

Minutes of Meeting held by video conference at 2pm on 14 February 2023

Present

The Hon Lord Matthews, Deputy Chair
Dr Sue Walker, Commissioner
Professor Ailsa Henderson, Commissioner
Mr Dominic Cuthbert, Ordnance Survey, Assessor

Colin Wilson
Douglas Campbell
Yvonne Croll
Alistair Grant

Apologies

Isabel Drummond-Murray, Secretary
Mr Paul Lowe, National Records for Scotland, Assessor

Minutes of previous meeting

1. The Commission approved the minutes of the meeting on 19 December 2022.

Matters Arising/ Business Update

2. The Commission was informed that an individual has verbally accepted the Finance and Governance Officer post. A start date has still to be agreed.
3. The Secretariat informed the Commission that auditors from Cabinet Office had conducted an audit of the sponsorship of the Commission on 26 January 2023. A report from the audit has yet to be submitted.
4. The Commission was updated that Boundaries Scotland (BS) is developing its provisional proposals for the Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries and it plans to consult on them in April/May 2023.
5. The Commission were updated that the terms of the BS Chair, Mr Hinds, and Commissioner Dr Walker end on 31 May 2023.

2023 Review: Draft Final Recommendations – East Renfrewshire Council area (Paper 2023/01)

6. The Commission considered Paper 2023/01 and noted the low number of responses to the Revised Proposals which suggested a high level of acceptance of the Revised Proposals for East Renfrewshire Council area.
7. The Commission agreed to adopt without amendment the Revised Proposals (as in Appendix A), as the Commission's Final Recommendations subject to consideration of all other constituencies.
8. The Commission agreed to consider the name of the constituency, after first deciding its Final Recommendations for all constituency boundaries.

2023 Review: Draft Final Recommendations – Aberdeen City Council area (Paper 2023/02)

9. The Commission considered Paper 2023/02 and noted low number of responses to the Revised Proposals suggested a high level of acceptance of the Revised Proposals for Aberdeen City Council area.
10. The Commission agreed to adopt without amendment the Revised Proposals (as in Appendix A), as the Commission's Final Recommendations subject to consideration of all other constituencies.
11. The Commission agreed to consider the name of the constituencies, after first deciding its Final Recommendations for all constituency boundaries.

2023 Review: Draft Final Recommendations – East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Council areas (Paper 2023/03)

12. The Deputy Chair declared an interest that he lives within this council area grouping.
13. The Commission considered Paper 2023/03 and noted the low number of responses to the Revised Proposals suggested a high level of acceptance of the Revised Proposals for East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Council areas.
14. The Commission discussed the alternative suggestion for an Ayr, Troon and Prestwick constituency which had also been considered by the Commission at an earlier meeting. The Commission agreed that as a consequence of this suggestion it would create a large constituency extending from Stewarton to Ballantrae.
15. The Commission agreed to adopt without amendment the Revised Proposals (as in Appendix A), as the Commission's Final Recommendations subject to consideration of all other constituencies.
16. The Commission agreed to consider the name of the constituencies, after first deciding its Final Recommendations for all constituency boundaries.

2023 Review: Final Proposals – East Lothian, City of Edinburgh, Midlothian Council areas (Paper 2023/04)

17. Professor Henderson and Mr Cuthbert declared an interest as they reside within this council area grouping.
18. The Commission considered Paper 2023/04 and noted the responses to its consultation on its Revised Proposals for East Lothian, City of Edinburgh and Midlothian Council areas.
19. The Commission noted the low number of responses to the Revised Proposals suggested a high level of acceptance of the Revised Proposals for Midlothian Council area. The Commission agreed to adopt without amendment the Revised Proposals for Midlothian (as in Appendix A), as the Commission's Final Recommendations subject to consideration of all other constituencies.
20. The Commission noted the support for the proposed Edinburgh West constituency and lack of responses elsewhere to the Revised Proposals in Edinburgh suggested a high level of acceptance of the Revised Proposals for City

of Edinburgh Council area. The Commission agreed to adopt without amendment the Revised Proposals for Edinburgh (as in Appendix A), as the Commission's Final Recommendations subject to consideration of all other constituencies.

