



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

## **PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

**September 2007**

The Commission welcome correspondence and telephone calls either in English or Welsh



# **BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES**

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### **PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Commission undertook their Fifth General Review of Parliamentary Constituencies and First General Review of National Assembly for Wales Electoral Regions from December 2002 until January 2005. The resultant Parliamentary Constituencies and Assembly Electoral Regions (Wales) Order 2006 came into force on 25 April 2006. This Order however only made reference to local government areas as they existed on 31st January 2005. The Neath Port Talbot and Powys (Cwmtwrch) Order 2004 came into operation on 1 April 2005 and made changes to the boundary between the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot and the County of Powys (and a consequential change to the boundaries of the preserved counties of West Glamorgan and Powys).
- 1.2 As a result the boundary between Neath CC and Brecon and Radnorshire CC no longer follows the county and preserved county boundary and so the Commission decided to carry out a review of the affected area under section 3 (3) of the 1986 Act.
- 1.3 The Commission are now publishing their **provisional** recommendations, i.e. the Commission's initial proposals, for public consultation. Those recommendations take careful account of developments since the last general review, including changes that have been made to preserved counties, local authority areas and electoral divisions. It is emphasised, however, that the recommendations and the reasoning on which they are based are all provisional (references to recommendations, decisions, conclusions, etc. within this document should therefore be read accordingly) and that great importance is attached to the opportunity now given for all concerned to make representations, whether in support of or objecting to the proposals.
- 1.4 Details of when and how to make representations, together with a brief background note, are given later in this document.

## 2. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- Minor changes are proposed to the constituency of Neath and the constituency of Brecon and Radnorshire to reflect the change to the boundary between the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot and the County of Powys.
- Minor changes are proposed to the Assembly electoral regions of Mid and West Wales and South Wales West to reflect the proposed changes to parliamentary/Assembly constituencies.

## 3. PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

- 3.1 The parliamentary constituency of Neath currently has 58,398 electors (as at 1 June 2007). The constituency consists of the **Neath Port Talbot County** electoral divisions of Aberdulais, Allt-wen, Blaengwrach, Bryn-côch North, Bryn-côch South,

Cadoxton, Cimla, Crynant, Cwmllynfell, Dyffryn, Glynneath, Godre'r graig, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, Lower Brynamman, Neath East, Neath North, Neath South, Onllwyn, Pelenna, Pontardawe, Resolven, Rhos, Seven Sisters, Tonna, Trebanos and Ystalyfera. As a result of the Neath Port Talbot and Powys (Cwmtwrch) Order 2004 the constituency also includes part of the **Powys County** electoral division of Cwmtwrch.

- 3.2 The parliamentary constituency of Brecon and Radnorshire currently has 55,206 electors (as at 1 June 2007). The constituency consists of the **Powys County** electoral divisions of Aber-craf, Beguildy, Bronllys, Builth, Bwlch, Crickhowell, Cwm-twrch, Disserserth and Trecoed, Felin-fâch, Glasbury, Gwernyfed, Hay, Knighton, Llanafanfawr, Llanbadarn Fawr, Llandrindod East/Llandrindod West, Llandrindod North, Llandrindod South, Llanelwedd, Llangattock, Llangors, Llangunllo, Llangynidr, Llanwrtyd Wells, Llanyre, Maescar/Llywel, Nantmel, Old Radnor, Presteigne, Rhayader, St.David Within, St.John, St.Mary, Talgarth, Talybont-on-Usk, Tawe-Uchaf, Ynyscedwyn, Yscir and Ystradgynlais. As a result of the Neath Port Talbot and Powys (Cwmtwrch) Order 2004 part of the Cwm-twrch electoral division is excluded from the constituency of Brecon and Radnorshire CC.
- 3.3 The change to the county boundary involved the transfer of 84 electors from the Ystalyfera electoral division of Neath Port Talbot to the Cwm-twrch electoral division of Brecon and Radnorshire. This has resulted in the Cwm-twrch electoral division being split between the Neath constituency and the Brecon and Radnorshire constituency. The boundary change is illustrated on the map at Appendix 1. Since all but a very small part of the Cwm-twrch electoral division is within the existing Brecon and Radnorshire constituency, the Commission have decided to realign the boundary between the Neath and Brecon and Radnorshire constituencies so as to include the whole of the Cwm-twrch electoral division within the Brecon and Radnorshire constituency.
- 3.4 The Commission have decided against recommending changes to any of the other existing constituencies as the small number of electors involved in the proposed change will have a very minimal impact on the number of electors and consequentially the arrangement of constituencies within the preserved counties of Powys and West Glamorgan.
- 3.5 Accordingly the Commission have provisionally decided to amend the composition of the two constituencies as follows (the 2007 electorates are shown in brackets):

