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Cllr M L C Fonk
Gulval & Heamoor Ward

PENWITH DISTRICT COUNCIL

22nd March 2008

The Boundary Committee for England
Trevelyan House
Great Peter Street
London
SW1P 2HW

Dear Sirs

Re: Cornwall Boundary Review

I serve as a councillor on Penwith District Council. I and many others are very concerned that the forthcoming boundary review might leave a huge democratic deficit in Cornwall

As you know Cornwall is very different to many other counties, it is a peripheral rural county with a dispersed settlement pattern. Its scattered population and multiplicity of small communities makes it particularly important to have sufficient councillors to ensure that we have stability and that the people of Cornwall receive the level of representation that they need and deserve.

The Government has been heavily promoting "Front Line Councillors". I strongly agree, Councillors should be readily available and fully accountable to their electors; however, this will only be possible if there are sufficient numbers.

In Cornwall's case, we would need around 140 to be able to serve our constituents properly. This equates to around 3600 electors per councillor.

With regards to my Ward, I would very much like to keep Gulval and Heamoor together. We have been working very hard bringing community and council together and there is a close working relation between the two villages.

I would like to finish by saying that I do not agree with the proposed plans to pay Unitary Councillors a basic wage of £18,000 a year. I think that taxpayers would much prefer to see them get a lower basic wage and perhaps give them a small remuneration when and only if they actually attend the council meetings.

Many thanks for taking the time to consider this letter.

Yours sincerely

Mario Fonk
(Penwith District Councillor for Gulval & Heamoor)