

**Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries
Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, South
Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian Council Areas**

Action required

1. The Commission has agreed to hold a local inquiry in Falkirk as Falkirk Council objected to the Revised Proposals and requested a local inquiry. No previous local inquiries have been held in relation to the proposed constituencies within Falkirk Council area.
2. The Commission is invited to:
 - Consider the remaining consultation responses for Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian Council areas as set out in paragraphs 31 to 131 and decide whether to hold any further local inquiries.

Rules

3. 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

4. At the start of this review, Argyll and Bute Council area had one constituency wholly within the council area and one partly in West Dunbartonshire Council area. East Dunbartonshire Council area had one constituency wholly within the council area and one constituency partly in West Dunbartonshire Council area. North Lanarkshire Council area had four constituencies wholly within the council area and one partly in South Lanarkshire Council area. South Lanarkshire Council area had four constituencies wholly within the council area. Falkirk Council area had two constituencies wholly within the council area. West Lothian Council area

had two constituencies wholly within the 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 the electorate quota
Airdrie and Shotts	North Lanarkshire	Burgh	54,205	-10%
Almond Valley	West Lothian	County	70,119	17%
Argyll and Bute	Argyll and Bute	County	49,535	-17%
Clydebank and Milngavie	E Dunbartonshire W Dunbartonshire	County	55,121	-8%
Clydesdale	South Lanarkshire	County	61,011	2%
Coatbridge and Chryston	North Lanarkshire	Burgh	56,877	-5%
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth	North Lanarkshire	County	51,210	-15%
Dumbarton	Argyll and Bute W Dunbartonshire	County	56,120	-6%
East Kilbride	South Lanarkshire		60,763	1%
Falkirk East	Falkirk	County	61,529	3%
Falkirk West	Falkirk	County	63,861	7%
Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse	South Lanarkshire	County	59,596	-1%
Linlithgow	West Lothian	County	76337	27%
Motherwell and Wishaw	North Lanarkshire	County	57,740	-4%
Rutherglen	South Lanarkshire	Burgh	62,885	5%
Strathkelvin and Bearsden	E Dunbartonshire	County	63,895	7%
Uddingston and Bellshill	North Lanarkshire South Lanarkshire	Burgh	58,842	-2%

Provisional Proposals

5. Our Provisional Proposals were designed in alternative council area groupings to our Revised Proposals.
6. We designed constituencies for this area within our overall approach to grouping council areas for constituency design. Our proposed grouping for this area included:
 - eight constituencies exactly covering the extent of Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire Council areas. The combined area had an electorate of 489,423 and a theoretical entitlement to 8.1 constituencies.
 - two constituencies exactly covering the extent of Falkirk Council area. Falkirk Council area had an electorate of 125,390 and a theoretical entitlement to 2.1 constituencies.
 - our Provisional Proposals paired South Lanarkshire with Scottish Borders Council area with six constituencies exactly covering the extent of South Lanarkshire and Scottish Borders Council areas. The combined area had

an electorate of 351,556 and a theoretical entitlement to 5.9 constituencies.

- our Provisional Proposals grouped West Lothian with City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and East Lothian Council areas with 12 constituencies exactly covering the extent of City of Edinburgh, Midlothian, East Lothian and West Lothian Council areas. The combined area had an electorate of 711,592 and a theoretical entitlement to 11.9 constituencies.
7. We discussed our Provisional Proposals and our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minute of our meetings of 9 February, 9 March and 5 April 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.
 8. In deciding upon our Provisional Proposals we agreed a constituency design for: Falkirk Council area that minimised change to the existing arrangements, retaining both of the existing constituencies; Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire Council areas because it offered an improvement on the existing variation from the electoral quota while maintaining local ties; Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire Council areas because it improved variation from the electoral quota; West Lothian, Edinburgh, Midlothian and East Lothian Council areas because it offered an improvement on the existing variation from the electoral quota, considered local ties and proposed more coherent boundaries.
 9. 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	Designation	Electorate	Variation from the electorate quota
Airdrie, Newmains and Shotts	North Lanarkshire	County	66,243	10.6%
Argyll and Bute	Argyll and Bute	County	55,737	-7.0%
Bathgate and Almond Valley	West Lothian	County	61,257	2.3%
Bearsden, Milngavie and Clydebank North	E Dunbartonshire, W Dunbartonshire	Burgh	58,415	-2.5%
Bellshill and Coatbridge	North Lanarkshire	Burgh	63,361	5.8%
Clyde Valley and Tweeddale	North Lanarkshire Scottish Borders	County	60,443	0.9%
Cumbernauld and Chryston	North Lanarkshire	County	62,578	4.5%
Dumbarton and Helensburgh	Argyll and Bute, W Dunbartonshire	County	57,666	-3.7%
East Kilbride	South Lanarkshire	Burgh	61,700	3.0%
Edinburgh Forth and Linlithgow	Edinburgh West Lothian	County	55,866	%
Falkirk East	Falkirk	County	61,529	2.7%
Falkirk West	Falkirk	County	63,861	6.6%
Hamilton and Uddingston	South Lanarkshire	Burgh	54,496	-9.0%
Kirkintilloch and Kilsyth	E Dunbartonshire North Lanarkshire	County	62,771	4.8%

Larkhall and Clydesdale	South Lanarkshire	County	57,386	-4.2%
Livingston	West Lothian	County	56,009	-6.5%
Motherwell	North Lanarkshire	Burgh	62,652	4.6%
Rutherglen	South Lanarkshire	Burgh	62,400	4.2%

10. On 17 May 2023 we published our Provisional Proposals for these council areas for the specified consultation period of one month.

Responses to Provisional Proposals Public Consultation

11. We considered the representations received on our Provisional Proposals in these council areas in and our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minutes of our meeting of 29 August 2023, 5 October 2023 and 22 February 2024. All responses have been shared with the Commission.

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

13. In Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire Council areas we agreed a local inquiry should be held covering these council areas because of the large number of responses opposing our proposed Clyde Valley and Tweeddale constituency and because Scottish Borders Council had objected to our Provisional Proposals.

