

**UK Commissions' Meeting
7 – 8 December 2023**

Action

1. The Commission is invited to consider the arrangements for the annual UK Commissions meeting to be held in Edinburgh and agree the actions set out in paragraph 12.

Background

2. The Commission is jointly hosting, with the Boundary Commission for Scotland, the annual meeting of the UK Boundary Commissions. This is scheduled to take place on Thursday 7 and Friday 8 December 2023.

Commission representation

3. The Commission needs to agree its representation at the dinner on 7 December and at the meeting on 8 December. It is assumed that the Chair will attend and at least two Commissioners along with the Secretary and members of the Secretariat.

Attendees

4. The other UK Commissions have notified us of attendees as set out in Appendix A.

Accommodation and dinner

5. The Edinburgh Marriott Holyrood Hotel is holding rooms for up to 20 delegates at a discounted rate. Other Commissions shall be notified that they must book rooms for their delegates by 22 November. Once BS delegates have been agreed by the Commission the Secretariat will book accommodation for any who require it.
6. The dinner will also be held at the Edinburgh Marriott Holyrood Hotel, in its Salisbury Suite 1.
7. The Secretariat suggests guests are invited for 6.30 p.m. for pre-dinner drinks with the dinner at 7 p.m.
8. In terms of external guests the Commission may wish to consider inviting:

Scottish Government

The Minister for Parliamentary Business, George Adam who might be invited to speak at the dinner to welcome guests.

[George Adam | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

Maria McCann and James Newman from the Elections Team

Possible others to consider

Andy O'Neill, Electoral Commission

Malcolm Burr, Convener, Electoral Management Board

Chris Highcock, Secretary, EMB

Jim Doig, Chair of the SAA Electoral Registration Committee

Dominic Cuthbert, Ordnance Survey Assessor, Boundary Commission for Scotland (for BCS to agree)

9. The Boundary Commission for Scotland chair Lord Matthews has indicated that he is not available to attend on the 7 and 8 December 2023.

Meeting

10. An outline agenda is set out in Appendix C. This allows time for the parliamentary and local government commissions to provide their annual updates although it is suggested that the parliamentary commissions frame this as a 'lessons learned' session to avoid all providing similar updates following completion of the 2023 Review.
11. The Secretariat sent a reminder for agenda items on 30 August 2023. To date only one reply has been received from the Boundary Commission for England who suggested examples from each country of difficult decisions from the 2023 Review:
 - a) examples of urban rural interface (doughnut vs sandwich);
 - b) examples of constraints arising from the existing Parliamentary constituencies statutory factor; and
 - c) examples of conflicts arising from local ties statutory factor.
12. A suggested theme for the afternoon is still to be agreed.
13. A slot is available for a guest speaker which has also still to be agreed.

Conclusion

14. The Commission is invited to note:
 - its delegates for the annual meeting;
 - the draft agenda for the meeting;

- any guests it wishes to invite to the dinner;
- any guest speaker(s); and
- topics for discussion.

Secretariat
September 2023

UK Commissions' Meeting 7 & December 2023 – Attendees

Attendees from other Boundary Commissions:

Commission	No of Attendees
Local Government Boundary Commission for England	2
Boundary Commission for England	4
Boundary Commission Northern Ireland	2
Boundary Commission for Wales	3
Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales	3
Total	14

AGENDA

Annual Meeting of the UK Boundary Commissions – Edinburgh
Thursday 7 December – Friday 8 December 2023

Thursday, 7 December 2023

Dinner – Salisbury Suite 1, Edinburgh Marriott Holyrood Hotel, 81 Holyrood Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8AU. Drinks at 6.30 p.m. for dinner at 7 p.m.

[Hotel in Edinburgh](#) | [Edinburgh Holyrood Hotel \(marriott.com\)](#)

Friday, 8 December 2023

The meeting will also be held in the Holyrood Suite, Edinburgh Marriott Holyrood Hotel, 81 Holyrood Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8AU.

[Hotel in Edinburgh](#) | [Edinburgh Holyrood Hotel \(marriott.com\)](#)

9.30	Welcome and Introduction – Prof. Ailsa Henderson Hinds – Chair, BS
9.40	Local Government Commissions updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wales• England• Scotland
10.25	Parliamentary Commissions – reflections on the 2023 Review: what went well, lessons learned and next steps. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scotland• Northern Ireland• Wales• England
11.25	Break
11.45	Guest Speaker – To be agreed.
12.30	Lunch
13.30	Communications and engagement
14.15	Any other business
14.30	Close of meeting