



National Assembly for **Wales**
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol **Cymru**

Assembly Constituencies and Electoral Regions

This paper describes the new Assembly constituency and Assembly electoral region boundaries that will take effect for the Assembly election in May 2007. It also describes the changes from the boundaries that are currently in force.

January 2007



Assembly Constituencies and Electoral Regions

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January 2007

Paper number: 07/006

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Executive Summary

There are changes to the boundaries of Assembly constituencies and Assembly electoral regions that take effect for the Assembly election in May 2007.

The Boundary Commission for Wales carries out regular reviews of the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies in Wales.

The Commission's fifth periodical report on parliamentary constituencies and first report on National Assembly for Wales electoral regions was laid before parliament on 14 December 2005.

An Order implementing the Commission's recommendations came into force on 25 April 2006. However the changes to boundaries for the Assembly do not take effect until the next ordinary election to the Assembly in May 2007 and for Parliament until the next General Election.

There are major changes to parts of north Wales, with the creation of three new constituencies (Aberconwy, Arfon, and Dwyfor Meirionnydd) in place of the existing constituencies of Conwy, Caernarfon and Meirionnydd Nant Conwy.

There are also substantial changes involving more than 3,000 residents to a further 9 constituencies, smaller changes involving less than 3,000 residents to another 8 constituencies and very minor changes to a further 4 constituencies. There are no changes to the remaining 16 constituencies.

The Commission has also redefined the North Wales and Mid and West Wales electoral regions to reflect the changes to constituency boundaries. There is also a minor adjustment to the boundary between the South Wales West and South Wales Central regions.

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Assembly Constituencies and Electoral Regions

There are changes to the boundaries of Assembly constituencies and Assembly electoral regions that take effect for the Assembly election in May 2007.

The Boundary Commission for Wales carries out regular reviews of the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies in Wales¹. It also reviews the boundaries of Assembly electoral regions. The *Government of Wales Act 2006* (and previously the *Government of Wales Act 1998*) specifies that Assembly constituencies are the parliamentary constituencies in Wales. The 2006 Act (and previously the *Government of Wales Act 1998*) also specifies that there are five Assembly electoral regions.

The Boundary Commission for Wales is established and constituted under Schedule 1 of the *Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986* for the purpose of the continuous review of the distribution of seats at parliamentary elections. Under Section 3(1) of the 1986 Act, the commission is required to submit to the Secretary of State, not less than eight or more than twelve years from the date of the submission of their previous report, a report showing the parliamentary constituencies into which it recommends that Wales should be divided in accordance with the rules for redistribution of seats. These rules form Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act.

Schedule 1 to the *Government of Wales Act 1998* in effect extended the 1986 Act by requiring that when the Commission recommend alterations affecting any parliamentary constituencies they should also consider whether any alteration will be required to:

- (a) the Assembly electoral regions, and/or
- (b) the allocation of seats to the Assembly electoral regions,

in order to give effect to the rules set out in paragraph 8 of Schedule 1 to the 1998 Act.

These provisions are repeated in the *Government of Wales Act 2006*.

The Commission's fifth periodical report on parliamentary constituencies and first report on National Assembly for Wales electoral regions² was laid before parliament on 14 December 2005.

*The Parliamentary Constituencies and Assembly Electoral Regions (Wales) Order 2006*³ gives effect, without modifications, to the recommendations contained in the Boundary Commission for Wales's report. The Order came into force on 25 April 2006. However the changes to boundaries for the Assembly do not take effect until the next ordinary election to the Assembly in May 2007 and for Parliament until the next General Election.

¹ The *Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000* provides for the transfer of the functions of the Boundary Commission for Wales to the Electoral Commission. The 2000 Act also establishes a Boundary Committee for Wales, reporting to the Electoral Commission. However these provisions have not yet come into force.

