



## 6. NEXT STEPS

### Public Consultation

**6.1** The publication of this Report signals the beginning of an eight-week period of public consultation inviting the submission of written comments by 5 January 2007.

### Public Hearings

**6.2** Following the public consultation period, a programme of public hearings will be convened during January and early February 2007. Each of the hearings will be conducted by an Assistant Commissioner and will be informal, where statements can be read or oral submissions made without cross-examination.

**6.3** When a hearing has closed and a transcript of proceedings has been completed, the Assistant Commissioner will prepare and submit a report to me within four weeks with conclusions and recommendations. The Assistant Commissioner may comment on any representation or submission, on my proposals, or on any other proposals. The Assistant Commissioner may recommend that my Provisional Recommendations be accepted with or without alterations, or that a counterproposal be adopted, provided that it conforms to the legislative framework.

### Revised Recommendations

**6.4** I will then consider the representations, the Assistant Commissioners' reports, matters discussed at the public hearings, and any other relevant information. If I decide to modify my Provisional Recommendations, I will then consider whether these ought to be publicised.

### Representations

**6.5** Any person or body wishing to make representations with regard to these Provisional Recommendations should do so in writing either by surface or email before Friday, 5 January 2007 to:

**Amanda Morrison**  
**Secretary to the Commissioner**  
**Office of the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner**  
**Forestview**  
**Purdy's Lane**  
**Belfast**  
**BT8 7AR**

A pro forma for the submission of representations is available on the Commissioner's website – [www.lgbc-ni.org](http://www.lgbc-ni.org).

### Freedom of Information

**6.6** Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, except in very exceptional circumstances, all of the written responses will be published on this website at the end of the period of public consultation.