

Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries City of Edinburgh and East Lothian Council Areas

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to:
 - Consider the consultation responses for City of Edinburgh and East Lothian Council areas as set out in paragraphs 24 to 112 to decide whether to hold a local inquiry
 - Consider whether it wishes to
 - a) adopt the published Revised Proposals as Final Recommendations subject to satisfactory design in other groupings being agreed OR
 - b) amend its proposals for constituency boundaries or names and consult upon them again

Rules

2. The rules for reviewing Scottish Parliament constituencies state:
 - **Rule 1**
 - So far as is practicable, regard must be had to the boundaries of the local government areas having effect from time to time under section 1 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994.
 - **Rule 2**
 - The electorate of a constituency must be as near the electoral quota as is practicable, having regard to Rule 1.
 - Boundaries Scotland may depart from the strict application of Rule 1 if it thinks 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.
 - **Rule 3**
 - Boundaries Scotland may depart from the strict application of Rules 1 and 2 if it thinks that special geographical considerations (including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency) render it desirable to do so.
 - **Rule 4**
 - Boundaries Scotland need not aim at giving full effect in all circumstances to Rules 1 to 3, but it must take account (so far as it 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.

Constituencies at the start of this review

3. At the start of this review, City of Edinburgh Council area was covered by six constituencies wholly within the council area. East Lothian Council area had one constituency wholly within the council area and one partly in a constituency with Midlothian Council area. The constituencies are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 - Constituencies at the start of this review

Constituency Name	Council areas	Designation	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota
Edinburgh Central	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	65,240	8.9%
Edinburgh Eastern	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	72,512	21.1%
Edinburgh Northern and Leith	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	74,827	24.9%
Edinburgh Pentlands	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	59,274	-1.0%
Edinburgh Southern	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	62,786	4.8%
Edinburgh Western	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	65,827	9.9%
East Lothian	East Lothian	County	67,523	12.7%
Midlothian North and Musselburgh	East Lothian Midlothian	County	70,498	17.7%

Provisional Proposals

4. We designed constituencies for this area within our overall approach to grouping council areas for constituency design. For the Provisional Proposals City of Edinburgh and East Lothian council areas were grouped with West Lothian and Midlothian council areas. These combined areas had an electorate of 711,592 and a theoretical entitlement to 11.9 constituencies.
5. We discussed our Provisional Proposals for these council areas and our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minutes of our meetings of 9 February 2023 and 9 March 2023. We agreed proposed constituency names and designations and our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minute of our meeting of 5 April 2023.
6. In deciding upon our Provisional Proposals for City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, West Lothian and Midlothian Council areas we agreed a constituency design that proposed all 12 constituencies with variation from the electoral quota within 10% and split only nine wards across 12 constituencies.
7. Our Provisional Proposals were as shown in Table 2. Details of the wards contained within each constituency in the Provisional Proposals were included in the maps of our Provisional Proposals which are available on our website.

Table 2 – Provisional Proposals

Constituency Name	Council Areas	Electorate	Designation	Variation from electoral quota
Bathgate and Almond Valley	West Lothian	61,257	County	2.3%
East Lothian	East Lothian	59,385	County	-0.9%
Edinburgh Central	Edinburgh	59,203	Burgh	-1.2%
Edinburgh Eastern	Edinburgh	64,870	Burgh	8.3%

Edinburgh Forth and Linlithgow	Edinburgh West Lothian	55,866	County	-6.7%
Edinburgh Northern and Leith	Edinburgh	59,650	Burgh	-0.4%
Edinburgh Pentlands	Edinburgh	55,545	County	-7.4%
Edinburgh Southern	Edinburgh	60,377	Burgh	0.9%
Edinburgh Western	Edinburgh	59,884	Burgh	0.0%
Livingston	West Lothian	56,009	County	-6.5%
Midlothian North and Musselburgh	Edinburgh Midlothian East Lothian	55,122	Burgh	-8.0%
Midlothian South	Midlothian	64,424	County	7.5%

8. On 17 May 2023 we published our Provisional Proposals for these council areas for the specified consultation period of one month.
9. We considered the representations received on our Provisional Proposals in these council areas and our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minutes of our meeting of 5 October 2023.

Responses to Provisional Proposals Public Consultation

10. 276 responses were received for these constituencies during the one-month initial consultation period.
11. Suggestions and comments received during the initial consultation included opposition to: the proposed Edinburgh Forth and Linlithgow constituency because the west of Edinburgh has little in common with West Lothian; the breaking of local ties within the south of Edinburgh; and placing Musselburgh and Prestonpans in a constituency with parts of City of Edinburgh and Midlothian Council areas.
12. We agreed a local inquiry should be held covering these council areas because East Lothian Council had objected to the proposals and also a body of electors in excess of 100 had opposed the Commission's proposed Edinburgh Forth and Linlithgow constituency.
13. On 15 November 2023 we published the representations we received during the consultation on our Provisional Proposals.

Local Inquiry

14. At our request, Scottish Ministers appointed Sheriff Principal Ross as Assistant Commissioner to conduct the Local Inquiries into our proposals. We arranged for transcripts to be made of the Local Inquiry proceedings at the Musselburgh Racecourse on 7 December 2023 and the Village Hotel Edinburgh on 9 January 2024.
15. At these Local Inquiries there were representations from East Lothian Council, local councillors, MSPs, political parties, community organisations and members of the public.
16. The issues raised at the local inquiry in Musselburgh were opposition to both the proposed boundary by Prestonpans and a Midlothian North and Musselburgh constituency that included parts of three different council areas. The comments

made at the Musselburgh local inquiry were similar to those received during the earlier public consultation. The Assistant Commissioner made no recommendations because he saw no clear solution to the issues raised.

