

Minutes of Meeting held by video conference at 10am on 24 August 2021.

Present

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

Colin Wilson
Douglas Campbell
Yvonne Croll

Apologies

Isabel Drummond-Murray, Secretary
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 19 July 2021 without amendment.

Matters Arising

2. The Commission were advised that the Secretariat can begin a phased return to the office at Thistle House from 6 September 2021. Further guidance will be issued, by the landlords Scottish Legal Aid Board (SLAB), before then. The Commission noted that for the time being they will continue to meet virtually.
3. The Commission were informed that an updated Risk Register will be brought to the next meeting.

Business Update

4. There were no items under Business Update that would not be covered elsewhere on the agenda.

2023 Review (oral update)

5. The Commission were updated that the 2023 Review Policy and Procedures booklet is being reviewed by the Commission's lawyers and a response is expected by 3 September 2021. Should any significant amendments be identified, then these will be shared with the Commission for discussion prior to any publication.
6. The Secretariat advised that it was planning for the 8 week public consultation on the initial proposals, to commence on 14 October 2021, after the party political conference season. The Commission were content with this timing.
7. The Commission were updated that the Boundary Commission for England held its public consultation on their initial proposals from June to August 2021. They found the most effective way to generate responses was through social media. The Boundary Commission for Wales expect to commence their public consultation on 8 September 2021 and the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland expect to commence their public consultation in late October 2021.

2023 Review: Constituency design – Revised Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and Glasgow City council areas (Paper 2021/21)

8. The Commission discussed the three options presented in Paper 2021/21.
9. Options 1A and 1B offered two new constituency designs in Glasgow. Option 1 was unchanged from Paper 2021/15.
10. The Commission considered the three options and noted the oddly-shaped constituencies in Option 1 and that Option 1B proposed a Glasgow Central West constituency which crossed the Clyde at Govan.
11. The Commission preferred Option 1A because the proposed constituencies more closely aligned with the existing constituencies and also proposed more cohesive constituencies than the other options presented.
12. The Commission agreed to adopt Option 1A as its initial proposals for public consultation.

2023 Review: Constituency design – Revised Dumfries and Galloway, East and West Dunbartonshire, North and South Lanarkshire and Scottish Borders council areas (Paper 2021/22)

13. The Commission discussed the three options presented in Paper 2021/22.
14. Options 1 and 2 were unchanged from Paper 2021/16, discussed at the 19 July 2021 meeting. Option 2A aimed to avoid dividing Airdrie and Motherwell between constituencies.
15. The Commission preferred Option 2A's boundaries as it avoids splitting any towns between constituencies including: Bearsden, Milngavie, Dumfries, Airdrie and Motherwell. Option 2A also more closely aligned with existing constituency boundaries.
16. The Commission also agreed to retain the existing constituency boundary between Douglas and Lesmahagow. This amendment would make little difference to the proposed Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale constituency and Hamilton and Clyde Valley constituency.
17. The Commission agreed to adopt Option 2A as its initial proposals for public consultation.

2023 Review: Constituency design – Angus, Clackmannanshire, Dundee City, Falkirk, Fife, Perth and Kinross, Stirling and West Lothian council areas (Paper 2021/23)

18. The Commission discussed the three options presented in Paper 2021/23.
19. Option 1 was unchanged from Paper 2021/17. Options 1A and 1B proposed alternative constituency designs in Dundee, Angus and east Perthshire.

20. The Commission had considered that Option 1 proposed a less cohesive constituency design in Angus and Dundee.
21. The Commission considered that Option 1A presented an oddly-shaped North Angus and Strathmore constituency and there was little in common to link Arbroath with east Perthshire
22. The Commission preferred Option 1B as they felt the constituencies presented a more cohesive arrangement than other options and it also attempted to respect the existing arrangements in Dundee whilst combining the developed and semi-urban areas along the Tay Coastline. They also agreed that the proposed Angus and Strathmore constituency was a suitable arrangement for the more rural parts of north Angus and Perth and Kinross council areas in these constituencies.
23. The Commission agreed to adopt Option 1B as its initial proposals for public consultation.

2023 Review: Constituency names and designations (Paper 2021/24)

24. The Deputy Chair and each Commissioner declared an interest as they reside in East Ayrshire, Aberdeenshire and Edinburgh City council areas respectively.
25. The Commission discussed constituency names and designations presented in Paper 2021/24. The Commission provisionally agreed all constituency names and designations. A map and spreadsheet of all constituency names and designations is attached as an Appendix to the Minute. The Commission noted that all county constituencies are larger than all burgh constituencies.

Finance update (Paper 2021/25)

26. The Commission were asked to email the Secretariat if they have any queries on the finance update (Paper 2021/25).

Any other business

27. The Commission asked the Secretariat to arrange further meetings at the end of September and late November 2021.

**Secretariat
August 2021**