14. In Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire Council areas we agreed a local inquiry should be held covering these council areas because of the large number of responses opposing our proposals in Clydebank.

15. In West Lothian, City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and East Lothian Council areas we agreed a local inquiry should be held covering these council areas because of the large number of responses opposing our proposed Edinburgh Forth and Linlithgow constituency.

16. We received one representation in response to the provisional consultation on our Provisional Proposals for Falkirk Council area which suggested north-south, rather than east-west Falkirk constituencies.

17. On 15 November 2023 we published the representations we received during the consultation on our Provisional Proposals.

Local Inquiries

18. At our request, Scottish Ministers appointed Sheriff Principal Murphy as Assistant Commissioner to conduct the Local Inquiry into our proposals in Clydebank. We arranged for transcripts to be made of the Local Inquiry proceedings at the Clydebank Leisure Centre, Clydebank on 13 December 2023.

19. Scottish Ministers appointed Sherriff Principal Ross as Assistant Commissioner to conduct the Local Inquiry into our proposals in Edinburgh and Peebles. We arranged for transcripts to be made of those Local Inquiry proceedings at the Village Hotel, Edinburgh on 9 January 2024 and at Peebles Hydro Hotel on 11 January 2024.

20. At the Clydebank local inquiry the speakers included: representatives of local community groups or community councils, West Dunbartonshire Council, MSP's, and a national political party. They mainly replicated earlier comments and suggestions made during the first consultation stage, opposing the proposals that broke local ties in Clydebank and Lomond North.
21. The Assistant Commissioner's Report stated there were two main issues. Firstly, dividing Clydebank between two constituencies and secondly the electorate of the existing Argyll and Bute constituency. He made no recommendations but asked the Commission to consider all of the comments and suggestions to determine a practical solution.
22. At the Edinburgh local inquiry the speakers included: local and national political parties, MSPs and local councillors. They mainly replicated earlier comments and suggestions made during the first consultation stage. There was also opposition to the use of Pennywell Road as a constituency boundary, breaking local ties there.
23. 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.
24. At the Peebles local inquiry the speakers included: a national political party, MSPs, MPs and local councillors. There was both some support and opposition for a Clyde Valley and Tweeddale constituency.
25. The Assistant Commissioner did not make any recommendations because there were conflicting opinions regarding the existence and strength of community ties within the proposed Clyde Valley and Tweeddale constituency. Nevertheless, he believed that communities within the constituency had a similar economic and social nature.
26. We considered the Assistant Commissioners Reports and transcripts from the local inquiries and our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minutes of our meeting of 22 February 2024.
27. 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.
28. We agreed to amend our proposals and adopted a constituency design that retained most of the existing constituency boundaries because it minimised change to the existing arrangements while also addressing variation from the electorate quota in West Lothian and by Cumbernauld. We retained the existing Argyll and Bute constituency and believed special geographic circumstances were applicable there due to it containing many inhabited islands as well as many other remote areas with poor transport links.

Revised Proposals

29. On 16 April 2024 we published our Revised Proposals for these council areas for the specified consultation period of one month.

30. 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 the electorate quota
Airdrie	North Lanarkshire	County	54,205	-9.5%
Argyll and Bute	Argyll and Bute	County	49,535	-17.3%
Bathgate	West Lothian	County	65,494	9.3%
Clydebank and Milngavie	E Dunbartonshire W Dunbartonshire	Burgh	55,112	-8.0%
Clydesdale	South Lanarkshire	County	61,011	1.9%
Coatbridge and Chryston	North Lanarkshire	Burgh	56,877	-5.0%
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth	Falkirk North Lanarkshire	County	64,767	8.1%
Dumbarton	Argyll and Bute W Dunbartonshire	County	56,129	-6.3%
East Kilbride	South Lanarkshire	Burgh	60,763	1.4%
Falkirk North	Falkirk	County	62,222	3.9%
Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse	South Lanarkshire	Burgh	59,596	-0.5%
Linlithgow and Falkirk South	Falkirk West Lothian	County	65,523	9.4%
Livingston and Breich Valley	West Lothian	County	65,050	8.6%
Motherwell and Wishaw	North Lanarkshire	Burgh	57,740	-3.6%
Rutherglen	South Lanarkshire	Burgh	62,885	5.0%
Strathkelvin and Bearsden	E Dunbartonshire	County	63,895	6.7%
Uddingston and Bellshill	North Lanarkshire South Lanarkshire	Burgh	58,842	-1.8%