17. The main issue raised at the Edinburgh local inquiry was the use of Pennywell Road as a constituency boundary, breaking local ties there. There was also support for the alternative suggestions from Linlithgow SNP Constituency Association and the Scottish Liberal Democrats.
18. The Assistant Commissioner's report acknowledged that the Pennywell Road boundary was the most common area of discussion and that communities on both sides of Pennywell Road had common links. He also noted there was little to connect Muirhouse with Linlithgow. The Assistant Commissioner did not make any recommendations as there is no clear solution within the electorate quota. He stated that any changes to the boundaries may raise issues elsewhere.
19. We had considered alternative council area constituency groupings at our meeting of 5 October 2023 that might identify possible improvements to the Provisional Proposals. These included a new grouping of City of Edinburgh and East Lothian Council areas; Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian Council areas; and Midlothian and Scottish Borders Council areas.
20. We agreed Revised Proposals within a new constituency grouping of City of Edinburgh and East Lothian Council areas that considered variation from the electoral quota (Rule 2); retained local ties by Prestonpans (Rule 4); avoided the use of Pennywell Road as a constituency boundary (Rule 4); aimed to follow recognised boundaries or ground features (Rule 4); avoided an Edinburgh Forth and Linlithgow constituency which was strongly opposed (Rule 4); and avoided a constituency including parts of three-council areas (Rule 1). We acknowledged in our deliberations that the Revised Proposals may break local ties by Tranent and may face similar opposition to that received for the Provisional Proposals by Prestonpans (Rule 4).
21. We agreed revised constituency names and designations and our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minutes of our meeting of 22 February 2024.

Revised Proposals

22. On 16 April 2024 we published our Revised Proposals for these council areas for the specified consultation period of one month.
23. Our Revised Proposals are shown in Table 3. Details of the wards contained within each constituency in the Revised Proposals were included in the maps of our Revised Proposals which are available on our website.

Table 3 – Revised Proposals

Constituency name	Council areas	Designation	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota
Lothian Eastern	East Lothian	County	57,511	
Edinburgh Central	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	63,268	
Edinburgh North Eastern	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	64,322	
Edinburgh Northern	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	62,749	
Edinburgh North Western	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	60,845	

Edinburgh South Western	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	58,868	
Edinburgh Southern	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	63,665	
Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent	City of Edinburgh East Lothian	Burgh	57,320	

Responses to Revised Proposals Public Consultation

24. Some representations contained suggestions that did not comply with the statutory rules governing this review. We did not consider those suggestions further.

City of Edinburgh and East Lothian Council areas

25. The Scottish Labour Party welcomed the Revised Proposals for East Lothian and Edinburgh which removed the constituency which would have contained parts of three local authorities and left East Lothian and Edinburgh paired with an allocation of eight constituencies. They went on to suggest that further counter proposals may be made for constituencies within the City of Edinburgh and assumed that the Commission would consider them carefully. They also suggested that it was unnecessary for the East Lothian constituency to be renamed Lothian Eastern, which they suggested was both inelegant and potentially confusing given that the similar Westminster constituency has been named Lothian East.

26. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party supported the revised Edinburgh Southern constituency boundary. They expressed regret that the Revised Proposals have not created three constituencies within Midlothian and East Lothian Council areas, but they accepted that Musselburgh has historically been in Edinburgh or Midlothian constituencies and acknowledged that the Revised Proposals have aimed to address variation from the electorate quota.

27. The Scottish Liberal Democrats presented an alternative suggestion that included a Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent constituency. They believed their suggestion keeps Leith in a single constituency and better reflects local communities by following community council area boundaries. A map of their suggestion can be seen at Appendix B.

Constituency Name	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Edinburgh Central	63,268	5.6%	City of Edinburgh 7(part),9(part), 10(part),11,15(part)
Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent	52,915	-11.7%	East Lothian 1, 3(part) City of Edinburgh 14,17
Leith and Arthur's Seat	64,430	7.6%	City of Edinburgh 12(part). 13,14
Edinburgh Western	60,313	0.7%	City of Edinburgh 1(part),2(part), 3,6
Edinburgh Northern	57,566	-3.9%	City of Edinburgh 1(part),4,5, 12(part)
Edinburgh South Western	59,325	-1.0%	City of Edinburgh 2(part),7(part), 8(part),9(part)
Edinburgh Southern	63,665	6.3%	City of Edinburgh 8(part), 10(part),15(part),16
Lothian Eastern	67,523	12.7%	East Lothian 2, 3(part),4-6

28. The advantages of this suggestion are it:

- Retains Leith in a constituency name;
- Minimises changes to the Revised Proposals; and
- May better reflect local community ties (rule 4)

29. The disadvantages of this suggestion are it:

- proposes a constituency similar to the Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent constituency which was strongly opposed during the consultation (rule 4); and
- proposes a Lothian Eastern constituency with a variation from the electoral quota in excess of 10% (rule 2).

City of Edinburgh Council area

Edinburgh Central

30. 13 members of the public commented on the proposed Edinburgh Central constituency. Four supported the Revised Proposals while the others believed the proposed boundary with Edinburgh Southern may not consider community ties by Gorgie/Dalry, Marchmont and Morningside.

31. Three responses from members of the public agreed with the proposals and suggested that they look like sensible revisions and more reflective of the Central Edinburgh name (rule 4).

32. Of those who opposed the proposals, five suggested links with Morningside were being broken by the proposals. Alternative suggestions relating to Edinburgh Southern are considered below. One response suggested Leith was being ill-treated by the Revised Proposals. Two responses cited the areas of Gorgie and Dalry: one supported the proposals as Dalry looks to the city and the neighbouring area of Haymarket; and the other suggested the proposals broke local ties between Gorgie and Dalry.

