

Boundary Commission for Scotland
First Periodical Review
of Scottish Parliament Boundaries

Descriptive Booklet

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First Periodical Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries

Descriptive Booklet

Purpose

The purpose of this booklet is to explain the background and procedures of the Boundary Commission for Scotland in conducting its First Periodical Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries. This Review was announced in July 2007. The booklet reflects the situation and law at the time of writing.

The intended audience is all those with an interest in the process, including parliamentarians, political parties, local government bodies, councillors and the general public.

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1 The Boundary Commission for Scotland

1.1 Statutory requirements

1.1.1 The Boundary Commission for Scotland was established in legislation under the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1944, and its form is currently defined in the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986.

1.1.2 The Commission is responsible under Schedule 1 of the Scotland Act 1998, as amended by the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004, to keep the boundaries of constituencies and regions for the Scottish Parliament under review. The review process includes consultation with the public on the Commission's proposals.

1.1.3 After completing a review, the Commission submits a report to the Secretary of State for Scotland, recommending any changes. The Secretary of State is responsible for submitting a draft Order in Council to give effect to the report, for approval by both Houses of Parliament. The constituencies and regions, if approved by both Houses of Parliament, come into operation from the general election to the Scottish Parliament following the making of the Order in Council.

1.1.4 The Commission is also responsible for keeping the representation of Scotland in the House of Commons under review, under the terms of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 as amended.

1.2 Commission members

1.2.1 The ex-officio Chairman of the Commission is the Speaker of the House of Commons. However, the Speaker takes no part in the process of reviewing constituency boundaries. The Deputy Chairman, the Honourable Lord Robin McEwan, is a judge of the Court of Session, who is appointed under the terms of the 1986 Act by the Lord President of the Court of Session. Two other members are appointed to the Commission by the Secretary of State for Scotland following procedures for open competition laid down by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The present members of the Commission are Dr Elspeth Graham and Mr Kenneth McDonald. The Commission has two Assessors, the Registrar General for Scotland and the Director General of Ordnance Survey.

1.3 Secretariat

1.3.1 Support to the Commission is provided by a small Secretariat. Correspondence should be addressed in writing to the Boundary Commission for Scotland, 3 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh, EH3 7QJ, by e-mail to secretariat@bcomm-scotland.gov.uk or by fax to 0131 538 7511. The Commission can be contacted by telephone on 0131 538 7510, or via the Commission's website: www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk.

1.3.2 The Secretariat also provides support to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland whose responsibilities are defined by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

2 Review of Scottish Parliament constituencies and regions

2.1 Legal requirements

2.1.1 The law concerning electoral arrangements for the Scottish Parliament is set out in Schedule 1 of the Scotland Act 1998, as amended by the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004, which is reproduced at Appendix A.

2.1.2 The 1998 Act as amended determines that there are 73 constituencies for the Scottish Parliament. The Act also defines that there are 8 regions which return members to the Scottish Parliament.

2.1.3 Under the 1998 Act as amended, the Commission is required to keep under review the boundaries of the constituencies and regions, other than the constituencies of the Orkney Islands and the Shetland Islands whose extents are fixed by the Act. The Act also requires that the Commission must recommend any alteration to any of the regions which it thinks is necessary to give effect to the regional rules.

2.1.4 The 1998 Act as amended includes a number of rules to be applied when designing constituencies, and a number of rules to be applied when designing regions.

2.2 Timing of reviews

2.2.1 The 1998 Act as amended requires the Commission to submit its first report to the Secretary of State not later than 30 June 2010. Subsequent reports must be submitted between 8 and 12 years from the date of the report of its last review.

2.2.2 The period required for the Commission's review is dictated partly by the size of the task and partly by the statutory procedures. These are intended to allow full expression of opinions about the proposals at various stages.

2.3 Constituencies

2.3.1 Each constituency returns a single member to the Scottish Parliament.

2.3.2 The rules define the electoral quota to be the number obtained by dividing the total electorate for Scotland, excluding Orkney and Shetland, by 71, which is the number of constituencies outside Orkney and Shetland. In simple terms, the electoral quota is the average electorate per constituency.

2.3.3 Rules 1 and 2 specify that, so far as is practicable, the Commission must have regard to the boundaries of local authority areas, and that the electorate must be as near to the electoral quota as is practicable.