Responses to Revised Proposals Public Consultation

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

All areas

32. A member of the public opposed the Revised Proposals because they do not consider local authority boundaries.

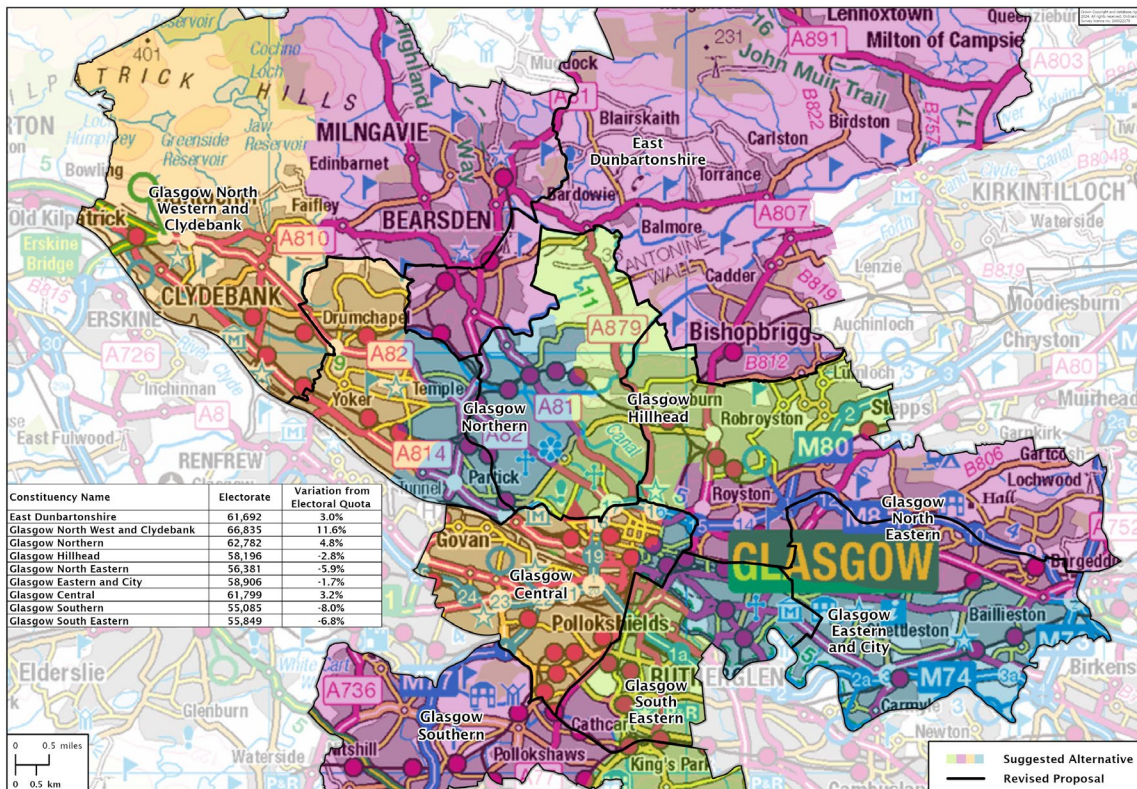
33. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party supported the Revised Proposals because they consider special geographical circumstances in Argyll and Bute and keep Lomond North in a Dumbarton constituency.

34. The Scottish Labour Party supported the Revised Proposals.

35. The Scottish Liberal Democrats opposed the division of Bearsden between two constituencies and made an alternative suggestion that combined this council area constituency grouping with the grouping of Glasgow, Inverclyde, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire Council areas.

36. The Scottish Liberal Democrats suggestion is shown in the map and table below.

Scottish Liberal Democrats suggestion	Electorate	Quota
East Dunbartonshire	61,692	3.0%
Glasgow North Western and Clydebank	63,957	6.8%
Glasgow Northern	65,262	8.9%
Glasgow Hillhead	58,196	-2.8%
Glasgow North Eastern	58,575	-2.2%
Glasgow Eastern and City	57,462	-4.1%
Glasgow Central	55,050	-8.1%
Glasgow Southern	54,773	-8.6%
Glasgow South Eastern	55,607	-7.2%
Kirkintilloch and Stepps	61,246	2.2%
Coatbridge and Airdrie	63,009	5.2%
Motherwell and Wishaw	64,549	7.8%
Uddingston and Bellshill	63,317	5.7%



37. The advantages of the Scottish Liberal Democrats suggestion are it retains Bearsden in a single constituency.

38. The disadvantages of the Scottish Liberal Democrats suggestion are it makes changes to the Revised Proposals in Glasgow, East and West Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire Council areas for the sole reason of avoiding Bearsden being split between two constituencies. There were no strong objections to the Revised Proposals from individuals or groups in Bearsden and there was little opposition to the Revised Proposals in East and West Dunbartonshire. Since 1999 Bearsden and Milngavie have been situated in different Scottish Parliament constituencies.

Argyll and Bute Council area

39. Two members of the public supported the proposed Argyll and Bute constituency

40. Garelochhead Community Council supported the Revised Proposals.

41. A member of the public, commenting on the proposed Argyll and Bute constituency, wished smaller constituencies for island and rural communities.

42. A member of the public suggested smaller constituencies for rural areas who have similar communities. They also stated it is impossible for a MSP to represent such a large area with poor transport links.

43. A member of the public suggested that geography and practicality should be considered in the proposed Argyll and Bute constituency because of limited access to their MSP.

44. The Commission's Revised Proposals had considered special geographical circumstances, consulting on an Argyll and Bute constituency below the electorate quota (rule 3).

45. A member of the public suggested an islands constituency.

46. There are less than 11,000 electors who reside on the islands within Argyll and Bute Council area (rule 2).

47. Garelochhead Residents Association submitted the statement they made at the Clydebank Local Inquiry which was based on the Provisional Proposals. It stated Lomond North looks towards Dumbarton rather than Argyll and Bute.

East Dunbartonshire Council area

48. Two members of the public opposed the proposed Strathkelvin and Bearsden constituency. One comment was because Bearsden has few links or little in common with Strathkelvin. They suggested Bearsden sit within a Glasgow or Milngavie constituency. The other suggested Bearsden sit within a Milngavie constituency.

49. The Bearsden North ward sits in the same constituency as the proposed Clydebank and Milngavie (rule 4). Since 1999 Bearsden and Milngavie have been situated in different Scottish Parliament constituencies.

Falkirk Council area

50. Falkirk Council objected to the proposed: Cumbernauld and Kilsyth; Falkirk North; and Linlithgow and Falkirk South constituencies and requested a local inquiry be held. The stated the Revised Proposals will: cause confusion with the electorate due to their names and three constituencies covering Falkirk Council

area; increase the risk of errors in administering elections; there is little to link Denny with North Lanarkshire; the Revised Proposals are a result of issues raised in neighbouring areas rather than in Falkirk. They wish to retain the two existing Falkirk constituencies which the Commission consulted on during the provisional consultation stage. However if there was no change to the proposed boundaries they suggest the constituency names of: Cumbernauld, Denny and Kilsyth; Falkirk West and Linlithgow; and Falkirk East.