Edinburgh North Eastern

33. Over 100 members of the public opposed the proposed Edinburgh North Eastern constituency name because it did not contain the word "Leith". Respondents stated the area of Leith is a distinct community with incredibly rich history, community and sense of identity. A number of alternative constituency names were suggested including:

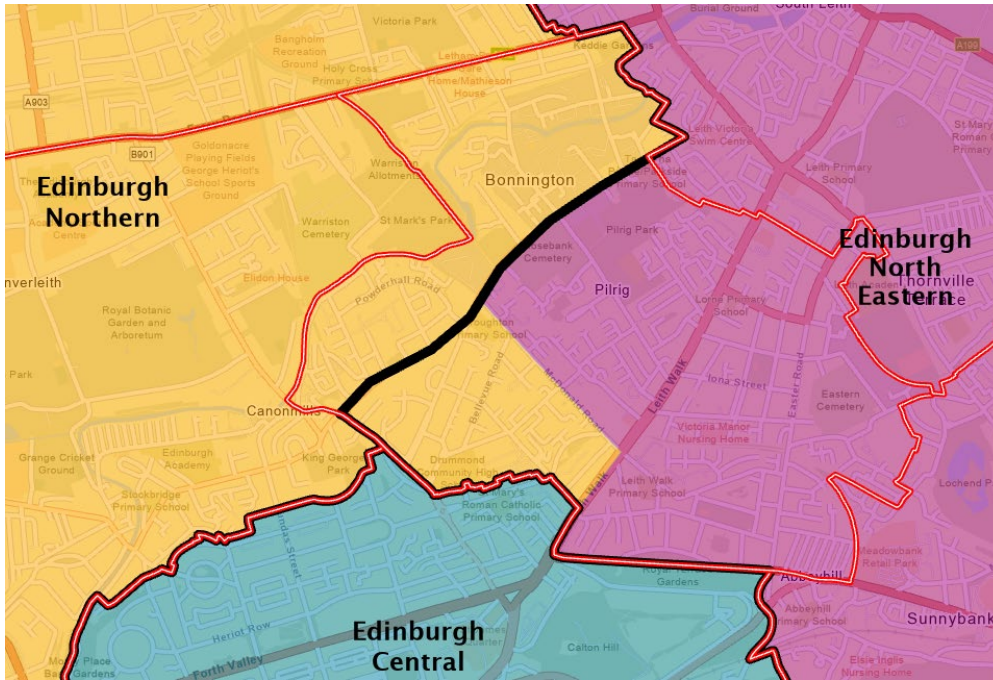
- Edinburgh North Eastern and Leith
- Edinburgh and Leith North Eastern
- Leith and Edinburgh Northeastern
- Northeast Edinburgh and Leith
- Edinburgh Northeastern and Leith

34. Leith Theatre Trust opposed the proposed Edinburgh North Eastern constituency name and suggested including reference to Leith because Leith's history goes back to 1128.

35. A member of the public suggested that the boundaries must be redrawn so that Newhaven, Trinity and Bonnington are brought out of 'Edinburgh Northern' and into 'Edinburgh North Eastern' (although the name of the latter should also be changed to include the name of Leith). The suggestion acknowledges that this may necessitate knock-on changes to the eastern boundaries of Edinburgh North

Eastern, but such changes would also make sense as areas such as Willowbrae would fit more logically as part of 'Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent.'

36. This suggestion would take transfer about 12,000 electors from the proposed Edinburgh Northern constituency and place them in a suggested Edinburgh North Eastern and Leith constituency. This suggestion would necessitate changes to almost all of the other constituencies in this grouping. The Commission considered an Edinburgh North Eastern constituency similar to this in the Provisional Proposals. The proposals did receive a great deal of support and as such the Commission subsequently changed them for the Revised Proposals (rule 4).
37. Ben Macpherson MSP for Edinburgh Northern and Leith and Deidre Brock MP for Edinburgh North and Leith both responded in similar terms regarding the name of the proposed Edinburgh North Eastern constituency. Both supported a petition which contained over 750 names calling for the retention of a constituency with Leith in the name on the grounds that the name reflects the area's unique history as a vibrant community which has always maintained a strong "sense of place" and unique cultural identity and as such it is important this remains reflected on the political map at Holyrood.
38. Ben Macpherson MSP also suggested it may be more appropriate for Broughton, Heriot Hill and Gayfield to instead be in the proposed Edinburgh Northern or Edinburgh Central constituencies. He suggested these changes would even up electorates between constituencies when considering projected population growth in the coming years.
39. The suggestion from Ben Macpherson MSP is shown below however there was no detailed supporting evidence offered with the suggestion and this change would push variation from the electoral quota over 10% in either the suggested Edinburgh Central or Edinburgh Northern constituencies. The details of a suggested Edinburgh Northern alternative are detailed below (coloured areas are suggested constituencies, black lines are Revised Proposals and red lines are ward boundaries) and the electorate in the suggested Edinburgh Central constituency would be 11.9% (rule 2, 4).



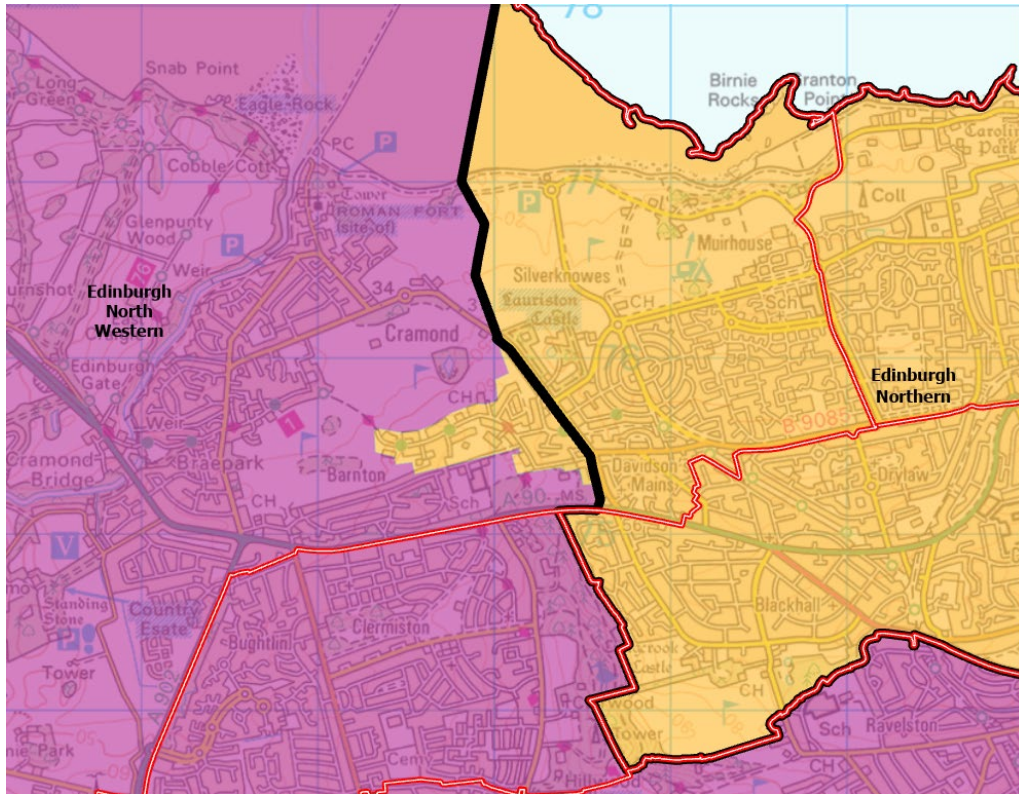
Ben Macpherson MSP suggestion Constituency Name	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Edinburgh Northern	66,497	11.9%	City of Edinburgh 12(part),13,14
Edinburgh North Eastern	60,574	1.1%	City of Edinburgh 1(part), 4,5,12(part)