2.3.4 The Commission may depart from the strict application of rules 1 and 2 if special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency, appear to them to render a departure desirable.

2.3.5 The Commission is not bound to give full effect in all circumstances to all of the constituency rules and it must take into account, so far as it reasonably can, the inconveniences attendant on alterations of constituencies, other than alterations arising from the need to have regard to local authority boundaries, and any local ties which would be broken by such alterations.

2.4 Naming and designation

2.4.1 The 1998 Act as amended requires that the Commission's recommendations for each constituency must include the name by which it should be known and whether it should be designated as a county constituency or a burgh constituency. The designation of a constituency affects the expenses allowable at elections.

2.4.2 The Act does not define the terms burgh constituency or county constituency. The Commission considers that where constituencies comprise predominantly urban areas, they will normally be designated as burgh constituencies, and where constituencies are predominantly rural they will normally be designated as county constituencies.

2.5 Changes in electorate

2.5.1 The 1998 Act as amended makes no provision for taking account of any increases or decreases in the electorate after the start of the review when designing constituencies.

2.6 Regions

2.6.1 Each region returns 7 members to the Scottish Parliament.

2.6.2 If the Commission recommends any alterations to constituencies, it is also required to recommend any alterations to the regions which in its opinion are required in order to give effect to the regional rules. Such recommendations are included in the Commission's report to the Secretary of State.

2.6.3 The regional rules state that in determining changes to the boundaries of any region, a constituency shall fall wholly within a region and that the regional electorate of any region shall be as near the regional electorate of each of the other regions as is practicable having regard (where appropriate) to special geographical considerations.

2.6.4 Until the Commission has progressed its review of constituencies and has considered representations on its proposals for constituencies, it is not in a position to determine changes that may be necessary to the boundaries of the 8 regions.

3 Context

3.1 Existing Scottish Parliament constituencies

3.1.1 The existing constituency boundaries for the Scottish Parliament resulted from the Commission's Fourth Periodical Review of Parliamentary

Constituencies, which reported in December 1994, and which was carried out under the rules specified in the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986.

3.1.2 The Scotland Act 1998 determined that the boundaries of the constituencies for the Scottish and Westminster Parliaments should be the same, with one exception regarding Orkney and Shetland. Section 86 of the Act also envisaged that the number of seats for the Scottish Parliament would be reduced at the first review of constituency boundaries following introduction of that Act. However, a public consultation regarding the retention of the existing number of constituencies for the Scottish Parliament was held in 2001-02. As a consequence of that consultation, the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004 was passed. That Act severed the link between Westminster and Scottish Parliament constituencies, and fixed the number of constituencies for the Scottish Parliament at 73. As a result, the Scottish Parliament constituencies were unaffected by the Commission's Fifth Periodical Review of Parliamentary Constituencies which was completed in 2004, and which resulted in 59 Scottish constituencies at the Westminster Parliament.

3.1.3 Population changes since 1992 (when the Fourth Periodical Review began) mean that there is now significant imbalance in the electorate between existing Scottish Parliament constituencies. This is one of the factors which this Review will address.

3.2 Local authority area boundaries

3.2.1 Since the Fourth Periodical Review took place, there was a substantial change in local government arrangements in 1996, when the 12 regional and island authorities and their constituent district authorities were replaced by 32 unitary authorities. As a result of these changes, the existing Scottish Parliament constituency boundaries are sometimes not coterminous with local authority areas.

3.2.2 As noted above, the constituency rules require the Commission to have regard to the boundaries of local authority areas. The Commission's general approach is to make proposals for constituencies which are wholly within a local authority area or, where that is not practicable, are wholly within a small group of contiguous local authority areas.

3.2.3 The Commission aims to minimise proposals for constituencies which comprise parts of more than one local authority area. Only in exceptional circumstances will the Commission make proposals for a constituency which contains parts of three or more local authority areas.

3.3 Local authority wards

3.3.1 At previous reviews, the Commission has created constituencies by aggregating wards created for election of councillors for local authorities. In 2006, single member wards for electing councillors were replaced by multi-member wards, each returning 3 or 4 councillors. These multi-member wards have much larger electorates than was the case for single member wards.

