



Comisiwn
Democratiaeth a
Ffiniau Cymru
Democracy
and Boundary
Commission Cymru

Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru

2030 Review of Senedd Constituencies

Guide to the 2030 Review

September 2026

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This document is available in Welsh

The Commission welcomes correspondence and telephone calls
in Welsh or English.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Who we are and what we do

- 1.1 The Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru ('the Commission') is an independent and impartial Welsh Government Sponsored Body, and our current membership is:

Chair	Karen Jones DL, MBA, MA (HRM), FCIPD
Deputy Chair	Michael Imperato
Commissioners	Ian Bancroft
	Dianne Bevan
	Frank Cuthbert
	Siwan Davies
	Dr Anwen Elias
	Bethan Williams Price
	Ginger Wiegand
Chief Executive	Shereen Williams MBE OSTJ DL

- 1.2 The Commission is responsible for reviewing Senedd constituency boundaries in Wales on the basis of rules laid down by the [Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru etc. Act 2013](#) and required to submit a formal report with its final determinations before 1 December 2028.
- 1.3 In order to prepare its report the Commission will carry out a review process and this may involve changes to the existing Senedd constituencies across Wales. The Commission refers to this process as 'the 2030 Review'.
- 1.4 Public consultation will play an important part in the 2030 Review. The Commission will develop and publish initial proposals setting out the 16 Senedd constituencies, with a single language name, where appropriate, as well as a designation for each constituency across Wales as either a county constituency or a borough constituency. The Commission will then take into account written representations from the public about its proposals received during an 8-week consultation period. The Commission must at the end of the initial consultation period publish all representations it has received during that period. This will start a second period of consultation of 6-weeks, during this second consultation period the Commission must hold at least 2 but no more than 5 public hearings across Wales.
- 1.5 The Commission will publish a document that contains the records of the public hearings and any representations received during the secondary consultation period. Having considered the representations received the Commission will, if appropriate, publish a revised set of proposals. These will be subject to a 4-week consultation period. Having considered all the representations received across all the consultation periods, the Commission will then prepare a final report. The determinations set out in our final report will be implemented by a subsequent process as outlined in the Act.

- 1.6 The Commission has produced this guide to help explain in more detail how the process for the 2030 Review will work. This guide is not intended to be a full statement of the law about the review. Instead, it covers what legislation says the Commission must do and the policies the Commission has decided to adopt in developing its proposals and final determinations.
- 1.7 The Commission hopes this guide will clarify our processes and policies. The Commission also hopes that it will encourage those who may be thinking of making their views known to do so in a well-informed and effective manner. However, the Commission recognises that individuals may wish to ask questions and the Commission would ask that these be addressed to:

Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru
Floor 4
Welsh Government Building
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Telephone: 029 2046 4819
Fax: 029 2046 4823
Email: enquiries@dbcc.gov.wales
Website: www.dbcc.gov.wales

The Commission will be updating information on its website throughout its review process and key documents will be available through the website.

- 1.8 The Commission wishes to stress that this review relates solely to the Senedd constituencies and does not affect parliamentary constituencies; principal council, electoral ward or community boundaries; taxes; or services.

Chapter 2: Developing proposals

Requirements of the Act

2.1 The Act sets out requirements that are relevant to the development of proposals for individual constituencies. These requirements are that the Commission must conduct a review to determine:

- the names of the Senedd constituencies;
- whether each Senedd constituency is designated a county or a borough constituency;
- The electorate for each Senedd constituency (must be within 10% of the electoral quota)
- The Commission may have regard to –
 - local government boundaries that exist or are prospective
 - Special geographic considerations such as size, shape and accessibility of a constituency
 - Local ties including the use of the Welsh language.

In any event the Commission must seek to minimise the amount of change and have regard to the inconveniences caused by making changes.

Local government boundaries and local ties

2.3 The Commission may take into account local government boundaries in developing its proposals and recommendations for Senedd constituencies. These include both the external boundaries of principal councils, and their internal electoral ward, community, or community ward boundaries. Matters of the Welsh language, culture, history, socioeconomics are all aspects that can be considered under the factor of local ties.

