

Minutes of Meeting held by video conference at 10am on 08 March 2021.**Present**

The Hon Lord Matthews, Deputy Chair
Professor Ailsa Henderson, Commissioner
Dr Sue Walker, 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 18 January 2021 without amendment.

Matters Arising

2. The Secretary updated the Commission that the procurement of legal advice for the 2023 Review is progressing and will be signed off in due course.

Business Update

3. The Secretary advised that the Secretariat are nearing completion 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 are due to be submitted in May 2021.
4. The Commission were informed that LGBCS will officially become Boundaries Scotland from 14 May 2021. The Secretary advised that Boundaries Scotland will write to stakeholders to advise them of the name change in a bid to minimise confusion.
5. The Commission were informed that with the Scottish Parliament election due to be held on May 6, the pre-election period will run from 25 March until 6 May 2021.

2023 Review (oral update)

6. The Commission were informed that when preparing its electorate data for the 2023 Review the Secretariat had identified some minor issues and as a consequence NRS had amended their published electorate data for two constituencies.
7. The Commission were updated on the contract being drafted between Boundary Commission for England, Boundary Commission for Scotland and Boundary Commission for Wales for procurement of a shared consultation portal for the 2023 Review.
8. The Boundary Commission for England is seeking advice on whether the Boundary Commissions can hold "virtual public hearings" and if legislative changes are required to permit these.

9. The Commission heard that the meeting with political parties to discuss the 2023 Review will take place after the Scottish Parliament election in May 2021.

2023 Review: Grouping Options (Paper 2021/05)

10. The Commission discussed the options presented in Paper 2021/05 and considered its intended approach to constituency design for the 2023 Review.
11. The Commission agreed that Option 3 took better account of council area boundaries and provided for constituency groupings with fewer constituencies per grouping.
12. The Commission believed that the Dundee City and Perth and Kinross council area grouping could limit constituency design options and suggested merging this grouping with the Angus, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire council area grouping. The Commission asked the Secretariat to further develop constituency boundaries for Option 3 and bring them to the next meeting.

Risk Register (Paper 2021/06)

13. The Commission considered Paper 2021/06. The Commission requested that the Secretariat amend the Risk Register to include a risk relating to public misinformation during the 2023 Review.

Governance and Finance update (Paper 2021/07)

14. The Commission noted the update on its governance arrangements and its financial position. The Commission would be happy to welcome the Director of OSSS and the Chair of ARAC to the start of a future meeting and asked the Secretariat to arrange. It was noted that any reports to the Joint Management Board would cover workload and timing issues rather than any specific details of the Commission's considerations relating to reviews.

Future meetings (oral update)

15. The Commission will next meet on 12 April 2021.

Any other business

16. Dominic Cuthbert advised of recent changes to Ordnance Survey's Boundary Line dataset.

Secretariat
March 2021