

COMPARISON OF THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION'S DRAFT PROPOSALS AGAINST THE PRINCIPLES PROPOSED BY GWYNEDD COUNCIL IN ITS INITIAL OBSERVATIONS.

THE COUNCIL'S PRINCIPLES	THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS	THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE
There is a need for 65 members to fulfil the functions effectively.	To reduce the number of members from 75 to 66.	The Council welcomes the number proposed as it coincides with the opinion of the Council itself.
The member to elector ratio should be varied in accordance with the requirements of the area, e.g. population profile, geography and nature of the area.	An endeavour to place the emphasis on improving electoral equality by keeping the ratio close to the average of 1:1297. Under the draft proposals, 89% of the members will come within +/-25% of the average compared with 52% under the existing arrangements.	Whilst accepting that large variations are not desirable, the Council believes that this should not be achieved at the expense of the nature and requirements of the area. See in particular the observations made below regarding local connections and multi-member divisions.
No councillor should have more than two community councils within the electoral division.	Acknowledge the observation; however, the proposals increase the number of divisions which include three or more communities from four to six by adding <u>Aberdyfi</u> (three community councils) and <u>Llanuwchllyn and Mawddwy</u> (three community councils).	The proposals do not coincide with the Council's desire to see a reduction in the number of electoral divisions which include more than two communities.
The Council does not support increasing the number of multi-member divisions.	To increase the number of multi-member divisions from four to eight. The proposal includes removing one existing multi-member division and creating five new ones.	The Council's opinion is that two members for each division provides the most expedient and effective arrangements. It is difficult to justify creating new multi-member divisions, especially in those divisions where it does not change the member: elector ratio substantially. The statutory presumption is one member to each division.

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The number of members in the existing multi-member divisions should not exceed two.	One of the proposals proposes a three member division.	The proposal does not coincide with the Council's principle, which is aimed at having expedient and effective electoral arrangements. Too much emphasis is placed on electoral equality at the expense of the guidance not to change the existing pattern of the multi-member divisions without general support by the electors to the change.
Consideration should be given to the population which has not registered in some parts of the county e.g. seasonal population.	There is no evidence that this principle has been addressed.	The Council's principle continues to be relevant.
The historical areas of Arfon, Dwyfor and Meirionnydd should be maintained unless there is a valid reason for deviating from them.	One of the proposals proposes a division which would cross the boundaries of Arfon and Dwyfor (despite the fact that the Commission had addressed the principle when drawing up other proposals).	The historical areas are important in terms of maintaining local connections and these would be broken when a division crosses the boundary. The desirability of maintaining local ties which would be broken when drawing up any specific boundary is one of the statutory requirements on the Commission and the Council is eager for these areas to be respected.
Consideration given to secondary school catchment areas and not set divisions which encompass more than one catchment area.	There is no evidence that this principle has been addressed.	The Council's principle continues to be relevant.