**BRECON AND RADNORSHIRE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY (55,290) Powys County** electoral divisions: Aber-craf, Beguildy, Bronllys, Builth, Bwlch, Crickhowell, Cwm-twrch, Disserserth and Trecoed, Felin-fâch, Glasbury, Gwernyfed, Hay, Knighton, Llanafanfawr, Llanbadarn Fawr, Llandrindod East/Llandrindod West, Llandrindod North, Llandrindod South, Llanelwedd, Llangattock, Llangors, Llangunllo, Llangynidr, Llanwrtyd Wells, Llanyre, Maescar/Llywel, Nantmel, Old Radnor, Presteigne, Rhayader, St.David Within, St.John, St.Mary, Talgarth, Talybont-on-Usk, Tawe-Uchaf, Ynyscedwyn, Yscir, Ystradgynlais.

**NEATH COUNTY CONSTITUENCY (58,314) Neath Port Talbot County** electoral divisions: Aberdulais, Allt-wen, Blaengwrach, Bryn-côch North, Bryn-côch South,

Cadoxton, Cimla, Crynant, Cwmllynfell, Dyffryn, Glynneath, Godre'r graig, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, Lower Brynamman, Neath East, Neath North, Neath South, Onllwyn, Pelenna, Pontardawe, Resolven, Rhos, Seven Sisters, Tonna, Trebanos, Ystalyfera.

3.6 The electoral divisions named in this document are the electoral divisions which were created by the following Orders:

- The County of Powys (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1998
- The Powys (Llanbadarn Fynydd, Llanbister and Abbey Cwmhir) Order 2003

and

- The County Borough of Neath and Port Talbot Electoral Arrangements Order 1994,
- The City and County of Swansea (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1998

both amended by

- The Neath Port Talbot and Swansea (Trebanos and Clydach) Order 2002.

#### **4. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES CONSTITUENCIES AND ELECTORAL REGIONS**

4.1 The National Assembly for Wales constituencies are the parliamentary constituencies. The National Assembly for Wales constituencies of Neath and Brecon and Radnorshire will be amended to reflect any changes made to the corresponding parliamentary constituencies. The Assembly constituency electorates differ slightly from parliamentary electors in that peers and EU citizens are included but overseas electors are excluded.

4.2 The Neath constituency is included within the South Wales West Assembly electoral region and the Brecon and Radnorshire constituency is included within the Mid and West Wales Assembly electoral region as shown on the map at Appendix 2. As a consequence of the proposed changes to the parliamentary constituencies the South Wales West Assembly electoral region would decrease by 84 electors and the Mid and West Wales Assembly electoral region would see a corresponding increase. The Commission considers that this minor change involving a small number of electors does not require a change to the composition of the Assembly electoral regions.

#### **5. PUBLICATION DETAILS**

##### **Publication of Provisional Recommendations**

5.1 Notification of the Commission's provisional recommendations and where they can be seen will be published formally in a notice appearing in newspapers in Wales on 1 September 2007. Local authorities, MPs, AMs, the Political Parties' Headquarters, and others will be sent a copy of the recommendations.

