



NOTE OF MEETING OF BCNI OF 19 October 2017 at 3pm

Location: Conference Room, The Bungalow, Stormont House

In attendance:

Madam Justice Denise McBride (Deputy Chair, BCNI)

Dr Bill Smith (Commissioner, BCNI)

Sarah Havlin (Commissioner, BCNI)

Eamonn McConville (Secretary, BCNI)

Michael Harris (Deputy Secretary, BCNI)

Tim Johnston (Office Manager, BCNI)

The Deputy Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- The previously circulated minutes of the meeting of 18 September 2017 were agreed without amendment and signed off by the Secretary.

Matters Arising:

- **Secondary Consultation:** the Secretary advised that the secondary consultation had successfully concluded on 2 October, with 39 responses received, a 50% increase on the previous review.
- **Analysis Papers:** as agreed, these had been delivered to the Deputy Chair and Commissioners. The Deputy Chair commented on the high quality of these papers and asked that thanks be recorded to the Secretariat for their work.
- **Revised Proposals:** the Secretary confirmed that in order to meet the printer's deadline of 18 December, any Revised Proposals would have to be agreed by 30 November. It was agreed that this would be best achieved by approaching the task in two parts:
 - Commissioners undertaking re-modelling and agreeing final draft of Revised Proposals Report by 30 November; and
 - Secretariat liaising with the Printers on production of the Report by 18 December.

Action: Secretariat to coordinate with Commissioners regarding work on the mapping exercise.

- **Annual Meeting (Wales):** Flights, accommodation and other arrangements are all in hand. Secretariat will issue details to all participants in due course.
- **Dealing with Enquiries/Survey Responses:** The BCNI Communications Plan had been amended to reflect the agreed position in regard to such requests.
- **Potential Visit to Boston College:** In view of the ongoing work on the Revised Proposals, a possible invitation from the college will be revisited in the New Year.

2. Discussion of Analysis Papers

- The Deputy Chair led a discussion on the issues raised by the consultations to date, as outlined in the analysis packs. This included debate on the merits of a 3 or 4 seat Belfast, use of Rule 7, consideration of towns and hinterlands and common themes emerging.
- The high calibre of some responses to both the Initial and Secondary consultations was noted by the Commission.
- Commissioners undertook to review the proposed solutions with a view to agreeing and signing off a revised model in advance of a meeting with Assessors on 29 November 2017.

Action: Secretariat to provide Commissioners with electronic copies of composite map responses and Secretariat alternative maps to assist with the consideration of Revised Proposal.

3. Forward plan of work

- It was agreed that Commissioners would meet with the Secretariat in the Bungalow on 1st and 10th November (10am to 3pm) to work on Revised Proposals.
- To allow a final report to be presented to the Assessors on 29 November, the drafting of the rationale for the Revised Proposals will be started by the Secretariat alongside the Commissioners' mapping exercise. The degree of commonality between many of the possible alternative maps allows for the production of an accurate narrative even at this early stage, with adjustments for possible alternatives made as the drafting process develops.

4. AOB

- The Secretary advised that the Public Administration & Constitutional Affairs Select Committee had been in contact with all four Boundary Commissions regarding a possible invitation to give evidence on the boundary review process in the coming months. The Commission agreed with the view of all four Boundary Commission Secretaries that, since a Review is currently ongoing, any evidence offered would be limited and very factual in nature.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 5.30pm

BCNI Secretariat
October 2017