Special geographical considerations

2.4 The Commission considers that special geographical considerations that may have an impact on the boundaries of constituencies will primarily relate to physical geography such as mountains, hills, lakes, rivers, estuaries and islands, rather than to human or social geography.

2.5 While the Commission will seek to take account of principal council external boundaries as far as practicable, it may nevertheless frequently be necessary to cross these boundaries to form constituencies.

2.6 The Commission considers that existing community boundaries are likely to have been created in recognition of local ties and are therefore likely to reflect local ties. The Commission's policy is therefore not to divide existing communities when it develops proposals and recommendations for Senedd constituencies, unless there is no other available solution.

- 2.7 The Commission considers that a community is the first layer of local government and is used to build electoral wards at principal council level. Community areas cover the whole of Wales, so wherever you live you will be in a community.

Factors the Commission will not consider

- 2.8 The Review will not consider matters that fall outside the Commission's statutory remit, including:
- Electoral System and Representation
 - Impact on future election results
 - Implementation of Recommendations
 - Public Service and Administrative Boundaries
 - Other Administrative Matters, such as postcode allocations, property addresses or access to local services, facilities or infrastructure.

Naming and designating constituencies

- 2.9 In making its recommendations, the Commission is also required by the Act to specify a name and designation for each proposed constituency.

Naming

- 2.10 The Act states that each constituency in Wales must have a single language name, unless the Commission considers doing so would be unacceptable, in which case they must propose different names for communication through Welsh and English. The Commission will consult with the Welsh Language Commissioner on the orthography of the proposed names. The full naming policy for the review is included at Appendix B.

Designating

- 2.11 The Act also requires that each constituency be designated as either a county constituency or a borough constituency. The Commission considers that, as a general principle, where constituencies contain more than a small rural element they should normally be designated as county constituencies. In other cases, they should be designated as borough constituencies. The designation is suffixed to the constituency name and is usually abbreviated: BC for borough constituency and CC for county constituency.

Welsh language

- 2.12 The Commission is committed to the use of the Welsh and English languages on a basis of equality and welcomes correspondence in either language.
- 2.13 The Commission will publish all its guidance documents, reports and the representations it receives throughout the 2030 Review in both Welsh and English on its website.

The impact of the legislation

- 2.14 The Act will mean that the number of Senedd constituencies in Wales will remain at 16, and every constituency will be represented by 6 members. This will result in 96 Senedd members across Wales.
- 2.15 The Commission wishes to make clear from the outset that it has no ability to change anything in the legislation and therefore will not be able to consider representations that comment on the number of members, the voting system or any other factors set out in the legislation. The Commission's role is to determine the Senedd constituencies as set out in the legislation.

Chapter 3: Process

- 3.1 The 2030 Review will follow a detailed process laid down by the Act. That process involves the development of proposals by the Commission, followed by opportunities for individuals and organisations to submit both oral and written representations.
- 3.2 At the conclusion of the process, the Commission will prepare a final report containing its determinations for Senedd constituencies in Wales. Those determinations will then be implemented by a process in the Senedd.

The importance of participation

- 3.3 The Commission wishes to encourage individuals and organisations interested in its proposals for their area to make representations to the Commission, whether for or against the proposals.
- 3.4 Those who give their views are requested to say whether they approve of, or object to, the Commission's proposals. Objectors are particularly advised to say what they propose in place of the Commission's proposals. An objection accompanied by a viable counterproposal is likely to carry more weight than a simple statement of objection. In this respect a counterproposal addressing the composition of each constituency in an area will generally be viewed as more persuasive than a proposal for the composition of only one constituency that does not address any knock-on effects on the other constituencies.
- 3.5 Individuals and organisations are particularly encouraged to make representations at the appropriate stage of the statutory process. For example, people who do not submit representations in support of the Commission's initial proposals may find that the Commission subsequently publishes, in the light of objections received from others, revised proposals or final determinations that they do not support. It is therefore important (by way of example) that people who support the Commission's initial proposals should say so during the initial consultation period (which is described further below).
- 3.6 Full and timely participation in the 2030 Review will help the Commission to understand local opinion on its proposals more accurately. This will increase the likelihood that the Commission's final determinations will be generally acceptable to the majority of those who will have to live and work with them.
- 3.7 To protect the privacy of individuals participating in a review, the Commission will take the following approach to redacting personal information contained in representations which the Commission publishes.
- 3.8 When the Commission publishes representations from public figures and officials (such as councillors, Members of Parliament or Members of the Senedd) which were submitted to the Commission in an official capacity:

