



FIRST
PERIODICAL REPORT
OF THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION
FOR WALES

Presented by
the Secretary of State for the Home Department to Parliament
by Command of Her Majesty
by Command of Her Majesty
November 1954

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
THREE SHILLINGS NET

Cmd. 9313

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

Constituted in accordance with the House of Commons
(Redistribution of Seats) Act, 1949

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CONSTITUTION OF COMMISSION

IN ACCORDANCE with Part I of the First Schedule to the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act, 1949, the Commission was constituted as follows :

Ex-officio Members

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, *Chairman*.

DR. GEORGE NORTH, C.B., M.C., Registrar General.

MAJOR-GENERAL J. C. T. WILLIS, C.B.E., Director-General of Ordnance Survey.

And two other Members

SIR WYNN WHELDON, K.B.E., D.S.O., appointed by the Secretary of State.

CAPTAIN G. C. H. CRAWSHAY, J.P., D.L., appointed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

Sir Wynn Wheldon was nominated Deputy Chairman by the Speaker.

Mr. W. D. Mathieson, O.B.E., M.C., was appointed by the Secretary of State to be Secretary to the Commission.

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Boundary Commission for Wales

Report

*on First General Review of Parliamentary Constituencies under the
House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act, 1949*

TO MAJOR THE RIGHT HONOURABLE GWILYM LLOYD-GEORGE, M.P.

Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department

Sir,

1. We, the Boundary Commission for Wales, constituted in accordance with the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act, 1949, beg to submit, in pursuance of Section 2 of that Act, this report on parliamentary constituency boundaries in Wales.
2. Present constituency boundaries in Wales were established by the Representation of the People Act, 1948, following recommendations submitted as the Commission's initial report of 1947 (CMD 7274), but alterations to the boundaries of the borough constituencies of Cardiff North, Cardiff South East and Cardiff West and to the boundaries of the county constituencies of Barry and Monmouth have since been effected by Statutory Instrument 1951 No. 1390 (The House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Cardiff, Barry and Monmouth Order, 1951) following recommendations made by the Commission under the provisions of Section 2(3) of the 1949 Act.
3. The Commission is required by the 1949 Act to keep under review the representation of Wales in the House of Commons and to submit to the Secretary of State not less than three or more than seven years from the passing of the Representation of the People Act, 1948 (30th July, 1948) a report with respect to the whole of Wales showing the constituencies into which they recommend that it should be divided in order to give effect to the rules set out in the Second Schedule to that Act. This is our first report under that Act.
4. The rules provided for our guidance are given in Appendix A to this report and details of our recommendations are contained in Appendix B. A note on the maps which accompany the report forms Appendix C.
5. Notice of our intention to commence a general review of constituencies was published in the *London Gazette* on 28th August, 1953. Our procedure was as follows:—We had before us particulars, provided by the General Register Office, of the electorates of each administrative area as at 15th March, 1953, and maps prepared for us by the Ordnance Survey Department showing in detail all the administrative areas in Wales. On the basis of this information we formulated provisional recommendations and published them locally. We then considered representations submitted to us and determined our final recommendations.
6. We were required by the Act of 1949 to publish our proposals in local newspapers circulating in the areas affected. In many cases we published our proposals in more than one newspaper. Where our proposals involved changes to the boundary of a constituency we arranged for a copy of the proposals together with a map illustrating the changes to be made available for inspection by the public at a local authority office or other suitable place within the constituency. The addresses of the offices at which inspection could be made were included in the Press notices. We are grateful to local authorities and others for their ready co-operation in this matter.
7. The notices advertising our proposals included a statement that any representations relating to the proposals should be addressed to the Commission within one month of the date of publication. In fact, we received only five objections to our provisional recommendations. These are dealt with later.
8. It is provided in Rule 1 that the number of constituencies in Wales shall not be less than 35. The present representation of Wales is based upon a total allocation of 36 seats, one more than the minimum prescribed by the Act, an additional seat having been allocated following the recommendation in our initial report in 1947. We decided that while no increase in the present

representation was necessary, no substantial change had occurred since the last review which would afford justification for recommending a reduction of seats. Our final recommendations are thus based upon a distribution of 36 seats.