² Boundary Commission for Wales, *5th periodical report on parliamentary constituencies and 1st report on National Assembly for Wales electoral regions*, December 2005

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0506/hc07/0743/0743.asp>

³ *The Parliamentary Constituencies and Assembly Electoral Regions (Wales) Order 2006* SI 2006/1041
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2006/uksi_20061041_en.pdf

1.1 Assembly constituencies

The proposed number of parliamentary constituencies (and thus Assembly constituencies) remains at 40.

There are major changes to parts of north Wales, with the creation of three new constituencies (Aberconwy, Arfon, and Dwyfor Meirionnydd) in place of the existing constituencies of Conwy, Caernarfon and Meirionnydd Nant Conwy.

There are also substantial changes, involving the loss or gain of more than 3,000 residents⁴ to the following 9 constituencies:

- ◆ Bridgend (-7,000)
- ◆ Caerphilly (-5,700)
- ◆ Cardiff South and Penarth (+4,200)
- ◆ Cardiff West (+6,300)
- ◆ Clwyd South (-3,500)
- ◆ Cynon Valley (+5,800)
- ◆ Islwyn (+5,700)
- ◆ Ogmore (+3,600)
- ◆ Pontypridd (-12,100)

There are smaller changes involving the loss or gain of less than 3,000 residents⁴ to the following 8 constituencies:

- ◆ Carmarthen East and Dinefwr (-1,500)
- ◆ Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire (+800)
- ◆ Ceredigion (-300)
- ◆ Clwyd West (+900)
- ◆ Montgomeryshire (+1,800)
- ◆ Preseli Pembrokeshire (+1,100)
- ◆ Vale of Clwyd (+800)
- ◆ Vale of Glamorgan (-900).

There are very minor changes, involving boundary adjustments that affect very few or no residents, to the following four constituencies:

- ◆ Blaenau Gwent
- ◆ Gower
- ◆ Merthyr Tydfil & Rhymney
- ◆ Neath.

There are no changes to the remaining 16 constituencies.

Table 1 shows how existing constituencies have changed. Annex 1 gives more details about the Electoral Divisions or parts of Electoral Divisions that have moved between constituencies.

Map 1 shows the new constituency and electoral region boundaries.

Map 2 shows the current constituency and electoral region boundaries.

⁴ Based on 2001 Census of Population statistics for resident population of current and new constituencies, ONS Crown Copyright



Table 1: comparison of existing and new Assembly constituencies

| Existing Constituency | New Constituency | Change |
|---|---|---|
| Aberavon | Aberavon | No change |
| Alyn and Deeside | Alyn and Deeside | No change |
| Blaenau Gwent | Blaenau Gwent | Very minor change: (1 part ED moved from Merthyr Tydfil & Rhymney) |
| Brecon and Radnorshire | Brecon and Radnorshire | No change |
| Bridgend | Bridgend | Substantial Change: 2 EDs moved to Ogmore, 1 ED and 1 part ED moved to Vale of Glamorgan, 1 part ED moved from Vale of Glamorgan |
| Caernarfon | Dwyfor Meirionnydd (part)/ Arfon (part) | Major change (see Annex 1) |
| Caerphilly | Caerphilly | Substantial Change: 2 EDs moved to Islwyn |
| Cardiff Central | Cardiff Central | No change |
| Cardiff North | Cardiff North | No change |
| Cardiff South and Penarth | Cardiff South and Penarth | Substantial Change: 1 ED and 1 part ED moved from Vale of Glamorgan |
| Cardiff West | Cardiff West | Substantial Change: 1 ED and 1 part ED moved from Pontypridd |
| Carmarthen East and Dinefwr | Carmarthen East and Dinefwr | Smaller change: 1 part ED moved to Carmarthen West & South Pembrokeshire |
| Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire | Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire | Smaller change: 1 part ED moved to Preseli Pembrokeshire, 1 part ED moved from Carmarthen East and Dinefwr |
| Ceredigion | Ceredigion | Smaller change: 1 part ED moved to Preseli Pembrokeshire |
| Clwyd South | Clwyd South | Substantial Change: 1 ED moved to Montgomeryshire, 3 part EDs moved to Clwyd West |
| Clwyd West | Clwyd West | Smaller change: 3 part EDs moved from Clwyd South, 1 part ED moved to Vale of Clwyd |
| Conwy | Aberconwy (part)/ Arfon (part) | Major change (see Annex 1) |
| Cynon Valley | Cynon Valley | Substantial Change: 2 EDs moved from Pontypridd |
| Delyn | Delyn | No change |
| Gower | Gower | Very minor change: (1 part ED moved from Neath) |
| Islwyn | Islwyn | Substantial Change: 2 EDs moved from Caerphilly |
| Llanelli | Llanelli | No change |
| Meirionnydd Nant Conwy | Dwyfor Meirionnydd (part), Aberconwy (part) | Major change (see Annex 1) |
| Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney | Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney | Very minor change (1 part ED moved to Blaenau Gwent) |



