

Minutes of Meeting held by video conference at 11am on 16 November 2023

Present

The Right Hon Lord Matthews, Deputy Chair

Dr Sue Walker, Commissioner

Professor Ailsa Henderson, Commissioner

Isabel Drummond–Murray, Secretary

Colin Wilson

Pat Allan

Yvonne Croll

Apologies

Mr Dominic Cuthbert, Ordnance Survey, Assessor

Minutes of previous meeting

1. The minutes of the 24 April 2023 meeting were agreed with no amendments.

Matters Arising

2. The Secretary advised she was still awaiting confirmation that the Privy Council had approved the Order for the Commission's 2023 Review recommendations. Once the Order is made the 2023 Review recommendations will come into effect at the next general election.

Business Update

3. The Secretary reported that Boundaries Scotland had completed its consultation on provisional proposals for constituency boundaries and were now preparing to undertake a number of local inquiries on those boundaries.

2023 Review: Lessons Learned (2023/17)

4. The Commission considered the lessons learned and how it conducted the 2023 Review. The Commission suggested: adding any issues raised at the UK Commissions meeting to the paper; a number of minor changes to the structure of the paper; and presenting it to the Commission again at a later meeting.

UK Commissions Meeting (2023/18)

5. The Commission noted preparations for the UK Commissions Meeting to be hosted by the Commission and Boundaries Scotland in Edinburgh on 7–8 December 2023.

Annual Report (2023/19)

6. The Commission discussed the annual report and made a number of minor amendments.

Finance Update (2023/20)

7. The Commission noted the finance update.

Appointments – oral update

8. The Secretary reported that the Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland were considering extending Prof Ailsa Hendersons appointment by nine months, until 31 October 2024.
9. The Commission also noted that Lord Matthews term as Deputy Chair would conclude on 31 December 2024 and Commissioner Walkers appointment would expire at the end of 2024 as well.

Dates of next meeting

10. The Commission agreed to meet in Spring and Autumn 2024.

Any other business

11. The Deputy Chair, on behalf of the Commission, thanked Isabel for her nine years of service to the Commission and wished her well in her retirement.

Secretariat

November 2023