

Minutes of Meeting held by video conference at 2pm on 18 July 2022.

Present

The Hon Lord Matthews, Deputy Chair
Dr Sue Walker, Commissioner
Professor Ailsa Henderson, Commissioner

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

Apologies

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

Minutes of previous meeting

1. The Commission approved the minutes of the meeting on 6 June 2022 with minor amendments.

Matters Arising

2. The Secretary advised the Commission that she had had discussions with the Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland regarding holding public hearings in a hybrid format in future reviews. They have no immediate plans to seek to have legislation changed to allow this as the next Review is not scheduled to report until 2031. The Commission suggested that the use of hybrid public hearings can be a recommendation for future reviews and published in the 2023 Review Final Report.
3. The Secretary advised the Commission that she is shortly due to meet the Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland (OSSS) to discuss the upcoming audit of OSSS's sponsorship of the Commission, and will also discuss hybrid public hearings with them then.

Business Update

4. There was no business not covered under other headings in the meeting.

2023 Review: Consideration of Revised Proposals – Angus, Clackmannanshire, Dundee City, Falkirk, Fife, Perth and Kinross, Stirling and West Lothian council areas (Paper 2022/19)

5. The Commission considered Paper 2022/19, having previously considered Paper 2022/11 on this council area grouping at its meeting of 9 May 2022, where it provisionally adopted suggestions received for West Lothian which would place Broxburn and Uphall in a Livingston constituency and Whitburn and Blackburn in a Bathgate-Linlithgow constituency because these better reflected historical local ties. At that meeting the Commission also considered draft designs for Clackmannanshire, Fife, Perth and Kinross and Stirling council areas, based on the assumption that Falkirk / West Lothian and Angus / Dundee could be added to neighbouring council area groupings.

6. The Commission considered the options presented in the paper. The Commission considered that Option 1 would be likely to break local ties by including Bishopbriggs in a constituency with part of Glasgow. The Commission gave weight to Option 2A and Option 2B's disadvantages including the division of Stirling council area between constituencies, and that neither addressed the objections to Carse of Gowrie being included in a Dundee constituency rather than a Perthshire constituency. The Commission preferred Option 3, noting that it avoided dividing Stirling council area between constituencies, and included Carse of Gowrie in a Perthshire constituency rather than in a constituency with Dundee.
7. The Commission asked the Secretariat to examine options that could improve the shape of the Perth and Tay constituency in Option 3, shown in Appendix D by Auchterarder and Coupar Angus.
8. The Commission asked the Secretariat to develop a revised Option 3 and share this by email for consideration and agreement.

2023 Review: Consideration of Revised Proposals – Constituency Names (Paper 2022/20)

9. The Commission considered Paper 2022/20, having agreed at its previous meetings to decide the names for the constituencies in its Revised Proposals once the constituency boundaries had all been agreed.
10. The Commission considered all the responses it had received with respect to names of constituencies in its public consultations, as well as its guidelines for constituency names contained in Appendix A.
11. The Commission agreed to use the following constituency names in its Revised Proposals:
 - Aberdeen North;
 - Aberdeen South;
 - Aberdeenshire North and Moray East;
 - Aberdeenshire Central;
 - West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine;
 - North Tayside;
 - Dundee East and Arbroath;
 - Argyll, Bute and South Lochaber;
 - Clackmannanshire and Forth Valley;
 - Dumfries and Galloway;
 - Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale;
 - Dundee West;
 - Kilmarnock and Loudoun;
 - North Ayrshire and Arran;
 - Central Ayrshire;
 - Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock;
 - Bearsden and Campsie Fells;
 - Kilsyth Hills and Cumbernauld;
 - East Lothian and Lammermuirs;
 - East Renfrewshire;
 - Edinburgh East;

- Edinburgh North and Leith;
- Edinburgh South;
- Edinburgh South West;
- Edinburgh West;
- Falkirk;
- North East Fife;
- Glenrothes;
- Dunfermline and East Ochils;
- Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath;
- Glasgow South,
- Glasgow North East,
- Glasgow North;
- Glasgow South East;
- Glasgow South West;
- Glasgow West;
- Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross;
- Inverness-shire and Wester Ross;
- Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West;
- Paisley and Renfrewshire North;
- Paisley and Renfrewshire South;
- Midlothian;
- Nairn, Strathspey and Moray West;
- Coatbridge and Bellshill;
- Airdrie;
- Motherwell and Clydesdale North;
- Hamilton and Clyde Valley;
- Perth and Loch Leven;
- Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk;
- East Kilbride and Strathaven;
- Rutherglen;
- Stirling;
- West Dunbartonshire;
- Livingston;
- Bathgate and Linlithgow;

12.The Commission asked the Secretariat to email them a map of the revised constituency boundaries and names in case any revisions were required.

13.The Secretariat will also email the Commission the area of the Revised Proposals and suggest their designation, with predominantly urban constituencies as “burgh” constituencies and predominantly rural constituencies as “county” constituencies.

Annual Report (Paper 2022/21)

14.The Commission agreed the Annual Report, with minor amendments.

Finance Update (Paper 2022/13)

15.The Commission noted the finance update.

Any other business

16.The Commission agreed to arrange the date of the next meeting by correspondence.

Secretariat
July 2022

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