

Minutes of Meeting held by video conference at 10am on Monday 5 October 2020.

Present

The Hon Lord Matthews, Deputy Chair
Mrs Paula Sharp, Commissioner
Professor Ailsa Henderson, Commissioner
Mr Dominic Cuthbert, Ordnance Survey, Assessor

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

Apologies

Mr Paul Lowe, National Records for Scotland, Assessor

Minutes of previous meeting

1. The Commission approved the minutes of the meeting on 20 July 2020 with minor amendments.

Matter Arising

2. The Secretary highlighted that due to the current circumstances of Covid-19 pandemic, the Secretariat are continuing to work from home and will do so until the early part of 2021 under Scottish Government guidelines. The Secretariat has limited access to Thistle House but can visit to print and post meeting papers.
3. The Secretary advised that the council consultation stage of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's (LGBCS) 2019 Reviews of Electoral Arrangements for Argyll and Bute, Highland and North Ayrshire council areas concluded on 30 September 2020. The public consultation stage of these reviews will commence later this year.
4. The Commission noted that the next meeting of the UK Boundary Commissions, due to be hosted by Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), will take place by video conference on the morning of 27 November 2020. It was agreed that Lord Matthews would attend subject to availability but other Commissioners may be asked to attend.
5. The Secretary informed the Commission that the LGBCS will continue to consider its approach on naming Scottish Parliament constituencies when it meets on 12 October 2020. The Commission will be updated on the outcome of those discussions at its next meeting.
6. The Secretary advised that the Secretariat are examining options for procuring legal advice, should the Commission wish to do this prior to the start of the 2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies.

Business Update

7. There were no items under business update that would not be covered elsewhere on the agenda.

2023 Review: preparations (oral update)

8. The Secretary updated the Commission on preparations for the 2023 Review. The Commission noted that the Parliamentary Constituencies Bill will be considered by the House of Lords on 8 October 2020, and is expected to have its Third Reading in the House of Commons on 15 October 2020. The Secretary will keep the Commission updated on the progress of the Bill and any amendments.
9. The Commission heard the electorate data to be used for 2023 Review is expected to be published by National Records for Scotland on 29 October 2020.
10. The Secretariat advised that the four Boundary Commissions had held an initial meeting to discuss their preparations for the 2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies.

Appointments (oral update)

11. The Commission noted that the deadline for applications to find a replacement for Mrs Sharp is 5 October 2020. Lord Matthews will virtually attend the application sift taking place on 15 October 2020. Interview dates are scheduled for 2 and 3 November 2020.

2023 Review – Map Styles (Paper 2020/10)

12. The Commission discussed various map styles showing initial proposals, revised proposals and final recommendations on a single map.
13. The Commission accepted Dominic Cuthbert's offer of advice on map content and presentation styles and he agreed to consult with cartography colleagues at Ordnance Survey. It was agreed that any advice received would be shared at a future Commission meeting.

Finance update (Paper 2020/11)

14. The Commission noted the finance update.

Future meetings (oral update)

15. The Commission confirmed that it will schedule its next meeting on Monday 23 November 2020 at 10am.

Any other business

16. Dominic Cuthbert informed the Commission that Ordnance Survey had developed a new agreement with how it provides its products and services to the public sector in Scotland. The Public Sector Geospatial Agreement (PSGA) has replaced the One Scotland Mapping Agreement (OSMA). As part of the new agreement, Ordnance Survey technical experience and support will be more freely available to the Commission.

Secretariat

October 2020