9. The terms of Rule 6 gave us discretion to depart from the strict application of Rules 4 and 5, if in our view, departure was desirable to meet special geographical considerations which in Wales we found paramount. After careful consideration of these and other factors we came to the conclusion that we would be justified in recommending that no alteration is required to be made to the boundaries of 30 of the existing 36 constituencies. Among the "no change" constituencies are the county constituencies of Abertillery, Anglesey, Merioneth and Montgomery and the borough constituencies of Rhondda East and Rhondda West, all of which have 1953 electorates of less than 40,000.

10. We have decided to recommend an adjustment of the parliamentary boundary between the borough constituency of Newport and the county constituency of Monmouth designed to bring the parliamentary and local government boundaries into conformity in consequence of the extension of the boundary of the borough of Newport under the Newport Corporation Act, 1954. We have also recommended a minor adjustment of the parliamentary boundary between the county constituencies of Carmarthen and Llanely with the object of removing a slight divergence between the parliamentary and local government boundaries due to an extension of the urban district of Ammanford. Two minor objections to our provisional recommendations for Carmarthen and Llanely were submitted to us. In one it was represented that further adjustment of the boundary involving the transfer of an area from Llanely to Carmarthen was desirable in order to reduce the present disparity between the electorates of the two constituencies. In the other it was suggested that part of the area of the Carmarthen constituency should be transferred to the Llanely constituency with the object of reducing the size of the former constituency and rendering it more accessible. We did not feel that there was sufficient substance in either of these suggestions to justify us in acting upon them. We have recommended a minor adjustment of the boundary between the borough constituencies of Swansea East and Swansea West designed to bring the parliamentary boundary into conformity with recent changes in ward boundaries but without disturbing the present balance of electorates, viz. 53,575 in Swansea East and 59,451 in Swansea West. It was represented to us that the electorates of these two constituencies should be brought into closer conformity with the electoral quota by a further adjustment of boundary involving the division of a ward. In our view the disparity between the electorates is not such as to justify any further change at present.

Representations were made to us for minor adjustments to two other constituencies, one of which involved the cutting of a county boundary and the other cutting of an urban district, but in neither case have we felt justified in using the discretion given us in Rule 6.

11. In the formation of borough constituencies we have recommended the intersection of only one borough. In four instances we have recommended the division of a rural district. In only one case have we found it necessary to divide a ward.

12. We record with deep regret the death of Captain G. C. H. Crawshay on 8th November, 1954. Captain Crawshay had approved this report.

13. In conclusion, we desire to place on record our sincere appreciation of the services of our Secretary, Mr. W. D. Mathieson and his staff. The ability and diligence with which he performed his duties have facilitated the accomplishment of our work.

We have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

(Signed)

W. S. MORRISON

(Chairman).

WYNN P. WHELDON

(Deputy Chairman).

GEORGE NORTH.

J. C. T. WILLIS.

W. D. MATHIESON,

Secretary.

10th November, 1954.

APPENDIX A

Rules for Redistribution of Seats

1. The number of constituencies in the several parts of the United Kingdom set out in the first column of the following table shall be as stated respectively in the second column of that table—

<i>Part of the United Kingdom</i>	<i>No. of Constituencies</i>
Great Britain	Not substantially greater or less than 613
Scotland	Not less than 71
Wales	Not less than 35
Northern Ireland	12

2. Every constituency shall return a single member.

3. There shall continue to be a constituency which shall include the whole of the City of London and the name of which shall refer to the City of London.

