

# 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<sup>(1)</sup>, 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<sup>(2)</sup>, described by reference to the existing principal areas comprised within them, which

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(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<sup>(1)</sup>.

(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;

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<sup>(1)</sup>[gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2015/lgfuture/?lang=en](http://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





Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

[www.gov.wales](http://www.gov.wales)

Welsh Government

## Consultation Document

# Draft Directions to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales

Date of issue: **17 August 2015**

Action required: Responses by **9 November 2015**

## Overview

We are seeking your views on the Draft Directions to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission Wales.

As part of its programme of local government reform, the Welsh Government will require the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission Wales to conduct reviews of electoral arrangements for proposed new local authority areas.

This consultation seeks your views on the detail of the Draft Directions, including thoughts on council size and the ratio of electors for each elected member.

## How to respond

Please respond using the form at the end of the document and either send in hard copy to the address below or by email to: [RLGProgramme@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:RLGProgramme@wales.gsi.gov.uk).

If you are sending your response by email, please mark the subject of your e-mail: Directions to the LDBCW Consultation

## Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

## Contact details

For further information:

Reforming Local Government Programme  
Welsh Government  
Crown Buildings  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

email: [RLGProgramme@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:RLGProgramme@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

telephone: 029 2082 6202

## Data protection

### How the views and information you give us will be used

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full.

Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.















**Question 5. Do you agree that each ward within a local authority area should have roughly the same number of electors per elected member?**

Yes   
No

**Give reasons for your response:**

**Question 6. What effect should the particular characteristics of an area have on the number of councillors needed to represent the population?**

**Question 7. Do you agree that commonly used Welsh language names for wards do not also need an English language equivalent?**

Yes   
No

**If no, do you think that each ward should have an English and Welsh name?**

Yes   
No

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Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here:

## Draft Directions to Boundary Commission for Initial Reviews

No maximum or minimum council size, but councils cannot have a councillor/elector ratio of lower than 1:4,000

### Option 1 - 3 Local Authorities in North Wales

Merging Authorities	Total electors (2015 local government electorate figures)	Total Electors for Proposed new Council	Minimum Number of Councillors for Proposed new Council (based on ration of 1:4,000)	Current Councillor Numbers
Gwynedd	81,672			
Isle of Anglesey	50,352	132,024	33	105
Conwy	93,051			
Denbighshire	76,087	169,138	42	106
Flintshire	118,439			
Wrexham	103,408	221,847	55	122
Ceredigion	54,773			
Carmarthenshire	141,025			
Pembrokeshire	92,189	287,987	72	176
Blaenau Gwent	51,987			
Caerphilly	132,157			
Torfaen	70,073			
Newport	107,135			
Monmouthshire	73,180	434,532	109	250
Swansea	181,167			
Neath Port Talbot	106,621	287,788	72	132
Bridgend	104,300			
Merthyr Tydfil	43,968			
Rhondda, Cynon, Taf	175,682	323,950	81	162
Cardiff	253,607			
The Vale of Glamorgan	96,756	350,363	88	122
<b>Powys*</b>	<b>103,822</b>	<b>103,822</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Wales</b>	<b>2,254,219</b>		<b>616</b>	<b>1248</b>
<b>Average Size Council</b>			<b>68</b>	

### Option 2- 2 Local Authorities in North Wales

Merging Authorities	Total electors (2015 local government electorate figures)	Total Electors for Proposed new Council	Minimum Number of Councillors for Proposed new Council (based on ration of 1:4,000)	Current Councillor Numbers
Gwynedd	81,672			
Isle of Anglesey	50,352			
Conwy	93,051	225,075	56	164
Denbighshire	76,087			
Flintshire	118,439			
Wrexham	103,408	297,934	74	169
Ceredigion	54,773			
Carmarthenshire	141,025			
Pembrokeshire	92,189	287,987	72	176
Blaenau Gwent	51,987			
Caerphilly	132,157			
Torfaen	70,073			
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Monmouthshire	73,180	434,532	109	250
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Rhondda, Cynon, Taf	175,682	323,950	81	162
Cardiff	253,607			
The Vale of Glamorgan	96,756	350,363	88	122
<b>Powys*</b>	<b>103,822</b>	<b>103,822</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Wales</b>	<b>2,311,451</b>		<b>616</b>	<b>1248</b>
<b>Average Size Council</b>			<b>77</b>	

*\*Powys, as a 'continuing authority' is not included in the Direction for 'Initial Reviews' and the consultation paper states that the 2011 Electoral Review will be implemented ahead of the 2017 elections, providing Powys with 64 members. Powys will however be the first council to be reviewed under the Commission's 10 year cycle following mergers; the criteria for this review may be subject to a further Ministerial Direction, however, if the same 1:4000 ratio was applied, Powys would have 26 councillors.*

