

Comisiwn Democratiaeth a Ffiniau Cymru
Parc Cathays
Caerdydd
CF10 3NQ

10 Ionawr | January 2025

Revised Proposals for the 2026 review of Senedd constituencies: Alternative Names

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a response to the Commission's revised proposals for the 2026 review of Senedd constituencies, as published in December 2024.

We commend the Commission's decision to adopt Welsh language names in its revised proposals. We also support the Commission's efforts to choose names that will continue to be accessible in the English language, including in its avoidance of grammatical mutations where these might result in unfamiliar names in English.

However, in seeking to remove markers such as commas, hyphens and the word 'a' (i.e. 'and') for all recommended constituency names, we also note that the revised proposals include several names that are awkward, imprecise and/or inelegant in both Welsh and English. In the following consultation response, we therefore propose several alternatives that would maintain a Welsh language name but would provide a more flowing and elegant means to describe the proposed constituency area.

1. Bangor Conwy Môn. We recommend the name Aberconwy, Môn a Menai, which we believe provides a more flowing and elegant means to describe the constituency in the Welsh language and yet remains easy to pronounce in English.

2. Clwyd. In the revised proposals the Commission argues that "the name is acceptable for use as a single name as it is likely to be recognisable to residents of the same broad region of Wales as it is commonly used and is a well-established name for the region".

'Clwyd' is of course a commonly used and well-established name, but the region covers a much larger area than that proposed for the new constituency: the post-1996 preserved county of Clwyd covers the area from Llanfairfechan to Bangor-on-Dee. Since the large majority of the preserved county of Clwyd lies outside the proposed constituency, using this name for such a small subset of the county area is inappropriate.

We argue that an alternative seat name – Bryniau Clwyd a'r Glannau – provides a more accurate description for the area. It reflects the two primary features of the proposed constituency: the upland area around Bryniau Clwyd (the Clwydian Range), plus the long coastal sweep of the northeast coast.

3. Fflint Wrecsam. In the revised proposals, the Commission notes that this formulation “is likely to be recognisable to residents of the same broad region of Wales whose primary language is not Welsh”. We agree that this constituency name meets this goal but argue that in the process the Commission has ended up with an inelegant name in both Welsh and English.

We argue that an alternate name, Maelor, offers a convenient alternative that recalls the historic commotes/cymydau of Maelor Gymraeg and Maelor Saesneg in the north east of Wales that formed the majority of the new constituency’s area and population (see <https://rcahmw.gov.uk/mapping-the-historic-boundaries-of-wales-commotes-and-cantrefys/>). ‘Maelor’ offers a simple and short version for the constituency name which is well known in the present day for the regional hospital.

A second alternative – Wrecsam Dyfrdwy – would link the two major elements of this seat. The local water company is named Hafren Dyfrdwy, such that constructions such as these are familiar in the English language.

4. Gwynedd Maldwyn. We agree with this proposed constituency name and suggest no changes.

5. Ceredigion Penfro. We agree with this proposed constituency name and suggest no changes.

6. Sir Gâr. We agree with this proposed constituency name and suggest no changes.

7. Gorllewin Abertawe Gŵyr / Swansea West Gower. In its revised proposals, the Commission argues that this proposal “combines the names of the UK Parliamentary constituencies. The Commission considers that the Welsh language name is not acceptable for use in English due to the inclusion of Gorllewin (meaning West) and the Commission has therefore proposed alternative official names in both languages”. But in simply conflating two existing names into one without any grammatical connector, the Commission has ended up with a very inelegant and imprecise name. For example, it is not clear in the English version of the name whether the ‘West’ applies to ‘Swansea’ or ‘Gower’.

We instead propose the alternative name Gŵyr. This is a geographically and historically politically accurate name for this proposed paired constituency – the commote/cwmwd of Gŵyr, which included modern day Swansea city centre (see <https://rcahmw.gov.uk/mapping-the-historic-boundaries-of-wales-commotes-and-cantrefys/>) Using the historic Welsh name distinguishes from the constituency of ‘Gower’ at Westminster level, and avoids the need to use the Welsh word ‘Gorllewin’ which the Commission views as not acceptable for common use in English.

8. De Powys Tawe Nedd / South Powys Tawe Neath. In its revised proposals, the Commission argues that this proposed name “incorporates 1 of the local authorities included within the proposed constituency as well as the river that passes through all 3

local authorities and the name of a large town in the area”. But in simply conflating three area names and one cardinal direction into one, without using any grammatical connector, the Commission has ended up with an awkward and inelegant name.

