

2019 Review of Electoral Arrangements: Council Consultation

Background

1. On 20 March 2019 the Commission began its 2-month consultation with councils on its initial proposals.
2. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Orkney Islands Council and Shetland Islands Council were sent a summary of the proposals, maps of the initial proposals, news release, GIS data of the proposed boundaries and electoral data used for the review. The Commission also wrote to other key stakeholders (including MSP's, Councils, MPs, SOLACE, SOLAR, COSLA and political parties) to inform them of the consultation.
3. A news release was issued to publicise the consultation period. An oral update on any news coverage will be presented at the meeting.

Meeting with Councils

4. The Commission offered to meet with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Orkney Islands Council and Shetland Islands Council to explain its initial proposals and offer further background to the reviews.
5. Orkney Islands Council and Shetland Islands Council have both accepted this offer. The Chair, Commissioner Gordon Macmillan and representatives from the Secretariat will meet with Shetland Island Council on 17 April 2018. A date has still to be confirmed with Orkney Islands Council.
6. The meetings are expected to follow a similar format to the Commission's presentation to Councils during the summer of 2018. This would allow for an informal introduction covering background to the review and an explanation of the initial proposals. The Commission will also invite questions from the attendees.
7. A draft of the information that might be covered in the meetings is available in Appendix A.
8. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar have indicated that they do not think a further meeting is required. The Secretariat will make contact during the consultation period to check the Council has all the information it requires.

Recommendations

9. The Commission is invited to:
 - consider the draft material in Appendix A; and
 - indicate what further information it requires in advance of the Council meetings.

Secretariat
March 2019