

**Minutes of Meeting held at  
Thistle House, 91 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh  
10:00 on Thursday 5 June 2025**

**Present**

Prof. A Henderson, Chair  
Mr S Jones, Deputy Chair  
Ms A McNab  
Mr G Macmillan  
Mr M Smith  
Mr A Stewart

Ms K Mavor, Secretary  
Mr C Wilson  
Ms Y Croll  
Mr D Campbell  
Mr P Allan

**10:00 – 11:30**

Andrew Kerr, Chair of the Independent Review of the Approval Process for Electoral Boundaries in Scotland (Independent Review)  
James Newman, Elections and FOI Division, Scottish Government  
Angus Reid, Elections and FOI Division, Scottish Government

**Apologies**

None.

1. Andrew Kerr, Chair of the Independent Review of the Approval Process for Electoral Boundaries in Scotland (Independent Review), gave a presentation summarising the approach to the Independent Review. This was followed by a general discussion between the Commission, Mr Kerr and Scottish Government colleagues about the current process and what form automaticity could take. There was also discussion about potential areas of improvement to the boundary setting process and the best approach to improving both engagement and understanding of the process.
2. The Chair thanked Mr Kerr for his informative presentation and confirmed the Commission would submit its formal response to the consultation before 7 August 2025.

**Declaration of Interest or Connection**

3. There were no declarations of interest.

**Minutes of previous meeting**

4. The Commission agreed the minutes of the meeting of 16 April 2025 with minor amendments.

**Matters arising**

5. There were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**Business update**

6. The Secretary reported that she and the Chair are expecting to appear before the Standards, Procedures, and Public Appointments Committee on 12 June 2025 as part of the Second Review process. It is likely that the Minister will give evidence on 26 June 2025 and the Committee will complete its report by early September.
7. The Chair reported that she met with Andrew Kerr, Chair of the Independent Review on 27 May 2025 to discuss the Independent Review further. The Commission noted that the Briefing Note and accompanying documents prepared by the Secretariat had not reached the Chair but were shared on the same day.
8. The Secretary advised that both the Deputy Chair and Dr Walker from Boundary Commission for Scotland had met with Andrew Kerr on 8 May 2025 to discuss the Independent Review.
9. The Secretary reported that she had recently met with the Scottish Youth Parliament to hear about their elections process and how they use Scottish Parliament constituencies and regions in their elections. She discussed the possibility of working together to test communication documents and find ways of reaching younger voters.
10. The Secretariat advised that changes to school catchment area boundaries in North Lanarkshire Council area have now been implemented following the Commission's 2018 Administrative Boundary Review at Cardowan. The Commission noted the number of years it took for the changes to be implemented. For future reviews of this type, it was agreed that the Secretariat should ask the Council for regular updates regarding implementation.
11. The Commission agreed to trial artificial intelligence for minute taking at a future meeting subject to appropriate privacy and security safeguards being in place.

**Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries: Media Coverage (BS 181)**

12. The Commission noted the media coverage regarding the submission of its Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries Report to Scottish Ministers. It noted and welcomed the informative BBC article which had generated substantial traffic to the Commission's website.

**Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries: Lessons Learned (BS 182)**

13. The Commission considered Paper BS 182 and provided some comments and suggestions. The Commission requested further analysis on some aspects of the lessons learned paper to help inform its formal response to the Independent Review and what improvements can be made before the next Review. An action list will be prepared from the lessons learned paper and brought to a future Commission meeting before it is published.

**Historical Reviews of Electoral Arrangements (BS 183)**

14. The Commission noted Paper BS 183 regarding the background information on how the Commission has conducted its more recent reviews of electoral arrangements.

**Future Reviews of Electoral Arrangements (BS 184)**

15. The Commission agreed to defer its discussion on Paper BS 184 until a future meeting.

**Independent review of the process for determining electoral boundaries (BS 185)**

16. The Commission discussed the Independent Review and provided some suggestions to be considered before submitting a formal response. The Secretary will draft a summary of today's discussions. This will be considered further at the next Commission meeting where the Commission's formal response to the consultation will be discussed and agreed.

**Finance update (BS 186)**

17. The Commission noted the finance update.

**Future meetings**

18. The Secretariat was asked to canvas for a date between 21-23 July 2025.

**Any other business**

19. The Commission noted the FOI requests submitted from April-May 2025. The Commission commended the Secretariat for the prompt response to these requests.

20. There was no further business.