

Boundary Commission for Scotland

Minutes of Meeting held at Thistle House, Edinburgh

Monday 25 June 2018

Present

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

Colin Wilson, Secretariat
Douglas Campbell, Secretariat
Yvonne Croll, Secretariat
David Logue, Secretariat

Apologies

Isabel Drummond–Murray, Secretary, Boundary Commission for Scotland
Registrar General, National Records of Scotland, Assessor
Mr Dominic Cuthbert, Ordnance Survey, Assessor

Minutes of the previous meeting

1. The minutes of the 21 May 2018 meeting were agreed with minor amendments.

Matters arising

2. There were no matters arising which would not be covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Business Update

3. The Commission heard that the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) had informed the Leader of the House of Commons of their plans regarding the timing and arrangements for the submission of its Final Recommendations to Parliament for the 2018 Review.
4. The Commission agreed that the Secretary should write to the Secretary of State for Scotland stating the Commission's intention to publish its final recommendations in early September 2018 in line with the BCE.
5. The Commission heard that the Secretary has informed the Scottish Political Parties of the proposed timescale for submitting the report to Parliament.
6. The Commission heard that the Secretariat were awaiting advice regarding the description of boundaries and whether digital GIS data is sufficient or a written version should be supplied. After some discussion the Commission

agreed that a written description of constituency boundaries should be included in the report.

7. The Secretariat provided the Commission with an update on the progress of the website refresh. Further user testing will take place in July 2018 and the Secretariat is working closely with contractors and Scottish Government colleagues to ensure the website refresh continues to progress.
8. The Commission noted that the meeting of UK Boundary Commissions will take place in Edinburgh on 1 and 2 November 2018 and will be jointly hosted by the Boundary Commission for Scotland and Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland. There will be a dinner in the evening of 1 November and the meeting will take place on 2 November 2018. The Secretariat are close to confirming the final venue for the dinner, meeting and overnight accommodation. The Commission will be represented by Lord Matthews (if available) and Mrs Sharp. The Secretariat asked the Commission to consider suggestions for speakers at the event and potential discussion topics.
9. The Commission heard that since the Commission last met there has been no progress regarding Afzal Khan MP's Parliamentary Constituencies (Amendment) Bill which is at the Committee Stage in the House of Commons.

2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies: Draft Final Report (Paper 2018/22)

10. The Commission considered a draft version of the above report. The Commission agreed a number of changes and asked the Secretariat to prepare alternative map styles for approval in addition to the changes to the text of the report. The Commission asked that the updated report and alternative map designs be sent out by email and post for consideration. The Commission also agreed that a formal meeting would be held at the end of July if the Commission deemed it necessary to consider these changes.

Finance Update (Paper 2018/21)

11. The Commission noted the Finance Update.

Date of next meeting

12. The Commission agreed to arrange a provisional date for week commencing 23 July 2018 should a meeting be required to sign off the final report.

**Secretariat
June 2018**