristics.

**BCW-10777 / [REDACTED] / Newport**

It would be more sensible for the Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen (BTM) community, and associated wards such as Rudry and Michaelston-y-Fedw, to join Newport West rather than Blackwood and its nearby areas. BTM is closer to Newport than Blackwood is; although it is part of Caerphilly county borough, it also links to Bassaleg and Rogerstone through the A483 and bus services, while Blackwood has limited connections to Newport West. It would also create a more compact constituency which would have a more shared understanding of community, which would be missing from the Newport West and Islwyn proposed constituency. Historically, BTM was part of Monmouthshire but was moved to Rhymney Valley, Mid Glamorgan, in 1974.

**BCW-10778 / [REDACTED] / Cardiff**

I am a Member of Cardiff Council and I represent the Plasnewydd Ward (which is Roath mostly). I live just over the ward border in Cathays. I am writing following the publication of the revised proposals from the Boundary Commission for Wales on Wednesday 19th October. 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-10779 / [REDACTED] / Pencoed**

I am a resident of the town of Pencoed and object in the strongest possible terms to the inclusion of the town within the proposed new Rhondda parliamentary constituency.

In addition, I find the timescale given to submit these views, on what is a vitally important matter which has an impact on the future of the town in which I live, to be wholly inadequate and unacceptable.

If there is a serious desire to obtain the honest, considered, and open views from individuals, groups, and organisations on this proposed change then far more time should have been allotted. None of the previous proposals had suggested that Pencoed be included within the Rhondda boundary so to then see the huge change suggested here is a complete shock and surprise.

For over a century the people of Pencoed have identified with Bridgend and not with the Rhondda, indeed our postal town is Bridgend. We have a campus of the highly respected Bridgend College located within the town. Our schools have a wealth of evidence to show that they interact with their counterparts in Bridgend and not with the Rhondda.

Surely the rationale behind any boundary changes should be to ensure the economic and cultural stability of communities but the connecting of Pencoed to Rhondda through Gilfach Goch via the thinnest of strips of land with no vehicular link is just preposterous. There are no direct rail or road links to the new constituency from Pencoed.

When considering the map of the proposed boundary changes it is obvious that a much more simple and viable solution would be to replace Pencoed with the whole of the Ogmore Valley which has far greater links with the Rhondda with two separate roads, the A4061 and the A4093, directly connecting it to the Rhondda constituency.

The Ogmore Valley also shares a border on the whole of its eastern side with the Rhondda. It is also the case that the communities of the Ogmore Valley i.e., Nantymoel, Ogmore Vale and Blackmill have far more in common with the neighbouring communities of the Rhondda in terms of economy, heritage, and culture than Pencoed.

I trust you will give this the consideration it deserves.

**BCW-10780 / [REDACTED] / Clunderwen**

I was born in Llandysilio, Clunderwen, which is in Maenclochog ward, and currently in the Pembrokeshire constituency.

I am so happy to see that you intend to move this ward to the Ceredigion constituency and to call the area Ceredigion Preseli, since that is the natural gravitation for our population.

Welsh is the primary language in the area, education is in Welsh, our industry and culture are in Welsh, our history is Welsh history, and everyday life today is in Welsh.

It is therefore only right that the constituency reflects this, and Ceredigion Preseli is the most appropriate constituency for Maenclochog ward.

**BCW-10781 / [REDACTED] Overview and Scrutiny Committee Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council / RCT**

I am writing to present the formal response of Elected Members to your consultation in respect of the 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales, revised proposals. This response was considered and adopted by the Council's cross-party Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 7 November 2022, with an open invitation to all Elected Members.

Firstly members acknowledged and appreciated the challenge facing the commission, in reducing the number of Welsh constituencies from 40 to 32, and reality of this scenario in shaping new parliamentary representation in Wales.

As you will be aware, the administrative area of Rhondda Cynon Taf Council, would under these proposals be represented in whole or part across five of the new constituencies, namely, Pontypridd, Rhondda, Merthyr Tydfil and Cynon, Cardiff North and Cardiff West.

#### Cardiff North

At the meeting Members expressed concerns with the proposal for the Taffs Well ward to sit within the Cardiff North constituency as it was felt that Taffs Well had no direct connections with the other communities that would fall within the proposed constituency. Members also felt this would cause confusion within the community as they would sit within different Boundaries at a Local Authority and Parliamentary level. Members felt that if Taffs Well should move out of the Pontypridd constituency, it would be better placed within the Cardiff West constituency as the Community has more in common with neighbouring wards such as Gwaelod-Y-Garth and Pentyrch.

#### Cardiff West

Members acknowledge the geographical logic, in terms of balancing the number of electors within each new constituency, for the Pontyclun electoral ward to reside within the new

Cardiff West constituency. Members recognised the 'spread' of the Cardiff North of its historic boundaries and the strong transport links of residents from Pontyclun to Cardiff, as a commuter area for the Capital City. Committee acknowledged that there was limited social or cultural connection between Pontyclun and the civic centre of the current constituency in which it resides, namely Pontypridd, which led the committee to conclude that there would be limited negative impact from this change, albeit it that Pontyclun would be the only area of the new constituency not to reside in the administrative area of the City & Council of Cardiff, and that this presented a challenge in terms of representation at a local level, and also from an electoral administration perspective. Members also cited equal logic in this community sitting as part of the Vale of Glamorgan constituency to achieve the criteria of the review.

#### Merthyr & Upper Cynon

Members were supportive of the proposals to bring Aberaman and Cwmbach into the Merthyr and Upper Cynon constituency instead of the new Pontypridd



Constituency, which was originally proposed by the commission. Members reiterated their previous observation that these communities 'look north' culturally and socially to Aberdare more than they would Pontypridd. Similarly, members also acknowledge an historical connection between Aberdare and Merthyr Tydfil over generations, which supported the commissions rationale for making this proposal. Some members also noted that parliamentary representation had previously comprised the north of the Cynon and Merthyr valleys.

#### Pontypridd

Members welcomed the return of the communities of Glyncoch and Ynysybwl within the new Pontypridd constituency, and acknowledge the strong historical and social ties these communities share with Pontypridd. Members and residents were also supportive of the Cilfynydd ward sitting in with the Pontypridd constituency.

Despite their close geographical connection, members did acknowledge little practical day-to-day connection between the greater Mountain Ash area and the key town of Pontypridd, or the broader area of the new constituency. Members acknowledge significantly different demographics between the southern part of this new constituency and those communities which currently reside in the Cynon Valley constituency.

Members also cited limited or no connection between Pontypridd and the communities of Llanharry, Llanharan and Brynna (Currently forming part of the current Ogmores Constituency) with Pontypridd and saw more logic in these areas being connected with the Rhondda wards – or possibly Bridgend or the Vale of Glamorgan under new constituency arrangements.

#### Rhondda

As part of a requirement to reduce the number of constituencies in Wales, in this context members recognised the logic in include the electoral divisions of Tonyrefail East and Tonyrefail West in the new Rhondda constituency. Members acknowledge the strong sense of association which already exists between Tonyrefail residents and Rhondda as an area. Some members acknowledge a similar connection between Gilfach Goch and the Rhondda,

while also recognising the connection which also exists between these communities south towards Bridgend and Llantrisant in practical terms, from access services, travel and retail.

Members expressed strong reservations in respect of the inclusion of the Pencoed and Penprysg from the Bridgend County Borough and the current Ogmores Constituency.

All members believed this element of the proposal did not accord with the comments of the commission, to "seek to recommend constituencies that are made up of whole electoral wards that are next to each other and do not contain detached parts; that is, where the only physical connection between one part of the constituency and the rest of it would require passage through a different constituency"

To access these two communities it was noted that you would need to travel through at least two other new parliamentary constituencies; on this basis Members did not feel the above statement was reflective of the proposal to include the Pencoed, Hendre and Felindre wards within the proposed Rhondda constituency.

Members commented that the Hendre and Felindre wards would align better within the new Bridgend constituency or equally the new Vale of Glamorgan constituency, were in both instances there is a stronger local connection. Members all recognised that there was no social, cultural or historical connection between these specific areas and the Rhondda. Members also noted that in terms of meeting the required representation of electoral parameters, there would be no significant consequence to remove these communities from the Rhondda proposal, or adding them to the new Bridgend or Vale of Glamorgan proposal.

Members therefore suggest that the Commission consider looking to the North of the Rhondda constituency, and instead consider including communities such as Nantymoel and the Garw Valley which has a far greater geographical connection and also has similar demographic and cultural connections to the Rhondda. Or alternatively, the commission could consider including Brynna and Llanharan within the Rhondda constituency as this has more connections than the Hendre and Felindre wards.

Members appreciated the response of the commission to many of the comments made by the Council to the previous draft proposals and in doing so acknowledged the challenges faced by the commission in meeting the criteria set in a way which as far as practicable possible reflects and respects the strong links and associations residents have with their Members of Parliament under the current parliamentary arrangements.

**BCW-10782 / [REDACTED] / Bangor**

I remain opposed to the intention to dissolve the Arfon constituency and to move the city of Bangor to the new Bangor Aberconwy constituency, for reasons that have already been stated, including the geographical size and mountainous terrain of the proposed constituency, and the united linguistic, cultural, political and economic identity of the current constituency, namely the Caernarfon area, Y Felinheli, the city of Bangor, and Bethesda and other local villages, and other special features in the area which include a university city, Snowdonia National Park and the river Menai. It is also impossible to avoid the conclusion that reorganising and restructuring the boundaries of the Arfon constituency will give particular parties an unfair advantage in elections, thus disrupting the opportunity for representation for a specific group of voters, namely those who vote for Plaid Cymru in the city of Bangor.

Therefore I oppose the restructuring.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**Cllr Grace Ferguson-Thorne  
Councillor Adamsdown Ward**

**14 November 2022**

**FAO: Boundary Commission Wales**

Dear Sirs,

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 Adamsdown, Cyncoed, Penylan and Plasnewydd.

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, Adamsdown, Penylan and Plasnewydd 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.

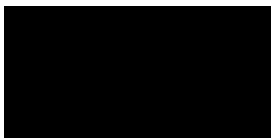
"We're determined to develop the best possible proposals for Wales' new constituencies, and we know that we can only do that by having the greatest public involvement we've ever had." "Accessibility is at the heart of what we're trying to achieve. Everyone in Wales has a valuable voice to add to the 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 has many community ties with the Adamsdown area which I represent as a local councillor, and to the Roath areas of Cyncoed, Penylan and Plasnewydd.

- The student population from Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan University and the Cardiff campus of the University of South Wales live in Adamsdown, Cathays and Plasnewydd. Cardiff University buildings span Cathays, Plasnewydd and Penylan, with the University of South Wales building being in Adamsdown. Halls of residence for both these universities are in close proximity across Adamsdown, 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.

**Yours Faithfully**



**Cllr Grace Ferguson-Thorne**  
Councillor for Adamsdown

## **BCW-10784 / Cllr Sonia Reynolds / Neath**

I am very disappointed to note that despite numerous representations from individuals, communities and even the Welsh based Assistant Commissioners, all of whom have more local knowledge of the area, the Commission continues with its proposal for inclusion of the Upper Swansea and Amman Valleys, currently part of the Neath Constituency and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, within the Parliamentary Constituency of Brecon, Radnor and Cwmtawe. This places these post-industrial, valley communities into a very Powys focused, rural constituency. Our Communities appear on the map provided, as a somewhat dissociated add-on, tenuously linked to the main body of Brecon and Radnor to make up the numbers. This does a disservice to the local residents that I represent.

Establishment of a large Brecon, Radnor and Cwmtawe Constituency will mean that residents will struggle to get representation on their issues. The variation of boundaries between constituency links for UK Parliamentary and Wales Senedd would be difficult for residents and there would be additional confusion caused by cross cutting local authority boundaries.

I understand that the Commission has a requirement to meet the specified number of electors per ward. I am also aware that there are other criteria for the review and have expressed my concerns relating to those below.

Special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency: - It is clear from maps and very evident in the everyday lives of those of us who live in the Amman Valley that the Brecon Beacons range of Mountains that are between the Upper Swansea Valley and the rest of the Brecon and Radnor present a real geographical barrier to links with rural Powys. Our communities are post-industrial, ex-mining in character and have little in common with rural Brecon and Radnorshire. It would make more sense to bring Ystradgylas into line with other valley communities than to dissociate more communities from their natural geographical and cultural ties.

