

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) ACT 2015

Directions to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales 2016

In exercise of the powers conferred on them by sections 16 to 18 of the Local Government (Wales) Act 2015⁽¹⁾, and having consulted the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales and any association appearing to them to be representative of local authorities, the Welsh Ministers give the following Directions to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales.

Title and commencement

1.—(1) The title of these Directions is the Directions to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales 2016.

(2) These Directions come into force on the day after the date on which they are made.

Interpretation

2. In these Directions—

“the Commission” (“*y Comisiwn*”) means the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales;

“initial reviews” (“*adolygiadau cychwynnol*”) means the reviews to which paragraph 3 refers; and

“particular characteristics of an area” (“*nodweddion penodol ardal*”) include the density of its population, the mixture of Welsh and English speaking communities, within it, its geography and the levels of poverty within it.

Initial reviews

3. The Welsh Ministers direct the Commission to conduct an initial review of the following proposed principal areas⁽²⁾, described by reference to the existing principal areas comprised within them, which

(1) [The statute number will be inserted once the Bill receives Royal Assent].

(2) The proposals published by Welsh Ministers on 17 June 2015 include two options for the North Wales region, which result in either two or three proposed principal areas.

are proposals published by the Welsh Ministers on 17 June 2015⁽¹⁾.

(1) —

- (a) The counties of Isle of Anglesey and Gwynedd, and the county borough of Conwy;
- (b) The counties of Denbighshire and Flintshire, and the county borough of Wrexham;

(2) —

- (a) The counties of Isle of Anglesey and Gwynedd;
- (b) The county borough of Conwy, and the county of Denbighshire;
- (c) The county of Flintshire, and the county borough of Wrexham;

(3) —

- (a) The counties of Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire;
- (b) The county of Swansea, and the county borough of Neath Port Talbot;
- (c) The county boroughs of Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil;
- (d) The county boroughs of Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan; and
- (e) The county of Monmouthshire and the county boroughs of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Torfaen and Newport.

Date of report

4. The Welsh Ministers direct the Commission to—

- (a) make and submit to the Welsh Ministers a report containing recommendations from the Commission in relation to each initial review to which these Directions relate, by 31 July 2018; and
- (b) publish a timetable for the programme of those reviews within the period of two months following the coming into force of these Directions.

General Directions

5. The Welsh Ministers direct the Commission to have regard to—

- (a) the particular characteristics of an area and the extent to which those characteristics should influence the size of the ward and the number of electors within it;

⁽¹⁾gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2015/lgfuture/?lang=en.

- (b) the following principles—
- (i) existing electoral wards should be grouped together in groups of two or more to create proposed electoral wards;
 - (ii) a Welsh language name for each electoral ward should be recommended and, where there is not a generally accepted Welsh language name for an electoral ward, an English language equivalent should be recommended;
 - (iii) the number of councillors for a proposed principal area should be no smaller than the number produced by a councillor to elector ratio of 1:4000; and
 - (iv) the number of councillors for a particular proposed principal area should be no smaller than the number of councillors for another proposed principal area which has a smaller electorate.

Leighton Andrews
Minister for Public Services, one of the Welsh
Ministers

Date