| Existing Constituency | New Constituency | Change |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Monmouth | Monmouth | No change |
| Montgomeryshire | Montgomeryshire | Smaller change: 1 ED moved from Clwyd South |
| Neath | Neath | Very minor change: (1 part ED moved to Gower) |
| Newport East | Newport East | No change |
| Newport West | Newport West | No change |
| Ogmore | Ogmore | Substantial Change: 2 EDs moved from Bridgend, 1 part ED moved to Vale of Glamorgan |
| Pontypridd | Pontypridd | Substantial Change: 2 EDs moved to Cynon Valley, 1 ED and 1 part ED moved to Cardiff West |
| Preseli Pembrokeshire | Preseli Pembrokeshire | Smaller change: 1 part ED moved from Carmarthen West & South Pembrokeshire, 1 part ED moved from Ceredigion |
| Rhondda | Rhondda | No change |
| Swansea East | Swansea East | No change |
| Swansea West | Swansea West | No change |
| Torfaen | Torfaen | No change |
| Vale of Clwyd | Vale of Clwyd | Smaller change: 1 part ED moved from Clwyd West |
| Vale of Glamorgan | Vale of Glamorgan | Smaller change: 1 ED and 1 part ED moved from Bridgend, 1 part ED moved to Bridgend, 1 part ED moved from Ogmore, 1 ED and 1 part ED moved to Cardiff South & Penarth |
| Wrexham | Wrexham | No change |
| Ynys Môn | Ynys Môn | No change |

Note: ED= Electoral Division

1.2 Electoral regions

As the Commission's recommendations were to retain 40 parliamentary constituencies in Wales and in compliance with the rules in Schedule 1 of the 1998 Act (superseded by Schedule 1 of the 2006 Act), the number of Assembly seats for Assembly regions remains at 20 (one half of the total number of Assembly constituencies).