51. The Revised Proposals named the constituencies: Falkirk West; and Linlithgow and Falkirk South. There is an electoral ward named Falkirk South.
52. The Commission considered requests for local inquiries by email after its 16 May 2024 meeting and agreed to conduct a local inquiry in Falkirk because Falkirk Council objected to the Revised Proposals and requested one.
53. A member of the public stated that ‘the proposed Falkirk North constituency does a much better job of keeping communities of interest together. The prior Falkirk East linked communities who infrequently interacted and I am glad this has been rectified.’
54. Four members of the public opposed the proposed Falkirk North constituency because it does not consider local authority boundaries. Three members of the public made similar comments but also stated: the proposals do not consider polling districts or polling places; Denny and Banknock look to Falkirk rather than Cumbernauld for local services; and they do not consider local ties.
55. A member of the public opposed the proposed constituency boundary by Denny, Banknock, Haggs and Longcroft because the Revised Proposals split these communities and they look towards Falkirk rather than North Lanarkshire.
56. A member of the public opposed the proposed Falkirk North constituency and changes to the boundary by Banknock and Denny because it may affect access to taxi services for the elderly.
57. Falkirk West Scottish National Party (SNP) Constituency Association wish to retain the existing constituency boundaries in Falkirk and ‘there is no appetite for change by the public and will be a costly bureaucratic exercise to change arrangement for signs, offices, stationary, graphics etc.’ They continue ‘these changes will be a questionable use of public funds in the current climate with all the required changes and will only bring greater disruption to the electorate’s well-established understanding of existing boundaries.’ They also mention: MSPs will have to develop new working relationships with stakeholders; confusion to changes to both Scottish and UK Parliament constituency boundaries; breaking of local ties between Denny, Haggs and Banknock; and the proposed constituency electorate is above the electorate quota increasing the workload of the MSP. They wish to retain the existing boundaries but suggest including the whole of Falkirk ward 7 (Falkirk South) in a Falkirk West constituency due to its lower electorate and mainly agricultural.
58. Falkirk East Constituency Labour Party supported the Provisional Proposals which made no change to the existing Falkirk boundaries but object to the Revised Proposals because: two of the three constituencies straddle council area boundaries, health board areas and Police Scotland organisational boundaries; it will confuse the electorate in relation to the UK Parliament boundaries; all three

constituencies have above average electorates; do not consider local geography or community ties; Linlithgow has far closer geographical and functional links with Edinburgh than with Falkirk; a constituency named Falkirk North is confusing because there is a Falkirk North ward; and Denny and Banknock look towards Falkirk, rather than Cumbernauld or Kilsyth. They wish no change to the existing Falkirk constituencies. They believe changes to the existing boundaries are a consequence of changes made in Edinburgh.

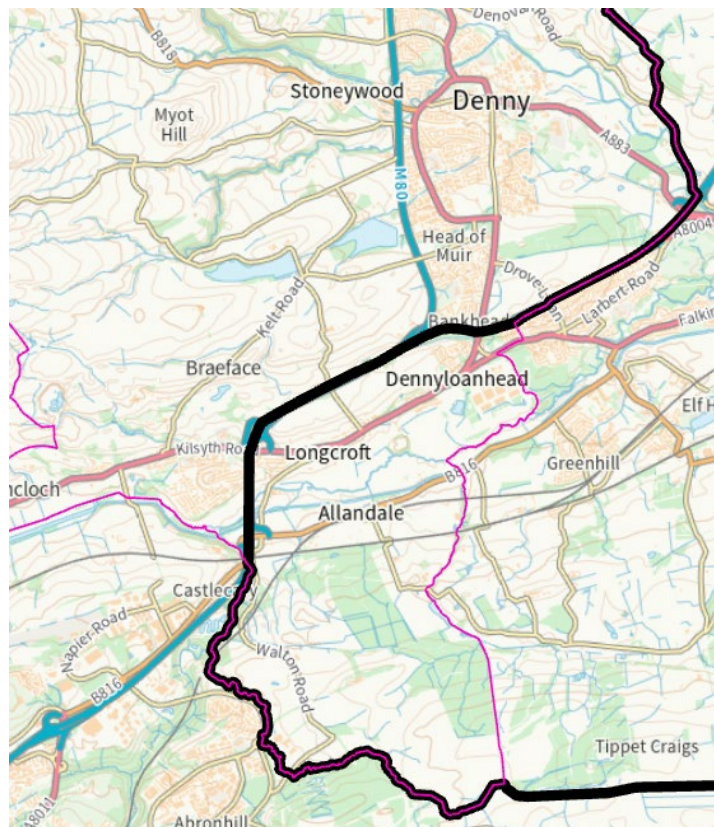
59. Councillor Anne Hannah (Falkirk Lower Braes ward) raised similar concerns to those presented by Falkirk East Constituency Labour Party.
60. A member of the public from west Falkirk wishes to remain within a Falkirk constituency because of access to local healthcare facilities and schools.
61. A member of the public wishes to retain the existing Falkirk constituencies. They state the Revised Proposals: do not consider local communities or health/emergency services; have the same names as wards which will be confusing to the local electorate; the UK and Scottish Parliament constituencies differ and cause further confusion; splits polling districts; and will be challenging from an electoral administration perspective.
62. A member of the public suggested Denny should remain within a Falkirk constituency because Denny and Bonnybridge have close links.
63. Two members of the public opposed the Revised Proposals because they break strong historical links between Banknock and Bonnybridge. One suggested the constituency be renamed Denny, Kilsyth and Cumbernauld.
64. Councillor Alf Kelly, Falkirk Council Denny/Banknock ward raised concerns that the Revised Proposals will affect their access to local services. He stated Banknock has close links with Haggs and Longcroft and suggested Banknock be included in a Falkirk North constituency.
65. Three members of the public made similar comments to Councillor Kelly.
66. A member of the public opposed the proposed Falkirk North constituency because: they break local ties between Banknock, Haggs and Longcroft area; and a lack of transport links may affect access to healthcare services and schools. They support the comments from Councillor Kelly (Falkirk Council Denny/Banknock ward).
67. A member of the public opposed the proposed Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency because it: covers parts of two different local authorities; breaks local ties between Banknock, Denny and Bonnybridge; and does not consider access to local services.
68. The alternative suggestion from Jamie Hepburn, MSP for Cumbernauld and Kilsyth may address some of the concerns raised by electors at Banknock by including the whole of the Denny and Banknock ward in the Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency. See below (rule 4). See North Lanarkshire responses.