Edinburgh North Western

40.8 members of the public commented on the proposed Edinburgh North Western constituency. These included: support for the proposed constituency; query as to why parts of Corstorphine had been placed in a constituency with Ratho and South Queensferry; the constituency was too large and had a growing population; and desire to retain the existing boundaries.

41. The proposed Edinburgh North Western constituency boundary follows the City of Edinburgh Council area boundary and includes Kirkliston, Ratho and South Queensferry. The proposed boundary is similar to the UK Parliament constituency of Edinburgh West which has been almost unchanged since 1997. The existing Edinburgh Western Scottish Parliament constituency also comprises Corstorphine, Edinburgh Airport and South Queensferry (rule 1).

42. Cllr Kevin Lang (Edinburgh Almond ward) suggested a minor change to the boundary of the proposed Edinburgh North Western/ Northern constituencies to avoid splitting the area of Davidson's Mains. The suggestion is shown below (coloured areas are suggested constituencies, black lines are Revised Proposals and red lines are ward boundaries).



Cllr Lang suggestion Constituency Name	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Edinburgh North Western	60,329	0.7%	City of Edinburgh 1(part), 2(part),3,6
Edinburgh Northern	63,265	5.6%	City of Edinburgh 1(part), 4,5,12(part)

- 43. The suggestion from Cllr Lang would place Davidson's Mains in a single constituency. It would transfer approximately 500 electors between the proposed Edinburgh North Western and Edinburgh Northern constituencies with minimal impact on the variation from the electoral quota. It follows the boundary of two golf courses and a public park (rule 4).
- 44. The Davidson's Mains and Silverknowes Association made a similar suggestion as Cllr Lang to avoid splitting Davidsons Mains between two constituencies.
- 45. Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP for Edinburgh Western was broadly content with the proposed boundaries but suggested that, in line with Cllr Kevin Lang and the local community association, it would be a mistake to split up the community of Davidson's Mains and suggested that the remainder of Davidson's Mains be moved into an Edinburgh Northern constituency. He also suggested the Edinburgh North Western constituency be named 'Edinburgh Western'. He also supported the campaign to have Leith recognised in the title of the north eastern constituency.

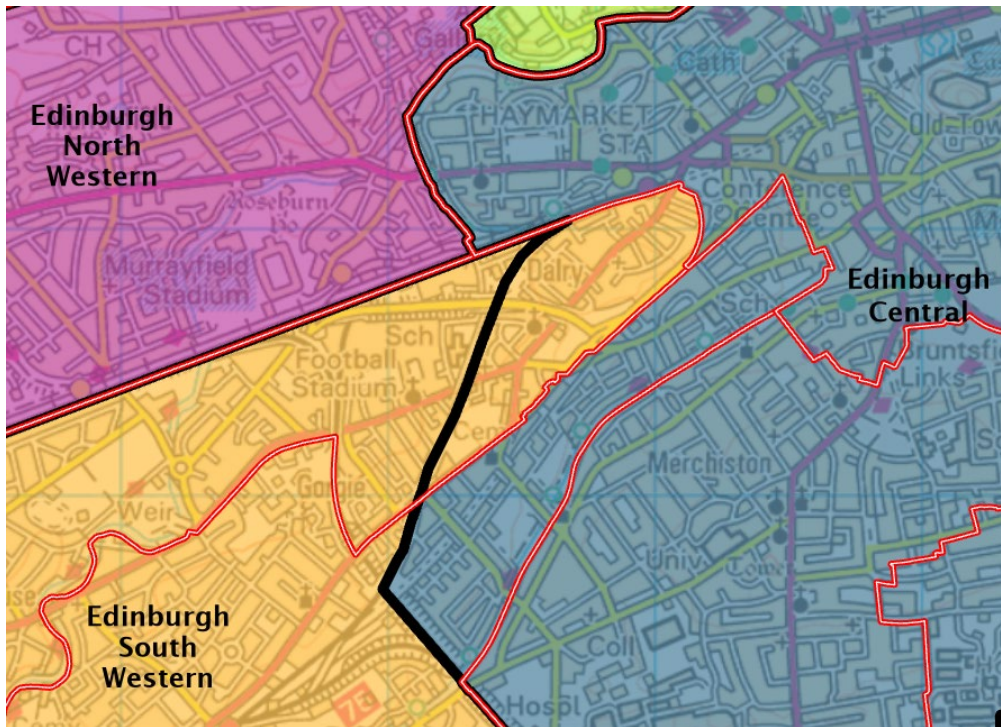
Edinburgh Northern

- 46.20 members of the public commented on the proposed Edinburgh Northern constituency.

