

Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries Clackmannanshire, and Stirling Council Areas

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to: -
 - Consider the consultation responses for Clackmannanshire and Stirling Council areas as set out in paragraphs 16 to 27 and 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.
 - If a local inquiry or further consultation is not required, consider the draft Final Report as set out in paragraphs 3 to 15 and agree the proposed wording.

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, there were two constituencies wholly within Clackmannanshire and Stirling Council areas. 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
Clackmannanshire and Dunblane	Clackmannanshire	County	52,150	-12.9%
Stirling	Stirling	County	58,884	-1.7%

Provisional Proposals

4. We discussed our Provisional Proposals for these council areas and our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minute of our meeting of 9 February 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.
5. We designed constituencies for this area within our overall approach to grouping council areas for constituency design. Our proposed grouping for this area made a change to the existing Stirling constituency by amending the boundary by Doune and placing it an expanded Clackmannanshire and Dunblane constituency rather than the Stirling constituency as it is presently. Clackmannanshire and Stirling Council areas had an electorate of 111,034 and a theoretical entitlement to 1.9 constituencies.
6. 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 Electoral Quota
Clackmannanshire and Dunblane	Clackmannanshire Stirling	County	55,421	-7.5%
Stirling	Stirling	County	55,613	-7.2%

7. 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

8. 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 29 August 2023.
9. We received twelve responses for these constituencies during the one-month consultation period for Clackmannanshire and Stirling Council areas. All responses have been shared with the Commission. Suggestions and comments received during the provisional consultation included: Doune and surrounding area having no links with Clackmannanshire and that changing the boundary may sever local ties; and an alternative boundary suggestion by Causewayhead, north Stirling.

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

Local Inquiry

11. Neither Council objected to the Provisional Proposals for constituencies and nor did a body of 100 electors resident in any of the proposed constituencies. Therefore a local inquiry was not required within this grouping.
12. 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

13. We considered the responses received on our Provisional Proposals and noted the low number of responses to the consultation and opposition to our proposed boundary by Doune. We made changes to the constituency boundaries by Causewayhead because it would: minimise change to the existing arrangements; split fewer wards than the Provisional Proposals; and makes use of the River Forth to create a strong bounding feature in the area. We retained both of the existing constituency names.
14. On 16 April 2024 we published our Revised Proposals for these council areas for the specified consultation period of one month.
15. 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
Clackmannanshire and Dunblane	Clackmannanshire and Stirling	County	56,732	-5.3%
Stirling	Stirling	County	54,302	-9.3%

Responses to Revised Proposals Public Consultation

16. We received 14 responses during the one-month consultation period for Clackmannanshire and Stirling Council areas.
17. Some representations contained suggestions that did not comply with the statutory rules governing this review. We did not consider those suggestions further.
18. A member of the public opposed increasing the size of the existing Stirling constituency.
19. The proposed Stirling constituency is smaller than the existing one.
20. A member of the public suggested adding Mugdock and Strathblane to East Dunbartonshire Council area for better access to leisure, work and healthcare.

21. A member of the public wished to keep Thornhill in a Stirling constituency.
22. The Revised Proposals maintain Thornhill (near Doune) in a Stirling constituency (rule 4).
23. Four members of the public, one a Causewayhead resident, opposed the Revised Proposals because: they would break community ties by Causewayhead and between Cambuskenneth and Stirling; local issues may not receive the same attention or priority within the new constituency; may impact on accessing local services and engaging with elected officials; does not consider local authority boundaries; and Causewayhead is an urban area with close links to Stirling (rule 4).
24. A member of the public who resides in the Clackmannanshire and Dunblane constituency looks to Stirling for local amenities and not Clackmannanshire (rule 4).
25. Five members of the public feel that Clackmannanshire and Dunblane have no local ties.
26. Clackmannanshire and Dunblane have been in the same constituency since 2011 (rule 4).
27. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party supported the Revised Proposals.

Summary

28. The existing Clackmannanshire and Dunblane constituency had variation from the electorate quota of -13%. The existing Stirling constituency had variation from the electorate quota of -2%.
29. The Commission agreed to make minor changes to the existing constituency boundaries to improve variation from the electorate quota by adding Doune to the Clackmannanshire and Dunblane constituency.
30. During the consultation on its Provisional Proposals there was opposition to the revised boundary by Doune.
31. Neither Council nor a body of 100 electors objected to the Provisional Proposals therefore the Commission agreed not to hold a local inquiry there.
32. When considering its Revised Proposals, the Commission adopted a suggestion by Causewayhead that retained the existing boundary by Doune; followed a recognised boundary – River Forth; and provided acceptable variation from the electoral quota.
33. During the consultation on its Revised Proposals neither Council objected nor did a body of 100 electors.
34. There were few responses to the Revised Proposals consultation with most opposing the revised boundary by Causewayhead.

35. The Provisional Proposals addressed variation from the electorate quota by amending the Clackmannanshire and Dunblane constituency boundary by Doune. The Revised Proposals then amended the Clackmannanshire and Dunblane constituency boundary by Causewayhead. No alternative suggestions were submitted. The Commission could consider amending the Clackmannanshire and Dunblane constituency boundary by combining it with the proposed: Perthshire South and Kinross-shire or Dunfermline constituencies but there was little opposition to the Revised Proposals there.

Constituency Names

36. 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 - Clackmannanshire and Dunblane Council Areas Appendix A

