

**Minutes of Meeting held in person at Thistle House and by videolink
9:30am on Wednesday 31 May 2023**

Present

Mr R Hinds, Chair
Prof. A Henderson, Deputy Chair
Mr R Bean, Mr G Macmillan, Dr S Walker

Ms I Drummond-Murray, Secretary
Mr C Wilson, Mr D Campbell, Mr P Allan, Mrs Y Croll

Observing

M Smith, A Stewart

The Chair welcomed Martin Smith and Alan Stewart, who were observing the meeting via videolink. They would be taking up their new appointments to the Commission from 1 June 2023.

Apologies

1. None

Declaration of Interests

2. All of the Commissioners declared an interest in Papers 53 and 54 as they all reside within Scotland.

Minutes of previous meeting

3. The Commission agreed the minutes of the meeting of 5 April 2023 without amendment.

Matters arising

4. There were no matters arising.

Business update

5. The Secretary reported that the Boundary Commission for Scotland (BCS) will submit its 2023 Review Final Recommendations for UK Parliament constituencies to the UK Parliament by the end of June 2023.
6. The Chair, Deputy Chair and Secretary informed the Commission of their meeting with the Minister for Parliamentary Business, Mr Adam, on 25 May 2023. At the meeting they had discussed electoral reform, appointments to the Commission and the consultation on the Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries. The Commission agreed to write to the Minister to highlight their concerns with some of the issues raised at the meeting.

Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries – Media Coverage (Paper BS 53)

7. The Commission noted the media coverage regarding the public consultation on provisional proposals for constituencies.

Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries – Summary of Responses (Paper BS 54)

8. The Commission noted the preliminary summary of responses to the public consultation on provisional proposals for constituencies.

Future work (oral)

9. The Secretary highlighted future agenda items for consideration later in 2023 including: Electoral Reform; Annual Report and Corporate Plan; and Framework document.

Finance update (Paper BS 55)

10. The Commission noted the finance update.

Future meetings

11. The Secretary and new Chair will discuss future meeting dates and seek the availability of the Commission.

Any other business

12. The Secretary advised that the annual UK Commissions meeting will be held in Edinburgh later this year.
13. The Chair reported that Scottish Ministers had not re-appointed Jon Collins for a second term on the Commission and noted that this was not a reflection on Mr Collins' performance on the Commission. The Chair wished to record his gratitude to Mr Collins for his contribution to the Commission since 2019.
14. The Deputy Chair noted the forthcoming retirement of the Chair, Mr Bean and Dr Walker from the Commission and thanked them for their valuable contribution to the Commission since 2013.