4.—(1) So far as is practicable having regard to the foregoing rules—

(a) in England and Wales,—

(i) no county or any part thereof shall be included in a constituency which includes the whole or part of any other county or the whole or part of a county borough or metropolitan borough ;

(ii) no county borough or any part thereof shall be included in a constituency which includes the whole or part of any other county borough or the whole or part of a metropolitan borough ;

(iii) no metropolitan borough or any part thereof shall be included in a constituency which includes the whole or part of any other metropolitan borough ;

(iv) no county district shall be included partly in one constituency and partly in another ;

(b) in Scotland, no burgh other than a county of a city shall be included partly in one constituency and partly in another ;

(c) in Northern Ireland, no county district shall be included partly in one constituency and partly in another.

(2) In paragraph (1) of this rule the following expressions have the following meanings, that is to say :—

“ county ” means an administrative county other than the county of London ;

“ county borough ” has the same meaning as in the Local Government Act, 1933 ;

“ county district ” has, in sub-paragraph (a), the same meaning as in the Local Government Act, 1933, and, in sub-paragraph (c), the same meaning as in the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898.

5. The electorate of any constituency shall be as near the electoral quota as is practicable having regard to the foregoing rules ; and a Boundary Commission may depart from the strict application of the last foregoing rule if it appears to them that a departure is desirable to avoid an excessive disparity between the electorate of any constituency and the electoral quota, or between the electorate thereof and that of neighbouring constituencies in the part of the United Kingdom with which they are concerned.

6. A Boundary Commission may depart from the strict application of the last two foregoing rules if special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency, appear to them to render a departure desirable.

7. For the purpose of these rules—

(a) the expression “ electoral quota ” means—

(i) in the application of these rules to a constituency in Great Britain, a number obtained by dividing the electorate for Great Britain by the number of constituencies in Great Britain existing on the enumeration date ;

(ii) in the application of these rules to a constituency in Northern Ireland, a number obtained by dividing the electorate for Northern Ireland by the number of constituencies in Northern Ireland existing on the enumeration date ;

(b) the expression “ electorate ” means—

(i) in relation to a constituency, the number of persons whose names appear on the register of parliamentary electors in force on the enumeration date under the Representation of the People Acts for the constituency ;

(ii) in relation to Great Britain or Northern Ireland, the aggregate electorate as hereinbefore defined of all the constituencies therein ;

(c) the expression “ enumeration date ” means, in relation to any report of a Boundary Commission under this Act, the date on which the notice with respect to that report is published in accordance with section two of this Act.

APPENDIX B

Schedule of Recommendations

(Electorates as in the March 1953 and March 1954 Electoral Registers)

1. ANGLESEY

County Constituency of Anglesey

1953 Electorate : 36,142

1954 Electorate : 36,212

Contents : The county of Anglesey.

2. BRECKNOCKSHIRE AND RADNORSHIRE

County Constituency of Brecon and Radnor

1953 Electorate : 52,729

1954 Electorate : 52,372

Contents : The counties of Brecknock and Radnor.

3. CAERNARVONSHIRE

County Constituency of Caernarvon

1953 Electorate : 43,339

1954 Electorate : 43,142

Contents : (i) The boroughs of Caernarvon and Pwllheli ;
(ii) the urban districts of Criccieth and Portmadoc ;
(iii) the rural districts of Gwyrfaï and Lley.

County Constituency of Conway

1953 Electorate : 46,244

1954 Electorate : 46,403

Contents : (i) The boroughs of Bangor and Conway ;
(ii) the urban districts of Bethesda, Betws-y-coed, Llandudno, Llanfairfechan and Penmaenmawr ;
(iii) the rural districts of Nant Conway and Ogwen.

4. CARDIGANSHIRE

County Constituency of Cardigan

1953 Electorate : 40,783

1954 Electorate : 40,570

Contents : The county of Cardigan.

5. CARMARTHENSHIRE

County Constituency of Carmarthen

1953 Electorate : 58,535

1954 Electorate : 58,489

Contents : (i) The boroughs of Carmarthen, Kidwelly and Llandovery ;
(ii) the urban districts of Llandilo and Newcastle Emllyn ;
(iii) the rural districts of Carmarthen and Newcastle Emllyn and the rural district of Llandilo as constituted by the County of Carmarthen (Ammanford Urban District) Confirmation Order, 1953, except the parish of Bettws.

