



Forestview, Purdy's Lane, Newtownbreda

BELFAST BT8 7AR

Tel:028 9069 4800 Fax:028 9069 4801 Email:bcni@belfast.org.uk

www.boundarycommission.org.uk

Press Notice

ANNOUNCEMENT

16 November 2006

REVISED PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

The Commission are to defer consideration of revised parliamentary constituency boundaries and the submission of recommendations to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The Commission published Revised Recommendations for constituencies on 24 May 2006 and have received representations on the basis of the existing local government ward structure. The Commission are required by statute to recommend constituencies based upon the ward structure but are aware that the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner has published provisional recommendations for restructuring Local Government Districts in Northern Ireland and their constituent wards.

It is important for the organisation and conduct of elections and to avoid confusion amongst voters that elections in Northern Ireland are conducted on common ward boundaries. The Commission have therefore decided to review their Revised Recommendations. They will do so at the earliest opportunity and, if appropriate, will publish Modified Recommendations.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. The Commission are an independent and impartial body. The Chairman of the Commission is the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Rt Hon Michael Martin MP. The Deputy Chairman of the Commission is the Hon Mr Justice Coghlin, a Northern Ireland High Court Judge. The other Members of the Commission are Mr Richard Mackenzie, CB and Mrs Joan Ruddock, CBE.
2. Any Modified Recommendations will take into account all relevant considerations including the representations the Commission have already received and the conclusions and recommendations arising from three public Local Inquiries held last year. Regard will also be had for any significant changes which have occurred in the distribution of the electorate. Once published, there would be a further opportunity for anyone or any organisation interested in the proposals to make known their views to the Commission.
3. The Local Government Boundaries Commissioner published provisional recommendations for the boundaries and names of the seven proposed new local government districts and the number, boundaries and names of their constituent wards on 7 November 2006. Public hearings are due to be held in January and February 2007 with the Commissioner to submit final recommendations by 31 May 2007.
4. Further information is available in the Commission's Explanatory Note to be found on the Commission's website www.boundarycommission.org.uk or by contacting the Commission.