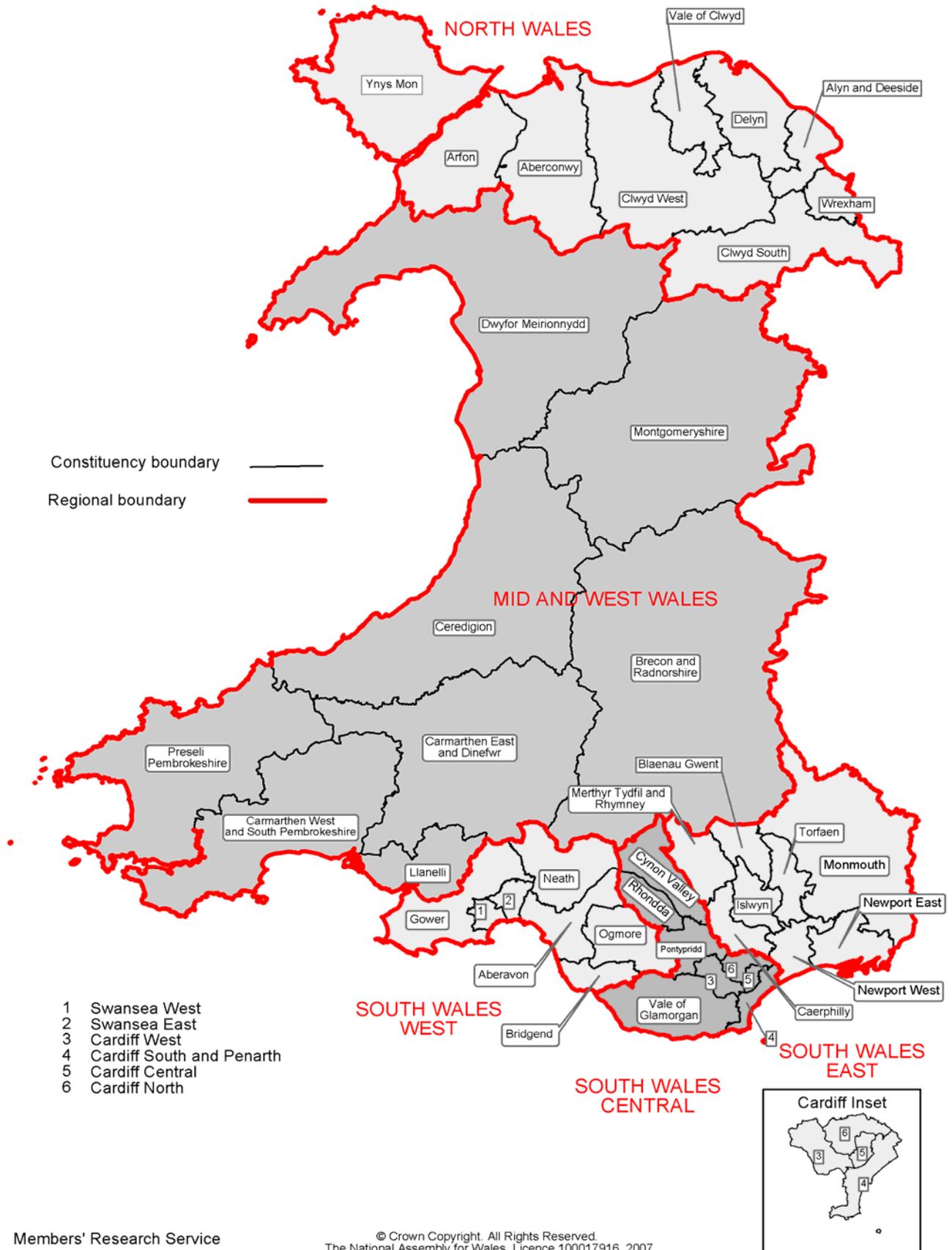
The constituencies of Aberconwy, Dwyfor Meirionnydd and Montgomeryshire cross the boundaries of existing Assembly electoral regions. The rules require each Assembly constituency to be wholly included within one electoral region, so the Commission has redefined the North Wales and Mid and West Wales regions so as to include the Aberconwy constituency within the North Wales region and the Dwyfor Meirionnydd and Montgomeryshire constituencies within the Mid and West Wales region.

There is also a minor adjustment to the boundary between the South Wales West and South Wales Central electoral regions to correspond to the change in the constituency boundary between the Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan constituencies.