Local government boundaries as they existed on 1 December 2020 and Boundaries of existing constituencies: - Residents of the Upper Amman Valley will find themselves in differing UK Parliamentary, Wales Senedd and Local Authorities groupings. This will make representation by MPs, MS and Local Councillors on issues that bridge the remits of these representatives, extremely difficult in some cases and understanding who to contact in relation to what, will have increased complexity for local residents. The Neath Port Talbot / Powys county boundary forms the basis of a number of other administrative boundaries, including the South West / Mid Wales economic region, South Wales / Dyfed Powys Police territories, and the Powys and Swansea Bay Health Boards. A constituency crossing all of these boundaries will cause considerable administrative complications and confusion. Historically the Swansea Valley was always part of Glamorganshire and local ties are all with Neath and Swansea, not with Brecon and Mid Wales in general.

Local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies: - The ward of Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Lower Brynamman, like the rest of the Amman and Swansea Valleys, is very different in character to the wards that would make up the rest of the proposed Brecon, Radnor and Cwmtawe constituency. Our Valley wards have an average of 38% Welsh speakers, compared with just 16% in the rest of the proposed constituency (2011 census figures, weighted by ward population). Lower Brynamman ward stood at over 60% Welsh Language Speakers, one of the highest in Wales. The Welsh Language is a living reality in my ward. It is due to this that I am appalled that no Welsh Language Impact Assessment has been undertaken or is required. This appears to show complete disregard for this significant cultural aspect the lives of local residents. Our Communities are also amongst those that are significantly deprived, with an average WIMD ranking of 813 (again Lower Brynamman is the one of the most deprived areas) compared with 1159 for the Brecon and Radnor wards (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, lower ranking indicating more deprivation). The residents of our ward and those in the rest of the Swansea and Amman Valleys will be very definitely a minority (max 25%) of the constituency's population. This creates a real risk that the very different needs of the area will not be reflected in the electoral choices made by the constituency as a whole.

It is also clear that our wards will be placed into a constituency that does not share their mining heritage and the very real issue of Coal tip safety is of concern in this regard. Neath Port Talbot County Borough and Neath Constituency have one of the highest levels of coal spoil tips and consequently, there is expertise and knowledge in the Neath constituency that promotes positive working relationships with the Coal Authority to deal with issues as they arise. This is very much not the case for Powys local authority or Brecon and Radnor constituency. Issues of land slips and schools under threat in the Upper Swansea Valley make this a very current issue.

Inconveniences attendant on such changes:- The proposed constituency is very large in size with poor transport links. The current MP's office is in Llandrindod Wells – a journey of over 55 miles and 1 hour and 20 minutes by car from the Amman Valley Communities. It is not possible to make the return journey by public transport in one day and that is only if relevant buses are running.

It is clearly apparent that none of these factors have been taken into account when considering the placement of the Swansea and Amman Valley wards. This appears to be totally a numbers exercise, bearing little or no regard to geographic, local and historic ties.

As an alternative, I support the Assistant Commissioners' proposals for the Swansea and Neath, Aberafan & Bridgend areas ([https://bcomm-wales.gov.uk/sites/bcomm/files/review/ACs%20Report\\_e\\_final.pdf](https://bcomm-wales.gov.uk/sites/bcomm/files/review/ACs%20Report_e_final.pdf)) The inclusion of the Swansea and Amman Valleys within their proposed Lliw Valley constituency far better reflects existing and historic boundaries, geography and local characteristics.

Cllr Sonia Reynolds – Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Lower Brynamman Wards.

**BCW-10785 / [REDACTED] / Swansea**

Absolutely ridiculous boundary changes proposal. Clearly the idea of a person with no idea of the rural and semi rural mix of constituencies with a city centre. I despair at the quality of the people making these ridiculous proposals



I have made some proposed changes to the latest proposal for the boundaries. There are two main changes which have some consequence for other constituencies too. The main guide for my recommendations are the local government boundaries and with the exception of two constituencies (which cover three LAs), all the other constituencies cover only one or two local authorities. This is important for community links and for effective relationship between the elected members and the authorities that deliver policies decided at Westminster. Road links has also been taken into consideration.

The two main changes are:

1. North Wales rural constituency to include the Bangor/Ogwen area, Conwy rural and Denbighshire rural areas. There are strong economic and cultural links in this constituency which are not so strongly shared with the North Wales coast. I have worked on the assumption that the Boundary Commission is insisting on a Gwynedd seat without the northern part of Arfon. As a result another constituency that covers Conwy in the west to Kinmel Bay in the east is completely within Conwy CC and has a more coherent identity both economically and culturally.

2. The border between Powys and the south Wales valleys is a historic division that should be respected. Brecon and Radnorshire is a predominantly rural constituency and it would make more sense to move the boundary upwards to include Llanidloes and Newtown that extend south into the valleys. This maintains the constituency within the boundary of Powys CC. Some accommodation has been made to the constituencies in south West Wales valleys. There is a closer connection with the Neath valleys and also a constituency that covers most of the current Aberavon seat but stretches into Swansea and into the western part of Bridgend. Again, this is a more coherent economic and cultural community than the proposal to extend Brecon and Radnorshire into south Wales valleys. There would be some amendment to the northern Montgomeryshire seat that would also take in rural parts of the south of Wrexham CC but these are not so economically/socially distinct and would be suitable as parts of the same constituency.

I have kept all the seats of the Dyfed and Gwent seats as proposed as well as the Cardiff seats with some adjustment for Rhondda/Ogmore, Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan but again no more than two LAs in each seat.

I enclose two files - one each for the North Wales area and South Wales constituencies.

I hope you will consider these recommendations as I believe they are better suited to the community, cultural, language and economic connections across Wales.

Plan Builder 2020 | 2023 Parliamentary Review - Rev | Mail - Benwyn Davies - Outlook | 8 Ways to Take a Screenshot on X

boundaryassistant.org/PlanBuilder/index.html?v=1.66

**WalesPlan1**

Seats: 81  
 Electorate: 2270262  
 Quota: 73234  
 Minimum: 69724  
 Maximum: 77062  
 Unassigned Avg: 0  
 Assigned Avg: 73234

Unassigned: 0

1	Wales 001	69803	Yes
2	Wales 002	70731	Yes
3	Wales 003	70229	Yes
4	Wales 004	74708	Yes
5	Wales 005	71500	Yes
6	Wales 006	71091	Yes
7	Wales 007	72306	Yes
8	Wales 008	70914	Yes
9	Wales 009	74063	Yes
10	Wales 010	76820	Yes
11	Wales 011	72683	Yes
12	Wales 012	69895	Yes
13	Wales 013	73214	Yes
14	Wales 014	76199	Yes
15	Wales 015	74365	Yes
16	Wales 016	72503	Yes
17	Wales 017	76242	Yes

**Active Ward**

Name: Llanwenog 1419  
 Local Auth: Ceredigion 56151 (0.77 Quotas)  
 Current Const: Ceredigion 56151

**Active Plan Consistency**

Name: Wales 009  
 Electorate: 74063

Up to 4339 may be removed.  
 Up to 2999 may be added.

Colour:   
 Opacity: 0.75

W05000370	Ceulanamaesmaur	1551
W05000368	Borth	1677
W05000393	Trefeurig	1382
W05000392	Tirymynach	1403
W05000372	Faenor	1985
W05000375	Llanbadam Fawr - Padarn	767
W05000376	Llanbadam Fawr - Sullien	973
W05000365	Aberystwyth Penparcau	2084
W05000366	Aberystwyth Rheidol	1776
W05000363	Aberystwyth Canol / Central	1358
W05000382	Aberystwyth Bronglais	936
W05000364	Aberystwyth Gogledd / North	1478

Design © 2020 Kevin Larkin. Contact: [Twitter](#) To help keep this website available and up to date please consider making a contribution.

WalesPlan1 (2).json | Plan Builder 2020.html | WalesPlan1 (1).json | Gogledd Cymru...html | Cardiff West\_E\_1\_0.tif | De Cymru - Sout...html | Gogledd Cymru...html

Type here to search | Desktop | 9°C | Deels zonnig | 12:49 | 14/11/2022

Plan Builder 2020 | 2023 Parliamentary Review - Rev | Mail - Benwyn Davies - Outlook | 8 Ways to Take a Screenshot on X

boundaryassistant.org/PlanBuilder/index.html?v=1.66

**WalesPlan1**

Seats: 81  
 Electorate: 2270262  
 Quota: 73234  
 Minimum: 69724  
 Maximum: 77062  
 Unassigned Avg: 0  
 Assigned Avg: 73234

Unassigned: 0

1	Wales 001	69803	Yes
2	Wales 002	70731	Yes
3	Wales 003	70229	Yes
4	Wales 004	74708	Yes
5	Wales 005	71500	Yes
6	Wales 006	71091	Yes
7	Wales 007	72306	Yes
8	Wales 008	70914	Yes
9	Wales 009	74063	Yes
10	Wales 010	76820	Yes
11	Wales 011	72683	Yes
12	Wales 012	69895	Yes
13	Wales 013	73214	Yes
14	Wales 014	76199	Yes
15	Wales 015	74365	Yes
16	Wales 016	72503	Yes
17	Wales 017	76242	Yes

**Active Ward**

Name: Llanwenog 1419  
 Local Auth: Ceredigion 56151 (0.77 Quotas)  
 Current Const: Ceredigion 56151

**Active Plan Consistency**

Name: Wales 009  
 Electorate: 74063

Up to 4339 may be removed.  
 Up to 2999 may be added.

Colour:   
 Opacity: 0.75

W05000370	Ceulanamaesmaur	1551
W05000368	Borth	1677
W05000393	Trefeurig	1382
W05000392	Tirymynach	1403
W05000372	Faenor	1985
W05000375	Llanbadam Fawr - Padarn	767
W05000376	Llanbadam Fawr - Sullien	973
W05000365	Aberystwyth Penparcau	2084
W05000366	Aberystwyth Rheidol	1776
W05000363	Aberystwyth Canol / Central	1358
W05000382	Aberystwyth Bronglais	936
W05000364	Aberystwyth Gogledd / North	1478

Design © 2020 Kevin Larkin. Contact: [Twitter](#) To help keep this website available and up to date please consider making a contribution.

WalesPlan1 (2).json | Plan Builder 2020.html | WalesPlan1 (1).json | Gogledd Cymru...html | Cardiff West\_E\_1\_0.tif | De Cymru - Sout...html | Gogledd Cymru...html

Type here to search | Desktop | 8°C | Deels zonnig | 12:51 | 14/11/2022

Response to the Parliamentary Boundary Commission Review from Canolfan Maerdy.

We are a Community Anchor Organisation providing Food Hub, Youth Services, Childcare, Community Cafe, Community Transport, advice, information, employment support, training and general community development activities to the communities of the Upper Amman and Twrch Valley communities.

The Board of Canolfan Maerdy wish to express our clear concerns that despite numerous representations from the area the Commission continues to place our ex-mining, valley communities into the very rurally focused constituency to be named Brecon, Radnor and Cwmtawe. We feel that this endangers our relationships as a community organisation with local representatives. Given that longer term it is likely that we will see the new boundaries used for Senedd elections with a probably reorganisation of local authority boundaries to follow. Loosing our ties to other valley communities with mining heritage and our well established partnership working with NPTCVS and other community anchor organisations in Neath would make life very difficult for us to address the needs of our beneficiaries.

Getting to meet our local representatives, given that the current MPs office for Brecon and Radnor is in Llandrindod Wells would be difficult. If driving it is an hour and a half away and there is also a significant cost. However we are a community that has higher than average levels of the population with no access to cars. This means that public transport would need to be used and it is not possible to get to and from Llandrindod to take part in a meeting or similar, on the same day. An overnight stay would be involved.

We feel that there could be a significant impact on grant funding access as well, given the recent movement of UK Government to put funds direct to local government but require support of the relevant MP. If our organisation is a in a very small part of another Parliamentary Constituency it would be less likely for the MP to support allocation of funds to that smaller post-industrial and highly population over and above the needs of the majority in the constituency where the interests are rurally focused.

We feel that it is clear just from looking at the maps and then from viewing the Brecon Beacons range of Mountains that are between the Upper Swansea Vally and the rest of the Brecon and Radnor area that there is little linking the post-industrial, ex-mining communities of the Upper Valleys with rural Brecon and Radnorshire. It would make more sense to bring Ystradgylas into line with other valley communities than to dissociate more communities from their natural geographical and cultural ties.

