

Tŷ Caradog  
1-6 Plas Sant Andreas  
Caerdydd  
CF10 3BE



Comisiwn Ffiniau  
Llywodraeth Leol  
i Gymru  
Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for Wales

Caradog House  
1-6 St. Andrews Place  
Cardiff  
CF10 3BE

E-bost:  
cfilll.cymru@cymru.gsi.gov.uk  
www.cfilll-cymru.gov.uk

☎ (029) 2039 5031  
Ffacs/Fax (029) 2039 5250

E-mail:  
lgbc.wales@wales.gsi.gov.uk  
www.lgbc-wales.gov.uk

22 August 2012

Mr Colin Everett  
Chief Executive  
Flintshire County Council  
c/o chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk

Dear Mr Everett

### **Electoral Reviews: Council Size Policy Consultation Paper**

The Commission wishes to thank all authorities that responded to the consultation paper on Council Size. In all, seventeen responses were received from principal councils; responses were also received from political parties, individual councillors and former members. We are grateful for the work put in by all in responding and for the suggestions made. We now wish to inform you of the current situation concerning this exercise.

The Commission has undertaken a preliminary view of the answers to the questions posed. In general the replies showed that:

- Outlining a detailed approach to adopting a particular council size was considered helpful;
- The principle of banding was considered useful when considering council size;
- It was considered helpful to hold detailed discussions about council size at the start of the review process of electoral arrangements with the council concerned;
- That the areas of 'council business' identified in the consultation paper were considered pertinent to the issue of council size.

However concerns were expressed regarding the council size range described in the paper, the councillor: elector ratio and the desirability of Ministerial Directions. The responses showed that the methodology used to establish the number of councillors for each authority was not clearly defined in its reasoning and did not meet the needs of individual councils.

Following the end of the consultation period, representatives of the Commission met the representatives of WLGA to discuss the paper and the response of the Association. It was agreed that further discussions should take place to seek to identify a way forward, based on the areas of agreement, the work to include other options for alternative methods for establishing councillor numbers. Following that meeting arrangements are now in place for those discussions to take place.

It is the intention of the Commission to consider the options arising from those discussions, and to decide on further steps to take the matter forward.

The Commission wishes to continue the discussions on this important matter and will maintain contact with the WLGA.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Owen Watkin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a thin, light-colored rectangular border.

Owen Watkin  
Chair