

2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales

We are strongly opposed to the proposals to break up the current constituency of Montgomeryshire and feel that the breakup of this ancient Shire and historical links is not acceptable.

The Commission has taken little account of secondary criterion and has arbitrarily applied numbers to achieve an 'equality of the vote' with no consideration given to the rural sparsity and geography of Powys.

These new proposed constituencies sprawl a number of local authority areas, working across these borders will make it more difficult for the MPs to represent their constituencies as effectively. Due to the large geographical areas proposed some MPs will be required to work across 5 local authority areas.

If the Commission continues with its current proposals we wish to comment on the inclusion of the Blaen Hafren and Llanidloes electoral divisions in the new Constituency of Ceredigion and North Pembrokeshire. There would be a significant break with neighbouring communities, Llanidloes is a town in mid Wales and would have limited links or connection historical, cultural or otherwise with parts of Ceredigion and North Pembrokeshire. Whilst we do not presume to know or represent the area, we believe there is some scope to alter the suggested boundary between Ceredigion and North Carmarthenshire to include divisions that may already look to this area for services. This could help to bolster the proportion of Carmarthenshire already being included in this new constituency, reinforcing their weight of representation in this new constituency.

As you acknowledge in your report the viability of any alternative suggestions need to be accommodated within the requirements as to the size of electorate. Our suggestion would impact on electoral numbers in the new constituency Carmarthenshire, however, given their shared county area and the larger electorate of Llanelli a Lliw, this does allow for some flexibility.

The Council believe that the new boundary between the Brecon, Radnor and Montgomery constituency and South Clwyd and North Montgomeryshire does break existing community links with Welshpool. We consider the electoral divisions of Berriew and Forden would be better served by remaining in the same constituency as their local town Welshpool, to which they naturally look towards for their services. Whilst this would not impact on electorates it would help balance constituency electorates further.