

INTRODUCTION

1. This Newsletter includes items about:
 - Membership of the Commission
 - Proposed activities
 - Contacts

MEMBERSHIP

2. The Commission presented the Fifth periodical report on parliamentary constituencies and the First report on National Assembly for Wales electoral regions to the Secretary of State on 31st January 2005. The Parliamentary Constituencies and Assembly Electoral Regions (Wales) Order 2006 came into force on 25 April 2006.
3. The Honourable Mr Justice Richards stepped down as Deputy Chairman in October 2005 following his appointment to the Court of Appeal. Professor Ken George completed his term of appointment on 31 March 2006. Mrs Susan Smith has been re-appointed to serve on the Commission until 31 March 2008. In December 2006 The Lord Chancellor appointed The Honourable Mr Justice Lloyd Jones as Deputy Chairman of the Commission. There is currently one vacancy for a Commissioner.
4. Whilst the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 provides for the transfer of the functions of this Commission to the Electoral Commission, there is not a clear timetable for this at present. The Committee on Standards in Public Life reported on their review of the Electoral Commission in January 2007. It is the Committee's recommendation (R17) that the Electoral Commission should no longer have any involvement in electoral boundary matters and the provision of PPERA to allow the transfer of boundary-setting functions to the Electoral Commission should be repealed. The Government has not yet published its response to the Committee's report.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

5. The Commission was formally notified by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales that the revision of the local government boundary in the area of Cwm-twrch had created an anomaly between the local government and the

constituency boundaries in the area. The Commission has decided to undertake an Interim Review in this area. The details concerning the proposed Interim Review will be published later in 2007.

6. In the event of further anomalies being identified before the next (the Sixth) general review, the Commission will give consideration to undertaking further Interim reviews to resolve anomalies.

INFORMATION

7. The Commission have produced an annual report that details the activities of the Commission. A copy of the booklet may be obtained by contacting the Commission at the address below.
8. This report and other information relating to the work of the Commission may also be found on the Commission's web site at www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk

CONTACTS

9. The Commission may be contacted at the following address:

Mr E H Lewis
Secretary, Boundary Commission for Wales
Caradog House
1-6 St Andrews Place
Cardiff, CF10 3BE

Telephone: 029 2039 5031
Fax: 029 2039 5250
Email: bcomm.wales@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Web site: www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk