



House of Commons

Tuesday 30 June 2020

PUBLIC BILL COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES BILL

[FIRST TO EIGHTH SITTINGS]

GLOSSARY

This document shows the fate of each clause, schedule, amendment and new clause.

The following terms are used:

Agreed to: agreed without a vote.

Agreed to on division: agreed following a vote.

Negatived: rejected without a vote.

Negatived on division: rejected following a vote.

Not called: debated in a group of amendments, but not put to a decision.

Not moved: not debated or put to a decision.

Question proposed: debate underway but not concluded.

Withdrawn after debate: moved and debated but then withdrawn, so not put to a decision.

Not selected: not chosen for debate by the Chair.

[FIRST AND SECOND SITTINGS]

Chloe Smith

Agreed to

That—

- (1) the Committee shall (in addition to its first meeting at 11.30am on Thursday 18 June) meet—
 - (a) at 2.00pm on Thursday 18 June;
 - (b) at 9.25am and 2.00pm on Tuesday 23 June;
 - (c) at 11.30am and 2.00pm on Thursday 25 June;
 - (d) at 9.25am and 2.00pm on Tuesday 30 June;
 - (e) at 11.30am and 2.00pm on Thursday 2 July;
- (2) the Committee shall hear oral evidence in accordance with the following Table:

Parliamentary Constituencies Bill, *continued*

TABLE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Witness</i>
Thursday 18 June	Until no later than 12.20pm	Boundary Commission for England Boundary Commission for Scotland
Thursday 18 June	Until no later than 12.40pm	Boundary Commission for Wales
Thursday 18 June	Until no later than 1pm	Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland
Thursday 18 June	Until no later than 2.30pm	The Conservative Party
Thursday 18 June	Until no later than 3pm	The Labour Party
Thursday 18 June	Until no later than 3.30pm	The Liberal Democrats
Thursday 18 June	Until no later than 4pm	The Scottish National Party
Thursday 18 June	Until no later than 4.30pm	Plaid Cymru
Thursday 18 June	Until no later than 5pm	Professor Richard Wyn Jones, Wales Governance Centre, Cardiff University
Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 9.55am	Dr Alan Renwick, The Constitution Unit, University College London
Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 10.10am	The Green Party
Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 10.40am	Professor Roger Awan-Scully, School of Law and Politics, Cardiff University
Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 11.25am	Professor Iain McLean, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford Professor Sir John Curtice, Department of Politics, University of Strathclyde
Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 2.30pm	The Association of Electoral Administrators
Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 3pm	The Local Government Boundary Commission for England

 Parliamentary Constituencies Bill, *continued*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Witness</i>
Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 3.30pm	The Electoral Reform Society
Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 3.50pm	The Democratic Unionist Party
Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 4.10pm	Dr Jac Larnar, Wales Governance Centre, Cardiff University
Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 5pm	Professor Charles Pattie, Department of Politics, University of Sheffield Dr David Rossiter

- (3) proceedings on consideration of the Bill in Committee shall be taken in the following order: Clauses 1 to 11, the Schedule, Clause 12, New Clauses, New Schedules, remaining proceedings on the Bill;
- (4) the proceedings shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion at 5.00pm on Thursday 2 July.

Chloe Smith

That, subject to the discretion of the Chair, any written evidence received by the Committee shall be reported to the House for publication.

Agreed to

Chloe Smith

That, at this and any subsequent meeting at which oral evidence is to be heard, the Committee shall sit in private until the witnesses are admitted.

Agreed to

The following witnesses gave oral evidence:

Tony Bellringer, Secretary, Boundary Commission for England.
Isabel Drummond-Murray, Secretary, Boundary Commission for Scotland.
Shereen Williams MBE, Secretary, Boundary Commission for Wales.
Eamonn McConville, Secretary, Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland.
Roger Pratt CBE, Boundary Review Director, Conservative Party.
Tom Adams, Acting Director of Data and Targeting, Labour Party.
Dave McCobb, Deputy Director (Campaigns & Elections), Liberal Democrats.
Scott Martin, Solicitor, Scottish National Party.
Geraint Day, Deputy CEO and Head of Elections Campaigns Unit, Plaid Cymru.
Professor Richard Wyn Jones, Wales Governance Centre.

 Parliamentary Constituencies Bill, *continued*

 [THIRD AND FOURTH SITTINGS]

Chloe Smith

That, the Order of the Committee of 18 June be varied so as to omit the tenth, eleventh and twelfth rows in the table and substitute the following—

Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 9.55 am	Dr Alan Renwick, The Constitution Unit, University College London Professor Robert Hazell, The Constitution Unit, University College London
Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 10.20 am	The Green Party

Agreed to

The following witnesses gave oral evidence:

Dr Alan Renwick, Deputy Director, Constitution Unit, University College London.

