

2026 Senedd Review: Revised Proposals

Welsh Liberal Democrat response to the consultation on the Revised Proposals

Dear Commissioners,

Further to the publication of the Revised Proposals for the 2026 Senedd constituency boundaries, we would like to add to the comments we made in response to the Initial Proposals.

In our response to the Initial Proposals, we felt that in the vast majority of cases the Commission had drawn sensible and realistic boundaries in the context of the legislation setting out the specifications for the 2026 boundaries. We still believe this to be true.

We did argue for a reconsideration of the boundaries in North Wales based on a pairing of Ynys Mon-Dwyfor Merionydd, and we are sceptical that the legislation necessitates a pairing of Ynys Mon-Bangor Aberconwy. However, we do understand the Commission's reasoning here.

The only substantive change in the Revised Proposals was to the seats within the Cardiff area, and we wish to reiterate our view that the Initial Proposals proposed the most suitable arrangement for these seats, i.e. a 'pairing' of Cardiff North-Cardiff East and Cardiff West-Cardiff South and Penarth.

We wish to firmly support the Initial Proposals in the Cardiff area and oppose the Revised Proposals. The Initial Proposals were strongly supported in the previous consultation round and provide a clearer, more natural boundary between constituencies than the more artificial boundary in the revised proposals. This makes a real difference to the quality of representation that future MSs will be able to provide.

The Westminster constituencies of Cardiff North and Cardiff East are interlinked and make a sensible Senedd constituency pairing:

- Cyncoed naturally flows into the neighbouring wards of both Heath and Llanishen - Heath railway stations are on the boundary between Cyncoed and Heath, for example
- Pentwyn flows into Pontprennau, with the local Waitrose serving both communities
- Llanrumney naturally flows into Old St Mellons, with St Mellons/Trowbridge ward also nearby

Conversely, there is a clear natural boundary (i.e. the River Taff) dividing Cardiff North from Cardiff West, with only a very small number of bridges over the river between the two constituencies.

There is also a clear if man-made boundary between Cardiff East and Cardiff South & Penarth constituencies in most places

- The main railway runs between Splott and Adamsdown, which provides a formidable barrier and results in few community links between the two.
- There is also a railway line which creates a clear boundary between Cathays and Plasnewydd.

Above all, we note that the initial proposals to pair Cardiff West with Cardiff South and Penarth received 59 representations in favour and 28 against. The proposal to pair Cardiff East with Cardiff North received 32 representations in favour and only 16 against. These were among the most strongly supported proposals in the consultation exercise, whereas as you know boundary proposals often receive significant opposition. Given this context and the geographic context provided above, we would urge you to follow your initial judgement and revert to the original proposals.

We do not wish to make any comments on the naming of seats.

We would as ever like to thank the Commissioners and Commission staff for their work on the review.

Yours Faithfully,

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Chief Executive, Welsh Liberal Democrats