

Andrew RT Davies

Aelod o'r Senedd dros
Ganol De Cymru

Member of the Senedd for
South Wales Central

Senedd Cymru

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, [REDACTED]

Welsh Parliament

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Chair, Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru

Sent by email



19th December 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: 2026 Review of Senedd Constituencies Revised Proposals

I write with regard to the above.

As you will be aware, there has been significant public interest in the Commission's decision to choose mostly Welsh-language only names for its proposed constituencies. Given that Wales is bilingual, there is particular concern that in most instances, the English language has been omitted. This is despite the fact most Welsh people are English-only speakers, and so are not familiar with many of the chosen Welsh language constituency names.

While Welsh-only names are appropriate in some instances, in others they will cause considerable confusion. For example, the proposed Clwyd constituency will be well recognised locally, as it takes its name from the preserved county of Clwyd and eponymous river running through the area. However, in my home area, the Commission's proposed constituency combines the Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan parliamentary seats. This constituency's proposed name is "*Pen-y-bont Bro Morgannwg*". This is an area in which barely 10% of the population are Welsh speakers, and the respective Welsh language place names are not widely recognised or used.

Turnout in Senedd elections is notoriously poor, with fewer than half of the eligible electorate casting their votes. In fact, turnout has never exceeded 50% in a devolved election in Wales. To be clear, I am pro-Welsh language, but using Welsh-only constituency names that are not commonly used in the local area will create considerable confusion. This will have the effect of disenfranchising English-only speakers. This is because people are more likely to engage in a process in which they have a sense of belonging or place. Choosing constituency names with which people are familiar is therefore crucial.

From the correspondence I have received, there is also a perception it was a deliberate choice to use Welsh-only constituency names, with the intended effect of influencing turnout to achieve a perceived desired election result. For obvious reasons, this is not a perception that can be allowed to take hold.



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

It is therefore vital that the proposed constituency names are changed to also include their English equivalents. I consequently urge the Commission to address this in its final proposals.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my representations, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,



Andrew RT Davies MS
South Wales Central Regional MS

