

Leighton Andrews AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
Minister for Public Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-589  
Ein cyf/Our ref LA -/05064/14

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
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9 October 2014

*Dear William,*


Thank you for the letter of 30 September on behalf of the Petitions Committee, in connection with the petition urging a review of councillor numbers in Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales have a duty to monitor the electoral arrangements of local government in Wales and publish a 10 year programme of reviews. The Commission's latest review programme was suspended following the publication of the report of the Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery.

The White Paper – Reforming Local Government - sets out proposals for the future of Local Government in Wales, including reducing the number of Principal Councils through a programme of mergers. This would involve the Boundary Commission reviewing electoral arrangements in each proposed new county area.

In the light of this, directing the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales to conduct an electoral review in Blaenau Gwent at the present time would be a futile exercise.

The Welsh Ministers will direct the Commission to start the work of reviewing the electoral arrangements for merged authorities when the relevant legislation is passed.

*Yours sincerely,*  


**Leighton Andrews AC / AM**  
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