

**Boundary Commission for Scotland
Minutes of Meeting held at Thistle House, Edinburgh
Monday 16 May 2016**

Present

The Hon Lord Matthews, Deputy Chairman
Professor Ailsa Henderson, Commissioner
Mrs Paula Sharp, Commissioner

Ms Isabel Drummond-Murray, Secretary
Mr Douglas Campbell, Secretariat
Ms Laura Cregan, Secretariat
Mr Colin Wilson, Secretariat

Introduction and apologies

1. Apologies had been received from Tim Ellis, Registrar General, National Records of Scotland and Ms Michaela Gordon, Ordnance Survey, Assessor to the Commission.

Item 1: Minutes of the previous meeting

2. The minutes of the 18 April 2016 meeting were agreed.

Item 2: Matters arising

3. Following delays confirming budgets with the sponsor department it was agreed that the Corporate Plan and Risk Register will be considered at the next Commission meeting on 13 June 2016.

Item 3: Consultation Portal (oral update)

4. The Commission were updated on progress of the Consultation Portal and considered: how respondents search for a constituency; redaction of consultation responses; colour design schemes; and highlighting areas where responses have been submitted.

Item 4: Meeting with political parties (Paper 2016/12)

5. The Commission discussed the upcoming meeting with political parties regarding the 2018 UK Parliament Review and discussed the format for the meeting, presentations and agreed approach to the meeting.

Item 5: Constituency design – Highland and north of Scotland (Paper 2016/13)

6. The Commission discussed the issue of constituency size and whether to propose a constituency outwith the electoral quota when considering constituency designs in Highland and the north of Scotland.
7. The Commission acknowledged that neither option, as a grouping of constituencies, was within the parameters of the legislation governing the review. However the Commission asked the Secretariat to develop Option 2 as it demonstrated that the Commission could design a constituency both within the area limit and electoral limit in Highland and the north of Scotland.

Item 6: Constituency groupings - discussion

8. The Commission discussed constituency groupings it had considered at its previous meeting as well as other constituency designs and constituency groupings by council area the Secretariat had prepared for consideration.
9. The Commission agreed that Option 3 should be the basis for grouping constituencies.
10. The Commission asked the Secretariat to prepare further proposals based on Option 3 and that proposals for Highland, Moray and Argyll and Bute be the first council area grouping for consideration at its next meeting.

Item 7: Annual UK Boundary Commissions meeting

11. The Commission discussed the annual meeting of UK Boundary Commissions, which is to be hosted later this year by the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland in Belfast.
12. The Deputy Chair and Professor Henderson agreed in principle to attend along with the Secretary subject to suitable dates being agreed. It was noted that all of the Commissions were keen to arrange a date for the meeting after the public consultation on proposed constituencies had commenced.
13. The Secretary agreed to keep the Commission informed when a date for the meeting had been confirmed.

Item 8: Any other business

14. It was agreed that the next meeting will be on Monday 13 June at 10.30am.

Secretariat

May 2016