21. The Commission considered the alternative suggestions for East Lothian which: created two East Lothian–Midlothian constituencies; and an Edinburgh East, Musselburgh and Wallyford constituency. The Commission agreed that two East Lothian–Midlothian constituencies would necessitate changes to the proposed Midlothian constituency where there had been some support and little opposition to the Revised Proposals. The Commission agreed that an Edinburgh East, Musselburgh and Wallyford constituency would necessitate changes to the proposed constituency boundaries in Edinburgh and Midlothian where there had been some support and little opposition to the Revised Proposals. The Commission considered an option to add Dunbar to a Scottish Borders constituency but noted it had not been consulted upon and it necessitated changes to the proposed Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk constituency and Edinburgh constituencies where there had been some support and little opposition to the Revised Proposals.
22. The Commission discussed the responses to the revised consultation that had opposed Musselburgh being placed within an Edinburgh East constituency. Responses to the initial consultation had opposed Musselburgh being split between two constituencies. The Initial Proposals had proposed a constituency boundary that followed the River Esk, the Revised Proposals had amended the boundary to partly follow a historical constituency boundary – Edinburgh East and Musselburgh constituency from 1997 and 2005. Musselburgh had also been in an Edinburgh East constituency from at least 1950 to 1983. The Commission considered extending the revised boundary further east but believed it may split local community ties in Pinkie.
23. The Commission agreed to retain its Revised Proposals as its Final Recommendations in East Lothian Council area (as in Appendix A) because: the revised boundary had followed an historical constituency boundary and the rear fence–line of properties to maintain local ties in Musselburgh; Musselburgh had previously been in an Edinburgh East and Musselburgh constituency from 1997 and 2005, and earlier, and the Revised Proposals had aimed to partially follow this constituency boundary; and that Musselburgh also sits in a separate Scottish Parliament constituency to the rest of East Lothian.
24. The Commission agreed to consider the name and designation of the constituencies, after first deciding its Final Recommendations for all constituency boundaries.

2023 Review: Final Proposals – Glasgow, Inverclyde, Renfrewshire Council areas (Paper 2023/05)

25. The Commission considered Paper 2023/05 and noted the responses to its consultation on its Revised Proposals for Glasgow, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire Council areas.
26. The Commission discussed the alternative suggestions that had considered new housing developments while minimising change to the Revised Proposals. The

Commission agreed to adopt the alternative suggestions at Dargavel in Renfrewshire and Port Dundas (first suggestion) in north Glasgow as its Final Recommendations subject to consideration of all other constituencies..

27. The Commission considered the suggestions to revert to the Initial Proposals in the east of Glasgow. The Commission asked the Secretariat to draft a paper with further analysis of the initial and revised boundaries and responses to the consultation stages, in the east of Glasgow. The Commission wished to establish which particular aspects of the initial and Revised Proposals were popular with respondents within this area.
28. The Commission considered the comments at Yoker and Cardonald where a constituency overlapped the Glasgow City Council area. When developing its Revised Proposals the Commission had: amended the proposed boundary at Yoker so that less Yoker electors were added to a West Dunbartonshire constituency; and considered an alternative boundary by adding Govan to a Renfrew North constituency but felt it would be as disruptive to local ties as the proposed boundary at Cardonald.
29. The Commission noted that: no alternative boundaries were suggested to resolve any of the concerns raised in Cardonald; few comments opposed the Glasgow West constituency boundary at Yoker; and there were no strong physical features demarcating the boundary between Glasgow and West Dunbartonshire in Yoker or Renfrewshire at Cardonald. As such the Commission agreed to adopt the boundaries in the Revised Proposals as its Final Recommendations, but including minor amendments at Dargavel and Port Dundas and subject to further analysis of the proposals and responses for constituencies in the east of Glasgow.
30. The Commission agreed to consider the name and designation of the constituencies, after first deciding its Final Recommendations for all constituency boundaries.

2023 Review: Final Proposals – Argyll and Bute, Aberdeenshire, Highland and Moray Council areas (Paper 2023/06)

31. Dr Walker declared an interest that she lives within this council area grouping.
32. The Commission considered Paper 2023/06 and noted the responses to its consultation on its Revised Proposals for Argyll and Bute, Aberdeenshire, Highland and Moray Council areas.
33. The Commission considered the large number of responses opposing the Revised Proposals in Highland but noted there were few alternative suggestions in Highland that considered the rules governing the 2023 Review. Some responses had mentioned the breaking of local ties to the east of Inverness by Culloden and Smithton.
34. The Commission agreed to consider an option to amend the Argyll, Bute and South Lochaber constituency boundary by Cardross in Paper 2023/08 later.
35. The Commission noted there was a strong response to the Revised Proposals in Moray. The existing Moray constituency was within the electorate quota but the

Initial Proposals had split Moray between three constituencies and the Revised Proposals had split Moray between two constituencies. The proposed Aberdeenshire North and Moray East constituency boundary had followed a ward boundary, just east of Elgin, but some responses had mentioned there was a new housing development being built to the east and south of Elgin.

36. In Aberdeenshire there was opposition to the proposed Aberdeenshire North and Moray East constituency's length and that it may break local ties in Buchan.
37. After considering all of the issues raised the Commission asked the Secretariat to consider alternative boundaries that respected local ties by: Culloden, so it could sit within an Inverness constituency; Elgin, to consider new housing development; and by Strichen. The Commission asked the Secretariat to bring a revised paper to the next meeting with further options in these areas for consideration.
38. The Commission agreed to consider the name and designation of the constituencies, after first deciding its Final Recommendations for all constituency boundaries.