County Constituency of Llanelly

1953 Electorate : 65,894

1954 Electorate : 65,545

Contents : (i) The borough of Llanelly ;
(ii) the urban district of Ammanford as constituted by the County of Carmarthen (Ammanford Urban District) Confirmation Order, 1953, and the urban districts of Burry Port and Cwmamman ;
(iii) the rural district of Llanelly and the parish of Bettws in the rural district of Llandilo.

6. DENBIGHSHIRE

County Constituency of Denbigh

1953 Electorate : 53,996

1954 Electorate : 53,758

Contents : (i) The boroughs of Colwyn Bay, Denbigh and Ruthin ;
(ii) the urban districts of Abergele, Llangollen and Llanrwst ;
(iii) the rural districts of Aled, Hiraethog and Ruthin, the parishes of Llangollen Rural and Llantysilio in the rural district of Wrexham and the rural district of Ceiriog except the parish of Chirk.

County Constituency of Wrexham

1953 Electorate : 64,956

1954 Electorate : 64,917

Contents : (i) The borough of Wrexham ;
(ii) the parish of Chirk in the rural district of Ceiriog and the rural district of Wrexham except the parishes of Llangollen Rural and Llantysilio.

7. FLINTSHIRE

County Constituency of East Flint

1953 Electorate : 51,428

1954 Electorate : 51,613

Contents : (i) The borough of Flint ;
(ii) the urban districts of Buckley, Connah's Quay and Holywell ;
(iii) the rural districts of Hawarden and Maellor.

County Constituency of West Flint

1953 Electorate : 46,380

1954 Electorate : 46,563

Contents : (i) The urban districts of Mold, Prestatyn and Rhyl ;
(ii) the rural districts of Holywell and St. Asaph.

8. GLAMORGANSHIRE

County Constituency of Aberavon

1953 Electorate : 51,415

1954 Electorate : 52,117

Contents : (i) The borough of Port Talbot ;
(ii) the urban districts of Glyncothrog and Porthcawl ;
(iii) the following parishes in the rural district of Penybont, namely, Kenfig, Pyle, Sker, Tythegston Lower and Tythegston Higher.

County Constituency of Barry

1953 Electorate : 55,342

1954 Electorate : 55,867

Contents : (i) The borough of Barry ;
(ii) the rural district of Cardiff.

County Constituency of Caerphilly

1953 Electorate : 47,154

1954 Electorate : 47,558

Contents : The urban districts of Caerphilly and Gelligaer.

County Constituency of Gower

1953 Electorate : 50,639

1954 Electorate : 50,615

Contents : (i) The urban district of Llwchwr ;
(ii) the rural districts of Gower and Pontardawe.

County Constituency of Neath

1953 Electorate : 51,940

1954 Electorate : 51,885

Contents : (i) The borough of Neath ;
(ii) the rural district of Neath.

8. GLAMORGANSHIRE—*continued*

County Constituency of Ogmore

1953 Electorate : 56,585

1954 Electorate : 56,561

Contents : (i) The urban districts of Bridgend, Maesteg and Ogmore and Garw ;
(ii) the rural district of Penybont except the parishes included in the Aberavon constituency.

County Constituency of Pontypridd

1953 Electorate : 54,452

1954 Electorate : 54,632

Contents : (i) The borough of Cowbridge ;
(ii) the urban district of Pontypridd ;
(iii) the rural districts of Cowbridge and Llantrisant and Llantwit-Fardre.

Borough Constituency of Aberdare

1953 Electorate : 51,125

1954 Electorate : 50,916

Contents : The urban districts of Aberdare and Mountain Ash.

Borough Constituency of Cardiff North

1953 Electorate : 61,188

1954 Electorate : 62,121

Contents : The following wards of the county borough of Cardiff, namely, Cathays, Central, Gabalfa, Penylan and Plasnewydd.

