

Response by Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Education, for the Prime Minister, to Member of Parliament, Ms Hazel Poa on the Electoral Boundaries Review Committee's Terms of Reference during the Committee of Supply Debate 2025, 28 Feb 2025:

Now let me now address Ms Hazel Poa's cut on behalf of the Prime Minister, on the terms of reference of the Electoral Boundaries Review Committee (EBRC).

Ms Poa would agree with us that there will be an asymptotical limit to asking EBRC to keep reducing the average size of Group Representation Constituencies (GRCs) – that limit being one where all electoral divisions are Single Member Constituencies (SMCs). The current terms of reference provide some stability in our electoral landscape by having a balance in the proportion of GRCs and SMCs. Having Members of Parliament (MPs) serving a broadly similar number of electors on average as the last election will enable MPs in the coming Parliament to continue to serve and represent their residents effectively. This last point is what matters most.

As for greater transparency for its recommendations, we discussed this extensively during the debate on the Motion that Ms Poa and Mr Leong Mun Wai tabled in Parliament last August. We do not intend to repeat the debate today. Suffice to say that we should avoid imposing requirements or instructions on the EBRC that are too prescriptive, but to give EBRC, which comprises senior civil servants with the relevant professional knowledge and expertise, the space to do their work independently and objectively, without fear or favour.