

## REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES IN NEATH PORT TALBOT AND POWYS

The Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Wales (the Commission) has announced a review of the boundaries of the parliamentary constituencies of Neath CC and Brecon and Radnorshire CC.

The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended) requires the Commission to keep under review Wales' representation in the House of Commons and to submit to the Secretary of State reports of their recommendations.

The Government of Wales Act 1998 established the National Assembly for Wales and Schedule 1 (Assembly constituencies and Assembly electoral regions) requires the Commission to undertake reviews of the Assembly constituencies and electoral regions at the same time as reviews of parliamentary constituencies.

The Commission formulate their provisional recommendations for constituencies following the rules for redistribution of seats set out in Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act. At the same time the Commission will also formulate their provisional recommendations for the Assembly constituencies and electoral regions following the rules set out in Schedule 1 of the 1998 Act. Notice of those recommendations will be published in at least one newspaper circulating in the constituencies affected specifying where details of the recommendations shown on a map may be inspected.

Representations may be made within one month from publication of the notice and a local inquiry will be held if representations objecting to the proposals are received from an interested local authority or from a body of 100 or more electors. The Commission arrange for an Assistant Commissioner to conduct the inquiry

The Assistant Commissioner submits a report to the Commission who may decide to publish revised proposals following the same procedure but they are not obliged to hold a further inquiry. If the Commission decide to modify their revised recommendations before submitting their final proposals to the Secretary of State for Justice, the procedure for publication and inviting representations is again repeated.

It is the Secretary of State's duty to lay the Commission's report before Parliament together with a draft Order in Council giving effect to the recommendations with or without modifications. The draft Order is submitted to both Houses of Parliament for approval and, after it is made, the new constituencies take place at the next general election.

## **CONTACTS**

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