Our local area includes some more deprived communities with an average WIMD ranking of 813 compared with 1159 for the Brecon and Radnor wards (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, lower ranking indicating more deprivation). The area

also has an average of 38% Welsh speakers, compared with just 16% in the rest of the proposed constituency (2011 census figures, weighted by ward population). Lower Brynamman ward stood at over 60% Welsh Language Speakers one of the highest in Wales. We are therefore, disappointed that no Welsh Language Impact Assessment has been undertaken or is required.

We feel that the Commission has not taken due regard of the significant links that our communities have with other valley communities in Neath and Swansea. It appears that these historical and cultural links plus long established family connections have not been taken into account when considering the placement of the Swansea and Amman Valley communities. This appears to be totally a numbers exercise, bearing little or no regard to geographic, local and historic ties.

As an alternative, we support the Assistant Commissioners' proposals for the Swansea and Neath, Aberafan & Bridgend areas ([https://bcomm-wales.gov.uk/sites/bcomm/files/review/ACs%20Report\\_e\\_final.pdf](https://bcomm-wales.gov.uk/sites/bcomm/files/review/ACs%20Report_e_final.pdf)) The inclusion of the Swansea and Amman Valleys within the proposed Lliw Valley constituency that is within their alternative proposals, will ensure continued links with similar ex-mining, valleys communities.

**BCW-10788 / [REDACTED] / Abercarn**

WHY?

This is just someone with a nonjob employed by Government having to justify their nonjob. To come up with a idea that will boost their status and to try to prove they are needed.

Leave things as they are or cut numbers of MPs to save the country money by just having one for each county council area as they stand. This could be the same for Wales Senydd one MS for each county.

**BCW-10789 / [REDACTED] Returning Officer for Pembrokeshire / Haverfordwest**

On behalf of the Electoral Registration Officer/Returning Officer for Pembrokeshire

Thank you for acknowledging the comments made in our response at the previous consultation stage and note that these comments have been taken into account.

**BCW-10790 / [REDACTED] / Colwyn Bay**

I am writing to object to the proposed parliamentary boundary for the area in which I have lived for the last 40 years. I have been a resident of Llandudno Junction and Glan Conwy. This area is very different to Bangor and Bethesda, divided demographically by language and age, and geographically by the Carneddau mountains. We are served by different local authorities which the proposals will divide with other parliamentary areas making representation more difficult. Our principal links are the A55 and the railway, such as it is.

Flint Town Council submits evidence, in the strongest possible terms, to note it disagrees with the Boundary Commission for Wales proposals that Flint, alongside Bagillt, are to be incorporated into the Westminster seat of Alyn and Deeside.

Throughout the town's long history, it has looked West not East for its services, social links and cultural ties. The Commission has ignored the fact that Flint residents use the Holywell Cottage Hospital and Glan Clwyd Hospital. This is different to residents in Alyn and Deeside, who use Wrexham Maelor and the Countess the Chester. Not only is this important for societal links within any new proposed boundary, but it also is a logistical concern for any Member of Parliament (MP) wishing to effectively represent the seat. Under the final proposals, the MP will need to work with four hospitals to support their constituents over a distance of many miles. This is unworkable in the long-term and will undermine the quality of representation given.

This issue isn't restricted to health and social care provision. The Post Office sorting site is located in Flint and delivers to Bagillt and Holywell. Once again demonstrating that services and civic links continually look westwards and not eastwards as the Commission propose. Indeed, Flint has the same telephone dialling code as many Delyn towns and villages, such as Mold. These historical divisions have happened for a reason, and the imposition of boundaries that work against these ties will surely alienate and undermine the quality of representation provided.

From 1974 to 1996 Delyn Borough Council, which centred upon Flint and Bagillt, was distinctly separate from the Alyn and Deeside District Council. The only civic interaction Flint had was via the County Council (1888-74 and 1996-present day). This isn't a material concern as towns, like Caerwys, also interact with Alyn and Deeside towns via the County Council and no one would suggest that they would have meaningful links to Deeside communities.

When the Borough of Delyn was formed the opportunity to link Flint with Alyn and Deeside was rejected and not considered realistic or based in factual evidence. The Town Council therefore raises the question as to why the Commission now thinks new links have emerged from non-existent evidence.

Moreover, between 1983 and 1997, Flint and Bagillt have been in the Westminster parliamentary seat with Prestatyn and other parts of the Delyn Borough Council. At the conception of the current Delyn Westminster constituency the then Boundary Commission dismissed the idea of Flint and Bagillt being moved into the Alyn and Deeside constituency. This decision was upheld and reinforced by the Commission in 2018 and 2021 when the Commission agreed that the resurrection of the old Flintshire East and Flintshire West seat was not based on any evidence available. Therefore, the Town Council questions the evidence for Flint and Bagillt being moved into the Alyn and Deeside constituency.

The last time Flint and Bagillt were included with communities now found in the current seat of Alyn and Deeside was in the 1950s. The newest proposals raise questions as to what reasoning the Commission gives for overturning a decision that dates back over half a century.

In 2018, the Commission were happy to recognise that the Flint and Bagillt communities had links to all the towns and villages within the then proposed new constituency of Flint and Rhuddlan. The Town Council questions what has changed for our civic, social and service links to be broken since 2018 and 2021? We strongly disagree that we look eastwards for goods and services.

Flint Town Council has become accustomed to eleventh hour decisions from the Boundary Commission for Wales impacting our representation and we are concerned that in both the Local Government Boundary review and this Westminster review, that there were significant last-minute changes in what was stated as the 'final proposals'. For example, the plans for Flintshire County Council involved Flint, as Flintshire's only three-member ward, Coleshill and Trelawny wards being changed. The Council is deeply concerned that these decisions are being imposed upon us instead of working with us to help the Commission draw boundaries that work to algorithms and real-life societal links. We opposed the Commissions previous imposition of boundaries at local government level and we do so again at Westminster level.

The Council strongly object to the proposals of Flint and Bagillt becoming part of Alyn and Deeside and call on the Boundary Commission for Wales to return to the drawing board to ensure that Flint and Bagillt can retain ties with the town of Holywell and surrounding villages.

## **BCW-10792 / Russell George MS / Montgomeryshire**

Dear Sir / Madam

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

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

Montgomeryshire's has huge historical status as a parliamentary constituency, which has been represented in Parliament since 1542. If Montgomeryshire were to be split in half, all strong cultural and historic ties would be eradicated forever. It would be great to preserve Montgomeryshire as a whole, and welcoming new wards which have similar landscapes and needs with the new Montgomeryshire and Glyndyw constituency. The commission also received a significant number of submissions that reflected the view that Montgomeryshire should be maintained as a whole.

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

Kind Regards

Russell

**Russell George MS / AS**

**Member of the Welsh Parliament for Montgomeryshire**

**Aelod o Senedd Cymru dros Sir Drefaldwyn**



**BCW-10793 / Cllr Mark Tribe / Swansea**

Good afternoon ,

I write to confirm my support for this review .

Regards ,

Cllr Mark Tribe

Llangyfelach / Felindre Ward

Swansea .

( Currently Gower constituency )

## **BCW-10794 / Cllr Owen Jones / Cardiff**

I am writing following the publication of the revised proposals from the Boundary Commission for Wales on Wednesday 19th October. I write with regard to the proposal to move the ward of Cathays into Cardiff South and Penarth.

As a councillor for the neighbouring ward of Adamsdown, I oppose this move. The ward of Cathays is intrinsically linked to the remaining wards in the wider community of Roath; namely Adamsdown, Penylan, Plasnewydd, and Cyncoed. 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, but an increasing amount of dedicated student premises are being built in Adamsdown. 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).
- I am the Chair of governors at Adamsdown Primary and our catchment area spans Adamsdown and 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 (<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.

Y Cyng| Cllr Owen Llewellyn Jones

Aelod LLafur Adamsdown | Labour Councillor for Adamsdown

**BCW-10795 / [REDACTED] / Clwyd**

I just wanted to say thank you for taking on board the suggestions made at the Hearing in Wrexham regarding the proposed boundary changes to Clwyd East and North.

I personally am really pleased to see that the names have been changed to "Clwyd North" and "Clwyd East" instead of "Clwyd" and "Delyn" and it seems eminently more sensible that New Brighton, Argoed and Leeswood have stayed in Clwyd East as opposed to being moved into Alyn & Deeside and that Bagillt and Flint have also been moved out of Clwyd East into Alyn & Deeside. Likewise that Ruthin, Llanfair DC and Llangollen are now in Clwyd East, and conversely that Rhos on Sea is back with Colwyn Bay in Clwyd North.

It's very nice to see that sensible suggestions were implemented, thank you!

**BCW-10796 / Cllr Alun Llewellyn / Port Talbot**

Dear Commissioners

I am writing in support of the submission by the Returning Officer of Neath Port Talbot, as Leader of the Plaid Cymru group and Deputy Leader of the Council.

The current proposals break up existing community boundaries and potentially create extended constituencies which will be distant from their communities.

Although no solution is perfect as the boundary review's terms of reference are largely based on equalisation of electorates, the Assistant Commissioners' proposals for a Dyffryn Lliw/Lliw Valley constituency and Castell-nedd, Aberafan a Maesteg / Neath, Aberavon and Maesteg better reflects communities and should be supported.

Diolch yn fawr/ Thank you.

**Cyng / Cllr Alun Llewellyn**

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety  
Dirprwy Arweinydd ac Aelod Cabinet dros Dai a Diogelwch Cymunedol

**BCW-10797 / [REDACTED] / Cardiff**

To whom it may concern,

Attached is a letter urging you to rethink your decision to move Cathays ward into the constituency of Cardiff South and Penarth.

I hope you read my letter and rethink your decision, thank you for taking time to read my submission and I hope you come to the right decision.

Yours

[REDACTED]

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. Given this, I am sure you would attach as much weight to my submission (I am based in Liverpool) as a resident based in Greater Manchester.

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 Ederm (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.

Yours faithfully

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

**BCW-10798 / [REDACTED] / Pencoed**

I am a resident of the town of Pencoed and former Member of the National Assembly for Wales and object in the strongest terms to the inclusion of the town within the proposed new Rhondda parliamentary constituency. There are no direct rail or road links from Pencoed to the new constituency.

Given my numerous conversations with people of the town it has become very clear that if there had been a more generous timescale offered for the collation of views then far more people would have made their feelings known. Therefore, I am concerned that the number of submissions you might have received will not accurately reflect the strength of feeling within the community.

For over a century the people of Pencoed have identified with Bridgend and not with the Rhondda, indeed our postal town is Bridgend. We have a campus of the highly respected Bridgend College located within the town. Our schools have a wealth of evidence to show that they interact with their counterparts in Bridgend and not the Rhondda, whether it's through the mediums of the Welsh or English languages.

We access our secondary health care in Bridgend and indeed our connection with Bridgend continues even after death as the vast majority of people in Pencoed choose to be cremated in the crematoria in Bridgend!

I am sure the public would not expect suggested boundary changes to be simply about numbers and surely would expect that any boundary changes should be made to ensure the economic and cultural stability of communities but the connecting of Pencoed to Rhondda through the village of Gilfach Goch via the thinnest of strips of land with no vehicular link is nothing short of preposterous.

When considering the map of the proposed boundary changes it is obvious that, numbers permitting, a much more simple and viable solution would be to replace Pencoed with the whole of the Ogmere Valley which has far greater links with the Rhondda with two separate roads, the A4061 and the A4093, directly connecting it to the Rhondda constituency. The Ogmere Valley also shares a border on the whole of its eastern side with the Rhondda. It is also the case that the communities of the Ogmere Valley i.e. Nantymoel, Ogmere Vale and Blackmill have far more in common with the neighbouring communities of the Rhondda in terms of economy, heritage and culture than Pencoed.

I trust you will give this the consideration it deserves.



**BCW-10799 / [REDACTED] / Pencoed**

I have lived in the town of Pencoed all my life and previously represented the Felindre ward on Bridgend County Borough Council and having studied the proposals I object in the strongest terms to the inclusion of the town within the proposed new Rhondda parliamentary constituency. There are no direct rail or road links from Pencoed to the new constituency.

Given my numerous conversations with people of the town it has become very clear that if there had been a more generous timescale offered for the collation of views then far more people would have made their feelings known. Therefore, I am concerned that the number of submissions you might have received will not accurately reflect the strength of feeling within the community.

For over a century the people of Pencoed have identified with Bridgend and not with the Rhondda, indeed our postal town is Bridgend. We have a campus of the highly respected Bridgend College located within the town. Our schools have a wealth of evidence to show that they interact with their counterparts in Bridgend and not the Rhondda, whether it's through the mediums of the Welsh or English languages.

We access our secondary health care in Bridgend and indeed our connection with Bridgend continues even after death as the vast majority of people in Pencoed choose to be cremated in the crematoria in Bridgend!

I am sure the public would not expect suggested boundary changes to be simply about numbers and surely would expect that any boundary changes should be made to ensure the economic and cultural stability of communities but the connecting of Pencoed to Rhondda through the village of Gilfach Goch via the thinnest of strips of land with no vehicular link is nothing short of preposterous.

When considering the map of the proposed boundary changes it is obvious that, numbers permitting, a much more simple and viable solution would be to replace Pencoed with the whole of the Ogmores Valley which has far greater links with the Rhondda with two separate roads, the A4061 and the A4093, directly connecting it to the Rhondda constituency. The Ogmores Valley also shares a border on the whole of its eastern side with the Rhondda. It is also the case that the communities of the Ogmores Valley i.e. Nantymoel, Ogmores Vale and Blackmill have far more in common with the neighbouring communities of the Rhondda in terms of economy, heritage and culture than Pencoed.

I trust you will give this the consideration it deserves.

**BCW-10800 / [REDACTED] / Clwyd**

Dear Sir/Madam

The purpose of this email is to firstly acknowledge the significant amount of work undertaken by the Commission. In particular, I'd like to express my thanks to the Commission for listening and taking into account various proposals, including my own, which have resulted in what I believe are the best possible formations of Clwyd East and Clwyd North from the splitting of Vale of Clwyd.

I believe that moving Bagillt and Flint out of Clwyd East and retaining New Brighton, Leedwood and Argoed, along with Llangollen and other rural parts of South Denbighshire result in a cohesive and largely politically aligned new constituency.

Likewise, retaining Rhos on Sea with Colwyn Bay is a welcome decision and again leads to a more cohesive entity.

Finally, I welcome the names Clwyd East and Clwyd North

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Chairman

Vale of Clwyd Conservative Association

## **BCW-10801 / Cllr Sarah Merry / Cardiff**

I am writing following the publication of the revised proposals from the Boundary Commission for Wales on Wednesday 19th November & to oppose the proposal to move the ward of Cathays into Cardiff South and Penarth.

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 & respected 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/>). In fact they had even attempted to keep the collection day for waste on the same day as there was so much movement of residents between the two wards. The council has even established a Cathays & Plasnewydd Blitz waste team as the two wards are so geographically linked and the issues they face are so similar in terms of a dense, more transient population.
- The secondary school catchment area for Cathays High School includes Cathays and Plasnewydd - with many pupils from Penylan and Adamsdown also attending Cathays High School
- 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 area for Mynydd Bychan, a Welsh Medium Primary School cuts across Cathays & Plasnewydd. St Monica's, a small Church in Wales School draws from a similar area
- 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.

Any consideration of community links has to recognise the long established community links between these areas - I hope this decision will be reconsidered

Sarah Merry





Cathays Councillor

BCW-10802 / [REDACTED] / Cardiff

Good evening,

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.

Having moved to Cardiff for university I have spent 6 years living in the community of Roath, moving between the wards of Cathays and Plasnewydd on several occasions.

The two wards are intrinsically linked and have strong community ties. It is important that this is recognised and that those living in the community have strong and cohesive representation.

Many public services and amenities link Cathays and Plasnewydd including drs surgeries, schools, libraries and dentists.

It makes no sense to divide Cathays and Plasnewydd and to put Cathays in the same constituency as Dinas Powys - an area totally devoid from the nature of the city centre.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

Plasnewydd resident

**BCW-10803 / [REDACTED] / Clwyd**

Dear Sir/Madam

I would support the proposal for the formation of the new Constituencies - Clwyd East and Clwyd North, from the former Vale of Clwyd.

Moving Bagillt and Flint out of Clwyd East and retaining New Brighton, Leeswood and Argoed, along with Llangollen and other rural parts of South Denbighshire result in a cohesive and largely politically aligned new constituency.

Likewise, retaining Rhos on Sea with Colwyn Bay is a welcome decision and again leads to a more cohesive entity.

Finally, I support the proposed new names of constituencies as Clwyd East and Clwyd North.

Yours faithfully

**BCW-10804 / [REDACTED] / Caerphilly**

To whom this may concern,

I am writing 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, including my own, 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, including by myself and my friends & family here.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**BCW-10805 / [REDACTED] Dyserth Community Council / Dyserth**

The Dyserth Community Council Members are concerned with the potential reduction of Welsh representation from 40 to 32 – which can only be a backward step and to base this change on numbers, shows a lack of understanding of the challenges of rural areas.

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-10807 / [REDACTED] / Cardiff**

Dear Boundary Commission,

I am writing following the publication of the revised proposals from the Boundary Commission for Wales.

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

As a previous resident of Cathays, and a current resident of Plasnewydd, 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. It is also a distinct entity from Cardiff South and Penarth.

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.

Further to this, the division of Cathays and Plasnewydd will break up the strong cohesive Cardiff University student community links that exist in this ward. MPs for Cardiff Central have had a direct and strong relationship with the university and student community as a result of these wards sitting in the same constituency.

Combining Cathays with Cardiff South and Penarth away from the remaining student community I believe will have a negative impact on the MP's relationship with students and universities.

It will negatively impact the cohesiveness and efficiency of casework loads and will not help students in Cathays and Plasnewydd to engage with politics, democracy and voting as the system will become more confusing as many will be unsure which MP they should be contacting.

I do hope you reconsider your proposal and move the ward of Cathays back in with the wider community of Roath.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN WALES

### Response to Boundary Commission for Wales 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies – Revised Proposals

#### Background

Both of us have a background in geography (to degree and postgraduate level) and therefore with a good understanding of physical, human, and historical geography as well as direct experience of cultural tourism and economic development. This has informed our comments.

We appreciate that the Boundary Commission for Wales has been given a very difficult task to reduce the number of parliamentary constituencies in Wales and keep within defined parameters for electors numbers. However, guidance from HM Government does outline various factors that should be applied to any recommendations (e.g., Chapter 2.12), such as geography, local government boundaries and any changes in local ties that could be broken with proposals. Our comments are mainly but not entirely about proposed arrangements in the Llangollen area (currently in Clwyd South, initial proposal Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr, and revised proposals Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr, and also Clwyd East).

#### The current situation

The current constituency – Clwyd South – covers a coherent area and reflects the natural line of communication and communities along the Dee Valley. Wards within the current constituency lie within two local authorities and historically and economically have, in general, formed a community based on the good links west to east across the area. It works well as an electoral division. Any changes should use this as a base. However, it seems that the constituency has been squeezed by proposed developments to the north and to the south without appreciation of the above factors.

#### The Initial proposals and the revised proposals

The superseded initial proposals did at least keep the majority of the existing constituency (the mid and western parts) together and thus partially reflected the advantages outlined above; but added it to the current constituency to the south - Montgomeryshire to form a new division (named Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr). The amalgamation of an essentially post-industrial area (Clwyd South) with an almost entirely rural agricultural area (Montgomery) does not sit well in terms of cohesion.

The revised proposals now propose that the Llangollen ward (and Llangollen Rural ward – see below) is extracted from the proposed Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr constituency and added – as an extrusion - to the constituency further north – Clwyd East. This breaks the natural flow in the Dee Valley as wards to the west and to the east will remain in the new Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr constituency. This looks

and is very strange – it looks and feels like an afterthought. There is no justification within the discussion documents provided as to why this has happened – some representations were made on the initial proposals in the wider area e.g., Corwen, and areas around Wrexham but they did not concern Llangollen. It would seem the only reason for the change is to accommodate changes elsewhere to ensure the voter numbers remain within the defined limits. There is no justification in the report.

Llangollen is within the Denbighshire County Council area but at the southern edge of the county. Its main lines of communication (historically and currently) are east and west and economically too. The Pontcysyllte and Llangollen Canal World Heritage Site – a major source of tourism income - is relevant here as it too follows the valley. Physical barriers such as the Horsehoe Pass /Llantysilio Mountains are good lines for the boundary commission to consider (as per criteria) - but not done in this case.

It now means that the proposed Clwyd East constituency will include within it three LA areas – mainly Denbighshire and Flintshire and just one ward (Llangollen Rural) which lies within Wrexham CBC! One suspects that Boundary Commission staff have not been fully aware that even with a name that includes Llangollen, a) Llangollen Rural ward is in fact within Wrexham, but more importantly b) has characteristics (housing, industry) more closely aligned with wards further to the north and east such as Ruabon, Cefn etc. This seems to be at odds with the statutory factors you should have taken into account.

The initial and revised proposals for the 'Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr' constituency do seem strange as they fail to appreciate geography. The Berwyn Mountains (surely a better name than Glyndwr for the constituency) form a large and historically important barrier between north and south. Trying to stick parts of current Clwyd South on to all of the current Montgomeryshire constituency does not work from a geographical perspective. Any easy communication between the two parts is actually through England! How can there be any meaningful connection between Corwen and Montgomery or Ruabon and Llangurig? Anyone who says that there are good links/ connections between the two parts (as has been specifically mentioned in the discussion paper) has little historical or spatial awareness. Even thirty years ago the old Glyndwr District Council which covered some parts south of Llangollen (as well as north to Denbigh) struggled to have any identity. It is even more so nowadays with places such as Llansilin firmly within Powys County. The hilly country and valleys south of Llangollen (rivers running west to east) means north to south communication (and therefore any cohesion) is difficult at best. It is also the case that Llangollen has less connection with northern Denbighshire (and none with Flintshire) than with Wrexham (especially in an economic sense, and the important World Heritage Site too). We would restate the historical differences in terms of economic development and characteristics between the two proposed 'halves'.

## Conclusions

The revised proposals to include Llangollen within Clwyd East is geographically unsound and demonstrably a nonsense especially as it effectively cuts the Dee valley into two for parliamentary purposes. Llangollen seems to have been

transferred to Clwyd East in order to keep the revised Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr constituency within the elector limits – and for no other reason! We do not agree with the inclusion of Llangollen (and Llangollen Rural) in Clwyd East. The initial proposals did at least keep Llangollen (and Llangollen Rural) connected to their local communities in the Dee Valley so the commission should revert to its initial proposal. Clwyd East would still meet voter criteria without Llangollen/ Llangollen Rural electors.

To be helpful here are some suggestions in order to keep the Dee Valley including Llangollen (and the rump of Clwyd South) as part of a meaningful new constituency.

[it is not for us to crunch the numbers but we would hope that the criteria could be met with some small amendments]

The Commission seems to have decided that the two existing Powys Constituencies (Brecon & Radnor; Montgomeryshire) should be retained as far as possible. We are not sure why. Why cannot these be amalgamated as one (with some amendments) by:

a) hiving off the upper Tawe valley areas (Ystradgynlais) to constituencies further south as this area has a completely different character to the rest of Brecon and Radnor (despite it being within Powys).

b) Move Corwen and Llandrillo if necessary to Dwyfor/ Meirionnydd. These areas were part of Merionethshire historically and relate more to the Upper Dee Valley i.e., Bala (and certainly not to the southern part of Montgomeryshire). [criteria for electors could be met by such a transfer].

c) If one (mid) Powys constituency were created then it would be possible to create a new separate Clwyd South & Berwyn constituency incorporating most of the existing Clwyd South and some northern parts of Montgomeryshire. Whilst not ideal this would work better for our area.

We hope you will consider these suggestions



November 2022

BCW-10809 / [REDACTED] / Denbigh

Dear BCW

I am writing to register two objections to the revised proposals recently published on your website in relation to the parliamentary constituencies in Wales.

My first objection is to challenge the inclusion of the the ward of Llanrhaeadr Yng Nghinmeirch (which lies in the current constituency of Clwyd West) being included in the new Bangor Aberconwy constituency.

My reasons for objecting are

1) I would argue that the Llanrhaeadr Yng Nghinmeirch ward has much more in common from a socio economic perspective with what will become Clwyd East due to the close association of much of the population with the town of Denbigh and the area known as the Vale of Clwyd, which many residents of the eastern side of this ward consider themselves to be part of.

