

Minutes of Meeting held at Thistle House, Edinburgh

Monday 22 July 2019

Present

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

Isabel Drummond-Murray, Secretary
Colin Wilson
Douglas Campbell
David Logue

Apologies

Mr Dominic Cuthbert, Ordnance Survey, Assessor
Paul Lowe, National Records of Scotland, Assessor

Minutes of the previous meeting

1. The minutes of the 4 February 2019 meeting were agreed with no amendments.

Matters arising

2. Lord Matthews reported that he and Mrs Sharp had a meeting with Shonaig McPherson, non-Executive member at the Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland, to update Ms McPherson on the Commission's activities.
3. The Commission noted with interest that the LGBCS had agreed to follow the requirements of the Shetland Mapping Agreement wherever possible. The Commission agreed to pursue the same course of action.
4. The Secretary informed the Commission that she had met with Paul Lowe who has been appointed Chief Executive of National Records of Scotland (NRS). The Secretary and Mr Lowe discussed the role of Assessor and how that may develop at the commencement of the Commission's next Review of UK Parliament Constituencies.
5. The Commission noted that the Boundary Commission for Wales (BCW) had received a limited response to their 2018 Review survey. Due to the implementation of GDPR they were unable to contact respondents to their consultations, such as members of the public, for comment. The Commission agreed to include consent questions for future consultations.
6. The Secretariat will consider visiting the Ordnance Survey in Southampton to analyse how OS digitise boundaries, when the Commission commences its next review of UK Parliament Constituencies.

Business update

7. There were no items addressed during a business update as all matters were captured elsewhere in the agenda.

2018 Review – (Oral Update)

7. The Commission discussed the latest position with the 2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies Final Report and heard that there was no further update as to when the Order to implement the Final Recommendations will be laid in Parliament.

2018 Review – Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland (BCNI) Judicial Review (Paper 2019/05)

9. The Commission discussed and agreed a response to the BCNI's letter regarding the ongoing Judicial Review of the BCNI's report following the 2018 Review.

Annual Report (Paper 2019/06)

10. The Commission discussed the draft annual report and agreed it subject to a number of minor amendments.

BCS Website Demonstration

11. The Commission was pleased to receive a demonstration of the "beta" version of the new Boundary Commission for Scotland website and asked that this agenda item be retained until such time as the site was successfully launched.

UK Commissions meeting (Oral Update)

12. The Commission discussed the upcoming UK Commissions meeting to be held in London on 28 and 29 November 2019 and hosted by the Boundary Commission for England. Lord Matthews and Prof Henderson agreed to represent the Commission at the dinner on 28 November and Prof Henderson agreed to attend the meeting on 29 November in the same capacity. The Commission agreed that any invitees from outwith the UK Commissions were a matter for the host commission given the expectation that the costs for any such guests would fall exclusively to the hosts.

Finance Update (Paper 2019/07)

13. The Commission noted the Finance Update. The Secretariat were asked to prepare scenario planned forecasts that would consider the split of staff costs between Commissions and how that may be impacted by Review workload of both the BCS and LGBCS.

Future meetings (oral)

14. The Secretariat agreed to contact Commissioners by email with a view to finding a suitable date for the next Commission meeting to take place sometime in early November 2019.

Secretariat
July 2019