

Boundary Commission for Scotland

Minutes of Meeting held at Thistle House, Edinburgh

Monday 11 December 2017

Present

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

Isabel Drummond–Murray, Secretary
Colin Wilson, Secretariat
Douglas Campbell, Secretariat
David Logue, Secretariat

Apologies

Tim Ellis, National Records of Scotland, Assessor
Dominic Cuthbert, Ordnance Survey, Assessor

Minutes of the previous meeting

1. The minutes of the 11 September 2017 meeting were agreed with no amendments.

Matters arising

2. The Secretary advised that the introductory meeting between Lord Matthews and Shonaig Macpherson, Non–Executive member of the Joint Management Board at the Scotland Office, was now expected to take place early in 2018.
3. The Secretary advised that the most recent quarterly meeting with the Scotland Office had been postponed until 2018.
4. The Secretary advised the UK Boundary Commissions had been unsuccessful in their attempt to win an award in the digital category at the 2017 Civil Service Awards.
5. The Secretary is considering different options for undertaking a survey for stakeholders involved in the 2018 Review and will update the Commission at a future meeting.

Business Update

6. The Secretary updated the Commission on the UK Boundaries Commissions' Meeting that she and Professor Henderson had attended in Cardiff in November. They noted that while the discussions had been useful, they felt that changes could perhaps be made to the structure and timing of the meetings to make them more productive. The Commission noted that it will

host the next meeting in November 2018 with the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland, and asked the Secretary to consider the meeting format.

7. The Secretary updated the Commission on the Private Member's Bill introduced to the House of Commons by Afzal Khan MP which aims to amend the legislation governing the current 2018 Review. The Bill received its 2nd Reading in the Commons on 1 December and a date is awaited for Committee stage. The Secretary agreed to keep the Commission updated on any developments regarding the Bill.
8. The Secretary informed the Commission that an invitation had been received to attend a session of the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee in January 2018 to discuss issues that might arise in the event that the current Review, for whatever reason, were not implemented. Professor Henderson agreed to attend on the Commission's behalf and to then update the Commission at its next meeting.

2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies: Summary of responses to publication of Revised Proposals (oral update)

9. The Commission were updated on the responses to the public consultation on its revised proposals. The Commission asked for a further oral update to be presented at its next meeting in February 2018.

2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies: Draft Final Report (Paper 2017/87)

10. The Commission considered a draft version of the 2018 Review Final Report. The Commission welcomed the early opportunity to consider the layout and content of the report and suggested a number of amendments. The Commission asked that these be made and form part of a further draft to be considered at the next meeting.
11. The Commission also asked that further maps be produced to inform the Commission's decision on map style.

2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies: Report to Speaker (Paper 2017/86)

12. The Commission considered a draft version of the draft 2018 Review Report to Speaker. The Commission agreed some minor amendments to be incorporated by the Secretariat.

Commission Website and Logo Update (oral)

13. The Commission heard that work is on-going regarding the refresh of the Commission's website.
14. The Commission viewed a variety of logos and selected its preferred option, incorporating its name in Gaelic, in agreement with the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland, but requested a variation of the colour palette.

Finance update (Paper 2017/88)

15. The Commission noted the finance update and asked for some further explanation of specific items included.

Any other business

16. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday 5 February 2018.

**Secretariat
December 2017**