**North Lanarkshire Council area
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth**

69. A member of the public supported the proposed Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency because it keeps Cumbernauld and Kilsyth in the same constituency.
70. Cumbernauld SNP Branch support the proposed Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency which includes Denny because there are historical and socio-economic ties between Cumbernauld and Kilsyth.
71. Kilsyth SNP Branch support the proposed Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency because it maintains close historical links between Cumbernauld and Kilsyth.
72. Councillor Alan Masterton (North Lanarkshire Cumbernauld North ward) supports the Revised Proposals because they keep Cumbernauld and Kilsyth in the same constituency. He also agrees with the inclusion of Denny in a Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency due to the low electorate of the existing constituency because there are some historic links between the areas. He suggested Denny could be included in the constituency name.
73. Councillor Claire Barclay (North Lanarkshire Cumbernauld East Ward) would prefer to retain the existing Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency but supports the Revised Proposals because there are historic links between Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Denny from the county of Stirlingshire. However she suggests the M80 motorway should not be used as a constituency boundary.
74. Three members of the public opposed the proposed Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency because it covers two council areas and two health boards and there are no cultural links between these areas.
75. A member of the public supports the proposed Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency because there are close community links between Cumbernauld and Kilsyth. They would prefer to retain the existing Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency but suggest including Denny in the name of the proposed constituency.
76. A member of the public opposed the proposed Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency because they divide the villages of Haggs and Banknock, areas with strong cultural, social, educational, historical, religious, amenity links. They state there is little to connect Banknock with Cumbernauld.
77. A member of the public suggested the boundary between the proposed Cumbernauld and Kilsyth and Falkirk North constituencies follow polling district boundaries rather than the M876 and M80 roads.
78. Stuart McDonald MP for Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintollock East supported the Revised Proposals because they keep Cumbernauld and Kilsyth in the same constituency, towns with strong links. He would prefer to retain the existing Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency boundary.
79. Councillor William Goldie, North Lanarkshire Cumbernauld South ward, broadly welcomed the Revised Proposals because they keep Cumbernauld and Kilsyth in the same constituency. He suggested renaming the constituency as Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Denny.

80. A member of the public opposed the proposed Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency because it would affect their access to health and education services. They wish a constituency to remain within a single council area.
81. Jamie Hepburn, MSP for Cumbernauld and Kilsyth, would prefer to retain the existing Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency because it sits within a single council area. However he supports the Revised Proposals because they retain Cumbernauld and Kilsyth in the same constituency. He stated there are links between Denny and the Cumbernauld and Kilsyth area as they were within the county of Stirlingshire and there are effective transport links between Kilsyth and Banknock in particular, with the A803 road linking them. He suggested that the whole of the Denny and Banknock ward be included in the Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency because using the M80 motorway as a boundary seems a little artificial and that links between Longcroft and Haggs with Banknock can be maintained. He also suggested including Denny in the constituency name.
82. The suggestion from Jamie Hepburn MSP would have the following electorate as shown in the table below. This suggestion would resolve a number of concerns regarding the splitting of local ties between Banknock and Haggs/ Longcroft (rule 4). The map show the revised boundary as a black line and the ward boundary as a pink line.

Jamie Hepburn MSP suggestion Constituency	Electorate	Variation from the electorate quota
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth	66,667	11.3%
Falkirk North	60,322	0.7%



Airdrie

83. Councillor Michael McBride (North Lanarkshire Airdrie South ward) opposed Airdrie as a constituency name.
84. Airdrie and Shotts Constituency Labour Party 'recognise the value and contribution Shotts and surrounding areas make to this constituency and wish for Shotts to remain part of the constituency name, Airdrie and Shotts'.
85. Eight members of the public opposed the proposed Airdrie constituency name and wish to retain the existing name - Airdrie and Shotts. One comment suggested Airdrie and Auchter Water as a constituency name.
86. Neil Gray MSP for Airdrie and Shotts supports retaining the existing constituency boundary but opposes the constituency name - Airdrie because it only reflects one town and their identity. He believes it is helpful for the local electorate to have a Scottish Parliament and UK Parliament constituencies with the same name because people know where they belong.
87. Since 1999 there has been a Scottish Parliament constituency named Airdrie and Shotts. There has been a UK Parliament constituency named Airdrie and Shotts since 1997.