Borough Constituency of Cardiff South East

1953 Electorate : 60,675

1954 Electorate : 60,509

Contents : (i) The following wards of the county borough of Cardiff, namely, Adamsdown, Roath, South and Splott ;
(ii) the urban district of Penarth.

Borough Constituency of Cardiff West

1953 Electorate : 63,153

1954 Electorate : 62,949

Contents : The following wards of the county borough of Cardiff, namely, Canton, Ely, Grangetown, Llandaff and Riverside.

Borough Constituency of Merthyr Tydfil

1953 Electorate : 42,960

1954 Electorate : 42,656

Contents : The county borough of Merthyr Tydfil.

Borough Constituency of Rhondda East

1953 Electorate : 39,943

1954 Electorate : 39,732

Contents : Wards Nos. 7 to 11 of the urban district of Rhondda and the part of Ward No. 6 of that district lying to the east of the middle of the River Rhondda.

Borough Constituency of Rhondda West

1953 Electorate : 36,775

1954 Electorate : 36,541

Contents : Wards Nos. 1 to 5 of the urban district of Rhondda and the part of Ward No. 6 of that district lying to the west of the middle of the River Rhondda.

Borough Constituency of Swansea East

1953 Electorate : 53,595

1954 Electorate : 54,230

Contents : The following wards, as defined by Order in Council dated the thirtieth day of January, 1952, of the county borough of Swansea, namely, Castle, Landore, Llansamlet, Morrision, Penderry, St. John's and St. Thomas'.

8. GLAMORGANSHIRE—*continued*

Borough Constituency of Swansea West

1953 Electorate : 59,431

1954 Electorate : 59,574

Contents : The following wards (as so defined), of the county borough of Swansea, namely, Brynmelin, Fforestfach, Ffynone, Mumbles, St. Helen's, Sketty, Townhill and Victoria.

9. MERIONETHSHIRE

County Constituency of Merioneth

1953 Electorate : 27,989

1954 Electorate : 27,722

Contents : The county of Merioneth.

10. MONMOUTHSHIRE

County Constituency of Abertillery

1953 Electorate : 39,773

1954 Electorate : 39,558

Contents : The urban districts of Abercarn, Abertillery and Nantyglo and Blaina.

County Constituency of Bedwellty

1953 Electorate : 44,828

1954 Electorate : 45,006

Contents : The urban districts of Bedwas and Machen, Bedwellty, Mynyddislwyn and Risca.

County Constituency of Ebbw Vale

1953 Electorate : 40,075

1954 Electorate : 39,836

Contents : The urban districts of Ebbw Vale, Rhymney and Tredegar.

County Constituency of Monmouth

1953 Electorate : 48,776

1954 Electorate : 49,162

Contents : (i) The boroughs of Abergavenny and Monmouth ;
(ii) the urban district of Caerleon as constituted by the Newport Corporation Act, 1954, and the urban districts of Chepstow and Usk ;
(iii) the rural districts of Abergavenny, Chepstow, Monmouth and Pontypool, and the rural district of Magor and St. Mellons as constituted by the Newport Corporation Act, 1954.

County Constituency of Pontypool

1953 Electorate : 46,601

1954 Electorate : 46,877

Contents : The urban districts of Blaenavon, Cwmbran and Pontypool.

Borough Constituency of Newport

1953 Electorate : 73,361

1954 Electorate : 73,049

Contents : The county borough of Newport as constituted by the Newport Corporation Act, 1954.

11. MONTGOMERYSHIRE

County Constituency of Montgomery

1953 Electorate : 32,384

1954 Electorate : 32,216

Contents : The county of Montgomery.

12. PEMBROKESHIRE

County Constituency of Pembroke

1953 Electorate : 62,503

1954 Electorate : 62,827

Contents : The county of Pembroke.

APPENDIX C

Note on Maps

1. The map provided with this report (No. 2 Great Britain, 1/625,000, Sheet 2) shows proposed Parliamentary boundaries in green and Administrative boundaries, with which they are linked, in red.
2. A set of maps has been deposited at the Vote Office, House of Commons, for reference by Members of Parliament.

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