



Rhys ab Owen MS  
Member of the Senedd for South Wales Central  
Rhys.abOwen@senedd.wales

07 October 2021

Dear Rhys ab Owen MS,

I am writing to provide additional information in response to your Oral Question on 22 September 2021 regarding the Boundary Commission's current review of Welsh constituencies for UK Parliamentary elections.

The Welsh Government recognises the important constitutional function of Welsh representation in the House of Commons. Welsh MPs serve a vital role in scrutinising the UK Government and representing Welsh interests in Westminster.

We have said in 'Reforming our Union: Shared Governance in the UK' that it should be a matter for each legislature of the UK to determine its own electoral arrangements, and as such we did not interfere in the process by which the UK Parliament, via the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020, commenced a boundary review process based on an electoral quota which would inevitably reduce the number of Welsh seats. We do, however, engage in regular discussions with the UK Government at Ministerial and official level about elections policies.

However, it is our view, as also set out in 'Reforming our Union', that the allocation of seats to each part of the UK should be fixed at a constitutionally and politically appropriate level to guarantee an effective Welsh voice and representation.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Following the completion of the Boundary Commission's work, the constituency boundaries for Senedd and UK Parliamentary elections cease to be coterminous. This will be among the factors to be considered in light of the Senedd's views on reform of its own electoral system.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mick Antoniw". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Mick Antoniw AS/MS**

Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a Gweinidog y Cyfansoddiad  
Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution