

Minutes of Meeting held by video conference at 10am on 28 September 2021.

Present

Professor Ailsa Henderson, Commissioner
Dr Sue Walker, Commissioner
Mr Dominic Cuthbert, Ordnance Survey, Assessor

Colin Wilson, Review Manager
Douglas Campbell
Yvonne Croll
David Logue

Apologies

The Hon Lord Matthews, Deputy Chair
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 24 August 2021.

Matters Arising

2. There were no Matters Arising.

Business Update

3. The Secretariat advised the Commission that it was still largely working from home.
4. The Review Manager advised that he had met with colleagues in the other UK Boundaries Commissions to discuss the public consultations in their respective countries as well as plans for public hearings.

2023 Review: Preparation for publication of Initial Proposals (Paper 2021/26) and oral update

5. The Commission discussed Paper 2021/26 and made some suggestions to the news release, initial proposals booklet and policies and procedures booklet.
6. The Secretariat advised that its preparations for the public consultation are ongoing, with testing of the consultation portal scheduled next week. The Commission also heard that bespoke content for social media advertising and the design of graphics for publicity material were in progress. It would shortly hold discussions with the House of Commons Vote Office on the distribution of its initial proposals booklet to MPs.
7. The Commission discussed whether to carry out newspaper advertising, but agreed that it would be prohibitively expensive to carry out advertising that would cover all of the country.
8. The Commission agreed to hold a news conference online on 13 October, the day before the start of the consultation, and Professor Henderson agreed to take part as representative of the Commission. The news conference will take place online due to covid restrictions.

Finance update (Paper 2021/27)

9. The Commission noted the finance update. The Secretariat advised the Commission that the Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland had submitted a spending bid of £408,000 to the Treasury for the Commission for 2022-23. This is the same funding the Commission has been allocated for this year, and is slightly more than the amount for 2022-23 in the Commission's most recent Corporate Plan, which covers 2021-24 (£392,192).

Any other business

10. Mr Cuthbert advised that Ordnance Survey had been working with the suppliers of the consultation portal to the UK Commissions to ensure that the mapping functionality of the portal would be able to cope with a surge in demand at the start of the consultation period.

Secretariat
September 2021