47. Three responses supported the proposed boundary whilst two others made comments outwith the scope of the review.
48. Five respondents opposed the boundary to the east of the constituency and respondents suggested that areas such as Bonnington, Trinity and Newhaven are closely connected to Leith and have common links between them such as local amenities, schools and community ties.
49. There were two suggestions that the boundary should ensure that the whole of Davidson Mains is in the same constituency as described above.
50. Five responses suggested the name Leith should be retained in a constituency name whilst one response suggested alternative names:
 - Edinburgh - Leith and West
 - Edinburgh - Pentland
 - Edinburgh - Inverleith and Trinity

Edinburgh South Western

51. Seven members of the public commented on the proposed Edinburgh South Western constituency. One response supported the proposed Edinburgh South Western constituency boundary.
52. Two responses suggested that Gorgie and Dalry should be retained in a single constituency because they have historical ties and share amenities. They believe they have closer links with the city-centre. They also suggested the boundary follow Holy Corner to separate Bruntsfield and Morningside.
53. There was a single response in support of the proposals and there were also a number of responses outwith the scope of the review.
54. The map and table below show the areas of Gorgie and Dalry retained in the Edinburgh South Western constituency (coloured areas are suggested constituencies, black lines are Revised Proposals and red lines are ward boundaries).



Dalry, Suggestion	Gorgie	Electorate	Variation from Electoral Quota	Wards
Edinburgh Central		58,259	-2.7%	City of Edinburgh 9(part), 10(part),11,15(part)
Edinburgh South Western		64,334	7.4%	City of Edinburgh 2(part),7, 8(part),9(part)

55. This suggestion would transfer approximately 5,000 electors from Edinburgh Central to Edinburgh South Western and avoid splitting ward 7(Sighthill/Gorgie) between constituencies. It would not be possible to accommodate Dalry and Gorgie in the proposed Edinburgh Central constituency without further changes as that would present an Edinburgh Central constituency with a variation from the electoral quota in excess of 15%.

Edinburgh Southern

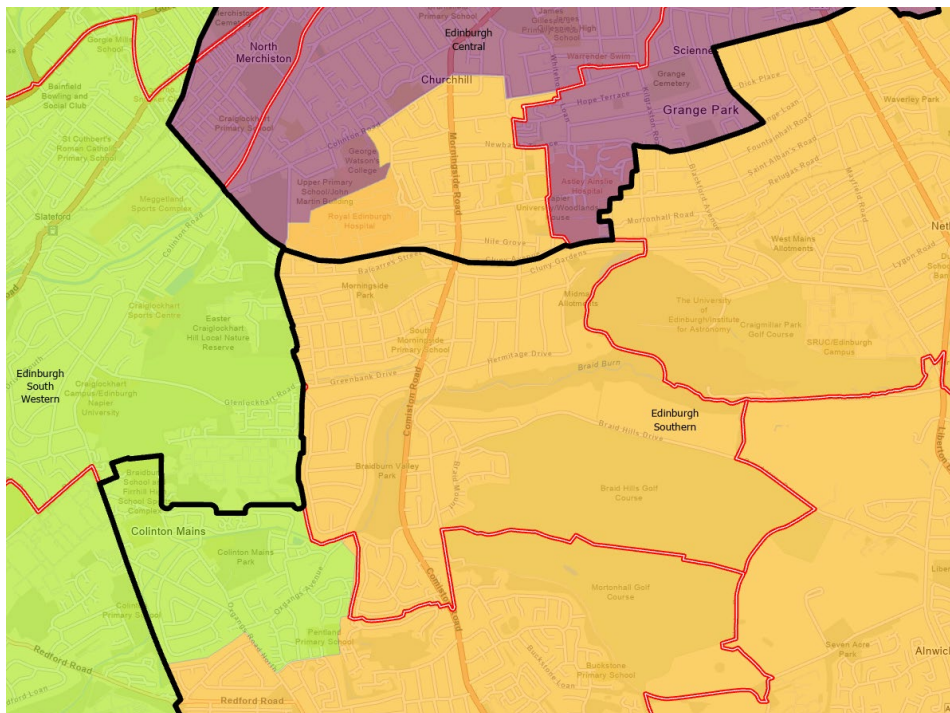
56. 20 members of the public commented on the proposed Edinburgh Southern constituency. Approximately half of the responses suggested the northern boundary should be moved northwards to accommodate more of the Morningside area in the constituency and to avoid splitting Morningside by Balcarres Street. Morningside Community Council also made this suggestion.

57. Other responses for this constituency included two who agreed with the proposals and others that made comments that did not relate to the proposed boundaries.

58. Daniel Johnson MSP for Edinburgh Southern stated the Revised Proposals are largely sensible and create a cohesive Edinburgh Southern constituency but raised concerns with the proposed Morningside boundary because:

- Morningside is one of the most cohesive neighbourhoods in the city, splitting it will cause unnecessary confusion and will weaken neighbourhood level representation.
- Residents living on, for example Springvalley Terrace or Newbattle Terrace would consider that they live in South Edinburgh, not Central Edinburgh.
- The proposals split existing church congregations, community council boundaries, school catchments and Morningside Traders Association.

59. He suggested that in order to maintain the neighbourhood of Morningside in a single constituency polling district SS10F be included in Edinburgh Southern and SWP08B and SWP08C be included in Edinburgh Pentlands (South Western). This solution means Morningside will have a single MSP and Oxfgangs will stay as part of Edinburgh Pentlands, where it has long been. The suggestion is mapped below (coloured areas are suggested constituencies, black lines are Revised Proposals and red lines are ward boundaries) along with a table.



