

Parliamentary Constituencies Bill

AMENDMENTS
TO BE MOVED
IN GRAND COMMITTEE

Clause 1

LORD FOULKES OF CUMNOCK

Page 1, line 12, leave out “2031” and insert “2033”

Page 1, line 13, leave out “eighth” and insert “tenth”

After Clause 4

LORD THOMAS OF CWMGIEDD

Insert the following new Clause—

“The Boundary Commissions: constitution

- (1) Schedule 1 to the 1986 Act (the Boundary Commissions) is amended as follows.
- (2) At the end of paragraph 2 insert “in accordance with paragraph 3A below”.
- (3) In paragraph 3(a), for “Lord Chancellor” substitute “Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales”.
- (4) In paragraph 3(c), for “Lord Chancellor” substitute “Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales”.
- (5) After paragraph 3 insert—
 - “3A The two members of each Commission appointed by the Secretary of State shall each be appointed in accordance with the following process—
 - (a) a selection panel shall be convened by the Secretary of State to select the members of the Commission, which shall comprise—
 - (i) the deputy chairman of the Commission, and
 - (ii) two persons appointed by the Speaker of the House of Commons;
 - (b) the selection panel shall determine the selection process to be applied and apply that process;

After Clause 4 - continued

- (c) the selection panel shall select only one person for recommendation for each appointment as a member of the Commission;
 - (d) the selection panel shall submit to the Secretary of State a report stating who has been selected and any other information required by the Secretary of State;
 - (e) the Secretary of State shall on receipt of the report do one of the following—
 - (i) accept the selection,
 - (ii) reject the selection, or
 - (iii) require the panel to reconsider the selection;
 - (f) the power of the Secretary of State to require the selection panel to reconsider a selection is exercisable only on the ground that, in the Secretary of State’s opinion, there is not enough evidence that the person selected is suitable for appointment as a member of the Commission;
 - (g) the power of the Secretary of State to reject a selection is exercisable only on the ground that, in the Secretary of State’s opinion, the person selected is not suitable for appointment as a member of the Commission;
 - (h) the Secretary of State shall give the selection panel reasons in writing for requiring the reconsideration of, or rejecting, any selection.”
- (6) In paragraph 4, insert at the end “, but the term for which each member (other than the chairman) is appointed shall be a non-renewable term.””

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that the appointment of members of the Boundary Commissions is made and is seen to be made independently and without the influence or appearance of influence of the Executive, to remove the possibility of political interference in the process of setting the boundaries of Parliamentary constituencies.

Clause 5

LORD HAIN
LORD WIGLEY

Page 4, line 31, at end insert—

- “(2) Rule 3 of Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act (allocation of constituencies to parts of the United Kingdom) is amended in accordance with subsections (3) and (4).
- (3) After rule 3(1) insert—
 - “(1A) The number of constituencies in Wales shall not be less than 35.”
- (4) In rule 3(2), at the beginning insert “Subject to rule 3(1A),”.”

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28 August 2020