- the Commission will publish the name of any public figure or official writing in an official capacity;
- however all postal and email addresses, telephone numbers and signatures will be redacted.

3.9 When the Commission publishes representations from members of the public, and from public figures or officials writing in a personal capacity:

- the Commission will redact the name and postal address of individuals submitting representations, but will publish the approximate location of the individual's postal address – that is, by reference to the village, town or city stated; and
- all email addresses, telephone numbers and signatures will be redacted.

3.10 The Commission's 'Data protection and privacy policy' provides further information about the Commission's processing of personal data. This can be accessed on the [Commission's website](#).

3.11 If you would like to be informed when the Commission publishes documentation in relation to the 2030 Review, you can request to be added to our mailing list by contacting us at enquiries@dbcc.gov.wales.

Preparation of initial proposals

3.12 At the start of the statutory process, the Commission will prepare its initial proposals for Senedd constituencies in Wales.

3.13 The Commission will develop its initial proposals in the light of the rules and factors referred to in Chapter 2 of this guide. The Commission will not use a single, predetermined geographic starting point for the development of its proposals. Instead, a wide range of options will be considered. Only after the consideration of a number of options of constituencies for the whole of Wales will the Commission decide on initial proposals.

Publication of initial proposals

3.14 When the Commission has decided on its initial proposals, it will publish the proposals and an accompanying report on its website, together with detailed information about how and when views on those proposals can be submitted.

3.15 In addition to the initial proposals and its report on them, the Commission will provide on its website detailed maps showing, among other information, the proposed name, designation and boundary of each proposed constituency, to help the public better understand the proposals.

3.16 To publicise the initial proposals, the Commission will embark on a publicity exercise focused on bringing the proposals and the opportunity to submit views on the proposals to the

attention of the public. The Commission will also send links via email of its proposals to those that have requested to be informed and to key stakeholders.

Initial consultation period

- 3.17 Following publication of the Commission's initial proposals, there will be an 8-week period during which representations can be made to the Commission in relation to the initial proposals. This is known as the initial consultation period.
- 3.18 Details of how individuals and organisations can make representations during the initial consultation period, including the last date for receipt of representations, will be published alongside the initial proposals themselves. It is crucial that representations are submitted in enough time to ensure that they are received within the initial consultation period.

Secondary consultation period

- 3.19 As soon as possible after the end of the initial consultation period, the Commission will publish all the representations it receives during that period on its website in both Welsh and English. The Commission will state on the representation in which language the original representation was made.
- 3.20 Once the representations have been published, there will be a further 6-week period during which people can submit comments on the representations received by the Commission during the initial consultation period. This further 6-week period is known as the 'secondary consultation period'.
- 3.21 Therefore, during the secondary consultation period comments can be submitted to the Commission challenging or supporting assertions made by others in previous representations.
- 3.22 During this period the Commission must also hold public hearings.

Public hearings

- 3.23 Legislation requires the Commission to hold at least 2 and no more than 5 public hearings in Wales. The public hearings in Wales will concern the Commission's initial proposals for Wales and will between them cover the whole of Wales.
- 3.24 The details of locations and dates for the hearings will be announced on the Commission's website.
- 3.25 A public hearing is intended to provide an opportunity for people to make oral representations about any of the Commission's initial proposals (including the naming of constituencies) and to present any counterproposals.