Daniel Johnson MSP suggestion - Constituency	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Edinburgh Central	58,841	-1.8%	City of Edinburgh 7(part),9(part), 10(part),11,15(part)
Edinburgh South Western	63,654	6.3%	City of Edinburgh 2(part),7(part),8(part),9(part)
Edinburgh Southern	63,763	6.4%	City of Edinburgh 8(part),10(part),15(part)

60. The suggestion from Daniel Johnson MSP may keep the local area of Morningside and Morningside Ward more generally in a single constituency and does not present constituencies with variation from the electoral quota in excess of 10%. The suggestion has been supported by members of the public and other elected representatives although the suggestion may create an oddly shaped constituency (rule 2,4).
61. Ian Murray MP for Edinburgh South broadly agreed with the revised Edinburgh Southern constituency as it is more coterminous with the Westminster constituency of Edinburgh South. However, he suggested it should not split the Morningside community in half. He suggested Morningside is one of the most cohesive neighbourhoods in the city and splitting it will cause unnecessary confusion and will weaken neighbourhood level representation. He also suggested residents living on, for example Springvalley Terrace or Newbattle Terrace would consider that they live in South Edinburgh, not central Edinburgh. The proposals split existing church congregations, community council boundaries, school catchments and Morningside Traders Association and went on to suggest this could be avoided by adopting a design similar to the alternative considered above (see D Johnson MSP suggestion).
62. A local councillor stated the Revised Proposals will cut Morningside in two at Balcarres Street and Cluny Gardens. The councillor suggested the boundary should extend to Holy Corner and that these changes could be accommodated by placing the Oxgangs area in a different constituency with neighbouring areas to the south of Morningside.
63. Morningside Community Council responded in similar terms to other responses to the proposed Edinburgh Southern constituency and suggested the proposed Edinburgh South constituency splits the Morningside area and its busy shopping area in two. They stated Morningside is a well-defined and established community and suggested the proposed boundary at Balcarres Street/ Cluny Gardens would be create confusion within one community and could result in differing policy views and community representation in different parts of a small neighbourhood and its main shopping area. They also suggested that the Commission retain the north boundary of Edinburgh South at Holy Corner/Colinton Road and this alternative boundary is considered above (see D Johnson MSP suggestion).

Edinburgh Eastern, Tranent and Musselburgh

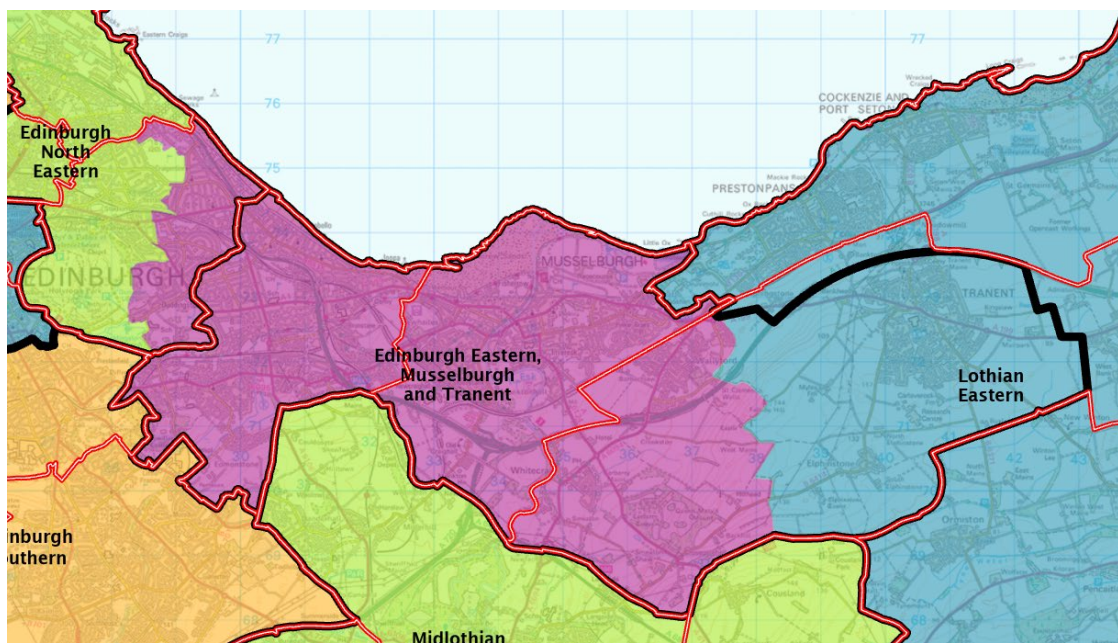
64. More than 250 members of the public commented on the proposed Edinburgh Eastern, Tranent and Musselburgh constituency, although only two focused on the proposals as they affected City of Edinburgh council area the remainder were focussed on the East Lothian part of the proposed constituency.
65. Whilst there were a large number of responses, they were of a very similar nature with respondents opposing the proposals to place Tranent in a constituency with parts of Edinburgh and the neighbouring town of Musselburgh. Respondents suggested that there was very little in common between Tranent and areas of Edinburgh and most responses suggested the proposals would break local ties between Tranent and neighbouring settlements in East Lothian in a similar way to the Provisional Proposals and their treatment of Prestonpans (rule 4).

66. A member of the public from Portobello opposed the size of the proposed constituency as it seems a rather large constituency extending to include a large part of East Lothian.
67. A further member of the public from Portobello opposed placing Portobello and neighbouring areas in Duddingston, the Durhams, and Niddrie in the proposed seat. They suggested these areas have always been Edinburgh-facing in terms of accessing services, community links, travelling for work, etc. rather than outward looking towards East Lothian and areas like Tranent. They also suggested these areas do not share significant historical or current local and community ties and the only thing that connects them are public transport routes (26, 44 and other buses) but these are primarily for moving people into Edinburgh itself rather than connecting with East Lothian communities.
68. Musselburgh and District Labour Party Branch supported the inclusion of Musselburgh in the proposed Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent constituency name.
69. A local MSP responded regarding the proposed Edinburgh East, Musselburgh and Tranent constituency and suggested the proposed constituency is a huge shift from the existing boundary and may split communities.

Lothian Eastern

70. One member of the public supported the proposed boundary and name.
71. 50 members of the public opposed the proposed Lothian Eastern constituency because of both its name and the proposed boundary by Tranent.
72. Over 30 members of the public wished to retain the existing East Lothian name for historical reasons and because it is a recognised name.
73. The Commission's naming policy means the Commission avoided proposing a constituency that no longer follows existing council area and is sufficiently different from the existing East Lothian constituency. The 2023 Review of UK Parliament constituencies review has recommended a "Lothian East" constituency, hence the proposed Lothian Eastern name.
74. Seven members of the public suggested retaining the existing East Lothian constituency.
75. One member of the public suggested merging the East Lothian constituencies with Midlothian.
76. This suggestion would mean the Commission would need to agree to new groupings of council areas for at least nine constituencies (rule 1).
77. Six responses made comments suggesting there was confusion between the proposed changes to the constituency and that it may impact the boundaries of East Lothian Council area.
78. One response suggested East Lothian Coast and Lammermuir as a constituency name. The Commission had considered this name earlier in the Review.