- 5.2 The notice will also be published on the Commission's web site at [www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk](http://www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk)

### **Places of Inspection**

- 5.3 The notice in local newspapers will also give the addresses within the existing parliamentary constituencies where a copy of the recommendations and a more detailed map illustrating them have been made available for inspection by the public (please note the copyright warning below concerning the map). Those addresses are:

<b>Brecon and Radnorshire</b>	Council Offices, Cambrian Way, Brecon LD3 7HR County Hall, Llandrindod Wells LD1 5LG Knighton Area Office, The Library, Knighton
<b>Neath</b>	Council Offices, Civic Centre, Neath SA11 3QZ

## **6. PERIOD FOR REPRESENTATIONS: 1 SEPTEMBER 2007 TO 1 OCTOBER 2007**

- 6.1 The Commission are required to consider representations about their provisional recommendations for each review area made within one month of publication on 1 September 2007. Representations should be addressed to the Boundary Commission for Wales, Caradog House, 1-6 St Andrews Place, Cardiff, CF10 3BE, or faxed to 02920 395250, or e-mailed to [bcomm.wales@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bcomm.wales@wales.gsi.gov.uk). All representations received by the Commission will be acknowledged. The representation period will end on 1 October 2007.
- 6.2 Please note that the Commission are not statutorily required to consider any representations made after 1 October 2007, but will endeavour to take late representations into account. However, the later the representation is made, the more difficult this will be. The Commission therefore ask that all representations be made within the one month period. In the event that a local inquiry is held into the provisional recommendations, all representations will be made public beforehand so that interested persons may prepare for the local inquiry. Any representation received too late to be issued with the other representations before the local inquiry cannot be given the same weight as the other representations because other interested persons will not have had the same opportunity to consider it.
- 6.3 Where representations objecting to the provisional recommendations are made by an interested county council or by a body of 100 or more electors, the Commission cannot proceed with their final recommendations to the Secretary of State until a local inquiry has been held. If the Commission decide to alter their recommendations as a result of the inquiry, the revised recommendations must also be published and representations invited, but a further local inquiry is not obligatory.
- 6.4 Those who make representations are requested to say whether they approve of, or object to, the Commission's proposals and to give their reasons for their approval or objection. In particular, objectors are advised to say what they propose in place of the Commission's recommendations and should note that an objection accompanied by a counter-proposal is likely to carry more weight than a simple statement of objection.

- 6.5 The Commission wish to stress that their provisional recommendations relate solely to parliamentary constituencies and do not affect unitary authority or community boundaries, taxes or services. The Commission will therefore not take account of any representation made about those local issues.

## **7. BACKGROUND NOTE**

- 7.1 Details of the relevant statutory framework and of the Commission's general approach to the reviews is to be found in the Commission's publication, "The Review of Parliamentary Constituencies and of Welsh Assembly Electoral Regions in Wales" (2003), which is available in English and Welsh from the Commission or on the Commission's web-site at [www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk](http://www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk). For your convenience a summary of this information is set out in the following paragraphs.
- 7.2 The Commission are constituted under Section 2 and Schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986. The ex officio Chairman is the Speaker of the House of Commons. The Deputy Chairman, who presides over Commission meetings, is a High Court Judge appointed by the Lord Chancellor. One Commissioner is appointed by the Secretary of State for Wales and the other Commissioner is appointed by the Secretary of State for Justice. The two Assessors to the Commission are the Registrar General of England and Wales and the Director General of Ordnance Survey. Assistant Commissioners are lawyers appointed by the Secretary of State for Justice to conduct local inquiries.
- 7.3 The Commission are required by the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 as amended by the Boundary Commissions Act 1992 to conduct a general review of all the constituencies in Wales every eight to twelve years. The Commission completed their fifth general review on 31 January 2005. The Commission also has the power under section 3 (3) of the 1986 Act to "from time to time submit to the Secretary of State reports with respect to the area comprised in any particular constituency or constituencies in [Wales], showing the constituencies into which they recommend that that area should be divided in order to give effect to" the Rules.
- 7.4 This review is being carried out pursuant to section 3 (3) of the 1986 Act, and started formally with the publication of a notice in the London Gazette on 1 June 2007. The Commission's recommendations throughout the review must by law be based on the numbers of electors on the electoral registers on that date.

### **Rules**

- 7.5 In recommending new constituencies, the Commission are required to give effect to the Rules for Redistribution of Seats which are contained in Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act.
- 7.6 Rule 1 places limits on the total number of constituencies. Rule 2 requires single member constituencies. Rule 3 relates to the City of London. Rule 4 states that county (*preserved county in Wales*) boundaries are to be followed so far as is practicable. Rule 5 states that the electorates of constituencies are to be as nearly equal to the electoral quota as practicable. Rule 6 allows the Commission to depart from rules 4 and 5 if special geographical considerations make a departure desirable. Rule 7 allows the Commission to depart from other rules, and requires them to take account of

inconveniences caused by alterations of constituencies (other than alterations made for the purposes of rule 4) or local ties broken by such alterations. Rule 8 defines the electoral quota as the total number of parliamentary electors in Wales divided by the existing number of seats, and requires the Commission to use the electorates as at the start of a review.

