

**Minutes of Meeting held by videolink
11:00 am on Wednesday 19 July 2023**

Present

Prof. A Henderson, Chair
Dr S Walker, Deputy Chair
Mr G Macmillan,
Mr A Stewart,
Mr M Smith

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

Apologies

1. There were no apologies. The Chair took this opportunity to formally welcome Mr Smith and Mr Stewart to their first meeting as Commission members and to Dr Sue Walker as temporary Deputy Chair.

Declaration of Interests

2. The Commission discussed the requirements under the Code of Conduct. It was noted that it was for individual Commissioners to decide what constituted a declarable interest. For residency in a constituency under discussion it was considered likely to be sufficient that a Commissioner note a connection in the interests of transparency rather than make a declaration of interest. Where a connection was noted this would not be seen as sufficient to require a Commissioner to absent themselves from discussions.

Minutes of previous meeting

3. The Commission agreed the minutes of the meeting of 31 May 2023 with a minor amendment.

Matters arising

4. The Secretary reported that the Boundary Commission for Scotland had submitted its 2023 Review Final Recommendations for UK Parliament constituencies to the Speaker of the House of Commons on 27 June and the report was laid before Parliament the next day.
5. The Secretary reminded the Commission that it will be hosting the annual meeting of the UK Boundary Commissions in November 2023.

Business update

6. The Chair informed the Commission of the planned timeline for recruitment to fill the vacant Deputy Chair and Commission member roles. The plan would have new Commission members in post by the end of 2023.
7. The Secretary reported that the Secretariat had recently provided an induction for the new Commissioners. They will also attend a Scottish Government induction in September 2023.

Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries – oral update

8. The Commission received an update from the Secretary regarding the period of public consultation. The Commission discussed a number of related topics including further engagement with stakeholders, the local inquiry process and response publishing. The Commission agreed a number of actions relating to these topics and the Secretariat agreed to bring papers on these topics to the next meeting.

Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries – Summary of Responses (Paper BS 56)

9. The Commission noted the summary of responses regarding the public consultation on provisional proposals for constituencies.

Electoral Reform – oral update

10. The Commission considered an update from the Secretary and noted that the Scottish Government Elections team will attend the next Commission meeting and provide an oral update on Electoral Reform.

Framework document (Paper BS 57)

11. The Commission considered the draft document and suggested a number of changes to be incorporated in a further draft. The Secretary agreed to circulate the document for further consideration and agreement once the suggested changes had been made.

Finance update (Paper BS 58)

12. The Commission noted the finance update.

Future meetings

13. The next meeting is scheduled for 29 August 2023.
14. The Commission agreed to schedule monthly for the foreseeable future unless that proved impracticable. The Secretariat agreed to trawl for suitable dates so that meeting dates can be arranged prior to the Commission's next meeting in August.

Any other business

15. The Chair thanked all attendees for their contributions in her first meeting as Chair.