3.3.2 As a result, it is not practicable in this Review to create constituencies by simply aggregating wards without creating wide divergence from the electoral quota.

3.3.3 The Commission, however, still takes account of electoral ward boundaries, as well as other natural and administrative boundaries, when proposing constituencies.

4 Procedure for Review

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The current Review was announced in a notice in the Edinburgh Gazette on 3 July 2007. Under the 1998 Act as amended, the electoral roll in force on that date is used when calculating electorate numbers for constituencies proposed during the Review.

4.1.2 The Commission agreed principles to use when creating its provisional proposals for constituencies:

- constituencies will be wholly contained within a single council area wherever practicable;
- the Commission will try to recognise existing community ties;
- local geographies of the area will be taken into consideration (for example transport links, electoral wards and existing constituency boundaries); and
- special geographical considerations will be considered where appropriate.

4.2 Provisional proposals

4.2.1 The Commission first determines its provisional proposals.

4.2.2 In this Review, the Commission will follow the established practice of publishing provisional proposals without prior consultation with local authorities and other interests. The Commission considers that it should take the initiative by preparing provisional proposals using all information available to it. In this way it is not influenced by any particular viewpoint.

4.2.3 Provisional proposals are made available for public comment. The 1998 Act as amended requires the Commission to publish a statutory notice of its provisional proposals in at least one newspaper circulating in each constituency. The notice has to specify a place in the constituency where details of the proposals may be inspected. Proposals are always illustrated by maps. Maps and associated electorate data are also made available via the Commission's website at www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk.

4.2.4 The statutory notice also states that representations may be made to the Commission and should be submitted within one month of publication of the notice. This is the period prescribed by law and it is beyond the authority of the Commission to extend this statutory period. Any representations received after this period will be considered at the discretion of the Commission. Representations objecting to or supporting the Commission's

provisional proposals should be directed to the Commission's Secretary by post, fax or email – details are provided at paragraph 1.3.1 above.

4.3 Local inquiry

4.3.1 The Commission is required to hold a local inquiry if representations objecting to its provisional proposals are received either from a local authority for part or all of the area of the affected constituency, or from 100 or more parliamentary electors for the affected constituency.

4.3.2 The inquiry is conducted by an Assistant Commissioner appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland at the request of the Commission. No statutory procedure is prescribed for the conduct of a local inquiry. The purpose is to:

- hear local opinions;
- hear criticisms of or support for the provisional proposals;
- receive counter-proposals and ;
- enable everyone who wishes to comment on these or on the Commission's proposals to do so.

4.3.3 The Commission is not represented at the inquiry, although members of the Secretariat may be present as observers. Those who seek to express their views may do so in person or through a representative, whether or not they have submitted a written representation.

4.3.4 The Assistant Commissioner reports in writing directly to the Commission. Apart from commenting on various objections received, the Assistant Commissioner is at liberty to suggest amendments or alterations to the Commission's proposals, or to substitute completely different proposals if these appear to command wider acceptance than the original proposals.

4.3.5 A copy of the Assistant Commissioner's report is deposited for public inspection in the same way that the provisional proposals were, and made available on the Commission's web site.

4.4 Revised recommendations

4.4.1 In cases where there has been no local inquiry, the Commission will take into account any representations received, and make any amendments to its provisional proposals that it judges necessary.

4.4.2 In cases where a local inquiry has been held, the Commission will consider the Assistant Commissioner's report and the matters discussed at the inquiry, together with any relevant information, and make any amendments to its provisional proposals that it judges necessary.

4.4.3 If the Commission decides to alter its provisional proposals, the resulting revised recommendations are published in the same way as was done for the provisional proposals. Representations about these revised recommendations may then be made to the Commission within a one month period.

4.4.4 The Commission is not required to hold a further inquiry in the light of any representations, but may do so if it considers it necessary.

4.5 Regions

4.5.1 The Commission will make provisional proposals for the regions taking into account its deliberations on provisional proposals and any revised recommendations for constituencies.

4.5.2 The provisional proposals for regions, along with the revised recommendations for constituencies, will be published and representations invited in the same way as for provisional proposals for constituencies (see 4.2.3 and 4.2.4).