2) any MP who serves an area so vast and inaccessible as the proposed Bangor Aberconwy will struggle to adequately represent the voters at either end being both the population of Bangor in the west and the voters of Llanrhaeadr in the east. There is at least one moor, a large body of water, and many substantial hills and mountains between the two extreme areas of population. In addition there are many isolated farms in the ward of Llanrhaeadr. Having previously stood as a county councillor candidate for this ward I can tell you it takes about a month just to visit every registered elector and that's just in one ward. The sheer size of Bangor Aberconwy and its rural spread would make proper representation of its people very difficult.

I would also like to register a second objection as to the name.

If the boundary commission is not minded to change the area to move Llanrhaeadr Yng Nghinmeirch then a more appropriate name for this constituency should be "Bangor Llanrhaeadr Yng Nghinmeirch" this is for two reasons

1) it more accurately respects the extremes of the areas included in the constituency and its rurality.

- 2) Bangor and Aberconwy are adjacent yet the constituency is so much more than these two adjacent places; and
- 3) it's a huge constituency so it's fitting it has a huge name.

I would also like to mention that as the voting population of this ward is just 1,496 voters its movement to Clwyd East would make little difference to the criteria the BCW has followed and I believe this change can be easily accommodated.

I hope you will consider my objections.

Kind Regards

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.



BCW-10810 / [REDACTED] /  
Llanbradach

Dear Boundary Commissioner

I am writing to thank you for listening to public opinion and accepting Wayne David our MP's counter proposal for the area of Caerphilly, which as a Community Council, we fully supported. We are really pleased with your decision.

Many thanks

Cofion cynnes / Warm regards



## **BCW-10811 / Cwmllynfell Community Council / Cwmllynfell**

Cwmllynfell Community Council would like to object to the Boundary Commission proposal to include Cwmllynfell, and other Swansea and Amman Valley wards, within the new Brecon, Radnor and Cwm-tawe constituency.

We were disappointed that the plan for our area remains unchanged from the initial proposal despite numerous objections, including that of the Assistant Commissioners. The primary argument seems to be that changing the proposal for the Swansea and Amman Valley wards would make the numbers too difficult for other areas, which leaves us very poorly served by this review.

As well as the necessity to meet the required number of electors per ward, Rule 5 in Schedule 2 of the 1986 Act provides for a number of other factors that the Commission may take into account in establishing a new map of constituencies for the 2023 Review, specifically:

- special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
- local government boundaries as they existed on 1 December 2020
- boundaries of existing constituencies
- any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies
- the inconveniences attendant on such changes

It is apparent that none of these factors have been taken into account when considering the placement of the Swansea and Amman Valley wards.

The proposed constituency is very large in size with poor transport links. The current MP's office is in Llandrindod Wells – a journey of 49 miles and 1 hour and 20 minutes by car from Cwmllynfell. It is not possible to make the return journey by public transport in one day.

The Neath Port Talbot / Powys county boundary forms the basis of a number of other administrative boundaries, including the South West / Mid Wales economic region, South Wales / Dyfed Powys Police territories, and the Powys and Swansea Bay Health Boards. A constituency crossing all of these boundaries will cause considerable administrative complications and confusion. Any MP for the new constituency will have to communicate and work effectively with far more organisations and public sector bodies than at present.

Historically the Swansea Valley was always part of Glamorganshire and local ties are all with Neath and Swansea, not with Brecon.

The proposed constituency will have a southern tip that is very different in character to the remainder. The Swansea and Amman Valley wards have an average of 38% Welsh speakers, compared with just 16% in the rest of the proposed constituency (2011 census figures, weighted by ward population). The Swansea and Amman

Valley wards are also significantly more deprived, with an average WIMD ranking of 813 compared with 1159 for the Brecon and Radnor wards (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, lower ranking indicating more deprivation). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards will include just 25% of the constituency's population, giving a real risk that the very different needs of the area will not be reflected in the electoral choices made by the constituency as a whole.

There is already considerable disengagement with democracy locally, with many residents feeling they are at the forgotten end of Neath constituency. This lack of engagement will only be made worse by the Boundary Commission proposals. It would be ironic if an exercise designed to make the democratic process fairer resulted in fewer people bothering to vote.

As an alternative, we support the Assistant Commissioners' proposals for the Swansea and Neath, Aberafan & Bridgend areas. The inclusion of the Swansea and Amman Valleys within their proposed Lliw Valley constituency far better reflects existing and historic boundaries, geography and local characteristics.

**BCW-10812 / [REDACTED] Plaid Cymru, Arfon Constituency/ Caernarfon**

Two thirds of the old Arfon constituency will join the Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency, but this is not reflected in the proposed name. This contrasts with the new constituency of Bangor Aberconwy where recognition is given to the Arfon area included in another constituency.

Here are some possible suggestions:

1. Arfon Dwyfor Meirionnydd
2. Caernarfon Dwyfor Meirionnydd
3. Caernarfon Meirionnydd
4. Gwynedd

**BCW-10813 / [REDACTED] / Pontardawe**

**PONTARDAWE TOWN COUNCIL REJECTS THE BOUNDARY COMMISSIONS PROPOSAL**

All the Pontardawe area administration, social, economic and community ties are with Neath and Swansea. We have no connection to rural Powys. The boundary Commission proposal cuts across Police, Health and Unitary authorities which is not supporting of the Electoral needs of the area.

The Town Council therefore rejects the Boundary Commission proposal and instead supports the model similar to the former Lliw Valley Borough Council which was in existence until 1996. The communities formally within the Lliw Valley Borough Council area do have historic ties and share similar community attributes. This alternative proposal is also; we understand supported by the Unitary Authority and the other Town and Community Councils in the area.

**BCW-10814 / [REDACTED] / Carmarthen**

Residents of western areas within the new Llangyndeyrn county council ward (especially areas such as Cwmffrwd, Idole, Croesyceiliog) have a close relationship with Carmarthen, which is the most relevant urban centre in the area in terms of work, socialising, shopping and natural travel distance and convenience.

The community identifies naturally with Carmarthen and has always done so, and there is no relationship with the Llanelli area.

Dividing the current constituency and placing this area with the Llanelli area will be difficult for residents, and for any elected member to relate to and to work within such a large and extensive ward that is so diverse in its nature.

Ultimately, there are doubts as to whether the changes being considered are for the benefit of local residents, since they may harm our areas and our communities. It will be very difficult for any elected member to serve such extensive wards as successfully as smaller wards.

## **BCW-10815 / Luke Fletcher MS / Pencoed**

I've lived in Pencoed for the majority of my life, bar the 5 that I was in Uni for, and as a community, there has never been a time where we have identified with the Rhondda. Pencoed is very much a bridgend town and residents identify with the Bridgend 'identity'.

In my opinion, putting Pencoed in the Rhondda constituency will confuse residents of Pencoed. To that end, as a member of the Senedd for the area, and resident, a number of constituents in Pencoed have contacted me to raise their own concerns. I have directed them to this consultation and I hope that they have also given their feedback. I'm also aware that the local council representatives share my concerns.

I'm also concerned that there are no infrastructure links within the proposed constituency that links Pencoed with the rest. Indeed, there's a mountain in the way. Residents of Pencoed access the majority of their services as well as socialise and shop in Bridgend and the wider Bridgend county. Bridgend town is seen as Pencoed's 'hub' town.

In my opinion, it would make more sense for the Ogmere valley to be linked with Rhondda given that it's that valley that links Bridgend up with Treorchy or that the 4 RCT wards currently in the Ogmere constituency are put in the Rhondda constituency.

I understand the difficulty of the task presented to the boundary commission but I would plead with the commission not to put Pencoed in the Rhondda constituency and instead ensure that it is a part of the new Bridgend constituency where I believe it belongs.

**BCW-10816 / [REDACTED] / Prestatyn**

I approve of the commissions proposals for a Clwyd East seat. Prestatyn has strong links with many of the neighbouring areas of Flintshire. The small towns and rural areas in the proposed constituency share many similarities. It does make sense for Flint and Bagillt to have been moved into the more complementary Deeside seat.

Pontardawe and Trebanos Labour Branch strongly object to the Boundary Commission proposal to include Pontardawe and Trebanos wards, and other Swansea and Amman Valley wards, within the new Brecon, Radnor and Cwm-tawe constituency. It is very disappointing to see that despite numerous objections, including that of the Assistant Commissioners, the plan for our area remains unchanged from the initial proposal. As well as the necessity to meet the required number of electors per ward, Rule 5 in Schedule 2 of the 1986 Act provides for a number of other factors that the Commission may take into account in establishing a new map of constituencies for the 2023 Review, specifically:

- special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
- local government boundaries as they existed on 1 December 2020
- boundaries of existing constituencies
- any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies
- the inconveniences attendant on such changes

It is apparent that none of these factors have been taken into account when considering the placement of the Swansea and Amman Valley wards.

The proposed constituency is very large in size with poor transport links. The current MP's office is in Llandrindod Wells – a journey of 50 miles and 1 hour and 20 minutes by car from Pontardawe. It is not possible to make the return journey by public transport in one day.

The Neath Port Talbot / Powys county boundary forms the basis of a number of other administrative boundaries, including the South West / Mid Wales economic region, South Wales / Dyfed Powys Police territories, and the Powys and Swansea Bay Health Boards. A constituency crossing all of these boundaries will cause considerable administrative complications and confusion.

Historically the Swansea Valley was always part of Glamorganshire and local ties are all with Neath and Swansea, not with Brecon.

The proposed constituency will have a southern tip that is very different in character to the remainder. The Swansea and Amman Valley wards have an average of 38% Welsh speakers, compared with just 16% in the rest of the proposed constituency (2011 census figures, weighted by ward population). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards are also significantly more deprived, with an average WIMD ranking of 813 compared with 1159 for the Brecon and Radnor wards (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, lower ranking indicating more deprivation). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards will include just 25% of the constituency's population, giving a real risk that the very different needs of the area will not be reflected in the electoral choices made by the constituency as a whole.



As an alternative, we support the Assistant Commissioners' proposals for the Swansea and Neath, Aberafan & Bridgend areas. The inclusion of the Swansea and Amman Valleys within their proposed Lliw Valley constituency far better reflects existing and historic boundaries, geography and local characteristics.

**BCW-10818 / [REDACTED] Pontardawe and Trebanos Labour Branch / Swansea**

Pontardawe and Trebanos Labour Branch strongly object to the Boundary Commission proposal to include Pontardawe and Trebanos wards, and other Swansea and Amman Valley wards, within the new Brecon, Radnor and Cwm-tawe constituency. It is very disappointing to see that despite numerous objections, including that of the Assistant Commissioners, the plan for our area remains unchanged from the initial proposal. As well as the necessity to meet the required number of electors per ward, Rule 5 in Schedule 2 of the 1986 Act provides for a number of other factors that the Commission may take into account in establishing a new map of constituencies for the 2023 Review, specifically:

- special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
- local government boundaries as they existed on 1 December 2020
- boundaries of existing constituencies
- any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies
- the inconveniences attendant on such changes

It is apparent that none of these factors have been taken into account when considering the placement of the Swansea and Amman Valley wards.

The proposed constituency is very large in size with poor transport links. The current MP's office is in Llandrindod Wells – a journey of 50 miles and 1 hour and 20 minutes by car from Pontardawe. It is not possible to make the return journey by public transport in one day.

The Neath Port Talbot / Powys county boundary forms the basis of a number of other administrative boundaries, including the South West / Mid Wales economic region, South Wales / Dyfed Powys Police territories, and the Powys and Swansea Bay Health Boards. A constituency crossing all of these boundaries will cause considerable administrative complications and confusion.

Historically the Swansea Valley was always part of Glamorganshire and local ties are all with Neath and Swansea, not with Brecon.

The proposed constituency will have a southern tip that is very different in character to the remainder. The Swansea and Amman Valley wards have an average of 38% Welsh speakers, compared with just 16% in the rest of the proposed constituency (2011 census figures, weighted by ward population). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards are also significantly more deprived, with an average WIMD ranking of 813 compared with 1159 for the Brecon and Radnor wards (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, lower ranking indicating more deprivation). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards will include just 25% of the constituency's population, giving a

real risk that the very different needs of the area will not be reflected in the electoral choices made by the constituency as a whole.

As an alternative, we support the Assistant Commissioners' proposals for the Swansea and Neath, Aberafan & Bridgend areas. The inclusion of the Swansea and Amman Valleys within their proposed Lliw Valley constituency far better reflects existing and historic boundaries, geography and local characteristics.

