**Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland**

Note of Meeting held on 30 November 2021 at 3.30pm

Via video link

**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)

David Marshall, Director of Census and Population Statistics, NISRA (DM)

Jim Lennon, Chief Survey Officer, LPS (JL)

Virginia McVea, Chief Electoral Officer (VMcV)

Heather McKinley, Secretary to the Boundary Commission (HMcK)

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

Lisa Hay, Office Manager to the Boundary Commission (LH)

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

**Apologies:**

Siobhan Carey, Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Northern Ireland

1. **Welcome and Declarations of Interest**

Attendees were welcomed to the meeting. There were no declarations of interest.

1. **Note of Previous Meeting**

Members agreed the note of the BCNI meeting held on 19th October 2021.

# Mid-Consultation Update

Attendees were given an update on press coverage, social media reach, and public engagement with the online resources and interactive map since the launch of the Initial Proposals Report. It was noted that the public could also view consultation materials in libraries and council buildings throughout Northern Ireland. An update on volume of consultation responses to date and other enquiries relating to the Review was also provided.

# Planning for Secondary Consultation

The Secretary apprised attendees of the administrative preparations for the secondary consultation period, which would begin with representations received during the initial consultation being published on the Commission’s website. It was noted that the Commission aims to commence the consultation on 9th February 2022 in order that it is completed ahead of the pre-election period. Following discussion, it was agreed that the statutory public hearings should be scheduled around weeks 3–5 of the 6-week secondary consultation period, and that it was the Commission’s preference to hold hybrid hearings. It was agreed that there would be further discussion around the operational delivery of the hearings at the next BCNI meeting.

# Review of Risk Register

An updated risk register was circulated to attendees prior to the meeting, and the Secretary provided attendees with an overview of changes to risk ratings and mitigations since the last update of the register.

# AOB

Attendees were updated on plans relating to accommodation and the impact of the NIO’s relocation from Stormont House to Erskine House. While BCNI staff will continue to primarily work from home, arrangements for our proposed occasional usage of meeting facilities in Erskine House have not yet been confirmed.

BCNI’s budget settlement following the Spending Review is expected from the NIO before the Christmas break, which will set the budget for the next 3 years. The 2022/2023 budget settlement is expected to show a 5% decrease on this year’s budget, and it was agreed that a further update on this would be provided at the next meeting.

# Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that matters for consideration at the December meeting would instead be discharged by correspondence, including an update on the initial consultation which will close on 15th December 2021. The next meeting will therefore be held on 25th January 2022.