**Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland**

Note of Meeting held on 28th March 2023 at 3.30pm

Erskine House, Belfast & Microsoft Teams

**In Attendance**

Mr. Justice Michael Humphreys, Deputy Chair to the Boundary Commission (MH)

Sarah Havlin, Boundary Commissioner (SH)

Vilma Patterson, Boundary Commissioner (VP)

Angela McGrath, Commissioner of Valuation, LPS (AMcG)

Dr Philip Wales, Registrar General for Northern Ireland (PW)

Heather McKinley, Secretary to the Boundary Commission (HMcK)

Andrea Richardson, Deputy Secretary to the Boundary Commission (AR)

Lyn McBride, Support Officer to the Boundary Commission (LM)

Rico Santiago, Senior Mapping and Charting Officer, LPS (RS)

Kerry Steele, Mapping and Charting Officer, LPS (KS)

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

Attendees were welcomed to the hybrid meeting. The newly appointed Registrar General Dr Philip Wales was welcomed to his first BCNI meeting. It was noted that Jim Lennon had now retired, and that RS was attending to represent LPS – a new Chief Survey Officer would be appointed in due course.

1. **Note of Previous Meeting**

Members agreed the note of the BCNI meeting held on 24th January 2023.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

1. **Matters Arising – Addition to the Risk Register 2022-2023**

It was agreed at the last Commission meeting on 24th January that a new risk relating to the Commission’s budget allocation for the 2023/2024 financial year should be added to the Risk Register and brought to this meeting for approval. This risk had now been drafted and was agreed. There was a discussion about Commission funding post-July 2023 (the statutory date by which the Final Recommendations must be submitted), as a business case to NIO for funding until the Recommendations are enacted (likely to be October 2023) was not agreed by the Department. The Deputy Chair has written to the NIO to request that this decision be reconsidered - an update will be provided on this in due course.

**5. Commissioners’ Preferred Final Scheme – Presentation and Discussion (oral presentation, with interactive map)**

Attendees were given an overview of the Review to date, and it was noted that the third of three public consultations provided for by the Act closed on 15th December 2022. Commissioners had then considered all the reps received using the same approach as for the previous two consultation stages - AR thanked RS and the LPS team for their mapping support for this stage in the Review. Reps received were considered in the context of the legislative framework and of the Commission’s stated approach. Having done this, and having undertaken further site visits, Commissioners had determined their final recommendations for Parliamentary constituencies in NI – these were displayed on an interactive map and an overview provided. After some discussion, the Deputy Chair expressed his gratitude to the Commissioners and Secretariat for their detailed work and diligence in the delineation of the final recommendations, which would be submitted to the Speaker for laying by 1st July.

1. **Next Steps**

HMcK advised colleagues the next step will be for the Commission to move to drafting the final report. The final set of mapping products will be prepared with the support of RS and his team at LPS.

# AOB

It was proposed that a discussion will be held at the next meeting regarding the choreography and comms requirements relating to submitting, laying and publishing the Final Recommendations.

HMcK updated colleagues on the Commission’s expected end year financial position, which was agreed to be satisfactory given the demand-led nature of the work.

The date of the next meeting will be 23rd May 2023.