### **Assembly Electoral Regions**

- 7.7 The Assembly constituencies are the parliamentary constituencies in Wales. There are five Assembly electoral regions (North Wales, Mid and West Wales, South Wales Central, South Wales East, South Wales West). In provisionally recommending the alteration of parliamentary constituencies, the Commission are required to consider whether any alteration in the Assembly electoral regions or in the allocation of seats to the Assembly electoral regions are required to give effect to the rules contained in Schedule 1 to the Government of Wales Act 1998.
- 7.8 Rule 1 requires that each Assembly constituency is wholly included in one Assembly electoral region. Rule 2 requires that the electorates of the Assembly electoral regions shall be as nearly equal as is practicable, having regard (where appropriate) to special geographic considerations. Rule 3 provides that the number of Assembly seats for the Assembly electoral regions shall be either one half of the total number of Assembly constituencies, or, if the total is not divisible by two, one half of the total plus one. Rule 4 provides that the number of Assembly seats for an Assembly region shall be either one fifth of the number calculated under Rule 3 or, if the Rule 3 total is not divisible by five, either one fifth of the highest number that is less than that total number and exactly divisible by five or the number produced by adding one to one fifth of that highest number (the procedures for calculating the number and allocation of residual seats are detailed in sub-paragraphs (2) to (4) of Schedule 1).

### **Procedures**

- 7.9 In conducting a review of constituencies, the Commission are required by the legislation to follow certain procedures, principally to provide for public consultation.
- 7.10 The Secretary of State must be given notice of a review and that notice must be published in the London Gazette. Provisional recommendations must be published in newspapers in the affected constituencies and, unless the proposals are for no changes to be made, they must also be deposited for public inspection in at least one place in each affected constituency. Representations may be made within one month of publication of the provisional recommendations and the Commission must take any representations into consideration. Where objections are received from a county or county borough council or a body of 100 or more electors, a local inquiry must be held. If the Commission revise their recommendations as a result of an inquiry, the revised representations must also be published and further representations invited and considered. A second local inquiry cannot be forced by these further representations, but there is discretionary power to hold a second inquiry. Any further modifications, as a result of further representations or a second inquiry, must also be published and representations invited. When the Commission have decided their final recommendations for the whole country, they must submit a report to the Secretary of State.

## **Implementation of the recommendations**

- 7.11 The Secretary of State has a statutory duty to lay the Commission's report before Parliament together with a draft Order in Council giving effect to the Commission's recommendations with or without modifications. If modifications are proposed, the Secretary of State must also lay a statement of reasons for the modifications. The draft Order in Council is submitted to both Houses of Parliament for approval and, after it is made by Her Majesty in Council, it cannot be called into question in any legal proceedings. The new constituencies take effect at the next following general election.
- 7.12 The above information is intended to be a general guide only. For a definitive statement of the law, please refer to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 – as amended by the Boundary Commissions Act 1992, the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994, the Government of Wales Act 1998, and the Scotland Act 1998 – together with the Court of Appeal ruling in *R v Boundary Commission for England Ex parte Foot* [1983] QB 600.

## **Crown Copyright**

- 7.13 The maps deposited at the addresses listed above were produced using data provided by Ordnance Survey, Romsey Road, Southampton SO16 4GU (telephone 08456 05 05 05 or 08456 05 05 04 for the Welsh language helpline). These maps and the maps that form part of this document are subject to © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction will infringe Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Any newspaper editor wishing to use the maps as part of an article about the provisional recommendations should first contact the Copyright Office at Ordnance Survey.