**BCW-10819 / [REDACTED] Pontardawe and Trebanos Labour Branch / Swansea**

Pontardawe and Trebanos Labour Branch strongly object to the Boundary Commission proposal to include Pontardawe and Trebanos wards, and other Swansea and Amman Valley wards, within the new Brecon, Radnor and Cwm-tawe constituency. It is very disappointing to see that despite numerous objections, including that of the Assistant Commissioners, the plan for our area remains unchanged from the initial proposal. As well as the necessity to meet the required number of electors per ward, Rule 5 in Schedule 2 of the 1986 Act provides for a number of other factors that the Commission may take into account in establishing a new map of constituencies for the 2023 Review, specifically:

- special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
- local government boundaries as they existed on 1 December 2020
- boundaries of existing constituencies
- any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies
- the inconveniences attendant on such changes

It is apparent that none of these factors have been taken into account when considering the placement of the Swansea and Amman Valley wards.

The proposed constituency is very large in size with poor transport links. The current MP's office is in Llandrindod Wells – a journey of 50 miles and 1 hour and 20 minutes by car from Pontardawe. It is not possible to make the return journey by public transport in one day.

The Neath Port Talbot / Powys county boundary forms the basis of a number of other administrative boundaries, including the South West / Mid Wales economic region, South Wales / Dyfed Powys Police territories, and the Powys and Swansea Bay Health Boards. A constituency crossing all of these boundaries will cause considerable administrative complications and confusion.

Historically the Swansea Valley was always part of Glamorganshire and local ties are all with Neath and Swansea, not with Brecon.

The proposed constituency will have a southern tip that is very different in character to the remainder. The Swansea and Amman Valley wards have an average of 38% Welsh speakers, compared with just 16% in the rest of the proposed constituency (2011 census figures, weighted by ward population). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards are also significantly more deprived, with an average WIMD ranking of 813 compared with 1159 for the Brecon and Radnor wards (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, lower ranking indicating more deprivation). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards will include just 25% of the constituency's population, giving a

real risk that the very different needs of the area will not be reflected in the electoral choices made by the constituency as a whole.

As an alternative, we support the Assistant Commissioners' proposals for the Swansea and Neath, Aberafan & Bridgend areas. The inclusion of the Swansea and Amman Valleys within their proposed Lliw Valley constituency far better reflects existing and historic boundaries, geography and local characteristics.

**BCW-10820 / [REDACTED] / Wrexham**

I live in Chirk, ON the original A5 road built by Telford to Holyhead, through North Wales. I identify as part of North Wales, and of Wrexham. That is where I do business, socialise, recreate, travel and live. My Local Authority is Wrexham.

I am very happy with Clwyd South but accept the need for larger constituencies. I would be happy to be in Wrexham. Or in Clwyd East if I must.

I am VERY UNHAPPY with being part of a vast mid Wales constituency. And even more unhappy at being in a polyp growing off the northern extremity of "Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr". These are far away places of which I know nothing and care less. There are no sensible transport routes from Chirk to these places.

I am engaged in local politics. I will not be able to continue if it involves vast journeys on bad roads to unknown locations.

The "Ruabon and Esclusham Area" shown on your map should be split between Wrexham and Clwyd East. The only reason for attaching it to places hours and miles away can be for even constituency sizes. This is a desirable general aim but should not be taken to ludicrous lengths.

On these proposals I will have a local Authority in one place, a Senedd member in another, and an MP with a ludicrously vast constituency and no time to deal with our issues.

As Cromwell said, "I beseech you in the Bowels of Christ, Think it Possible You May Be Mistaken"

**BCW-10821 / [REDACTED] / Pontardawe**

I strongly disagree with new boundary proposals. Pontardawe has no common connection with Breacon and Radnorshire .

Truest bad idea.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

In the first place, I think it is unacceptable that Wales's democratic voice is reduced by 20%, and the proposed changes to representation for the Swansea Valley are absolutely unacceptable.

I disagree completely with the proposal to include parts of the Swansea Valley, and specifically the ward for which I am a town councillor, namely Pontardawe and Trebanos, in the new "Brecon, Radnor and Cwm-tawe" constituency. I am extremely disappointed that the plans have not been modified since the first draft and no attention has been given to other considerations that may apply when making a decision, e.g. existing constituency boundaries; any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies; the inconvenience associated with such changes, and the geographical nature of the constituency.

Here are some of the reasons for my fierce opposition:

- These areas do not have the same traditions or culture, nor a population with a shared experience of life and work or shared beliefs. The Swansea Valley is a post-industrial area and does not share the same emphasis on rural issues found in Brecon and Radnor.
- The proposed constituency is huge and has poor transport links. The current MP's office is in Llandrindod – a journey that covers 50 miles and takes 1 hour and 20 minutes by car from Pontardawe. It is not possible to make the return journey within a single day on public transport.
- The constituency would cross so many different boundaries involving several police forces; various county councils; and various health boards; causing significant administrative complications and confusion.
- For decades, the Swansea Valley has been part of the administration and community of industrial areas of the southern valleys, rather than the agricultural areas of Brecon etc.
- The linguistic nature of the Swansea Valley is completely different to that of the Brecon and Radnor area, and the Welsh language is heard substantially more frequently in this area. I do not wish to see the Welsh language suffer due to this change.
- The Swansea Valley is a much more deprived area than the Brecon and Radnor areas, and it is highly unlikely, due to the huge disparity in experiences, backgrounds and beliefs, that the constituency will represent or reflect the needs of the Swansea Valley population. It is anticipated that the needs of Swansea Valley residents will not be given fair play nor reflected in the aspirations of the electorate or the Member of Parliament's priorities.

The proposed changes will weaken the voice of Swansea Valley residents, risking a further rift between the electorate and whoever claims to represent them, and will

surely lead to an increase in the challenges and inequality experienced by people in this area. I am completely opposed to the plan.

I support the proposal put forward in the Assistant Commissioners' Report to reconstruct the former Lliw Valley area and include Pontardawe and Trebanos. This is a much more compatible and reasonable solution for an area that deserves better.



**BCW-10823 / [REDACTED] The Labour Party / Cardiff**

Please find attached The Labour Party's submission to the Revised Proposals consultation.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

# 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies

Revised Proposals Consultation:  
Official Response from The Labour Party

---

Wales

## Introduction

This document forms Welsh Labour's official response to the final consultation period of the 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies. We would like to thank the Boundary Commission for Wales and the Assistant Commissioners for all of their hard work throughout the process and making the consultations as easy and accessible as possible.

Overall, Labour's preferred position is unchanged from that set out in the first two consultations; that is, where we supported most of the Initial Proposals and the counter-proposals we put forward, we believe that represented the best set of boundaries for Wales which best respected the statutory factors. We accept, however, that the Commission is unlikely to propose any significant change from their Revised Proposals at this stage.

As such, our suggestions for amendments to the Revised Proposals in this submission will focus on specific local areas where we believe there might still be scope for the Commission to make minor changes, but which, we believe, will markedly improve how the proposals respect the statutory factors. We do not wish to make any objection to the majority of the Revised Proposals. There are several areas where, on balance, we support what the Commission have put forward over other options which were on the table, even if we might have preferred the Initial Proposals or our own counter-proposal.

One general point is that we think, based on reading the Assistant Commissioner's report and the report on the Revised Proposals, there are some areas where the suggested changes to the Initial Proposals seem to have been made for changes sake and were not necessarily required by the weight of evidence presented in the written consultation and public hearings. In the report, there are multiple references to Welsh Labour simply having not made a counter-proposal. This suggests we were neutral on the issue, whereas in actuality we presented multiple arguments in favour of the Initial Proposals in the areas where we supported them. It seems to be the case that more weight was given the available counter-proposals over the arguments made in favour of the Initial Proposals, resulting in a few proposed constituencies in the Revised Proposals which we do not think are any better than the Initial Proposals, and in some cases worse, when it comes to the statutory factors.

That said, we appreciate the Commission will not be likely to revert back to the Initial Proposals or make significant amendments. We accept that the Commission and Assistant Commissioners have considered all of the evidence in detail and have made proposals based on what they believe to be the best balance of the statutory factors. Our comments below are made within the confines of the Revised Proposals as presented and assuming that only minimal change is likely.

We have read the Assistant Commissioners' report alongside the Revised Proposals report. We note that the report contained a number of significant proposals which had not been made by any of the representations during previous consultations, and which we do not believe would have commanded public support. We welcome the fact that the Commission have decided not to recommend many of those proposals.

## North East Wales

The Commission have made major changes to the Initial Proposals in North East Wales. On the whole, we do not believe these changes reflect the weight of evidence presented in the previous stages of consultation. In particular, moving Flint and Bagillt from the Delyn constituency to the Alyn & Deeside constituency clearly breaks local ties in that area. Flint and Bagillt have been administratively linked with Holywell and Mold since 1974 and formed part of the previous Delyn Borough Council. Their links with those areas are much stronger than those with Connah's Quay and Shotton. The Commission state in their report that they received representations that Flint and Bagillt 'should be returned' to Alyn & Deeside, but those towns have not been part of the Alyn & Deeside constituency in its modern formation – the previous East Flintshire constituency had very different boundaries altogether and was abolished in 1983. The Conservative Party's proposal included this proposed arrangement, but it was not well supported by local submissions.

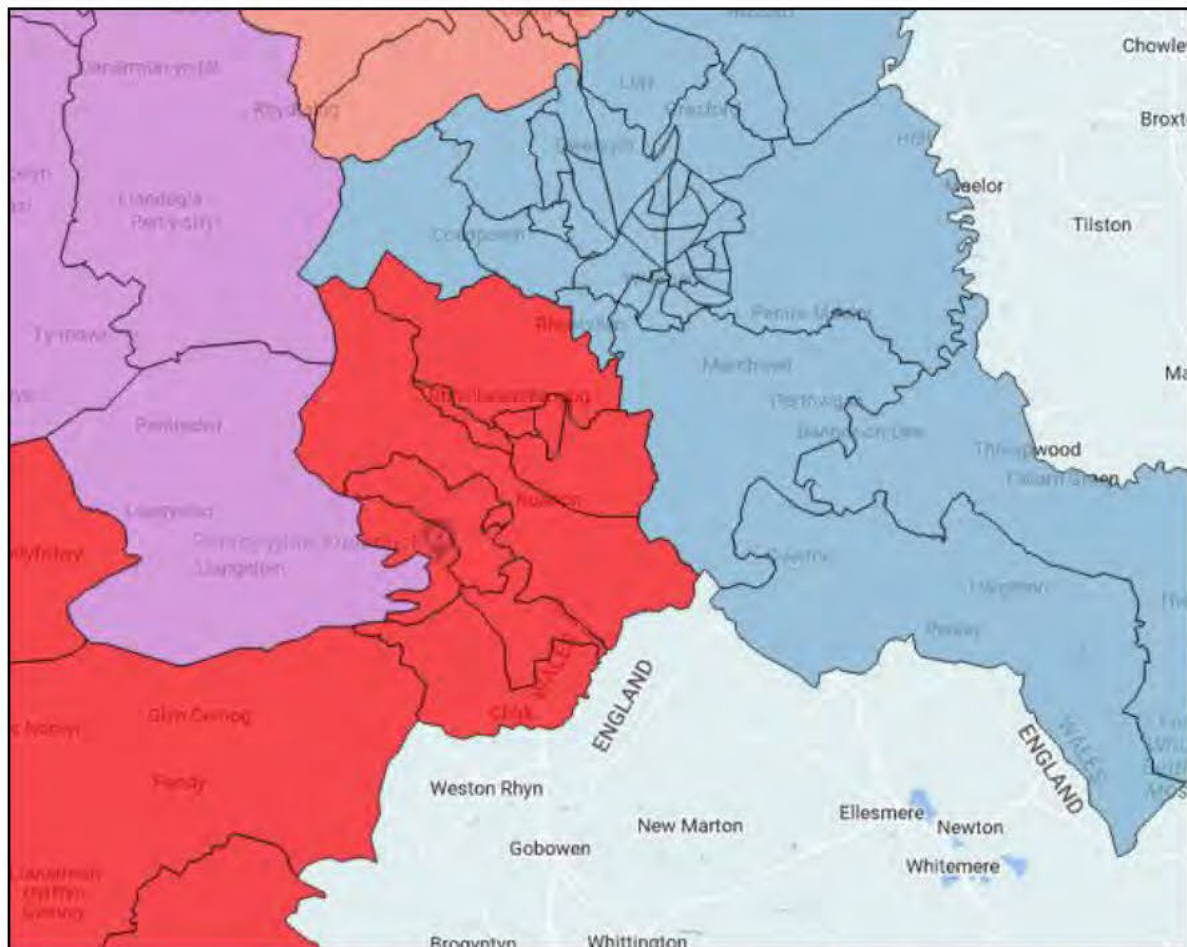
That said, we appreciate the Commission are unlikely to revert back to the Initial Proposals, which we believe to have been perfectly logical constituencies as stated in our previous submissions. We also appreciate that a wide-ranging new proposal at this stage – which would not be subject to any further consultation – is unlikely to be adopted.

