

Minutes of the meeting of the Electoral Commission held on Tuesday 23 March 2010 at 3.30pm

Present: Jenny Watson (JW) Chair
Max Caller (MC))
Ian Kelsall (IK)) by videoconference
John McCormick (JMcC))

In attendance Lisa Klein (LK)
Stephen Rooney (SR)
Andrew Scallan (AS)
Bob Posner (BP)
Kairen Zonena (KZ)

Kay Jenkins (KJ)
Andy O'Neill (AON)
Tony Stafford (TS)
Nina Ziaullah (NZ)
Adrian Fryer (AF)
Catherine Rose (CR)
Christie Dennehy (CD)

1 Apologies

Henrietta Campbell and Tony Hobman for absence.

2 Declaration of Interests

None.

3 Referendums – expenditure limits (Wales) (EC33/10)

3.1 KJ introduced the paper and confirmed that a letter of consultation had been received on 22 March from the Secretary of State for Wales.

3.2 In response to a question, she confirmed that the most recent relevant election used to determine expenditure levels for the referendum on

the powers of the Welsh Assembly would almost certainly be the 2007 Welsh Assembly elections, since the date of the trigger vote made it inevitable that any referendum would have to be held before the next Welsh Assembly elections in May 2011. However, our advice to the Secretary of State could be framed in terms of 'the most recent Welsh Assembly elections'.

- 3.3 In terms of next steps and handling, communication with Westminster leads might need to be more high-profile than a letter referring to our contacts with the parties in Wales, but this would be kept under review.

Agreed: That:

- (a) the position on the expenditure limits applying to 'designated organisations' and 'permitted participants' in a referendum on increased powers for the Welsh Assembly be approved, it being noted that the 'most recent relevant election' would be taken in this case to mean the most recent Welsh Assembly election; and
- (b) the Chair and the Chief Executive be authorised to respond formally to the consultation issued by the Secretary of State for Wales.

The meeting ended at 3.50 pm.

Chair