- 3.26 Representations at each public hearing are likely to focus on proposals for the area closest to the location of the hearing, but representations may be made that relate to any part of Wales.
- 3.27 More information on the public hearings will be available in the Guide to the Public Hearings, including venues, dates and the procedure that will be carried out at those hearings.

Consideration of representations and revised proposals

- 3.28 Following the end of the secondary consultation period the Commission will consider all the oral and written representations received. After the end of the secondary consultation period, the Commission will publish on its website all the written representations received during the secondary consultation period, together with transcripts of its public hearings in both Welsh and English. The Commission will state on the representation in which language the original representation was made.
- 3.29 The Commission will consider whether and to what extent revisions should be made to its initial proposals, this includes the names of constituencies.
- 3.30 If, following its considerations, the Commission decides to revise its initial proposals, it will also publish its revised proposals, together with an accompanying report, before the start of a third consultation period of 4 weeks. Any revised proposals and accompanying materials will be published on the Commission's website. The Commission will also send links via email of any revised proposals to those who have requested to be informed and key stakeholders. Should the Commission not consider any changes are appropriate following its considerations it will make a statement to that effect.
- 3.31 Representations in relation to any revised proposals can be made during the 4 weeks of the third consultation period.
- 3.32 The Commission will publish all the written representations received during the third consultation period in relation to any revised proposals in both Welsh and English on the Commission's website at the same time as it publishes its final determinations report. The Commission will state on the representation in which language the original representation was made.

Final determinations and report

- 3.33 After the end of the third consultation period, the Commission will consider what final determinations to make for Senedd constituencies in Wales. The Commission will take into account all oral and written representations received during the consultation periods.
- 3.34 Once the Commission has made its final determinations for Wales, it will then prepare and submit a formal written report to the Welsh Ministers before 1 December 2028. The report will be published by the Commission on its website. The Commission will also send links via email of its determinations to those which has requested the information and key

stakeholders. The report will contain a description of the Commission's review, a description of the Commission's final determinations including the names and designations of each of the constituencies, and a set of maps to illustrate the boundaries of the constituencies.

- 3.35 The submission of the formal final report will conclude the Commission's role in the review process. The procedure for implementing constituencies is the responsibility of Welsh Ministers and is set out in the Act.

Chapter 4: Publicity

Review publicity

- 4.1 The Act places a duty on the Commission to inform any person it considers appropriate of how to access its reports, invite representation on its reports and to notify any person it considers appropriate of the periods of consultation.
- 4.2 To publicise the initial proposals, the Commission will embark on a publicity exercise focused on bringing the proposals and the opportunity to submit views on the proposals to the attention of the public.