We would, however, like to propose a minor amendment also affecting the Wrexham constituency. The placement of Llangollen Rural – a ward of Wrexham council – in the Clwyd East constituency is clearly anomalous. It is the very definition of an 'orphan ward' – a ward of only 1631 electors part of one council which is part of a constituency containing no other wards from that council. Despite the name, Llangollen Rural does not have strong ties to the ward of Llangollen. The north of Llangollen Rural (north of the River Dee) forms part of the larger Cefn Mawr Community and the south (south of the River Dee) faces Wrexham and the nearby community of Chirk. The ward sits much more naturally in Montgomeryshire & Glyndŵr.

To compensate for Llangollen Rural moving to Montgomeryshire & Glyndŵr, we propose that the ward of Esclusham is moved to the Wrexham constituency, as was initially proposed. There are few ties between Esclusham and Rhosllanerchrugog to the west. The A483 forms a clear border between the two areas and Esclusham

clearly has strong links with Wrexham and has very good transport links into Wrexham via the A5152.

Proposed Constituency	Current Electorate	Change				Proposed New Electorate
Clywd East	76,395	Less Llangollen Rural	1,631			74,764
Montgomeryshire & Glyndŵr	76,953	Plus Llangollen Rural	1,631	Less Esclusham	2,013	76,571
Wrexham	70,964	Plus Esclusham	2,013			72,977



We believe this counter-proposal is exactly the kind of minor change, but which nonetheless significantly improves the adherence of the proposed constituency to the statutory factors, that the Commission should consider at this late stage. The orphan ward of Llangollen Rural is clearly an anomaly and this proposal solves that while respect the ties of that ward to Cefn Mwar and Chirk, and those of Esclusham to Wrexham.

## Rhondda & Bridgend

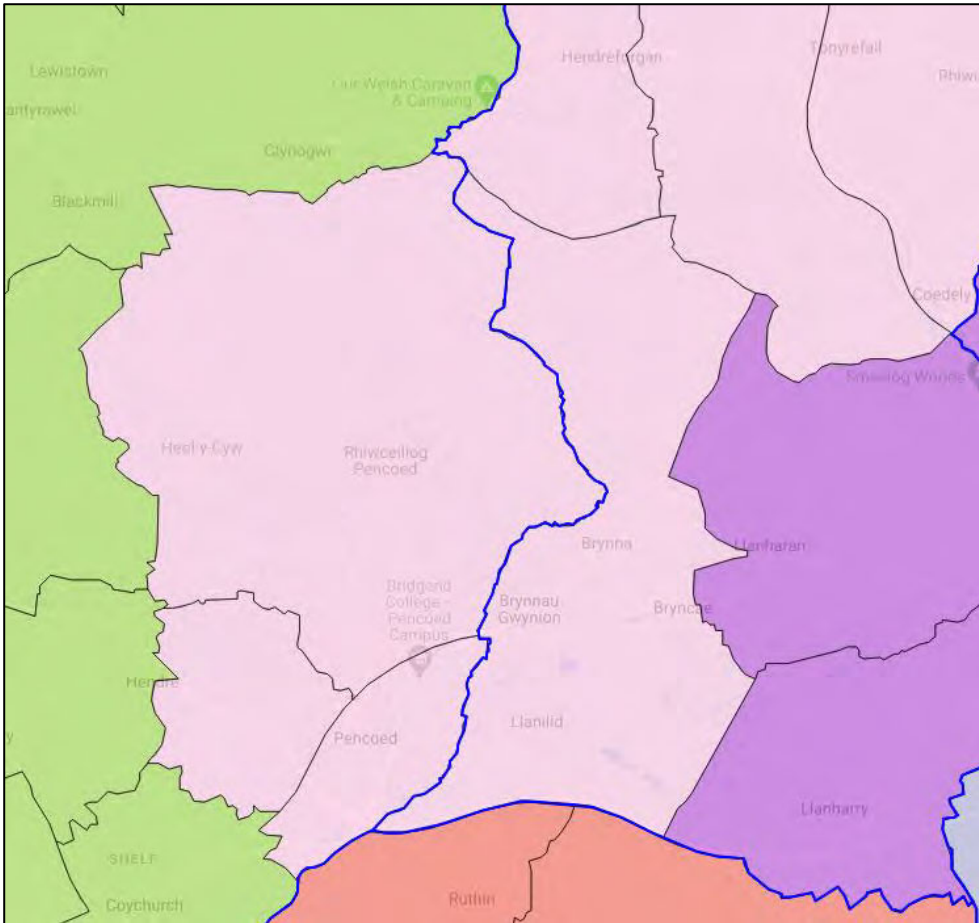
The other main obvious anomaly in the Revised Proposals is the addition of the area of Pencoed to the Rhondda constituency. It is clear that this forms effectively a detached part and creates an extremely oddly-shaped constituency.

There are a few ways that this situation could be improved, but the Labour Party would oppose any proposals which sought to move the Ogmore or Garw Valleys into Rhondda. These valleys have poor ties to Rhondda and look to Bridgend for their services. Indeed, one would likely have to travel into the Bridgend constituency to travel from the Garw Valley to the rest of the Rhondda constituency, were it to be in that seat. Such a proposal would also split the Garw Valley Community Council area.

We are broadly supportive of the Revised Proposals for the Bridgend constituency, and therefore would oppose changes which sought to unpick it, although there may be a case for recognising Ogmore in the name, which has been a constituency since 1918. We propose therefore that the constituency should be called Bridgend & Ogmore.

The ward of Brynna could move from the Pontypridd constituency to Rhondda. This would significantly improve the shape of the proposed Rhondda constituency, although there would still not be a direct road link. This could be done without any impact on the adherence to the electorate quota. However, moving the Brynna ward would split the Llanharan Community Council.





Other proposals to resolve this issue would likely be much more disruptive to the constituencies in the area and we would be very likely to oppose them, whatever their form.

## Cardiff

We recognise that the Commission felt the need to address the Trowbridge detached part issue, raised at the public hearings, in their Revised Proposals. We do feel that the removal of Cathays ward from Cardiff Central is not ideal as the ward forms an integral part of the constituency, but on balance the proposed changes are the least disruptive way of addressing the Trowbridge issue. The proposal does have the benefit of uniting more of the city centre in the Cardiff South & Penarth constituency, while the Cathays has boundaries which are well defined by major roads and railways.

We strongly support the Commission's decision to retain the initial proposal for Dinas Powys ward to be in the Cardiff South & Penarth constituency, recognising it has strong links by road and rail into Cardiff. We opposed the counter-proposal for it to be retained in the Vale of Glamorgan constituency, which results in a much worse pattern of constituencies in Cardiff and breaks more local ties there. We strongly support the proposed Vale of Glamorgan as we did during the earlier consultations.

## Swansea

Swansea was one of the areas Labour had offered a comprehensive counter-proposal. We think that still has much to commend it but we recognise that it also had weaknesses and that the Commission are not now going to drastically reverse their position from the Revised Proposals, which represent relatively minor change from the Initial Proposals. The inclusion of Landore in Neath & Swansea East removes a chunk of the city centre and includes it in areas with which it has few ties, especially as the Coedffranc wards which are relatively closer and better connected, are not in the constituency. The River Tawe acts as a natural boundary, and was used as such in the Initial Proposals.

However, given changes to restore Landore to Swansea Central & North would likely have knock-on effects in Aberafan Porthcawl and possibly even Bridgend, we do not wish to offer any further counter-proposal at this stage. We recognise that the Commission have kept Gower & Swansea West unchanged from the Initial Proposals and therefore that constituency is unlikely to be changed now at this late stage.

We support the Commission's proposed name changes to the Swansea constituencies to move Gower and Neath to the start of the constituency names.

## Newport, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire and Torfaen

Labour supported the Initial Proposals in this area – linking Newport West with Caerphilly, rather than with Islwyn – but we recognise the Commission received a substantial number of representations about this issue from Caerphilly, and having now change the proposals, are not going to reverse them again. We also accept that the counter-proposal had its merits and the issue was finely balanced. We do not propose any change therefore to the Revised Proposals in this area.

We support the Commission's proposed changes to the Merthyr Tydfil constituency for it to include Aberaman, but propose that rather than being called Merthyr Tydfil & Upper Cynon, the seat could be called Merthyr Tydfil & Aberaman.

We strongly support that the proposed Blaenau Gwent & Rhymney, Monmouthshire and Torfaen constituencies are unchanged from the Initial Proposals, and note that they were all widely supported at the previous stages of consultation.

## Carmarthenshire

We support the proposal to move the Llangunnor ward to the Caerfyrddin constituency, as we indicated during the public hearings. We strongly support the Revised Proposals across Carmarthenshire.



## **Pembrokeshire**

The Labour Party strongly supports the Revised Proposals in this area. Specifically, the adoption of the counter-proposal which was put forward by us to add St David's, Solva and Letterston to Mid & South Pembrokeshire and Maenclochog to Ceredigion Preseli. We think this much better respects the local ties in this area.

## **Brecon & Radnor**

As we noted in our previous submissions, the choice of how to expand the existing Brecon & Radnorshire constituency has significant implications for the pattern of constituencies in the rest of South Wales. We recognised the constraints on the Commission and did not oppose the Commission's choice to do that by including nine wards of Neath Port Talbot in the constituency, and continue to support the Revised Proposals which do not propose any change.

## **North West Wales**

The Labour Party supports Pentir ward moving from the proposed Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency to Aberconwy, which was well supported at the public hearings.

We recognise that the other changes to the proposed Aberconwy constituency are partly the result of the proposals in other parts of North Wales. The coastal wards in Clwyd North no longer being in the same constituency as their rural hinterland is not consistent with the approach further down the coast and undoubtedly breaks local ties in that area.

Overall, however, we do not wish to propose any further changes to the Revised Proposals given the limited scope for changes at this stage. We support the name of Clwyd North, recognising the changes made from the Clwyd seat which was part of the Initial Proposals.

## **Conclusion**

We wish to once again thank the Commissioners, the Commission staff and the Assistant Commissioners for their hard work throughout the process. We look forward to seeing the Final Recommendations.



I strongly object to the Boundary Commission proposal to include Pontardawe and Trebanos wards, and other Swansea and Amman Valley wards, within the new Brecon, Radnor and Cwm-tawe constituency. It is very disappointing to see that despite numerous objections, including that of the Assistant Commissioners, the plan for our area remains unchanged from the initial proposal. As well as the necessity to meet the required number of electors per ward, Rule 5 in Schedule 2 of the 1986 Act provides for a number of other factors that the Commission may take into account in establishing a new map of constituencies for the 2023 Review, specifically:

- special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
- local government boundaries as they existed on 1 December 2020
- boundaries of existing constituencies
- any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies
- the inconveniences attendant on such changes

It is apparent that none of these factors have been taken into account when considering the placement of the Swansea and Amman Valley wards.

The proposed constituency is very large in size with poor transport links. The current MP's office is in Llandrindod Wells – a journey of 50 miles, 1 hour and 20 minutes by car from Pontardawe. It is not possible to make the return journey by public transport in one day. Therefore, visiting your MP using public transport will be impossible.

The Neath Port Talbot / Powys county boundary forms the basis of a number of other administrative boundaries, including the South West / Mid Wales economic region, South Wales / Dyfed Powys Police territories, and the Powys and Swansea Bay Health Boards. A constituency crossing all of these boundaries will cause considerable administrative complications and confusion.

Historically the Swansea Valley was always part of Glamorganshire and local ties are all with Neath and Swansea, not with Brecon. Also, the Swansea and Amman Valleys and Pontardawe have a strong industrial heritage similar to Neath and Swansea, this is very different from the agricultural heritage that Brecon and Radnor have.