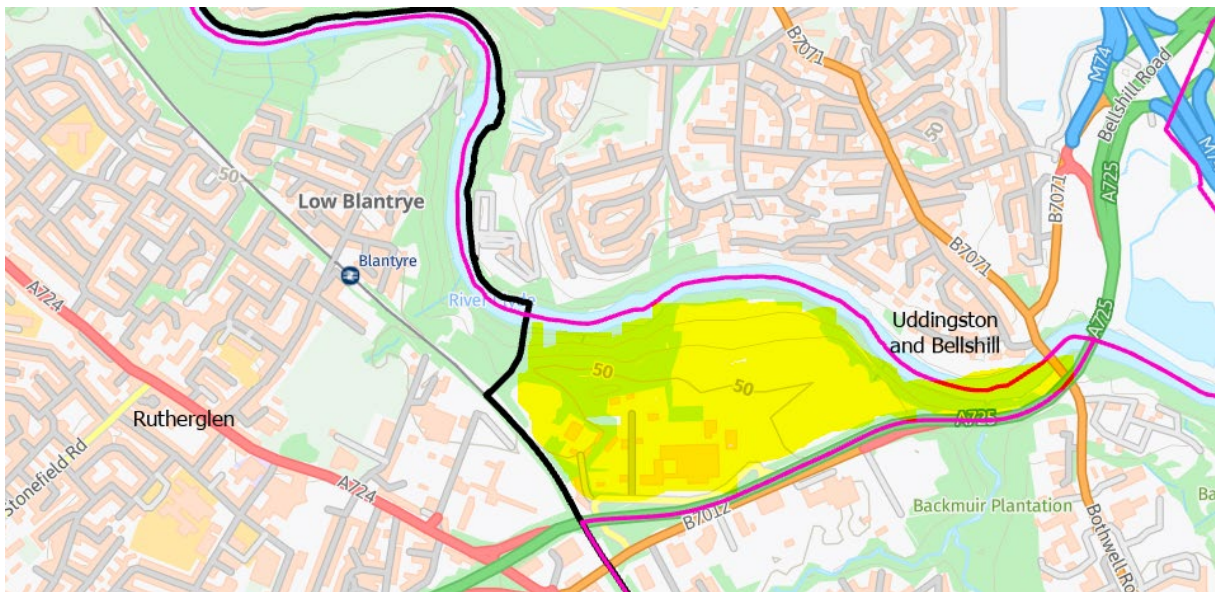
Coatbridge and Chryston

88. A member of the public commented on the proposed Coatbridge and Chryston constituency and stated 'the population in what was once villages has exploded in recent years in this constituency. I'm not sure what the increased margins are to warrant change, but it seems to me if the population increases then so should the representation.'
89. The "Villages" extend from Glenboig, north of Coatbridge, to Carnbroe or Calderbank to the south and south-east of Coatbridge.
90. Fulton MacGregor, MSP for Coatbridge and Chryston supports the Revised Proposals because they maintain community links.

South Lanarkshire Council area

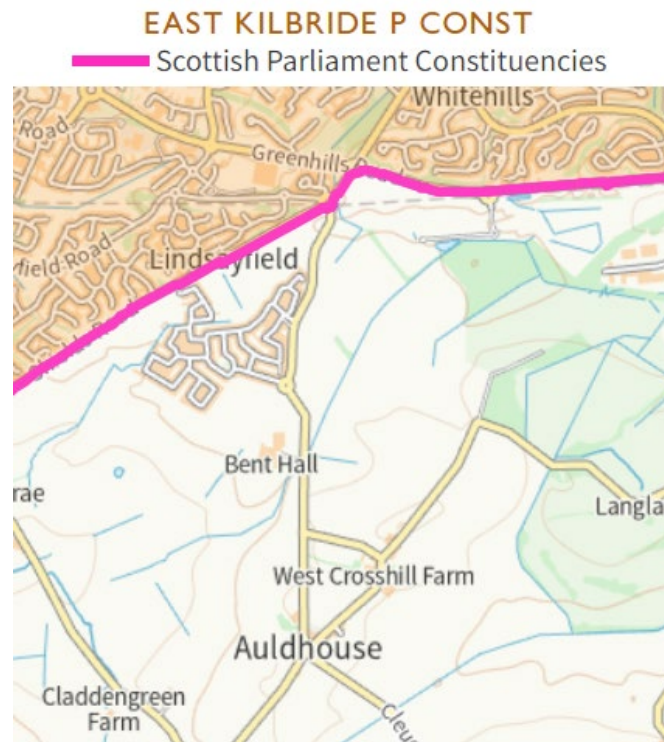
91. Six members of the public support the proposed Clydesdale constituency.
92. A member of the public suggested the Clydesdale constituency follow the council area more closely.
93. The proposed Clydesdale constituency sits within South Lanarkshire Council area (rule 1).
94. Councillor Ian McAllan South Lanarkshire Clydesdale East ward supports the proposed Clydesdale constituency.
95. Councillor Ralph Barker (South Lanarkshire Clydesdale East ward) supports the proposed Clydesdale constituency because it minimises change, retaining the existing constituency.
96. A member of the public stated 'please recognise Stonehouse as a complete village and not part of Larkhall. This small village was divided up in a previous boundary change.'

97. Stonehouse and Larkhall have been in the same Scottish Parliament constituency since 1999 (rule 4).
98. A member of the public opposed the proposed Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse constituency and preferred the Provisional Proposals Hamilton and Uddingston constituency because it would create a fully urban constituency.
99. A member of the public stated there are no schools in the proposed Rutherglen constituency and that children have to travel to neighbouring areas.
100. A member of the public suggested renaming the proposed Rutherglen constituency as Rutherglen and Cambuslang.
101. A member of the public suggested renaming the proposed Rutherglen constituency as Rutherglen and Cambuslang or Rutherglen, Cambuslang and Blantyre.
102. A member of the public supports the proposed Rutherglen constituency.
103. The Secretariat contacted all council election teams and asked if any minor changes could aid electoral administration. Both North and South Lanarkshire Council supported an amendment between the proposed Rutherglen and Uddingston and Bellshill constituencies to follow a ward boundary, see area shaded yellow in the map below. This suggestion would transfer three electors who reside by an industrial estate (rule 4).



104. A member of the public suggested Bent Hall Farm, Auldhouse should sit within an East Kilbride rather than Lanark constituency.
105. There are approx. 750 electors by Bent Hall and the Revised Proposals follow a ward boundary by East Kilbride (rule 4). The map below shows the location of Bent Hall with the existing boundary as a pink line. The table below show the variation from the electorate quota of this suggestion.

