



NOTE OF MEETING OF BCNI OF 10 November 2017 at 10.00am

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)

1. Welcome

The Deputy Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Work on Analysis of Responses / Derivation of Revised Proposals

- The Deputy Chair thanked the Secretariat for the very high standard of analysis work, identifying key themes/issues and setting out the options and supporting rationale in a clear, concise manner. The purpose of the meeting was to reach agreement on the preferred 17-seat plan to be taken forward as the Commission's Revised Proposals.
- The relative merits of each option, the evidence submitted during consultation and the wider implications for Northern Ireland were discussed
- At the end of that discussion, consensus emerged that the 4-seat Belfast plan, which produced the least disruption across Northern Ireland, was the preferred solution.
- Proposed constituency names were discussed in light of the agreed Revised Proposals. It was agreed that a number of the names included in the Provisional Proposals were no longer appropriate and that existing constituency names should be used unless there was substantial change to the boundary.

AP1 - Secretariat to record decision.

3. Future Work on Revised Proposals

- The Secretariat was tasked with drafting the Revised Proposals Report highlighting the issues raised, the Commission's considerations and the preferred option.

- The Secretary confirmed that the Commissioners would receive an initial draft of the report late in week commencing 13 November, allowing amendments to be facilitated, shared and agreed in advance of the meeting with Assessors on 29 November 2017.

AP2 - Secretariat to provide Commissioners with an initial draft report by 16 November 2017.

AP3 - Commissioners to liaise with Secretariat to review, amend and agree the draft report in advance of the Assessors' meeting on 29 November 2017.

4. Future Work on Revised Proposals / Assessors Meeting

- It was agreed that Dr Smith should present the Commission's Revised Proposals to the Assessors on 29 November as he had done so with the Provisional Proposals in June 2016.
- **AP4 - Dr Smith to prepare the presentation to Assessors.**

5. Printing of Report / Consultation Period

- It was confirmed that the 8-week consultation period on the Revised Proposals would launch on 30 January 2018 to ensure that the consultation completes before the Easter break. To align with the printer's Christmas holidays the Secretariat will ensure that the first draft of the Revised Proposals report is with the printer by 18 December 2017. Printer will require final sign off by 8 January 2018.

AP5 - Secretariat to have Revised Proposals report with printer by 18 December 2017.

AP6 - Secretariat to continue with preparations for launching the Revised Proposals consultation on 30 January 2018

6. Annual Inter-Commission meeting – Cardiff 16-17 November

- The Deputy Secretary updated the Commissioners on arrangements for the Inter-Commission meeting in Cardiff on 16-17 November. Speaking notes would be drafted for Dr Smith who would be presenting the BCNI update at the meeting.

AP7 – Secretariat to draft speaking notes for Inter-Commission meeting.

7. Close of Meeting

- There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 1.30pm