

Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray Council Areas

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to: -
 - Consider the consultation responses for Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray Council areas as set out in paragraphs 18 to 54 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 17 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, Aberdeen City Council area was covered by two constituencies wholly within the council area and one partly in Aberdeenshire Council area. Aberdeenshire Council area had two constituencies wholly within the council area and one partly in Angus Council area and one in Moray Council area. Angus Council area had one constituency wholly within the council area. Moray Council area had one constituency 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 electoral quota
Aberdeen Central	Aberdeen City	Burgh	55,994	-7%
Aberdeen Donside	Aberdeen City	Burgh	62,531	4%
Aberdeen South and North Kincardine	Aberdeen City Aberdeenshire	County	61,544	3%
Aberdeenshire East	Aberdeenshire	County	64,217	7%
Aberdeenshire West	Aberdeenshire	County	59,983	0%
Angus North and Mearns	Aberdeenshire Angus	County	55,006	-8%
Angus South	Angus	County	58,622	-2%
Banffshire and Buchan Coast	Aberdeenshire Moray	County	58,442	-2%
Moray	Moray	County	63,133	5%

Provisional Proposals

- We designed constituencies for this area within our overall approach to grouping council areas for constituency design. Our proposed grouping for this area included nine constituencies exactly covering the extent of Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray Council areas. The combined area had an electorate of 539,472 and a theoretical entitlement to 8.9 constituencies.
- The discussion on our Provisional Proposals for these council areas 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.
- In deciding upon our Provisional Proposals for Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray Council areas we agreed a constituency design that aimed to improve variation from the electorate quota while minimising change to the existing arrangements, retaining seven of the existing constituencies.
- 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
Aberdeen Central	Aberdeen City	Burgh	55,994	-6.5%

Constituency Name	Council areas	Designation	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota
Aberdeen Donside	Aberdeen City	County	62,531	4.4%
Aberdeen South and North Kincardine	Aberdeen City Aberdeenshire	County	61,544	2.7%
Aberdeenshire East	Aberdeenshire	County	60,667	1.3%
Aberdeenshire West	Aberdeenshire	County	59,983	0.1%
Angus North and Mearns	Aberdeenshire Angus	County	55,006	-8.2%
Angus South	Angus	County	58,622	-2.1%
Banff and Buchan Coast	Aberdeenshire Moray	County	61,992	3.5%
Moray	Moray	County	63,133	5.4%

8. 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

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 29 August 2023.

10. We received 16 representations in response to the consultation on our Provisional Proposals for Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray Council areas. All responses have been shared with the Commission. The representations included: comments regarding the proposed boundary at Longside (east of Mintlaw); and opposition to the proposed Banff and Buchan Coast constituency name.

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

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

Local Inquiry

13. Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus or Moray Council did not object 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.

14. 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

15. We agreed to amend our proposals by: Arradoul to align constituency and ward boundaries as suggested during the consultation; Longside which would avoid the village being split between two constituencies and to revert to the existing constituency name Banffshire and Buchan Coast (rule 4).
16. On 16 April 2024 we published our Revised Proposals for these council areas for the specified consultation period of one month.
17. 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
Aberdeen Central	Aberdeen City	Burgh	55,994	-6.5%
Aberdeen Donside	Aberdeen City	Burgh	62,531	4.4%
Aberdeen South and North Kincardine	Aberdeen City Aberdeenshire	County	61,544	2.7%
Aberdeenshire East	Aberdeenshire	County	61,078	2.0%
Aberdeenshire West	Aberdeenshire	County	59,983	0.1%
Angus North and Mearns	Aberdeenshire Angus	County	55,006	-8.2%
Angus South	Angus	County	58,622	-2.1%
Banffshire and Buchan Coast	Aberdeenshire Moray	County	61,591	2.8%
Moray	Moray	County	63,123	5.4%

Responses to Revised Proposals Consultation

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

All Areas

19. The Scottish Liberal Democrats Party and Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party both supported the Revised Proposals because they minimise change to the existing constituencies.