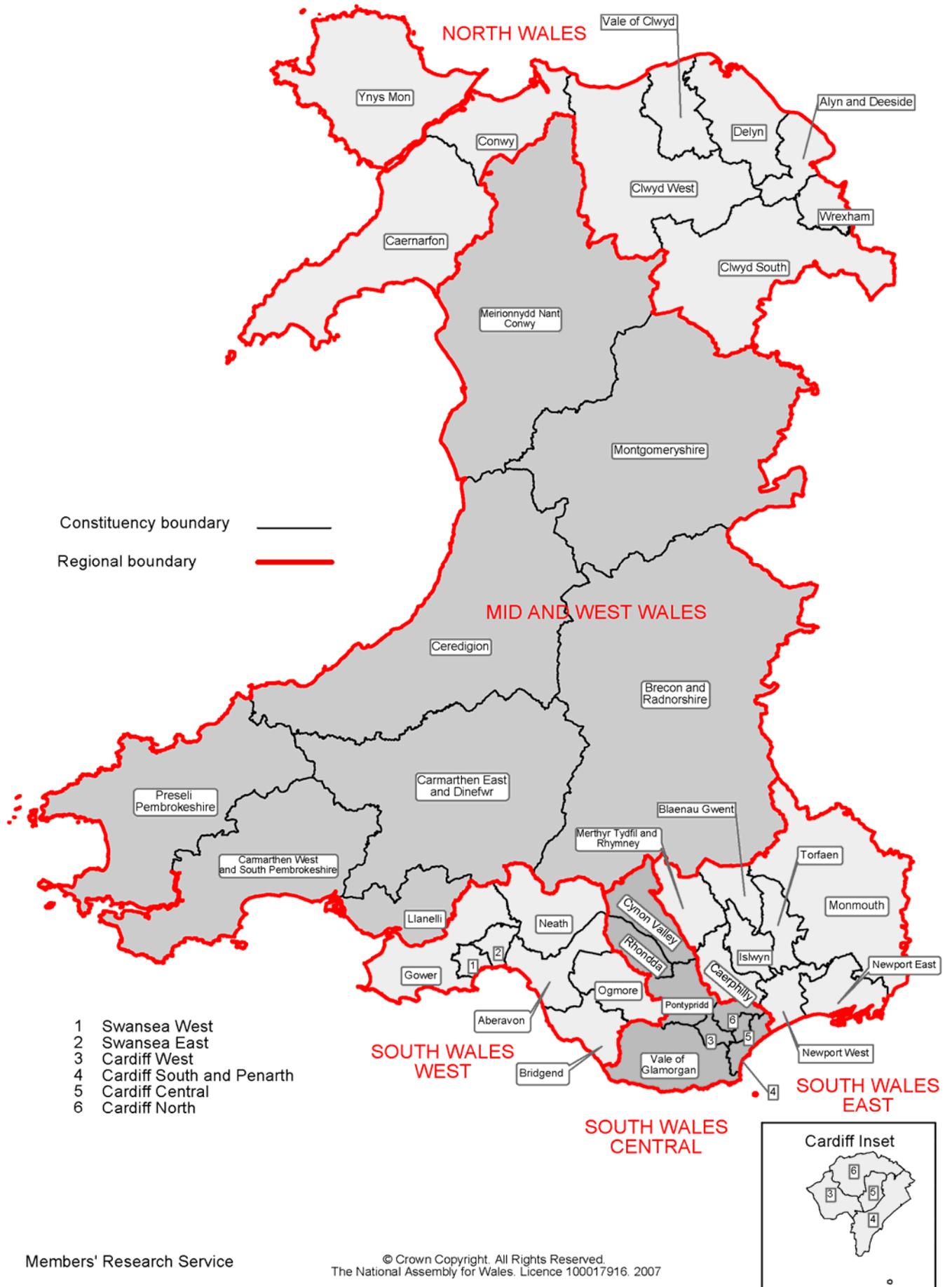
Map 1 shows the new constituency and electoral region boundaries.

Map 2 shows the current constituency and electoral region boundaries.