The proposed constituency will have a southern tip that is very different in character to the remainder. The Swansea and Amman Valley wards have an average of 38% Welsh speakers, compared with just 16% in the rest of the proposed constituency (2011 census figures, weighted by ward population). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards are also significantly more deprived, with an average WIMD ranking of 813 compared with 1159 for the Brecon and Radnor wards (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, lower ranking indicating more deprivation). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards will include just 25% of the constituency's population, giving a

real risk that the very different needs of the area will not be reflected in the electoral choices made by the constituency as a whole.

As an alternative, we support the Assistant Commissioners' proposals for the Swansea and Neath, Aberafan & Bridgend areas. The inclusion of the Swansea and Amman Valleys within their proposed Lliw Valley constituency far better reflects existing and historic boundaries, geography and local characteristics.

I strongly object to the Boundary Commission proposal to include Pontardawe and Trebanos wards, and other Swansea and Amman Valley wards, within the new Brecon, Radnor and Cwm-tawe constituency. It is very disappointing to see that despite numerous objections, including that of the Assistant Commissioners, the plan for our area remains unchanged from the initial proposal. As well as the necessity to meet the required number of electors per ward, Rule 5 in Schedule 2 of the 1986 Act provides for a number of other factors that the Commission may take into account in establishing a new map of constituencies for the 2023 Review, specifically:

- special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
- local government boundaries as they existed on 1 December 2020
- boundaries of existing constituencies
- any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies
- the inconveniences attendant on such changes

It is apparent that none of these factors have been taken into account when considering the placement of the Swansea and Amman Valley wards. The proposed constituency is very large in size with poor transport links.

The current MP's office is in Llandrindod Wells – a journey of 50 miles and 1 hour and 20 minutes by car from Pontardawe. It is not possible to make the return journey by public transport in one day.

The Neath Port Talbot / Powys county boundary forms the basis of a number of other administrative boundaries, including the South West / Mid Wales economic region, South Wales / Dyfed Powys Police territories, and the Powys and Swansea Bay Health Boards. A constituency crossing all of these boundaries will cause considerable administrative complications and confusion.

Historically the Swansea Valley was always part of Glamorganshire and local ties are all with Neath and Swansea, not with Brecon.

The proposed constituency will have a southern tip that is very different in character to the remainder. The Swansea and Amman Valley wards have an average of 38% Welsh speakers, compared with just 16% in the rest of the proposed constituency (2011 census figures, weighted by ward population). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards are also significantly more deprived, with an average WIMD ranking of 813 compared with 1159 for the Brecon and Radnor wards (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, lower ranking indicating more deprivation). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards will include just 25% of the constituency's population, giving a real risk that the very different needs of the area will not be reflected in the electoral choices made by the constituency as a whole.

As an alternative, we support the Assistant Commissioners' proposals for the Swansea and Neath, Aberafan & Bridgend areas. The inclusion of the Swansea and Amman Valleys within their proposed Lliw Valley constituency far better reflects existing and historic boundaries, geography and local characteristics.

I strongly object to the Boundary Commission proposal to include Pontardawe and Trebanos wards, and other Swansea and Amman Valley wards, within the new Brecon, Radnor and Cwm-tawe constituency.

It is very disappointing to see that despite numerous objections, including that of the Assistant Commissioners, the plan for our area remains unchanged from the initial proposal.

As well as the necessity to meet the required number of electors per ward, Rule 5 in Schedule 2 of the 1986 Act provides for a number of other factors that the Commission may take into account in establishing a new map of constituencies for the 2023 Review, specifically:

- special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
- local government boundaries as they existed on 1 December 2020
- boundaries of existing constituencies
- any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies
- the inconveniences attendant on such changes

It is apparent that none of these factors have been taken into account when considering the placement of the Swansea and Amman Valley wards.

The proposed constituency is very large in size with poor transport links. The current MP's office is in Llandrindod Wells – a journey of 50 miles, 1 hour and 20 minutes by car from Pontardawe. It is not possible to make the return journey by public transport in one day. Therefore, visiting your MP using public transport will be impossible.

The Neath Port Talbot / Powys county boundary forms the basis of a number of other administrative boundaries, including the South West / Mid Wales economic region, South Wales / Dyfed Powys Police territories, and the Powys and Swansea Bay Health Boards. A constituency crossing all of these boundaries will cause considerable administrative complications and confusion.

Historically the Swansea Valley was always part of Glamorganshire and local ties are all with Neath and Swansea, not with Brecon. Also, the Swansea and Amman Valleys and Pontardawe have a strong industrial heritage similar to Neath and Swansea, this is very different from the agricultural heritage that Brecon and Radnor has.

The proposed constituency will have a southern tip that is very different in character to the remainder. The Swansea and Amman Valley wards have an average of 38% Welsh speakers, compared with just 16% in the rest of the proposed constituency (2011 census figures, weighted by ward population). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards are also significantly more deprived, with an average WIMD ranking of

813 compared with 1159 for the Brecon and Radnor wards (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, lower ranking indicating more deprivation). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards will include just 25% of the constituency's population, giving a real risk that the very different needs of the area will not be reflected in the electoral choices made by the constituency as a whole.

As an alternative, we support the Assistant Commissioners' proposals for the Swansea and Neath, Aberafan & Bridgend areas. The inclusion of the Swansea and Amman Valleys within their proposed Lliw Valley constituency far better reflects existing and historic boundaries, geography and local characteristics.



**BCW-10827 / [REDACTED] / Pontardawe**

I strongly object to the Boundary Commission proposal to include Pontardawe and Trebanos wards, and other Swansea and Amman Valley wards, within the new Brecon, Radnor and Cwm-tawe constituency.

It is very disappointing to see that despite numerous objections, including that of the Assistant Commissioners, the plan for our area remains unchanged from the initial proposal.

As well as the necessity to meet the required number of electors per ward, Rule 5 in Schedule 2 of the 1986 Act provides for a number of other factors that the Commission may take into account in establishing a new map of constituencies for the 2023 Review, specifically:

- special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
- local government boundaries as they existed on 1 December 2020
- boundaries of existing constituencies
- any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies
- the inconveniences attendant on such changes

It is apparent that none of these factors have been taken into account when considering the placement of the Swansea and Amman Valley wards.

The proposed constituency is very large in size with poor transport links. The current MP's office is in Llandrindod Wells – a journey of 50 miles, 1 hour and 20 minutes by car from Pontardawe. It is not possible to make the return journey by public transport in one day. Therefore, visiting your MP using public transport will be impossible.

The Neath Port Talbot / Powys county boundary forms the basis of a number of other administrative boundaries, including the South West / Mid Wales economic region, South Wales / Dyfed Powys Police territories, and the Powys and Swansea Bay Health Boards. A constituency crossing all of these boundaries will cause considerable administrative complications and confusion.

Historically the Swansea Valley was always part of Glamorganshire and local ties are all with Neath and Swansea, not with Brecon. Also, the Swansea and Amman Valleys and Pontardawe have a strong industrial heritage similar to Neath and Swansea, this is very different from the agricultural heritage that Brecon and Radnor has.

The proposed constituency will have a southern tip that is very different in character to the remainder. The Swansea and Amman Valley wards have an average of 38% Welsh speakers, compared with just 16% in the rest of the proposed constituency (2011 census figures, weighted by ward population). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards are also significantly more deprived, with an average WIMD ranking of

813 compared with 1159 for the Brecon and Radnor wards (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, lower ranking indicating more deprivation). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards will include just 25% of the constituency's population, giving a real risk that the very different needs of the area will not be reflected in the electoral choices made by the constituency as a whole.

As an alternative, we support the Assistant Commissioners' proposals for the Swansea and Neath, Aberafan & Bridgend areas. The inclusion of the Swansea and Amman Valleys within their proposed Lliw Valley constituency far better reflects existing and historic boundaries, geography and local characteristics.

I strongly object to the Boundary Commission proposal to include Pontardawe and Trebanos wards, and other Swansea and Amman Valley wards, within the new Brecon, Radnor and Cwm-tawe constituency.

It is very disappointing to see that despite numerous objections, including that of the Assistant Commissioners, the plan for our area remains unchanged from the initial proposal.

As well as the necessity to meet the required number of electors per ward, Rule 5 in Schedule 2 of the 1986 Act provides for a number of other factors that the Commission may take into account in establishing a new map of constituencies for the 2023 Review, specifically:

- special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
- local government boundaries as they existed on 1 December 2020
- boundaries of existing constituencies
- any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies
- the inconveniences attendant on such changes

It is apparent that none of these factors have been taken into account when considering the placement of the Swansea and Amman Valley wards.

The proposed constituency is very large in size with poor transport links. The current MP's office is in Llandrindod Wells – a journey of 50 miles, 1 hour and 20 minutes by car from Pontardawe. It is not possible to make the return journey by public transport in one day. Therefore, visiting your MP using public transport will be impossible.

The Neath Port Talbot / Powys county boundary forms the basis of a number of other administrative boundaries, including the South West / Mid Wales economic region, South Wales / Dyfed Powys Police territories, and the Powys and Swansea Bay Health Boards. A constituency crossing all of these boundaries will cause considerable administrative complications and confusion.

Historically the Swansea Valley was always part of Glamorganshire and local ties are all with Neath and Swansea, not with Brecon. Also, the Swansea and Amman Valleys and Pontardawe have a strong industrial heritage similar to Neath and Swansea, this is very different from the agricultural heritage that Brecon and Radnor has.

The proposed constituency will have a southern tip that is very different in character to the remainder. The Swansea and Amman Valley wards have an average of 38% Welsh speakers, compared with just 16% in the rest of the proposed constituency (2011 census figures, weighted by ward population). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards are also significantly more deprived, with an average WIMD ranking of

813 compared with 1159 for the Brecon and Radnor wards (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, lower ranking indicating more deprivation). The Swansea and Amman Valley wards will include just 25% of the constituency's population, giving a real risk that the very different needs of the area will not be reflected in the electoral choices made by the constituency as a whole.

As an alternative, we support the Assistant Commissioners' proposals for the Swansea and Neath, Aberafan & Bridgend areas. The inclusion of the Swansea and Amman Valleys within their proposed Lliw Valley constituency far better reflects existing and historic boundaries, geography and local characteristics.

Further to the publication of the revised UK Parliamentary Constituencies for Wales, I would like to submit my comments and concerns in relation to the proposal to move the ward of Cathays into Cardiff South and Penarth, instead of it remaining in the proposed Constituency of Cardiff East.

I would note that, whilst I currently live in East Cardiff, I lived in the current Cardiff Central seat for over 20 years, and for over 15 of these years I lived in Cathays. I also currently work in the public sector, and am based in the Cathays ward.

I strongly oppose the proposed move and believe that 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. Whilst in principle I disagreed with the original proposal or Trowbridge being disconnected from Rumney and Llanrumney, at least Trowbridge would be remaining within a constituency with which it has long-standing links. There are no historic links between Cathays and the Cardiff South and Penarth constituency, and haven't been in the nearly 40 years that I have lived in Cardiff.

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. Whilst the ward of Cathays does stretch down through the City Centre to touch Butetown, in reality the vast majority of the residents of Cathays live north of the City Centre and Civic Centre areas of Cardiff, and therefore have no geographic link with Cardiff South and Penarth.

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 statements made by the Secretary to the Commission, Shereen Williams, at the beginning of the process. In addition, my understanding is that the Commission only received one submission (from a resident based in Altrincham for some reason?!) proposing this change. Whereas the Commission received dozens of responses (from residents who actually live in the city of Cardiff) backing the keeping of Cathays, Plasnewydd, Penylan and Adamsdown within the wider Roath community in the same constituency.

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.

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.

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

**BCW-10830 / Cllr Anthony John Richards / Pontardawe**

I strongly object to the Boundary Commission proposal. I represent the Pontardawe ward as the County Councillor and I have yet to speak to anybody who supports the Boundary Commissions proposals. The current proposal will fragment the constituencies and create an unacceptably large geographic area for the Swansea Valley/Brecon etc.

I fully support the Neath Port Talbot council position which in turn reflects the Assistant Commissioner report - Swansea and Amman Valley to link with parts of the old Lliw Valley. The inclusion of the Swansea and Amman Valleys within their proposed Lliw Valley constituency far better reflects existing and historic boundaries, geography and local characteristics.