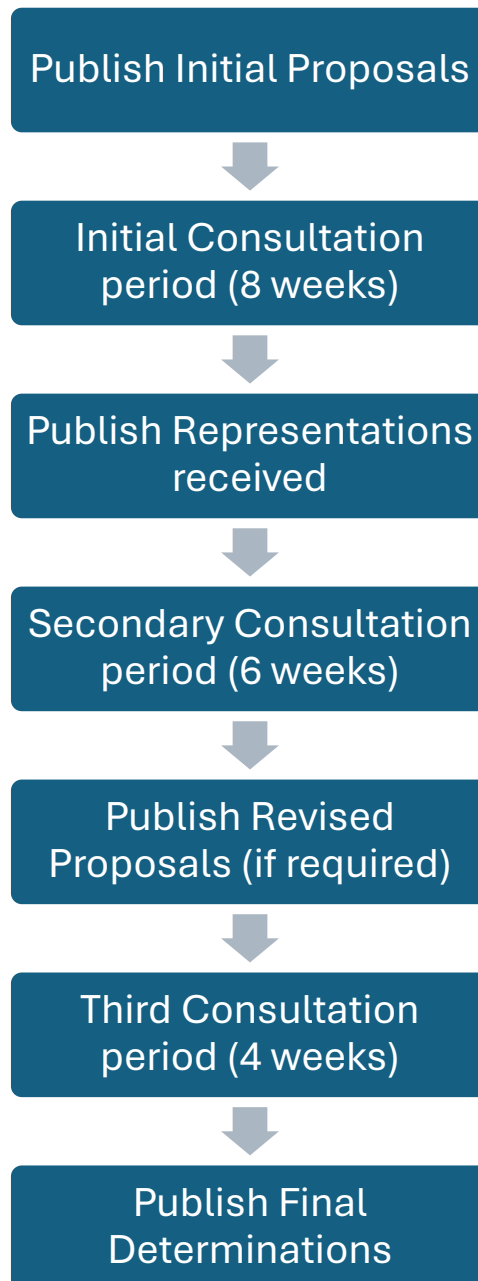
Chapter 5: After the final report

Implementation

- 5.1 After the Welsh Ministers have received the Commission's final report, the report must be laid as soon as reasonably practicable before the Senedd. Welsh Ministers must make regulations giving effect to the determinations in the Commission's final report as soon as reasonably practicable after the report has been laid before the Senedd and in any event within 14 weeks of the report being laid before the Senedd.
- 5.2 Welsh Ministers may not modify the decisions of the Commission, unless it has been expressly requested to do so (in writing and with reasons) by the Commission.

APPENDIX A

PROCESS FLOW CHART



APPENDIX B

Naming Policy

In its 2030 review of Senedd constituencies, the Commission is required to determine a single name for each Senedd constituency by which that constituency will be known in both Welsh and English, unless the Commission considers that to do so would be unacceptable, in which case the Commission may determine a Welsh-language name and an English-language name for the constituency.

For this purpose the Commission's first step will be to determine the most appropriate name for the constituency in Welsh. In deciding on that name, the Commission will take into account various factors including (but not necessarily limited to):

the names of the existing Senedd constituencies;

place names in the area of the constituency;

any regional names or descriptions of the area;

geographical features in the area; and

the name of any local authority (or authorities) with responsibility for the area.

In this context, the Commission will give particular consideration to any relevant names or words which are commonly used in both Welsh and English. The Commission will also aim to adopt names which avoid the need for mutations of words in Welsh.

The Commission's second step will be to consider whether the Welsh-language name which it has determined at the first step is acceptable for use in English.

The Commission will regard a Welsh-language name as acceptable for use in English if it considers that the name is likely to be recognisable to residents of the same broad region of Wales whose primary language is not Welsh. This may be because (for example) the name is composed of a place name which is the same or similar in Welsh and English (such as in the case of Powys, Clwyd, Wrexham, Aberdâr or Pontypridd) or because the place name in Welsh is particularly well-known in the region (such as in the case of Caerdydd or Ynys Môn).

If the Welsh-language name is composed of more than one word, the Commission will regard that name as acceptable for use in English only if every word of the name is likely to be recognisable in this way. Accordingly:

if the Welsh-language name incorporates one or more place names which are likely to be recognisable in this way as well as a place name which is not, the Commission will not regard that name as acceptable for use in English;

if the Welsh-language name incorporates words which are not place names (for example a geographic designation such as “north”, “south” or “central”) the Commission will usually not regard that name as acceptable for use in English;

however if the Welsh-language name is composed solely of place names which are likely to be recognisable in this way together with a Welsh-language word meaning “and”, the Commission will regard that name as acceptable for use in English.

Thus, for example:

“Pontypridd ac Aberdâr” would be acceptable for use in English, as both place names within the name are similar in Welsh and English and likely to be recognisable to residents of the same broad region of Wales whose primary language is not Welsh, and the Commission considers that the word “ac” is likely to be recognisable in this context in the same way;

however “Gorllewin Pontypridd ac Aberdâr” would not be acceptable for use in English, due to the inclusion of the geographic designation “Gorllewin”, which the Commission considers would not likely be recognisable in the sense described above.

If the Commission decides that the Welsh-language name is acceptable for use in English in this way, it will determine that that name should be the single name for the constituency. If the Commission determines that the Welsh-language name is not acceptable for use in English, it will determine that the constituency should have its Welsh name and also a name in English which represents the translation into English of its Welsh name.

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