Professor Robert Hazell, Professor of Government and the Constitution, Constitution Unit, University College London.

Chris Williams, Head of Elections and Field Operations, Green Party.

Professor Ian MacLean, Professor of Politics, Nuffield College.

Professor Sir John Curtice, Professor of Politics, University of Strathclyde.

Peter Stanyon, Chief Executive, Association of Electoral Administrators.

Andrew Scallan, Deputy Chair, Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

Darren Hughes, Chief Executive, Electoral Reform Society.

Gavin Robinson MP, Member of Parliament, Democratic Unionist Party.

Dr Jac Larner, Research Associate, Wales Governance Centre.

Dr David Rossiter, retired research fellow.

Professor Charles Pattie, Professor of Politics, University of Sheffield.

 [FIFTH AND SIXTH SITTINGS]

Cat Smith
Christian Matheson

Clause 1, page 1, line 5, leave out subsection (2)

Withdrawn after debate 2

Cat Smith
Christian Matheson

Clause 1, page 1, line 14, leave out subsection (4)

Not called 3

 Parliamentary Constituencies Bill, *continued*

Cat Smith
Christian Matheson

Not called 4

Clause 1, page 2, line 16, leave out subsection (7)

Clause agreed to.

Cat Smith
Christian Matheson

Not selected 5

Page 2, line 17, leave out Clause 2

Clause agreed to on division.

Clauses 3 to 5 agreed to.

David Linden
Ben Lake

Withdrawn after debate 8

Clause 6, page 4, line 35, before “for” insert “(a)”

David Linden
Ben Lake

Withdrawn after debate 6

Clause 6, page 4, line 36, leave out “which exist, or are prospective, on the review date”

[SEVENTH AND EIGHTH SITTINGS]

Ben Lake

Withdrawn after debate 1

Clause 6, page 4, line 37, at end insert—

“(2A) In rule 5(1)(d) (list of factors), after “local” insert “and linguistic”. ”

David Linden
Ben Lake

Not called 9

Clause 6, page 4, line 37, at end insert “, and

(b) after paragraph (c), insert—

“(ca) boundaries of polling districts, where useable data is available;”

 Parliamentary Constituencies Bill, *continued*

David Linden
Ben Lake

Not called 7

Clause 6, page 4, line 38, leave out subsections (3) and (4)

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 7 to 11 agreed to.

Mrs Maria Miller
Alun Cairns
Robin Millar
Simon Baynes
Rob Roberts
Alec Shelbrooke

Chris Clarkson

Mr Gagan Mohindra

Bob Seely

Agreed to 14

Schedule, page 7, line 16, leave out “for “596” substitute “646”” and insert “leave out “596” and insert “645””

Ben Lake
David Linden

Not called 11

Schedule, page 7, line 17, leave out “646” and insert “645”

David Linden
Ben Lake

Not called 10

Schedule, page 7, line 29, at end insert—

“(1A) In paragraph 2(1) omit the words “and no more than five” in each of the subparagraphs.”

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 12 agreed to.

Chloe Smith

Agreed to NC1

To move the following Clause—

“Registers used to determine the “electorate” in relation to the 2023 reports

- (1) In rule 9(2) of Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act (definition of the “electorate”), for “The” substitute “Subject to sub-paragraph (2A), the”.
- (2) After rule 9(2) of that Schedule insert—

“(2A) In relation to a report under section 3(1) that a Boundary Commission is required (by section 3(2)) to submit before 1 July 2023, the

Parliamentary Constituencies Bill, *continued*

“electorate” of the United Kingdom, or of a part of the United Kingdom or a constituency, is the total number of persons whose names appear on a register of parliamentary electors (maintained under section 9 of the Representation of the People Act 1983) in respect of addresses in the United Kingdom, or in that part or that constituency, as that register has effect on 2 March 2020.”

Cat Smith
Christian Matheson

Negated on division NC2

To move the following Clause—

“Electorate per constituency

- (1) In rule 2(1)(a) of Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act (electorate per constituency) for “95%” substitute “92.5%”.
 - (2) In rule 2(1)(b) of Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act (electorate per constituency) for “105%” substitute “107.5%”.
-

Cat Smith
Christian Matheson

Withdrawn after debate NC3

To move the following Clause—

“Allocation of constituencies

- (1) Rule 8 of Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act (the allocation method) is amended as follows.
- (2) After rule 8(5) insert—
 - 5 “(6) Notwithstanding the allocation of constituencies according to the allocation method set out in rule 8(2)-(5), there must be a minimum allocation of constituencies as follows—
 - (a) Wales must be allocated at least 35 constituencies;
 - 10 (b) Scotland must be allocated at least 59 constituencies (including the two protected constituencies); and
 - (c) Northern Ireland must be allocated at least 18 constituencies; and the allocation of constituencies must be adjusted accordingly.”