4.5.3 The Commission is required to hold a local inquiry on its provisional proposals for regions if representations objecting to its proposals are received from an interested local authority (that is a local authority for part or all of the area of the proposed region) or a body of 500 or more electors for the proposed region.

4.5.4 A local inquiry on provisional proposals for regions will take the same form and will report in the same way as a local inquiry on provisional proposals for constituencies (see 4.3).

4.5.5 The Commission will consider whether to revise its provisional proposals for regions, and publish any revised recommendations for regions and consult on them in the same way as was done for constituencies (see 4.4).

4.6 Final recommendations

4.6.1 The Commission will take into account any representations received regarding its revised recommendations, and decide whether any further modifications are required to its recommendations for constituencies and regions.

4.6.2 If the Commission decides to modify its revised recommendations before finally submitting them to the Secretary of State for Scotland these modified recommendations will be published and representations again invited.

5 Final stages

5.1 Report submission

5.1.1 Once it has completed its considerations under the 1998 Act as amended, the Commission will submit its recommendations for constituencies and regions in a report to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

5.1.2 The Commission is also required to lay its report before the Scottish Parliament. The Scottish Parliament has no power to reject or to effect changes to the report, although it could debate it.

5.2 Statutory process

5.2.1 The Secretary of State is responsible for laying the report before the Westminster Parliament and submitting a draft Order in Council giving effect

to the report's recommendations. The draft Order in Council is considered by both Houses of Parliament and, once agreed, is submitted to Her Majesty in Council.

5.2.2 The resulting Order in Council providing the new constituencies and regions comes into operation from the general election to the Scottish Parliament following the making of the Order.

Appendix A

Schedule 1 of the Scotland Act 1998

as amended by the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004

SCHEDULE 1

CONSTITUENCIES, REGIONS AND REGIONAL MEMBERS

General

- 1 (1) There are to be 73 constituencies for the purposes of this Act.
- (2) The constituencies are —
 - (a) the Orkney Islands,
 - (b) the Shetland Islands, and
 - (c) the parliamentary constituencies in Scotland (except the constituency of Orkney and Shetland) provided for by Article 2 of and the Schedule to the Parliamentary Constituencies (Scotland) Order 1995 (S.I. 1995/1037).
- (3) The reference to the Parliamentary Constituencies (Scotland) Order 1995 is a reference to that Order as at 11 April 1995 (the day it was made).
- 2 (1) There are to be eight regions for the purposes of this Act.
- (2) The regions are the eight European Parliamentary constituencies which were provided for by the European Parliamentary Constituencies (Scotland) Order 1996 (S.I. 1996/1926).
- (3) Seven regional members are to be returned for each region.

Reports of the Boundary Commission for Scotland

- 3 (1) The Boundary Commission for Scotland must keep under review the boundaries of the constituencies (other than those mentioned in paragraph 1(2)(a) and (b)).
- (2) The review must be conducted in accordance with the constituency rules.
- (3) The Boundary Commission for Scotland must submit to the Secretary of State a report —
 - (a) showing the alterations they propose to the boundaries, or
 - (b) stating that in their opinion no alteration should be made.
- (4) The first report of the Boundary Commission for Scotland under this paragraph must be submitted to the Secretary of State not later than 30 June 2010.

- (5) Subsequent reports must be submitted not less than eight nor more than twelve years after the date of the submission of the last report.
- (6) The Boundary Commission for Scotland may also from time to time (but not before the submission of their first report) submit to the Secretary of State reports with respect to the area comprised in any two or more constituencies showing the constituencies into which they recommend the area should be divided in order to give effect to the constituency rules.
- (7) A report under sub-paragraph (6) must recommend the same number of constituencies as that in which the area is comprised.
- (8) A report of the Boundary Commission for Scotland which recommends an alteration to the boundaries of constituencies must state as respects each constituency —
- (a) the name by which they recommend it is to be known;
 - (b) whether they recommend that it is to be a county or a burgh constituency.
- (9) As soon as practicable after the Boundary Commission for Scotland have submitted a report to the Secretary of State under this paragraph he must lay before Parliament —
- (a) the report, and
 - (b) the draft of an Order in Council for giving effect to the recommendations contained in the report.
- (10) Sub-paragraph (9)(b) does not apply if the report states that no alteration is required to be made to the boundaries of the constituencies.
- (11) The Boundary Commission for Scotland must at the same time as they submit a report in accordance with sub-paragraph (3) or (6) lay any report recommending an alteration in the constituencies before the Parliament.
- 4 (1) This paragraph applies if the Boundary Commission for Scotland submit a report to the Secretary of State recommending an alteration in a constituency.
- (2) In the report the Boundary Commission for Scotland must recommend any alteration in any of the regions which they think is necessary to give effect to the regional rules.
- (3) A report making a recommendation for an alteration in a region must recommend the name by which the Boundary Commission for Scotland think the region should be known.
- 5 [Paragraph 5 deleted by Schedule 2 of the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004]**