79. Six respondents made comments on Lothian Eastern which focussed on their opposition to the removal of Tranent from a constituency with neighbouring towns to its west and suggested this broke local ties.
80. There were 26 general comments whose focus was opposition to the Commission’s proposals for East Lothian Council area and the breaking of local ties by Tranent.
81. East Lothian Council rejected the Revised Proposals. The Council asked the Commission to reconsider the removal of Tranent and Elphinstone from the existing East Lothian constituency and also opposed the proposed Lothian Eastern name. The Council submitted an alternative suggestion for Lothian Eastern which is similar to the existing East Lothian constituency. Their suggestion is considered below (coloured areas are suggested constituencies, black lines are Revised Proposals and red lines are ward boundaries).
82. The East Lothian Council suggestion proposes an East Lothian constituency very similar to the existing arrangements in which Tranent and Macmerry from ward 3 (Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry) are placed in an East Lothian constituency with the remaining part of the ward making up the Edinburgh Eastern and Musselburgh constituency with three polling districts from the City of Edinburgh Craigentenny and Duddingston ward. East Lothian Council went on to suggest that these alternatives maintain the links between Tranent and the rest of East Lothian and make minimal changes to the boundaries of the Edinburgh Eastern and Musselburgh and Edinburgh North Eastern constituencies (rule 2, 4).



East Lothian Council suggestion Constituency	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
East Lothian	67,543	12.8%	East Lothian 2, 3(part),4-6
Edinburgh Eastern and Musselburgh	55,902	-6.7%	East Lothian 1, 3(part) City of Edinburgh 14(part), 17

Edinburgh North Eastern	55,708	-7.0%	City of Edinburgh 12(part),13,14(part)
----------------------------	--------	-------	---

83. The advantages of the East Lothian Council suggestion are:
- Maintains existing boundaries in the suggested East Lothian constituency (rule 4)
 - Responds to representations made during the consultation. (rule 4)
84. The disadvantages of this suggestion are:
- Proposes an East Lothian constituency with a variation from the electoral quota in excess of 10% (rule 2)
 - Makes changes in Edinburgh where the boundaries have seen very little comments opposing them.
85. Pennypit Community Development Trust stated the Revised Proposals make no sense and split the communities of Prestonpans and Tranent breaking historical ties between the two towns. They stated the Revised Proposals do not consider transport, business, education or community links.
86. Tranent and Elphinstone Community Council opposed the proposed Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent constituency. They stated that the Revised Proposals do not consider historic cultural links, will be confusing for the local electorate, Tranent and Elphinstone wish to remain together in a more rural than urban constituency, the community council has an effective working relationship with the Council which will be lost if in a constituency with Edinburgh.
87. Fa'aside Area Partnership is a local community planning partnership, one of six in East Lothian, representing 10 settlements in the area. They oppose the Revised Proposals because they will break local ties by Tranent and Elphinstone, they also suggested the focus of a new constituency will be on Edinburgh rather than Tranent and Elphinstone (rule 4).
88. East Lothian Constituency Labour Party agree with the Commission's decision to avoid a constituency boundary by Prestonpans but oppose removing Tranent and Elphinstone from an East Lothian constituency because it will split areas with common geography and history and East Lothian will further lose its identity after losing Musselburgh. They stated Tranent and Elphinstone have strong historical economic and community ties with Prestonpans and Macmerry and nothing in common with Craigmillar or Portobello. They also stated the Revised Proposals do not consider education, health or council service provision. They believe the Revised Proposals will be confusing for the local electorate and suggest retaining the existing name - East Lothian.
89. East Lothian Conservative and Unionist Association stated the Revised Proposals were an improvement on the Provisional Proposals and:
- supported the Commission's proposals to address variation from the electorate quota in the existing East Lothian constituency because of the expected population growth in the area.
 - expected East Lothian Council to liaise with Midlothian Council on proposals to address variation from the electoral quota but were not aware of any attempt to agree a common approach with Midlothian or any other council. They believe three East Lothian - Midlothian constituencies would be

preferable, with Tranent and Musselburgh in a Midlothian constituency and Musselburgh in an Edinburgh constituency.

- accepted the Provisional Proposals broke local ties between Prestonpans and Cockenzie/ Port Seton. They suggested Cockenzie, Port Seton and Prestonpans could be added to a Midlothian North and Musselburgh constituency.
- noted the Provisional Proposals divided a new housing estate at Wallyford between two constituencies.
- the Revised Proposals addressed concerns from the Council to avoid breaking local ties by Prestonpans.
- support Wallyford in the same constituency as Musselburgh.
- Suggest all of the Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry ward be included in the proposed Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent constituency.
- they wish to retain the existing East Lothian constituency name but if not suggested reference to the coast be included in the name.

90. East Lothian Conservative Councillors responded in exactly the same terms as the East Lothian Conservative and Unionist Association.

91. Councillors Lee-Anne Menzies and Colin McGinn (Tranent, Wallyford & Macmerry ward) opposed the Revised Proposals for Edinburgh East, Musselburgh and Tranent on the grounds that the proposed constituency would place areas of East Lothian and City of Edinburgh together despite there being no local historical community connections. Furthermore, there were concerns that the East Lothian part of the constituency would suffer from voter apathy as they would be unable to identify with the constituency. Cllr Menzies suggested an alternative whereby the whole of East Lothian council area is split into two constituencies thus future-proofing the boundaries against expected population growth.

92. Two East Lothian constituencies would have high variation from electoral parity. East Lothian Council area has 88,539 electors and entitlement to 1.5 constituencies (rule 2).