Map 1: Assembly Constituencies and Electoral Regions from May 2007



Map 2: Existing Assembly Constituencies and Electoral Regions



Annex 1: changes between existing and new Assembly constituencies

| Existing Constituency | New Constituency | Change |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Blaenau Gwent | Blaenau Gwent | Very minor change: part of Sirhowy ED (no electors) moved from Merthyr Tydfil & Rhymney |
| Bridgend | Bridgend | Substantial Change: Aberkenfig and Cefn Cribwr EDs moved to Ogmore, St Bride's Major ED and part of Llandow Ewenny ED moved to Vale of Glamorgan, small part of Coychurch Lower ED (no electors) moved from Vale of Glamorgan |
| Caernarfon | Dwyfor Meirionnydd (part)/ Arfon (part) | <p>Major change:</p> <p>Aberdaron (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Abererch (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Abersoch (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Bethel (<i>Arfon</i>) Bontnewydd (<i>Arfon</i>) Botwnnog (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Cadnant (<i>Arfon</i>) Clynnog (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Criccieth (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Cwm y Glo (<i>Arfon</i>) Deiniolen (<i>Arfon</i>) Dolbenmaen (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Efail-newydd/Buan (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Groeslon (<i>Arfon</i>) Llanaelhaearn (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Llanbedrog (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Llanberis (<i>Arfon</i>) Llanengan (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Llanllyfni (<i>Arfon</i>) Llanrug (<i>Arfon</i>) Llanwnda (<i>Arfon</i>) Llanystumdwy (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Menai (Caernarfon) (<i>Arfon</i>) Morfa Nefyn (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Nefyn (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Peblig (Caernarfon) (<i>Arfon</i>) Pensarwaun (<i>Arfon</i>) Penygroes (<i>Arfon</i>) Porthmadog East (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Porthmadog West (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Porthmadog-Tremadog (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Pwllheli North (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Pwllheli South (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Seiont (<i>Arfon</i>) Talysarn (<i>Arfon</i>) Tudweiliog (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Waunfawr (<i>Arfon</i>) Y Felinheli (<i>Arfon</i>)</p> |

| Existing Constituency | New Constituency | Change |
|---|---|--|
| Caerphilly | Caerphilly | Substantial Change: Aberbargoed and Maesycwmmwr EDs moved to Islwyn |
| Cardiff South and Penarth | Cardiff South and Penarth | Substantial Change: Sully ED and small part of Grangetown ED (no electors) moved from Vale of Glamorgan |
| Cardiff West | Cardiff West | Substantial Change: Pentyrch ED and part of Creigiau/St. Fagans ED moved from Pontypridd |
| Carmarthen East and Dinefwr | Carmarthen East and Dinefwr | Smaller change: Part of Cynwyl Elfed ED moved to Carmarthen West & South Pembrokeshire |
| Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire | Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire | Smaller change: Part of Maenclochog ED moved to Preseli Pembrokeshire, part of Cynwyl Elfed ED moved from Carmarthen East and Dinefwr |
| Ceredigion | Ceredigion | Smaller change: Part of St. Dogmaels ED moved to Preseli Pembrokeshire |
| Clwyd South | Clwyd South | Substantial Change: Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant/Llansilin ED moved to Montgomeryshire, parts of Efenechtyd, Llanarmon-yn-Iâl/Llandegla and Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Gwyddelwern EDs moved to Clwyd West |
| Clwyd West | Clwyd West | Smaller change: Parts of Efenechtyd, Llanarmon-yn-Iâl/Llandegla and Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Gwyddelwern EDs moved from Clwyd South, part of Llandyrnog ED moved to Vale of Clwyd |