Parliamentary Constituencies Bill, *continued*

As an Amendment to Cat Smith's proposed New Clause (*Allocation of constituencies*) (NC3):—

David Linden
Ben Lake

Not called (a)

Line 8, leave out "35" and insert "40"

Cat Smith
Christian Matheson

Negated on division NC4

To move the following Clause—

Definition of "electorate"

- (1) The 1986 Act is amended as follows.
 - (2) In rule 9(2) of Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act, omit the words from "the version that is required" to the end and insert "the electoral register as on the date of the last General Election before the review date."
-

David Linden
Ben Lake

Withdrawn after debate NC5

To move the following Clause—

"Highland Constituencies"

In Rule 4(2)(a) of Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act (Area of constituencies) for "12,000" substitute "9,000".

Ben Lake
David Linden
Cat Smith
Christian Matheson

Not called NC6

To move the following Clause—

"Ynys Môn to be a Protected Constituency"

After Rule 6(2)(b) of Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act (protected constituencies) insert—

Parliamentary Constituencies Bill, *continued*

“a constituency named Ynys Môn, comprising the County of the Isle of Anglesey.””

David Linden
Ben Lake

Withdrawn after debate NC7

To move the following Clause—

“Constituency Groupings

- (1) Rule 7 of Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act (Northern Ireland) is amended as below.
 - (2) In the heading for “Northern Ireland” substitute “Constituency Groupings”.
 - (3) In rule 7(1) for “Northern Ireland” substitute “any grouping of five or more constituencies being considered by a Boundary Commission”.
 - (4) In rule 7(1)(a)(i) for “Northern Ireland” substitute “the area being considered”.
 - (5) In rule 7(1)(a)(ii) and rule 7(2) for “in Northern Ireland (determined by rule 8)” substitute “being considered for the area”.
 - (6) In rule 7(1)(b) for “Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland” substitute “relevant Boundary Commission”.
 - (7) In rule 7(2) for “the electorate of Northern Ireland” substitute “the electorate of the area”.
-

David Linden [R]
Ben Lake

Withdrawn after debate NC8

To move the following Clause—

“Boundary Re-alignment

- (1) Where—
 - (a) existing parliamentary boundaries when originally recommended by the relevant Boundary Commission contained an element of alignment with a local authority area boundary; but
 - (b) as a consequence of a local authority area boundary review these boundaries have ceased to be aligned; and
 - (c) the number of registered electors affected by the local authority area boundary change was not more than 1,000;the relevant Boundary Commission may submit a report recommending the re-alignment of the parliamentary constituencies affected to the new local authority area boundary.
 - (2) The procedure in Section 4 applies to orders following a recommendation under subsection (1), as it applies to orders following reports of the Boundary Commission under Section 3, with any necessary modifications.”
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 Parliamentary Constituencies Bill, *continued*

Cat Smith
Christian Matheson

Not called NC9

To move the following Clause—

“Completeness of the Electoral Register

- (1) The 1986 Act is amended as follows.
- (2) In rule 5(1) of Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act, at end insert—
 - “(f) data from the Department for Work and Pensions about non-registered voters eligible to vote.””

Mrs Maria Miller
Alun Cairns
Robin Millar
Simon Baynes
Rob Roberts
Alec Shelbrooke

Chris Clarkson

Mr Gagan Mohindra

Bob Seely

Agreed to NC10

To move the following Clause—

“Protected constituencies

- (1) Schedule 2 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 is amended as follows.
- (2) In rule 6(2), after paragraph (b) insert “;
 - (c) a constituency named Ynys Môn, comprising the area of the Isle of Anglesey County Council”.
- (3) In rule 8(5)—
 - (a) in paragraph (b), for “6(2)” substitute “6(2)(a) and (b)”, and
 - (b) after paragraph (b) insert “;
 - “(c) the electorate of Wales shall be treated for the purposes of this rule as reduced by the electorate of the constituency mentioned in rule (6)(2)(c)”.
- (4) In rule 9(7)—
 - (a) after “6” insert “(2)(a) or (b)”, and
 - (b) after “2011” insert “, and the reference in rule 6(2)(c) to the area of the Isle of Anglesey County Council is to the area as it existed on the coming into force of the Schedule to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020”.

Bill, as amended, to be reported.
