

Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland



MEETING OF BCNI COMMISSIONERS

Date: 22 May 2017 at 4pm

Location: Conference Room, The Bungalow, Stormont House

In attendance:

Madam Justice Denise McBride DBE, QC (Deputy Commissioner, BCNI)

Dr Bill Smith (Member, BCNI)

Sarah Havlin (Member, BCNI)

Eamonn McConville (Secretary, BCNI)

Michael Harris (Deputy Secretary, BCNI)

Tim Johnston (Office Manager, BCNI)

Adam McCalden (Secretariat, BCNI)

Launch of Secondary Consultation period

1. The Secretary provided a brief update on the current position in light of the forthcoming Westminster elections. He noted that the Conservative Party manifesto included a commitment to continue with the 2018 Review but that it was not mentioned in the Labour Party's.
2. The options for launching the Secondary Consultation period were discussed post the 9 June election, i.e.:
 - Publish immediately after the General Election
 - Wait until September following the Westminster summer recess but no later as any further delay would increase greatly the risk of not meeting our statutory deadline of September 2018.
3. The Secretary advised that the Commission would normally give a reasonable amount of public notice ahead of launching the Secondary Consultation but to do so for a launch immediately after the General Election would encroach on the 'purdah' period. It was agreed, therefore, that the Commission would aim to launch the Secondary Consultation after the Westminster summer recess and that public notice of this could wait until the end of June.
4. It was also agreed that the Commission would consider writing to the NIO ahead of any public notification to inform them of the intention to launch the Secondary Consultation in September.

ACTION: Secretariat to draft press release, Twitter announcement and letter to NIO on intention to consult in September.

Boston College Visit

5. Sarah Havlin advised of a forthcoming visit by students and staff from Boston College on the 19 June 2017. The students are on an all-island visit examining the 'Politics of Self-Rule' and will be given a brief presentation by the Boundary Commission on the 2018 Review. Further details to follow but the presentation would be held in Stormont House, subject to availability.

AOB

6. The Secretary will handle any related matters by correspondence but keep the need for a further meeting towards the end of June under review.
7. There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 5pm.

BCNI Secretariat