| Existing Constituency | New Constituency | Change |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Conwy | Aberconwy (part)/ Arfon (part) | Major change: Arllechwedd (<i>Arfon</i>) Bryn (<i>Aberconwy</i>) Caerhun (<i>Aberconwy</i>) Capelulo (<i>Aberconwy</i>) Conwy (<i>Aberconwy</i>) Craig-y-Don (<i>Aberconwy</i>) Deganwy (<i>Aberconwy</i>) Deiniol (<i>Arfon</i>) Dewi (<i>Arfon</i>) Garth (<i>Arfon</i>) Gerlan (<i>Arfon</i>) Gogarth (<i>Aberconwy</i>) Glyder (<i>Arfon</i>) Hendre (<i>Arfon</i>) Hirael (<i>Arfon</i>) Llansanffraid (<i>Aberconwy</i>) Marchog (<i>Arfon</i>) Marl (<i>Aberconwy</i>) Menai (Bangor) (<i>Arfon</i>) Mostyn (<i>Aberconwy</i>) Ogwen (<i>Arfon</i>) Pandy (<i>Aberconwy</i>) Pant-yr-afon/Penmaenan (<i>Aberconwy</i>) Penrhyn (<i>Aberconwy</i>) Pensarn (<i>Aberconwy</i>) Pentir (<i>Arfon</i>) Tregarth & Mynydd Llandygai (<i>Arfon</i>) Tudno (<i>Aberconwy</i>) |
| Cynon Valley | Cynon Valley | Substantial Change: Cilfynydd and Glyncoch EDs moved from Pontypridd |
| Gower | Gower | Very minor change: Small part of Clydach ED (11 electors) moved from Neath |
| Islwyn | Islwyn | Substantial Change: Aberbargoed and Maesycwmmwr EDs moved from Caerphilly |

| Existing Constituency | New Constituency | Change |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Meirionnydd Nant Conwy | Dwyfor Meirionnydd (part), Aberconwy (part) | Major change: Aberdovey (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Abermaw (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Bala (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Betws-y-Coed (<i>Aberconwy</i>) Bowydd & Rhiw (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Brithdir & Llanfachreth/Ganllwyd/Llanelltyd (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Bryn-crug/Llanfihangel (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Corris/Mawddwy (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Crwst (<i>Aberconwy</i>) Diffwys & Maenofferen (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Dolgellau North (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Dolgellau South (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Dyffryn Ardudwy (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Eglwysbach (<i>Aberconwy</i>) Gower (<i>Aberconwy</i>) Harlech (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Llanbedr (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Llandderfel (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Llangelynin (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Llanuwchllyn (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Penrhyndeudraeth (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Teigl (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Trawsfynydd (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Trefriw (<i>Aberconwy</i>) Tywyn (<i>Dwyfor Meirionnydd</i>) Uwch Conwy (<i>Aberconwy</i>) |
| Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney | Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney | Very minor change: Part of Sirhowy ED (no electors) moved to Blaenau Gwent |
| Montgomeryshire | Montgomeryshire | Smaller change: Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant/Llansilin ED moved from Clwyd South |
| Neath | Neath | Very minor change: Small part of Clydach ED (11 electors) moved to Gower |
| Ogmore | Ogmore | Substantial Change: Aberkenfig and Cefn Cribwr EDs moved from Bridgend, small part of Cowbridge ED (2 properties) moved to Vale of Glamorgan |
| Pontypridd | Pontypridd | Substantial Change: Cilfynydd and Glyncoch EDs moved to Cynon Valley, Pentyrch ED and part of Creigiau/St. Fagans ED moved to Cardiff West |
| Preseli Pembrokeshire | Preseli Pembrokeshire | Smaller change: Part of Maenclochog ED moved from Carmarthen West & South Pembrokeshire, Part of St. Dogmaels ED moved from Ceredigion |

| Existing Constituency | New Constituency | Change |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--|
| Vale of Clwyd | Vale of Clwyd | Smaller change: Part of Llandyrnog ED moved from Clwyd West |
| Vale of Glamorgan | Vale of Glamorgan | Smaller change: St Bride's Major ED and part of Llandow Ewenny ED moved from Bridgend, small part of Coychurch Lower ED (no electors) moved to Bridgend, small part of Cowbridge ED (2 properties) moved from Ogmore, Sully ED and small part of Grangetown ED (no electors) moved to Cardiff South & Penarth |

Note: ED= Electoral Division