

Boundary Commission for Scotland

Minutes of Meeting held at Thistle House, Edinburgh

Monday 7 November 2016

Present

The Hon Lord Matthews, Deputy Chairman
Professor Ailsa Henderson, Commissioner
Mrs Paula Sharp, Commissioner
Ms Michaela Gordon, Ordnance Survey, Assessor

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

Apologies

1. Mr Tim Ellis, Registrar General, National Records of Scotland submitted apologies.

Declarations of Interest

2. There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of the previous meeting

3. The minutes of the 3 October 2016 meeting were agreed, subject to minor amendments.

Matters arising

4. The Secretary gave a brief update regarding a recent meeting with the Scotland Office and on the ongoing discussions regarding governance of the Commission.

Public Consultation: Progress Report (Oral Update)

5. The Secretary delivered an update regarding the publication of the Commission's initial proposals.
6. The Secretary reported that on 19 October members of the Secretariat had delivered the proposals to sitting MPs at the House of Commons. In Edinburgh, the Commission had hosted an embargoed media briefing prior to the launch of the public consultation; it had been well-attended and resulted in wide media coverage of the initial proposals. The portal had gone live at midnight without any technical difficulties.

7. The Secretariat are monitoring media coverage of the 2018 Review and agreed to send the Commission updates on coverage, in the same format as that already circulated.
8. The Commission noted that over 130 representations had been submitted within the first two weeks of the consultation.

Public Consultation: Public Hearings (Paper 2016/45)

9. The Commission were updated on preparations for the Public Hearings. Following discussions at the previous meeting, the Commission agreed that the Secretariat should liaise with Sheriffs Principal, in their role as Chairs, to finalise the start times of the hearings. The Commission suggested that the Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Ayr hearings start at 10am and the Inverness hearing commence at 11am.
10. The Commission agreed that the closing time for each hearing would be as flexible as possible, and that the option of a second session should be kept open, dependent on demand.
11. The Commission considered the draft news release and draft opening statement for the public hearings and agreed them subject to a number of amendments.

Annual Meeting of UK Boundary Commissions (Paper 2016/48)

12. The Commission discussed the upcoming meeting of the UK Boundary Commissions in Belfast on 8 and 9 December 2016 and it was agreed that Mrs Sharp would deliver the update from the Boundary Commission for Scotland.

Finance Update (Paper 2016 / 47)

13. The Commission noted the latest finance update.

Any other business

14. The next meeting will be held on Monday 12 December at 10.30am.
15. The Commission agreed to consider an updated project plan for 2018 Review at the next meeting.
16. The Commission also agreed to review a draft Corporate Plan and the latest Freedom of Information policy.

**Secretariat
November 2016**