



NOTE OF MEETING OF BCNI – 17 MAY 2018 at 1400

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. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising

Minutes of the 17 May meeting were formally agreed. Matters arising from that meeting have been actioned. The main action point from that meeting was for the Secretariat to explore additional mapping solutions taking account of the various issues raised in the consultation. The purpose of this latest meeting was to consider the alternative maps presented by the Secretariat and reach an agreed position.

2. General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The meeting was brought up to date on measures undertaken by the Secretariat to be ready for GDPR on 25 May 2018. Actions undertaken included completion of an action plan, an updated privacy notice, risk register and disposal/retention schedule to reflect GDPR obligations. There was a discussion around the requirement to have a Data Protection Officer (DPO). It was agreed that further discussions with the NIO would continue but that as a backstop position, the Secretary would act as the DPO with clear dividing lines and appropriate policy procedures in place to deal with any GDPR issues.

3. Mapping solutions

A number of mapping options were provided to Members ranging in scale of change to the Revised Proposals. Members agreed that the focus should be on making only those adjustments to the Revised Proposals which clearly meet the statutory criteria. Care should be taken not to react to local calls for change which have not taken account of the wider ripple effects.

Members agreed the two key issues that could be addressed without wider ripple effects were to reduce the split effect on Dungiven and to move Mallusk from Belfast North to South Antrim. The rationale for this approach would be drafted by Bill and Sarah. A draft would be provided to the Secretariat for insertion in the draft Final Recommendations Report.

AP1 – Bill and Sarah to provide a draft rationale to the Secretary on 25 May

4. Timeframe

It was agreed that the preferred mapping solution should be discussed with the Assessors soon in order to progress drafting and printing of the Final Recommendations Report.

AP2 – Secretariat to secure a meeting date with Assessors w/c 28 May or 4 June..

5. Private Member's Bill

Members were brought up to date on the Parliamentary Constituencies (Amendment) Bill which had reached Committee stage in Westminster.

6. Letter to Sir Jonathan Stephens

The meeting discussed the proposed letter to Sir Jonathan Stephens, NIO, setting out Members' concerns about the proposal for the Boundary Commission to go into abeyance at the end of December 2018 resulting in the loss of expertise, knowledge and continuity in the interim period before the next Review.

AP3 – Secretary to send draft letter to Members for consideration.

7. Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting concluded.

BCNI Secretariat

May 2018