Bent Hall suggestion	Electorate	Variation from the electorate quota
Clydesdale	60,261	0.6%
East Kilbride	61,513	2.7%



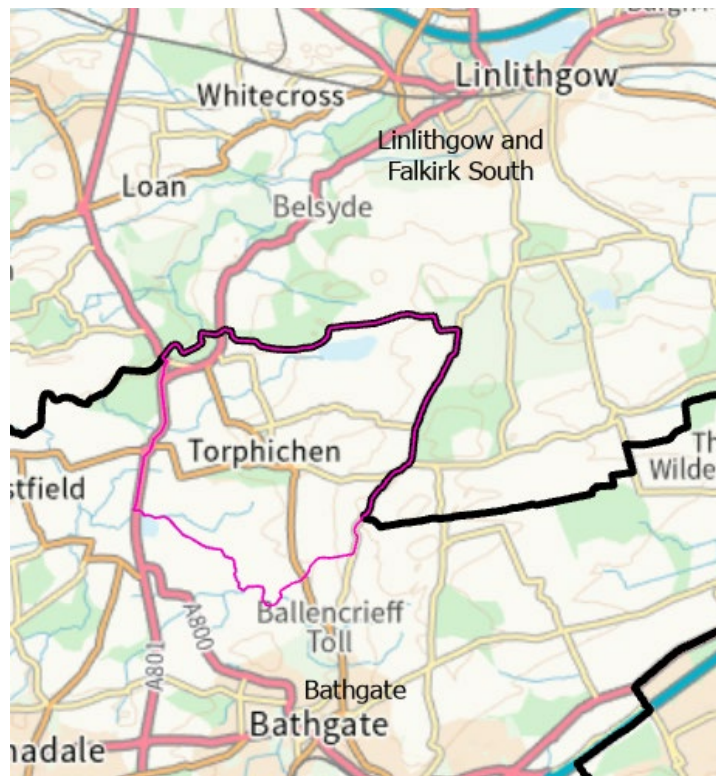
West Dunbartonshire Council area

106. West Dunbartonshire Council support the Revised Proposals.
107. Jackie Baillie, MSP for Dumbarton, supports the Revised Proposals for a Dumbarton constituency and thanks the Commission for considering the views of the local electorate during the consultation on its Provisional Proposals.
108. A member of the public believes Clydebank and Milngavie are 'polar opposites as far as voters are concerned.'
109. Since 1999 Clydebank and Milngavie have been in the same Scottish Parliament constituency (rule 4).
110. A member of the public suggested Rosneath Peninsula should be in Argyll and Bute because they don't have much in common with the Dumbarton, urban area.
111. Rosneath Peninsula which extends from Garlochhead to Kilcreggan, sits within Argyll and Bute Council area, and has been in a Dumbarton constituency since 1999 (rule 1).
112. A member of the public supports the proposed Dumbarton constituency.

**West Lothian Council area
Linlithgow and Falkirk East**

113. SNP Linlithgow Constituency Association suggested renaming the proposed: Linlithgow and Falkirk South constituency as Linlithgow and Falkirk East because it is more geographically accurate; and the Bathgate constituency as West Lothian North or West Lothian Central. They believe a county identifier, rather using a town as a constituency name may allow electors to feel more connected to their constituency. they also stated having a constituency and ward with the same name, Bathgate, will cause confusion.
114. A member of the public stated 'I've always been confused every time this happens and most of the time who gets voted in don't take it seriously.'
115. Seven members of the public suggested Torphichen sit within a Linlithgow constituency because they are in the Linlithgow school catchment area, access medical services there and they have closer links to Linlithgow than Bathgate. One suggested Westfield also belongs to Linlithgow rather than Bathgate.
116. Since 1999 Torphichen has been in the same Scottish Parliament constituency as both Bathgate and Linlithgow. Since 1997 Torphichen has also been in the same UK Parliament constituency as both Bathgate and Linlithgow. There are approximately 700 electors by Torphichen, the Torphichen community council area boundary is shown in the map below - pink line. The Revised Proposals followed a ward boundary by Torphichen (rule 4). Variation from the electorate quota of this suggestion is shown in the table below.

Torphichen suggestion Constituency	Electorate	Variation from the electorate quota
Bathgate	64,794	8.2%
Linlithgow and Falkirk South	66,223	10.6%

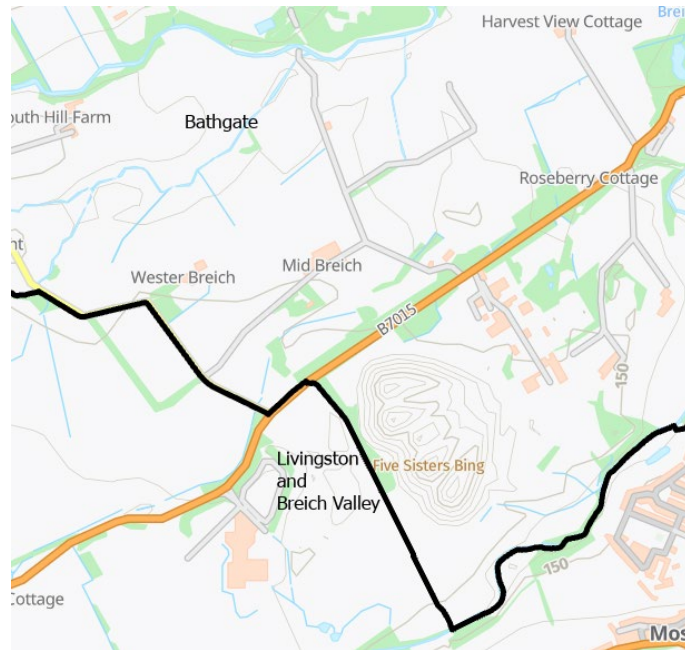


117. A member of the public supported the proposed Bathgate constituency and its name because it represents the traditional West Lothian towns along the A89 travel corridor.
118. A member of the public supported the proposed Linlithgow and Falkirk South constituency because 'not much change, seems ok.'
119. A member of the public, resident of Brightons, supported the proposed Linlithgow and Falkirk South constituency because its name includes Falkirk.
120. Two members of the public opposed the proposed Linlithgow and Falkirk South constituency because it covers two different council areas. They wish to retain the existing boundaries.
121. A member of the public opposed the proposed Linlithgow and Falkirk South constituency because 'this is a very diverse area, with relatively affluent areas being included with areas more densely populated with less well educated and reluctant to work adults, reliant on benefits and little inclination to improve their situation..."the world owes me a living and the government should provide". This results in a significant minority completely lacking in representation.'
122. A member of the public opposed the proposed Linlithgow and Falkirk South constituency because schools would be in different constituency and there is nothing to connect communities within the proposed constituency.
123. A member of the public opposed the proposed Linlithgow and Falkirk South constituency because it includes part of Falkirk council area and 'Falkirk council have ruined Bo'ness by closing down resources such as the recreation centre, building houses whilst not building more shops or other amenities and in general ignoring Bo'ness completely.'
124. A member of the public supported the comments from Councillor Kelly (Falkirk Council Denny/Banknock ward).
125. A member of the public suggested that as most of the electorate reside in Falkirk, the proposed Linlithgow and Falkirk South constituency should be named Falkirk South and Linlithgow.
126. A member of the public stated 'are the changes in the boundaries just to help with the voting or is there a hidden agenda that might appear at a later date.'