Orders in Council

- 6 (1) The draft of an Order in Council laid before Parliament by the Secretary of State for giving effect to the recommendations contained in a report by the

Boundary Commission for Scotland under paragraph 3 may make provision for any matters which he thinks are incidental to or consequential on the recommendations.

(2) If the draft is approved by resolution of each House of Parliament the Secretary of State must submit it to Her Majesty in Council.

(3) If a motion for the approval of the draft is rejected by either House of Parliament or withdrawn by leave of the House the Secretary of State may amend the draft and lay the amended draft before Parliament.

(4) If the draft as so amended is approved by resolution of each House of Parliament the Secretary of State must submit it to Her Majesty in Council.

(5) If a draft of an Order in Council is submitted to Her Majesty in Council under this Schedule, Her Majesty in Council may make an order in terms of the draft.

(6) An Order in Council made as mentioned in sub-paragraph (5) comes into force on the date specified in the Order.

(7) The coming into force of the Order does not affect the return of any member to the Parliament or its constitution until the Parliament is dissolved.

(8) The validity of an Order in Council purporting to be made under this Schedule and reciting that a draft of the Order has been approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament must not be called in question in any legal proceedings whatsoever.

Notice of proposed report or recommendations

7 (1) If the Boundary Commission for Scotland intend to consider making a report under this Schedule —

- (a) they must inform the Secretary of State by notice in writing;
- (b) they must publish a copy of the notice in the Edinburgh Gazette.

(2) If the Boundary Commission for Scotland have provisionally determined to make recommendations affecting a constituency they must publish in at least one newspaper circulating in the constituency a notice stating —

- (a) the effect of the recommendations and (except if the effect is that no alteration should be made in respect of the constituency) that a copy of the recommendations is open to inspection at a specified place in the constituency, and
- (b) that representations with respect to the proposed recommendations may be made to the Commission before the end of the period of one month starting the day after the notice is published.

(3) The Boundary Commission for Scotland must take into account any representations made in accordance with the notice.

(4) If the Boundary Commission for Scotland revise any proposed recommendations after publishing notice of them under sub-paragraph (2) they

must comply again with sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) in relation to the revised recommendations as if no earlier notice had been published.

[Sub-paragraphs (5) and (6) deleted by Schedule 2 of the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004]

8 (1) This paragraph applies if the Boundary Commission for Scotland provisionally determine to make recommendations which would involve any alteration in a constituency.

(2) The Boundary Commission for Scotland must consider whether any alteration within paragraph 4(2) would be required in order to give effect to the regional rules.

[Sub-paragraph (3) deleted by Schedule 2 of the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004.]

(4) Paragraph 7 applies for the purposes of the proposed recommendations as if for any reference to a constituency there is substituted a reference to a region.

Local inquiries

9 (1) The Boundary Commission for Scotland may if they think fit cause a local inquiry to be held in respect of any constituency or constituencies.

(2) If the Boundary Commission for Scotland receive any relevant representations objecting to a proposed recommendation for the alteration of a constituency they must not make the recommendation unless since the publication of the notice under paragraph 7(2) a local inquiry has been held in respect of the constituency.

(3) If a local inquiry was held in respect of the constituency before the publication of the notice under paragraph 7(2), sub-paragraph (2) above does not apply if the Boundary Commission for Scotland after considering —

(a) the matters discussed at the inquiry,
(b) the nature of the relevant representations received, and
(c) any other relevant circumstances,
think that a further local inquiry is not justified.