## **Enquiries**

- 7.14 Should you require further information about these provisional recommendations or about other aspects of the Commission's work please contact:

Boundary Commission for Wales  
Caradog House  
1-6 St Andrews Place  
Cardiff  
CF10 3BE

Telephone: 02920 395031

Fax: 02920 395250

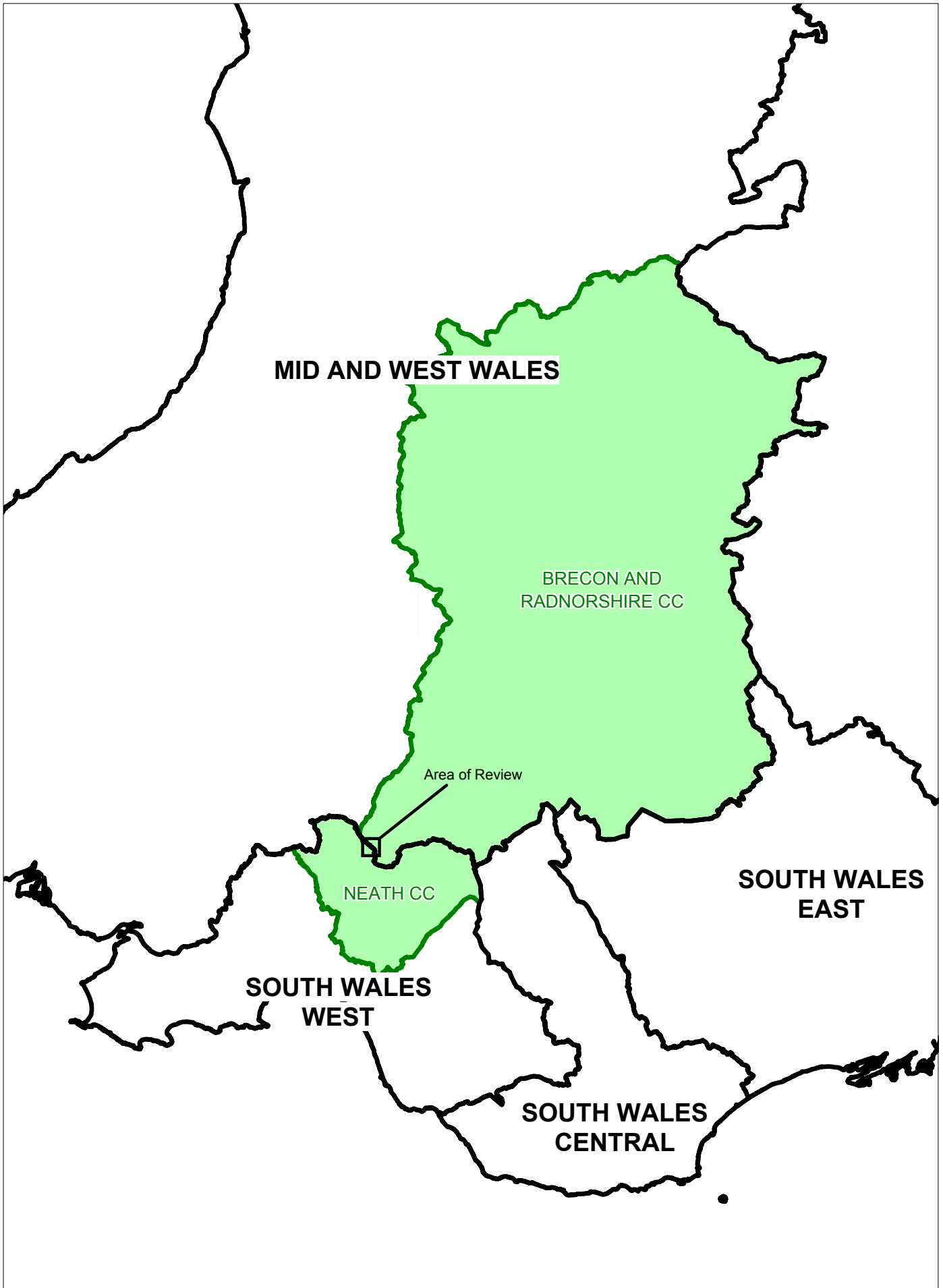
Email: [bcomm.wales@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bcomm.wales@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

The Internet version of these provisional recommendations and maps are now available on:

[www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk](http://www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk)



