**Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland**

Note of Meeting held on 24th January 2023 at 3.30pm

Lanyon Plaza, Belfast & Microsoft Teams

**In Attendance**

Sarah Havlin, Boundary Commissioner (SH)

Vilma Patterson, Boundary Commissioner (VP)

Jim Lennon, Chief Survey Officer, LPS (JL)

Angela McGrath, Commissioner of Valuation, LPS (AMcG)

Virginia McVea, Chief Electoral Officer (VMcV)

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)

**Apologies**

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

Siobhan Carey, Registrar General for Northern Ireland (SC)

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

Attendees were welcomed to the hybrid meeting, with thanks to LPS for hosting us at Lanyon Plaza. It was noted that this would be the last BCNI meeting attended by Jim Lennon before his retirement and thanks were given to Jim for his support, guidance and expertise throughout the Review process.

Apologies were received from the Deputy Chair and Siobhan Carey – SH would chair the meeting today. It was noted that SC is now on annual leave pending her retirement, and that her team would update us on her successor in due course.

1. **Note of Previous Meeting**

Members agreed the note of the previous BCNI meeting, held on 25th October 2022.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

1. **Review of Third Consultation Stage**

Attendees were provided with a summary of the third consultation stage which took place between 17th November and 15th December 2022. It was noted that, as with the initial and secondary consultation periods, and in line with the legislation, the Commission had undertaken various actions to help publicise the Revised Proposals and third consultation. These included a map of the revised proposals and information poster displayed in libraries and local council venues across Northern Ireland, press releases and website content, and a number of tweets throughout the consultation. In addition to reps received from individuals and organisations, a petition had also been received, which had been gathered by seven organisations. Following a short discussion, it was agreed that the reps and petition should be published on the Commission’s website as soon as practicable.

It was noted that next steps for Commissioners were to consider the reps/petition received and decide on the Commission’s Final Recommendations, to be submitted to the Speaker of the House of Commons by 1st July 2023. Once the Speaker has received reports from all four UK Commissions, he must lay them in Parliament. The Commission must wait until the report has been laid before publishing it, in line with the Act. There was a discussion about the practicalities of the laying and publication process, and it was agreed to consider this in more detail at future meetings.

1. **Annual Progress Report**

A copy of the Commission’s annual Progress Report to the Speaker had been circulated ahead of the meeting – the Act specifies that this report must be submitted by 31st January each year. The 2022 report includes a brief overview of the secondary consultation period and public hearings, the revised proposals, and the third consultation period. Some small amendments to the drafting were proposed, and it was agreed that the report be submitted subject to those edits.

1. **Review of Risk Register**

Attendees were given an overview of the Risk Register. A number of updates to the Register were discussed and agreed, including the addition of a new risk relating to the Commission’s budget for 2023/24.

# AOB

The next meeting is scheduled for 28th March 2023.