(4) A relevant representation is a representation made in accordance with paragraph 7(2)(b) —

(a) by the council for an area which is wholly or partly comprised in the constituency;
(b) by a body of not less than 100 persons entitled to vote as electors at an election for membership of the Parliament held in the constituency.

10 (1) The Boundary Commission for Scotland may if they think fit cause a local inquiry to be held in respect of any region or regions.

(2) If the Boundary Commission for Scotland receive any relevant representations objecting to a proposed recommendation for the alteration of a

region they must not make the recommendation unless since the publication of the notice under paragraph 7(2) a local inquiry has been held in respect of the region.

(3) If a local inquiry was held in respect of the region before the publication of the notice under paragraph 7(2), sub-paragraph (2) above does not apply if the Boundary Commission for Scotland after considering —

- (a) the matters discussed at the inquiry,
 - (b) the nature of the relevant representations received, and
 - (c) any other relevant circumstances,
- think that a further local inquiry is not justified.

(4) A relevant representation is a representation made in accordance with paragraph 7(2)(b) —

- (a) by the council for an area which is wholly or partly included in the region;
- (b) by a body of not less than 500 persons entitled to vote as electors at an election for membership of the Parliament held in any one or more of the constituencies included in the region.

11 Section 210(4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (c. 69) (attendance of witnesses at inquiries) applies in relation to a local inquiry held under paragraph 9 or 10.

The constituency rules

12 These are the constituency rules.

Rule 1

- (1) So far as is practicable, regard must be had to the boundaries of local authority areas.
- (2) “Area” and “local authority” have the same meanings as in the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Rule 2

- (1) The electorate of a constituency must be as near the electoral quota as is practicable, having regard to Rule 1.
- (2) The Boundary Commission for Scotland may depart from the strict application of Rule 1 if they think that it is desirable to do so to avoid an excessive disparity between the electorate of a constituency and the electoral quota or between the electorate of a constituency and that of neighbouring constituencies.
- (3) The electoral quota is the number obtained by dividing the total electorate by 71.
- (4) The electorate of a constituency is the aggregate of the persons falling

within paragraphs (5) and (6) below.

(5) A person falls within this paragraph if his name appears on the register of local government electors in force on the enumeration date under the Representation of the People Acts for a local government area which is situated wholly in the constituency.

(6) A person falls within this paragraph if his name appears on the register of local government electors in force on the enumeration date under the Representation of the People Acts for a local government area which is situated partly in the constituency and his qualifying address is situated in the constituency.

(7) The total electorate is the total number of persons whose names appear on the registers of local government electors in force on the enumeration date under the Representation of the People Acts for all of the local government areas in Scotland (except the local government areas of Orkney and Shetland).

(8) The enumeration date is, in relation to a report of the Boundary Commission for Scotland, the date on which notice with respect to the report is published in the Edinburgh Gazette in accordance with paragraph 7(1) above.

(9) “Qualifying address” and “local government area” have the same meanings as in the Representation of the People Act 1983 (c. 2).

Rule 3

The Boundary Commission for Scotland may depart from the strict application of Rules 1 and 2 if they think that special geographical considerations (including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency) render it desirable to do so.

Rule 4

The Boundary Commission for Scotland need not aim at giving full effect in all circumstances to Rules 1 to 3 but they must take account (so far as they reasonably can) —

- (a) of the inconveniences attendant on alterations of constituencies other than alterations made for the purposes of Rule 1, and
- (b) of any local ties which would be broken by such alterations.

The regional rules

13 These are the regional rules.

Rule 1

A constituency must fall wholly within a region.

Rule 2

The regional electorate of a region must be as near the regional electorate of each of the other regions as is practicable, having regard (where appropriate) to special geographical considerations.

- 14 (1) This paragraph applies for the purposes of the regional rules.
- (2) For the purposes of a report of the Boundary Commission for Scotland in relation to a region, the regional electorate is the number of persons —
- (a) whose names appear on the enumeration date on the registers of local government electors in the region, and
 - (b) who are registered at addresses within a constituency included in the region.
- (3) The enumeration date is the date on which notice with respect to the report is published in the Edinburgh Gazette in accordance with paragraph 7(1) above.
- (4) Sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) also apply for the purpose of construing references to the regional electorate in relation to a report of the Boundary Commission for Scotland made for the purposes of a report as mentioned in sub-paragraph (2).