93. Cllr Lachlan Bruce (East Lothian Preston, Seton and Gosford ward) supported the Revised Proposals but offered an alternative suggestion. His suggestion was to include the whole of the Tranent, Wallyford and Elphinstone ward in the proposed Edinburgh East, Musselburgh and Tranent constituency on the grounds that it would leave both constituencies within the electoral quota and avoid splitting wards between constituencies. He also suggested 3 constituencies within East Lothian and Midlothian Council areas but acknowledges these would likely be below the electoral quota and would result in a lot of change. The suggestion that retains East Lothian ward 3 (Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry) whole is shown below.

Cllr Bruce suggestion Constituency Name	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent	58,678	-2.0%	City of Edinburgh 17 East Lothian 1,3
Lothian Eastern	56,153	-6.3%	East Lothian 2,4,5,6

94. The Commission considered an option which did not split East Lothian ward 3 between constituencies at its meeting of 22 February 2024 but other options presented stronger boundaries elsewhere.

Summary

95. Half of the existing constituencies within this grouping have a variation from the electorate quota over 10%, with two over 20% (Edinburgh Eastern 21 % and Edinburgh Northern and Leith 25%).

96. When developing its Provisional Proposals, the Commission agreed to consult on a constituency grouping that included: West Lothian, Edinburgh, Midlothian and East Lothian Council areas.

97. There was strong opposition to the Provisional Proposals in Prestonpans because they broke local ties there and an Edinburgh Forth and Linlithgow because there is little to connect Cramond with Linlithgow. East Lothian Council objected to the proposals. The Commission agreed to hold local inquiries in Edinburgh and Musselburgh.

98. After considering all of the consultation responses and Assistant Commissioner reports from the local inquiries, the Commission developed revised council area – constituency groupings. These included eight constituencies within East Lothian and Edinburgh Council areas.

99. The Revised Proposals aimed to address electorate growth in East Lothian and proposed a constituency boundary in East Lothian by Tranent which placed the town in a constituency with the neighbouring town of Musselburgh. The Commission acknowledged that the proposals may break local ties by Tranent and may face similar opposition to that received for the Provisional Proposals by Prestonpans. In Edinburgh, the Revised Proposals presented constituencies under 10% variation from parity and responded to suggestions made during the Edinburgh Local Inquiry, particularly regarding constituency boundaries in the north and west of the city.

100. During the consultation on the revised proposals East Lothian Council objected to the proposed boundaries and constituency name. City of Edinburgh Council did not respond.

101. East Lothian Council objected to the revised proposals as did over 100 members of the public and Fa'side Area Partnership. There was also a petition with over 100 names opposing the absence of Leith from a constituency name.

102. Following its meeting of 16 May 2024 the Commission considered by email an overview of the consultation responses received. At this stage the Commission was of the view that it should consider all responses and consider engaging with East Lothian Council further before reaching a decision on whether a further Local Inquiry should be held. The Commission has the discretion to not hold a Local Inquiry if there has already been one. When reaching a view whether a further Local Inquiry is justified the Commission should consider the matters discussed at the first Local Inquiry, the nature of relevant representations received and any other relevant circumstances.

103. There was strong opposition to the proposals in East Lothian but few alternative suggestions with most responses preferring the status quo. East

Lothian Council's suggestion retained an East Lothian constituency very similar to the existing and made an alternative suggestion for an Edinburgh East and Musselburgh constituency.

104. There is a desire to retain the existing East Lothian constituency name and boundary. It has an electorate of 67,523 and variation from the electoral quota of 13%. During the provisional consultation, the Commission amended the boundary by Prestonpans and consulted on an East Lothian constituency with 59,385 electors. Following strong opposition, the Commission then consulted on a Lothian Eastern constituency with 57,511 electors. A number of responses (including those from national political parties) acknowledge East Lothian is one of the fastest growing council areas in Scotland. The only other solution could be to combine East Lothian with Scottish Borders but the Lammermuir Hills act as a natural boundary between those areas which has stopped the Commission considering these areas in a grouping before.
105. The Commission could consider retaining the existing East Lothian constituency despite its high electorate of 67,523. The Commission's Revised Proposals consulted on a constituency with over 67,236 electors, Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, it is also the second largest in area.
106. There were a large number of responses opposing the name of the proposed "Lothian Eastern" constituency. As stated above the Commission's naming policy means the Commission avoided proposing a constituency that no longer follows existing council area and is sufficiently different from the existing East Lothian constituency. The 2023 Review of UK Parliament constituencies review has recommended a "Lothian East" constituency, hence the proposed Lothian Eastern name.
107. There was some localised support for the Revised Proposals in Edinburgh, but a number of suggestions were received from members of the public and elected representatives to adopt boundaries which they believed better reflect community ties in areas such as Morningside and Davidson's Mains.
108. There were a number of responses from members of the public, elected representatives and Morningside Community Council, whom it is assumed is a body of over 100 electors, which suggested an alteration to the northern boundary of the proposed Edinburgh Southern constituency. Those responses suggested the area of Morningside had been split between two constituencies and that the proposed boundary would break local ties. Daniel Johnson MSP suggested extending the proposed boundary from Balcarres Street to Holy Corner which may resolve a number of concerns raised in Morningside while remaining within the electoral quota.
109. Similarly there were a number of responses, including one from Davidson's Mains and Silverknowes Association, whom it is assumed is a body of over 100 electors, regarding the breaking of local ties in Davidson's Mains.
110. The Commission may wish to consider if the representation from Morningside Community Council and Davidson's Mains and Silverknowes Association, both described above, meets the threshold to trigger a Local Inquiry for an Edinburgh Southern or Edinburgh Northern constituency.

111. In addition to a petition of over 750 names, numerous responses from members of the public and elected representatives opposed the proposals to present constituencies in Edinburgh which did not include Leith in the name. There were a number of alternative suggestions, but the common theme was the use of “Leith” somewhere in the constituency name.

112. The area of Leith has been in the name of a constituency in the UK Parliament since at least 1950 and the Scottish Parliament since its inception in 1999. The constituency that covers the area of Leith from July 2024 will be named Edinburgh North and Leith.

Constituency Names

113. The Commission will have the opportunity to review all constituency names and designations prior to the publication of its Final Recommendations.

Secretariat
June 2024

Revised Proposals - City of Edinburgh and East Lothian Council Areas
Appendix A