**NEATH - BRECON AND RADNORSHIRE  
CONSTITUENCIES AND ASSEMBLY ELECTORAL REGIONS**



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**ELECTORAL DIVISION ELECTORATES BY COUNTY**

<b>Powys</b>		<b>103,484</b>		
1.	Aber-craf	1,183	38. Llangors	861
2.	Banwy	765	39. Llangunllo	1,035
3.	Beguildy	1,129	40. Llangynidr	859
4.	Berriew	1,058	41. Llanidloes	2,271
5.	Blaen Hafren	1,824	42. Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	1,232
6.	Bronllys	963	43. Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant/Llansilin	1,412
7.	Builth	1,939	44. Llansantffraid	1,488
8.	Bwlch	786	45. Llanwrtyd Wells	1,457
9.	Caersws	1,838	46. Llanyre	949
10.	Churchstoke	1,298	47. Machynlleth	1,708
11.	Crickhowell	2,361	48. Maescar/Llywel	1,423
12.	Cwm-twrch	1,761	49. Meifod	1,054
13.	Disserth and Trecoed	1,027	50. Montgomery	995
14.	Dolforwyn	1,486	51. Nantmel	1,220
15.	Felin-fâch	1,070	52. Newtown Central	2,230
16.	Fordeu	1,098	53. Newtown East	1,503
17.	Glantwymyn	1,606	54. Newtown Llanllwchaiarn North	1,720
18.	Glasbury	1,806	55. Newtown Llanllwchaiarn West	1,376
19.	Guilsfield	1,823	56. Newtown South	1,240
20.	Gwernyfed	1,237	57. Old Radnor	1,325
21.	Hay	1,301	58. Presteigne	2,176
22.	Kerry	1,623	59. Rhayader	1,672
23.	Knighton	2,387	60. Rhiwcyonon	1,651
24.	Llanafanfawr	1,125	61. St.David Within	1,259
25.	Llanbadarn Fawr	878	62. St.John	2,559
26.	Llanbrynmair	764	63. St.Mary	2,076
27.	Llandinam	1,129	64. Talgarth	1,356
28.	Llandrindod East/Llandrindod West	952	65. Talybont-on-Usk	1,612
29.	Llandrindod North	1,490	66. Tawe-Uchaf	1,761
30.	Llandrindod South	1,725	67. Trewern	1,021
31.	Llandrinio	1,654	68. Welshpool Castle	1,076
32.	Llandysilio	1,361	69. Welshpool Gungrog	1,920
33.	Llanelwedd	986	70. Welshpool Llanerchydol	1,709
34.	Llanfair Caereinion	1,266	71. Ynyscedwyn	1,796
35.	Llanfihangel	863	72. Yscir	838
36.	Llanfyllin	1,132	73. Ystradgynlais	2,098
37.	Llangattock	852		

	<b>Neath Port Talbot</b>	<b>110,163</b>			
1.	Aberavon	4,270	39.	Tai-bach	3,778
2.	Aberdulais	1,768	40.	Tonna	1,967
3.	Allt-wen	1,820	41.	Trebanos	1,101
4.	Baglan	5,697	42.	Ystalyfera	2,343
5.	Blaengwrach	1,608			
6.	Briton Ferry East	2,425			
7.	Briton Ferry West	2,261			
8.	Bryn and Cwmavon	5,217			
9.	Bryn-côch North	1,879			
10.	Bryn-côch South	4,497			
11.	Cadoxton	1,400			
12.	Cimla	3,344			
13.	Coedffranc Central	3,087			
14.	Coedffranc North	1,880			
15.	Coedffranc West	1,878			
16.	Crynant	1,575			
17.	Cwmllynfell	928			
18.	Cymmer	2,254			
19.	Dyffryn	2,589			
20.	Glyncorwg	903			
21.	Glynneath	2,823			
22.	Godre'r graig	1,224			
23.	Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen	2,323			
24.	Gwynfi	1,104			
25.	Lower Brynamman	1,078			
26.	Margam	2,315			
27.	Neath East	4,920			
28.	Neath North	3,189			
29.	Neath South	3,678			
30.	Onllwyn	984			
31.	Pelenna	942			
32.	Pontardawe	4,086			
33.	Port Talbot	4,454			
34.	Resolven	2,519			
35.	Rhos	2,064			
36.	Sandfields East	5,173			
37.	Sandfields West	5,153			
38.	Seven Sisters	1,665			