

Status: Point in time view as at 20/03/2021.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, SCHEDULE 2A. (See end of Document for details)

SCHEDULES

[^{F1}SCHEDULE 2A

Section 5

PUBLIC HEARINGS ABOUT BOUNDARY COMMISSION PROPOSALS

Textual Amendments

- F1** Sch. 2A inserted (16.2.2011) by Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 (c. 1), s. 19(1), Sch. 11 (with s. 13(5))

Purpose of hearings

- 1 The purpose of a public hearing is to enable representations to be made about any of the proposals with which the hearing is concerned.

Number of hearings

- 2 (1) In relation to any particular report under section 3(1)(a) of this Act—
- (a) the Boundary Commission for England shall cause at least two and no more than five public hearings to be held in each English region;
 - (b) the Boundary Commission for Scotland shall cause at least two and no more than five public hearings to be held in Scotland;
 - (c) the Boundary Commission for Wales shall cause at least two and no more than five public hearings to be held in Wales;
 - (d) the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland shall cause at least two and no more than five public hearings to be held in Northern Ireland.
- (2) The public hearings in an English region shall be concerned with proposals for that region, and shall between them cover the whole region.
- (3) The public hearings in Scotland shall be concerned with proposals for Scotland, and shall between them cover the whole of Scotland.
- (4) The public hearings in Wales shall be concerned with proposals for Wales, and shall between them cover the whole of Wales.
- (5) The public hearings in Northern Ireland shall be concerned with proposals for Northern Ireland, and shall between them cover the whole of Northern Ireland.

Chair of hearing

- 3 For each public hearing the Boundary Commission concerned shall appoint a person to chair the hearing.

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Length of hearings

- 4 A public hearing shall be completed within two days.

Procedure at hearings

- 5 It is for the chair of each public hearing to determine the procedure that is to govern that hearing.
- 6 The chair shall make arrangements for a public hearing to begin with an explanation of—
- (a) the proposals with which the hearing is concerned;
 - (b) how written representations about the proposals may be made (as mentioned in section 5(1)(a), (4)(b) ^[F2], (4B)(b)] or (5)(c) of this Act).

Textual Amendments

- F2** Word in [Sch. 2A para. 6\(b\)](#) inserted (14.12.2020) by [Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 \(c. 25\)](#), s. 14(2), [Sch. para. 5\(2\)](#) (with s. 13(2))

- 7 (1) The chair of a public hearing must allow representations to be made—
- (a) by each qualifying party;
 - (b) by any other persons (whether individuals or organisations) considered by the chair to have an interest in any of the proposals with which the hearing is concerned.
- Paragraph (b) above has effect subject to sub-paragraph (3)(b) below.
- (2) The chair may restrict the amount of time allowed for representations—
- (a) by qualifying parties, and
 - (b) by other persons,
- and need not allow the same amount to each.
- (3) The chair may determine—
- (a) the order in which representations are made, and
 - (b) if necessary because of shortage of time, which of those wishing to make representations are not allowed to do so,
- in whatever way the chair decides.
- 8 (1) The chair may put questions, or allow questions to be put, to a person present at the hearing.
- (2) If questions are allowed to be put, the chair may regulate the manner of questioning or restrict the number of questions a person may ask.

Interpretation

- 9 In this Schedule—
- “the chair” means the person appointed under paragraph 3 above;
- ^[F3]“English region” means a region specified in rule 5(2A) of Schedule 2 as the region existed on the day referred to in rule 5(2) of that Schedule;
- “public hearing” means a hearing under ^[F4]section 5(4)(c) of this Act;

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“qualifying party” means a party that is registered under Part 2 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and either—

- (a) has at least one Member of the House of Commons representing a constituency in the region, or (as the case may be) the part of the United Kingdom, in which the hearing is held, or
- (b) received at least 10% of the votes cast in that region or part in the most recent parliamentary general election.]

Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in Sch. 2A para. 9 substituted (31.12.2020) by [The European Parliamentary Elections Etc. \(Repeal, Revocation, Amendment and Saving Provisions\) \(United Kingdom and Gibraltar\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2018 \(S.I. 2018/1310\), reg. 1, Sch. 2 para. 1\(4\)](#) (as amended by S.I. 2019/1389, regs. 1, 2(2))
- F4** Words in Sch. 2A para. 9 substituted (14.12.2020) by [Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 \(c. 25\), s. 14\(2\), Sch. para. 5\(3\)](#) (with s. 13(2))

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