We instead propose the alternative name Tawe, Nedd a'r Bannau. This alternative reflects the primary geographical features of the coastal areas and the most prominent geographical feature of the inland area, and provides a more elegant means to describe the seat. We also note that the majority of the proposed constituency's electorate is located close to the lower Tawe and Nedd valleys and Swansea Bay.

9. Afan Ogwr Rhondda. We agree with this proposed constituency name and suggest no changes.

10. Merthyr Cynon Taf. We agree with this proposed constituency name and suggest no changes.

11. Blaenau Gwent Caerffili Rhymni. In its revised proposals, the Commission argues that this proposal “incorporates the 2 local authorities and a major valley within the proposed constituency and is likely to be recognisable to residents”. We agree that the names included in this name will be recognisable to residents but argue that in simply conflating three area names into one without any grammatical connector, the Commission has ended up with an awkward and inelegant proposal.

We propose a more elegant alternative, namely Cwm Rhymni a Blaenau Gwent. This alternative reflects the two former district councils and geographic/political communities that form this proposed constituency. Inclusion of the word ‘Cwm’ is deliberate, to distinguish from the village of Rhymney and recognise the pairing of the Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney constituency with the southern part of the Rhymney valley (i.e. the Caerphilly constituency).

12. Mynwy Torfaen. We agree with this proposed constituency name and suggest no changes.

13. Casnewydd Islwyn. We agree with this proposed constituency name and suggest no changes.

14. De-ddwyrain Caerdydd Penarth / South-east Cardiff Penarth. In seeking to incorporate multiple elements into this proposed constituency name without any grammatical connectors, the Commission has ended up with an unwieldy, imprecise and inelegant name in both English and Welsh. ‘South East’ is an ordinal compass direction and refers to a much more narrowly defined area of the city than is proposed by the Commission for this Senedd constituency. Here, we note that a constituency name of Cardiff South East existed for the House of Commons between 1950 and 1983. As its name implies, it covered the southeast part of the city – i.e. Adamsdown, Butetown, Grangetown, Roath, Rumney, and Splott.

Given the much larger area of this seat than simply ‘southeast Cardiff’, a more generalised name is needed. Moreover, although the area of this constituency extends beyond the boundaries Cardiff boundary to Penarth, a means to shorten, generalise and simplify the proposed constituency name is necessary. We therefore propose De Caerdydd / Cardiff South.

15. Gogledd-orllewin Caerdydd / Cardiff North-west. As with the other constituency for Cardiff, this proposed name is inelegant and somewhat misleading in its geographic extent. ‘North West’ is an ordinal compass direction and refers to a much more narrowly defined area of the city than is proposed by the Commission for this large Senedd constituency. Here, we note that a constituency name of Cardiff North West existed for the House of Commons between 1974 and 1983. As its name implies, it covered the northwest part of the city – i.e. Gabalfa, Llanishen, Rhiwbina, and Whitchurch. Given the much larger area of this seat than simply ‘northwest Cardiff’, a more generalised name is needed. We therefore propose Gogledd Caerdydd / Cardiff North.

16. Pen-y-bont Bro Morgannwg. In the Commission’s formulation, it could be inferred that Pen-y-bont is *in* Bro Morgannwg. To clarify this and to allow the proposed constituency name flow more neatly in both languages, we recommend removing the hyphens and adding an ‘a’ connector. Simplifying the town name by removing the hyphens has local precedent, such as the name of the local Cymru Premier team in both English and Welsh, Penybont F.C. The resulting alternative constituency name would be Penybont a Bro Morgannwg.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to respond to the Commission’s revised proposals for the 2026 Senedd constituencies, and thank you again for your work on this important reform.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir,

[REDACTED]

Darlennydd mewn Gwleidyddiaeth | Reader in Politics

[REDACTED]

Athro Gwleidyddiaeth Cymru | Professor of Welsh Politics

[REDACTED]

Athro Polisi Cyhoeddus | Professor of Public Policy

[REDACTED]

Darlithydd mewn Gwleidyddiaeth | Lecturer in Politics



Canolfan
Llywodraethiant Cymru
Wales Governance
Centre

Ysgol Cyfraith a Gwleidyddiaeth Caerdydd
Caerdydd [REDACTED]

Cardiff School of Law and Politics
Cardiff [REDACTED]