2023 Review: Final Proposals – Angus, Clackmannanshire, Dundee City, Falkirk, Fife, Perth and Kinross, Stirling and West Lothian Council areas (Paper 2023/07)

39. The Commission considered Paper 2023/07 and noted the responses to its consultation on its Revised Proposals for Angus, Clackmannanshire, Dundee City, Falkirk, Fife, Perth and Kinross, Stirling and West Lothian Council areas.
40. The Commission discussed Angus Council's suggestion and agreed that whilst it was an acceptable suggestion within quota that had considered the existing Angus constituency boundary it would result in a Dundee West and Carse of Gowrie constituency. The Initial Proposals had proposed a Dundee West and Carse of Gowrie constituency that was strongly opposed during the initial consultation because it broke local ties between Carse of Gowrie and Perth.
41. The Commission noted the low number of responses to the Revised Proposals in Dundee City Council area.
42. The Commission considered the responses to the consultation in Perth and Kinross Council area. A few comments had opposed the area and length of the proposed North Tayside constituency but the Commission noted no alternative suggestions were submitted. A number of responses had opposed Scotlandwell, in Kinross-shire, being added to a Glenrothes constituency – this was discussed later with the Fife constituencies. There was strong opposition to the proposed Clackmannanshire and Forth Valley constituency which included parts of Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Perth and Kinross council areas because it broke local ties and there were strong physical features within the constituency. A number of responses had suggested adding Strathallan to a Stirling constituency instead. The Commission also noted respondents from Falkirk and Clackmannanshire had raised similar issues with the proposed Clackmannanshire and Forth Valley constituency.
43. The Commission noted the low number of responses to the Revised Proposals in Stirling and West Lothian Council areas.

44. The Commission considered an alternative constituency design in Fife which had addressed Scotlandwell being in a Glenrothes constituency. The Commission preferred the alternative design because it avoided breaking local ties by Scotlandwell and between East Wemyss – West Wemyss, while retaining the proposed North East Fife constituency which had been supported during the consultation.
45. After considering all of the issues raised the Commission asked the Secretariat to consider revised boundaries: in West Fife which could follow a historical constituency boundary; with a Stirling and Strathallan constituency; and to consider if the shape of the proposed Clackmannanshire and Forth Valley constituency could be improved by adding Denny to a Falkirk constituency and Grangemouth to a Clackmannanshire and Forth Valley constituency.
46. The Commission asked the Secretariat to bring a revised paper to the next meeting with further options for consideration as detailed above.
47. The Commission agreed to consider the name and designation of the constituencies, after first deciding its Final Recommendations for all constituency boundaries.

2023 Review: Final Proposals – Dumfries and Galloway, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, Scottish Borders and West Dunbartonshire Council areas (Paper 2023/08)

48. The Commission considered Paper 2023/08 and noted the responses to its consultation on its Revised Proposals for Dumfries and Galloway, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, Scottish Borders and West Dunbartonshire Council areas.
49. The Commission noted the low number of responses to the Revised Proposals in Dumfries and Galloway Council area.
50. The Commission noted some respondents had opposed Clovenfords being placed in a separate constituency to Galashiels, breaking local ties, while the existing Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk constituency was within quota and included both Galashiels and Clovenfords. The Commission's initial and Revised Proposals had followed a ward boundary in Tweeddale and placed Clovenfords in a Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale constituency. The Commission agreed to retain the existing Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk constituency in order to respect local ties between Clovenfords and Galashiels.
51. In West Dunbartonshire the Commission considered an option that had been developed following a suggestion from the West Dunbartonshire Council Returning Officer. The option added Cardross in Argyll and Bute to a West Dunbartonshire constituency to avoid a West Dunbartonshire and Yoker constituency. The Commission considered that this may be a solution in Yoker where there had been few responses to the consultation but as a consequence it would break strong local ties by placing Fort William in a separate constituency to Caol and Corpach.

52. The Commission considered the consultation responses in East Dunbartonshire and the alternative suggestion from the Scottish Liberal Democrats. The Scottish Liberal Democrats had suggested an East Dunbartonshire constituency which considered the existing constituency boundary. The Commission agreed to adopt the Scottish Liberal Democrats suggestion as it would maintain local ties within the area.
53. The Commission considered the consultation responses in North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire and noted there was a low number of responses commenting on or opposing the proposed: Airdrie; Coatbridge and Bellshill; East Kilbride and Strathaven; and Rutherglen constituencies. The Commission studied the responses by Carfin and Newmains and asked the Secretariat to consider following the existing constituency boundary in these areas.
54. The Commission asked the Secretariat to bring a revised paper to the next Commission meeting that considered the existing constituency boundary to the east of Motherwell.
55. The Commission agreed to consider the name and designation of the constituencies, after first deciding its Final Recommendations for all constituency boundaries.

Finance Update (Paper 2023/09)

56. The Commission noted the finance update.

Any other business

57. Mr Cuthbert reported that the Boundary Commission for England and Boundary Commission for Wales had agreed with Ordnance Survey to publish their final recommendations from the 2023 Review alongside the existing UK Parliament constituency boundaries on its Election Maps website (<https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/gb/>). The Commission agreed they were happy for Ordnance Survey to publish their final recommendations in the same format.
58. Mr Cuthbert reminded the Commission that members of the Public Sector Geospatial Agreement are welcome to attend their annual event on 23 March at Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh.
59. The Commission had scheduled to next meet on 20 March 2023.

Secretariat**February 2023**