Livingston and Breich Valley

127. A member of the public supports the proposed Livingston and Breich Valley constituency because 'it better represents the areas involved.'
128. A member of the public stated, 'generally I think the proposals are decent, Linlithgow is also slightly janky, but it's probably more necessary, and Queensferry is definitely not considered by most to be part of Edinburgh.'
129. A member of the public stated 'I live in Bo'ness and my opinion is that we will be less well served as the council and parliamentary areas will be different, we should be moved back into West Lothian District Council.'

130. A member of the public suggested the proposed Livingston and Breich valley constituency could include Wester Breich ie split at the river almond - having that little bulge included in the Bathgate area splits the community and with the likely hood of more houses in that area they would be better served by the same group as west Calder and Livingston, their closest services.
131. There are less than 10 electors by Wester Breich and the revised boundary followed a ward boundary there (rule 4). The location of Wester Breich is shown in the map below.



Summary

132. The existing constituencies within this grouping were all within 10% of the electorate quota, except for the two West Lothian constituencies (Almond Valley and Linlithgow) and the Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency.
133. When developing its Provisional Proposals the Commission agreed to consult on constituency grouping that included: South Lanarkshire with Scottish Borders Council areas; West Lothian with Edinburgh, Midlothian, East Lothian Council areas; Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire Council areas; as well as a Falkirk Council area grouping.
134. There was strong opposition to the Provisional Proposals in Clydebank and West Lothian. Scottish Borders Council objected to the proposed Clyde Valley and Tweeddale constituency. Therefore the Commission agreed to hold local inquiries in Clydebank, Edinburgh and Peebles.
135. After considering all of the consultation responses and Assistant Commissioner reports from the local inquiries, the Commission developed revised council area - constituency groupings. These better reflected the existing boundaries by retaining most of the existing constituency boundaries within Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire Council area. This included considering special geographical circumstances in an Argyll and Bute constituency.

136. There was generally support for the Revised Proposals in Argyll and Bute, East and West Dunbartonshire and South Lanarkshire Council areas.
137. There was strong opposition to the revised boundaries in Falkirk, a constituency named Airdrie in North Lanarkshire and suggestions for an alternative boundary by Torphichen in West Lothian.
138. Torphichen sits on higher ground between Bathgate and Linlithgow but all respondents stated it had closer links with Linlithgow than Bathgate.
139. The two existing West Lothian constituencies have a wide variation from the electorate quota. West Lothian Council area has an electorate of 146,456 and entitlement to 2.4 constituencies. Retaining two West Lothian constituencies would create two constituencies with wide variation from the electoral quota. The Provisional Proposals proposed an Edinburgh Forth and Linlithgow constituency which was strongly opposed. The Revised Proposals linked West Lothian with a grouping of Falkirk, East/ West Dunbartonshire, North/South Lanarkshire and Argyll and Bute Council areas. The Commission could consider a: West Lothian – South Lanarkshire constituency but the Pentland Hills act as a natural boundary between the two council areas; or West Lothian – North Lanarkshire constituency but Harthill acts as a natural boundary between the two council areas.
140. In North Lanarkshire there was support for keeping Cumbernauld and Kilsyth in the same constituency and for retaining the existing Cumbernauld and Kilsyth in the same constituency boundary but it had wide variation from the electoral quota. The Revised Proposals included Denny in a Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency and there was both some support and opposition to this. There was opposition to the revised Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency because it broke local ties between Banknock and Haggs/ Longcroft but there were suggestions to follow a ward boundary there to retain those local ties.
141. The Provisional Proposals had retained the two existing Falkirk constituencies, both wholly within Falkirk council area. The Revised Proposals had proposed three Falkirk constituencies, one wholly within the area while the others were linked with North Lanarkshire and West Lothian. Falkirk Council objected to the Revised Proposals and the Commission has agreed to hold a local inquiry there. The opposition focussed on: three constituencies covering Falkirk Council area; breaking of local ties between Banknock and Haggs (sit on either side of the M80 motorway); a lack of ties between Falkirk and West Lothian or Cumbernauld; desire to retain the existing constituencies; and the constituency names are confusing as similar to ward names.
142. The Commission could address some of these issues by renaming the proposed constituency names and adopting the suggestion from Jamie Hepburn MSP to follow a ward boundary and keep Banknock and Haggs in the same constituency.
143. There were a number of suggestions to retain the existing Airdrie and Shotts constituency name. The Revised Proposals had shortened it to avoid the same names as the Airdrie and Shotts UK Parliament constituency. From 1999 – 2011 both the Scottish and UK Parliament shared the same constituency names except for Orkney and Shetland. From 2011 onwards both Parliaments have shared

some constituency names for example: Airdrie and Shotts; Argyll and Bute; East Lothian; Moray; Motherwell and Wishaw; and North East Fife.

144. Following its meeting of 16 May 2024 the Commission considered by email an overview of the consultation responses received regarding whether any local inquiries should be held. The Commission has agreed to hold a local inquiry in Falkirk because Falkirk Council objected to the Revised Proposals and requested a local inquiry.

145. The Commission will wish to defer agreeing its Final Recommendations or further proposals for consultation until after receiving the Assistant Commissioners Report from the Falkirk local inquiry.

Constituency Names

146. 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 - Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian Council Areas