

Minutes of Hybrid Meeting held at 10:00 am on 27 May 2025

Present:

The Right Hon Lord Matthews, Deputy Chair (via teams)
Dr Sue Walker, Commissioner (via teams)
Mrs Gillian McGregor, Commissioner
Mr Dominic Cuthbert, Assessor, Ordnance Survey (via teams)

Kirsty Mavor, Secretary
Colin Wilson
Douglas Campbell
Yvonne Croll
Pat Allan

Apologies and Declarations of Interest

1. There were no apologies or new declarations of interest.

Minutes of previous meeting

2. The minutes of the 21 February 2025 meeting were agreed.

Matters arising

3. There were no matters arising.

Business update

4. The Secretary provided an update from the UK Boundary Commissions' meeting, hosted by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in London on 27 and 28 February 2025. Dr Walker and Mrs McGregor also attended the meeting. All agreed it had been a useful and worthwhile meeting.
5. The Secretary informed the Commission that Boundaries Scotland's Final Report on the Second Review of Scottish Parliament boundaries was submitted to Scottish Ministers on 30 April 2025. It is likely to be considered by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee in June 2025.
6. The Deputy Chair and Dr Walker gave a brief update following their meeting with Andrew Kerr, the Chair of the Independent Review of the Approval Process for Electoral Boundaries in Scotland (Independent Review) that took place on 8 May 2025.
7. The Secretary informed the Commission that the consultation period for the Independent Review commenced on 15 May and closes on 7 August 2025. The Commission discussed the Independent Review and asked the Secretary to draft a formal response from the Commission to be agreed by email.

Lessons Learned - action list (2025/06)

8. The Secretary informed the Commission that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MCHLG) had confirmed that proposed changes would require primary legislation. However, there is currently no capacity to take these changes forward. The Commission asked the Secretary to

liaise with the other UK Boundary Commissions to formally emphasise to MCHLG the importance of any legislative change taking place before the next review. Commissioners would also like the Secretariat to advise of the last possible date that any such legislative changes would need to be in place and, at a suitable time, raise these concerns with the director of Office of Secretary of State for Scotland.

9. The Commission noted the updated timeframe for actions that will be carried out during 2025/26.

Risk Register (2025/07)

10. The Commission discussed the risk register and noted the updates in relation to potential legislative change.

Annual Report (2025/08)

11. The Commission agreed its Annual Report subject to one minor amendment.

Corporate Plan (2025/09)

12. The Commissioners requested some minor amendments to the draft corporate plan. The Secretary will circulate a final draft by email for approval.

Finance update (2025/10)

13. The Commission noted the Finance Update.

Freedom of Information Report (2025/11)

14. The Commission noted the Freedom of Information Report.

Any other business

15. There was no other business.

Date of next meeting

16. The Commission agreed to meet again in late November 2025 and the Secretariat will canvass for a suitable date.

**Secretariat
May 2025**