



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1265
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/00157/22

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

28 March 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter about Petition P-06-1265 Amend the name of new electoral ward for Saltney, Flintshire to "Saltney and Saltney Ferry."

The petition received by the Committee suggests the name given to the new Saltney Ferry electoral ward is an error and that it should be named Saltney and Saltney Ferry. Pages 65 and 66 of the Commission's Final Recommendations Report sets out its recommendations for the area in question. It includes reference to 27 representations received about the draft proposals, which are summarised in appendix five of the report. A number, but not all, of those representations raised issues with the proposal to name the electoral ward Saltney, with some suggesting the name should be Saltney and Saltney Ferry. My officials sought confirmation from the Commission about the recommended name. The Commission confirmed its intention was for the electoral ward to be named Saltney Ferry and not Saltney and Saltney Ferry.

After receiving a report containing recommendations from the Commission, including proposed English and Welsh forms of electoral ward names, the Welsh Ministers may make an Order implementing any recommendation, with or without modification, or may decide to take no action. Importantly in coming to decisions about implementation of the Commission's recommendations, the law requires that Welsh Ministers only implement a recommendation with modification where they are satisfied it is in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

In coming to my decision I considered all information available, including three representations proposing the name be changed from Saltney Ferry to Saltney and Saltney Ferry. On this occasion I decided to implement the Commission's recommendation to name the electoral ward Saltney Ferry without modification. In this case the Commission made no recommendations to change the community arrangements and therefore they remain as at present.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales
Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru

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.

The naming of electoral wards has resulted in difficulties and delays at the end of the review process. As I acknowledged in the written statement I issued on 7 December, individuals, not surprisingly, are passionate about these names. There is often tension between names which individuals identify with and proposals put forward by the Commission. I have been clear this is an area which will need to be explored further in advance of the next set of reviews to establish what additional steps can be taken to improve the process.

The Order to implement my decision in respect of the electoral arrangements for the County of Flintshire is now in force. A link to the Order can be found [here](#).

The review process is now complete. Local authorities are already in the process of implementing these arrangements to ensure the smooth delivery of the elections in May 2022.

I note the concerns expressed by the signatories of the petition and am grateful to the Committee for passing on their views. I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage people to engage with the established legal process for electoral reviews at a time when it is on-going to have their voices heard.

While it is not my intention to revisit my decision in advance of the May 2022 local government election, reviews of electoral arrangements in the future will be conducted on a regular basis. It will be open to Members of the Senedd, the council, communities and residents to put forward proposals for change as part of any future review.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government