

UK Commissions meeting

Action

1. The Commission is invited to agree:
 - 1.1.its delegates for the annual meeting
 - 1.2.the draft agenda for the annual meeting
 - 1.3.whether it wishes to organise a tour of Edinburgh Castle for delegates
 - 1.4.Any guests it wishes to invite to the dinner

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 1/2 November 2018.

Commission representation

3. The Commission needs to agree its representation at the dinner on 1 November and at the meeting on 2 November. It is assumed that the Chair will attend and at least 2 Commissioners along with the Secretary and members of the Secretariat.
4. It is worth noting that any new Commissioner(s) appointed under the current recruitment round are expected to take up post on 1 November. While other Commissions have not yet notified us of their delegates, there is not expected to be a pressure on space for either the meeting itself or the dinner. It may be, therefore, that the Commission will wish to agree a delegation and also invite any new Commissioners as part of their induction.
5. LGBCS delegates at previous annual meetings were:
 - 2013 (Cardiff): Ronnie Hinds, Roland Bean
 - 2014 (Edinburgh): Ronnie Hinds, Ailsa Henderson
 - 2015 (London): Ronnie Hinds, Bill Magee
 - 2016 (Belfast): Sue Walker, Ailsa Henderson
 - 2017 (Cardiff): Ronnie Hinds. (Ailsa Henderson attended for BCS)

Accommodation and dinner

6. The Apex Grassmarket is holding rooms for up to 25 delegates at a discounted rate of £99. Other commissions have been notified that they must book rooms for their delegates by 30 September. Once LGBCS delegates have been agreed by the Commission the Secretariat will book accommodation for those who require it.

7. The dinner will also be held at the Apex, in its Heights room. The menu is as below:

STARTERS

Haggis, neeps & tatties with whisky chive butter sauce

Traditional smoked salmon, Lilliput capers & chopped shallots

[Crispy goat's cheese], beetroot carpaccio, aged balsamic]*

MAIN COURSES

Roast sirloin of beef with honey glazed vegetables, fondant potato & Hermitage sauce

Baked halibut, leek & pancetta, sauté potatoes, red wine jus wrapped fine beans

Vegetarian strudel, ratatouille sauce, soft herb sauce

DESSERTS

Raspberry cranachan, dark chocolate trellis

Apple & ginger crumble tart, honeycomb cream

Freshly brewed tea & coffee with mints

*for vegetarians only

8. The Secretariat suggests guests are invited for 6.30 for pre-dinner drinks with the dinner at 7.

9. In terms of external guests the Commission may wish to consider inviting:

Scottish Government

The Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations, Michael Russell, who might be invited to speak at the dinner to welcome guests.

Maria McCann from the Elections Team

Others

Andy O'Neill from the Electoral Commission

10. The Boundary Commission for Scotland has not met to discuss who it might invite but the Secretariat will suggest Gillian McGregor, Director, Scotland Office, and the two Assessors to the Commission, Dominic Cuthbert from Ordnance Survey and the Registrar General for Scotland and the Keeper of the Records of Scotland if a new appointment has been made.

Pre-dinner tour

11. When the Commission last hosted the meeting, a tour of the Scottish Parliament was arranged on the afternoon before the dinner and this was well received. One option for a similar tour would be Edinburgh Castle. Historic Environment Scotland have offered a 20% discount on the admission price and a private tour. This would cost £13.60 a head. On the basis that similar numbers attend as in previous years (around 10 people) and the cost would be shared with BCS, this would seem to offer reasonable value for a visit.

Meeting

12. An outline agenda is set out in Appendix A. 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 2018 Review.
13. A suggested theme for the afternoon is communications and/or consultation which has the advantage of being of equal interest to all Commissions, whether parliamentary or local government, and could cover a range of issues including social media, public meetings, paperless reviews, use of radio adverts and so on.
14. A slot is available for a guest speaker. Given the suggested theme outlined above, the Secretariat has approached an academic at Edinburgh University to see if they might be available to speak on that topic. An update will be given at the meeting.

Conclusion

15. The Commission is invited to:
- agree its attendees for the dinner and meeting;
 - agree the arrangements for the dinner;
 - consider the suggested invitees for the dinner;
 - consider the question of guest speaker;
 - agree the outline agenda; and
 - agree that a visit to Edinburgh Castle is offered to attendees

AGENDA
Annual Meeting of the UK Boundary Commissions
Edinburgh
Thursday 1 November – Friday 2 November 2018

1 November

tbc – guided tour of Edinburgh Castle

Dinner – the Heights, Apex Grassmarket. Drinks at 6.30pm with dinner at 7pm. Lord Matthews will welcome guests.

2 November

The meeting will be held in the Penthouse, DoubleTree by Hilton, Bread Street

9.30	Welcome and Introductions – Ronnie Hinds – Chair, LGBCS
9.40	Parliamentary Commissions – reflections on the 2018 Review: what went well and lessons learned.
10.30	Oliver Escobar has been contacted but no response received to date
11.15	Break
11.45	Local Government Commissions updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scotland• Wales• England• Northern Ireland
12.45	Lunch
13.45	Session on communications and consultation – what works?
14.30	Any other business
14.45	Close of the meeting