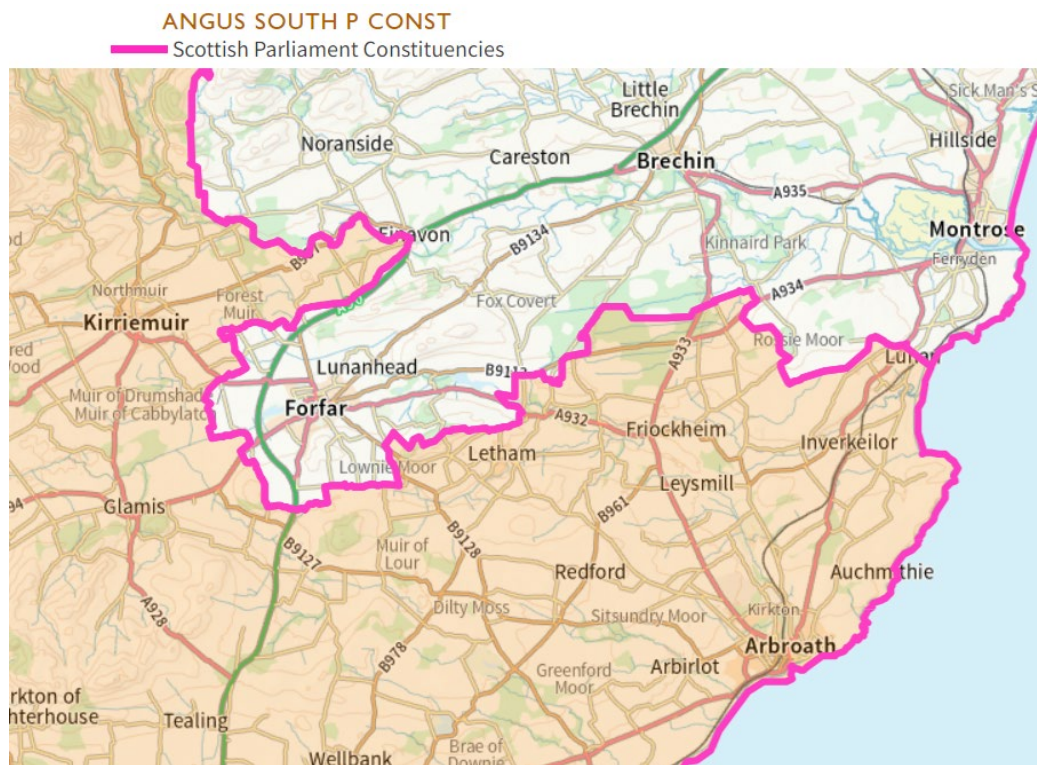
Aberdeen

20. Councillor Kairin van Sweeden, Aberdeen Tillydrone/ Seaton/ Old Aberdeen ward, argued that the use of compass points for constituency names are not descriptive of areas. For Aberdeen she suggested Aberdeen Deeside if there is an Aberdeen Donside or Aberdeen North/Donside and Aberdeen South/Deeside and North Kincardine.

Angus

- 21. A member of the public believes that Forfar and Kirriemuir should sit within the same constituency because Kirriemuir has little in common with the coastal towns of Angus. Kirriemuir sits within an Angus South constituency with coastal towns such as Arbroath and Carnoustie. Forfar sits within an Angus North and Mearns constituency with coastal towns such as Montrose and Stonehaven.
- 22. There are approximately 6,500 electors in Kirriemuir. Transferring Kirriemuir from an Angus South constituency to an Angus North and Mearns constituency with Forfar would create an Angus South constituency with variation from the electorate quota of -13%. See table below and map of Forfar and Kirriemuir (rule 2).

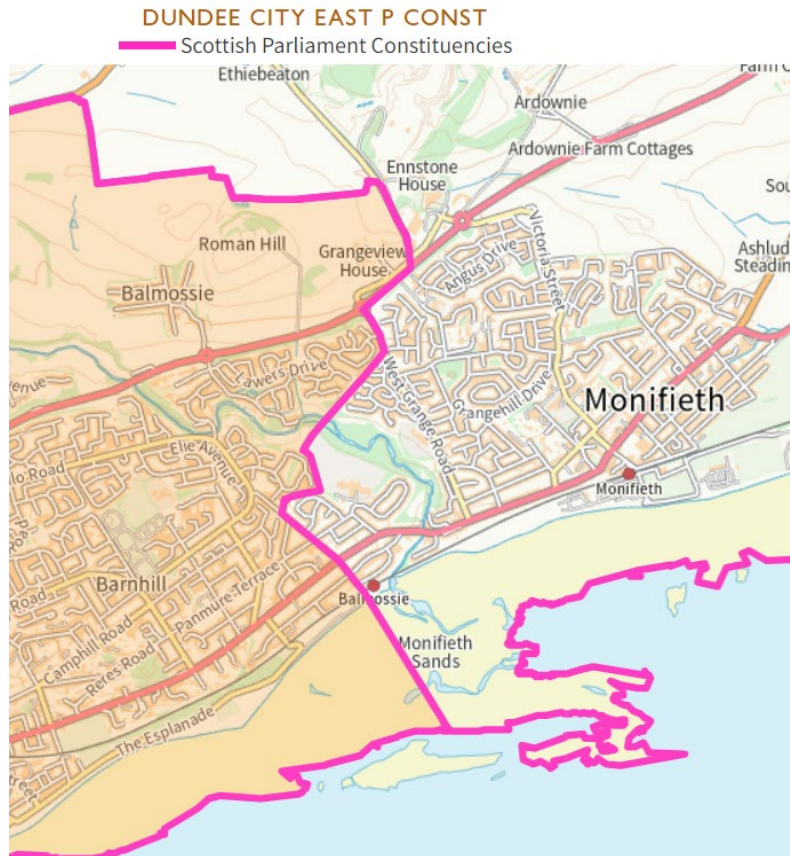
Suggestion - Kirriemuir	Electorate	Variation from electorate quota
Angus North and Mearns	61,506	2.7%
Angus South	52,122	-13.0%



- 23. Two members of the public supported the proposed Angus South constituency.
- 24. A member of the public suggested including Monifieth and Broughty Ferry in same constituency because they have more in common with each other as dormitory suburbs of Dundee as opposed to being in a constituency with Arbroath.
- 25. Broughty Ferry sits in Dundee City Council area and Monifieth in Angus Council area. The council area boundary by Monifieth does not follow any strong features, it follows residential streets or the rear fence-line of residential properties. Since 1999 a Scottish Parliament constituency boundary has followed the council area boundary at Monifieth. There are approximately Monifieth 7,600

electors, adding them to a Dundee City East constituency is shown in the table below (rule 1,2).

Monifieth suggestion Constituency	Electorate	Variation from electorate quota
Angus South	51,022	-14.8%
Dundee City East	63,630	6.2%



Aberdeenshire

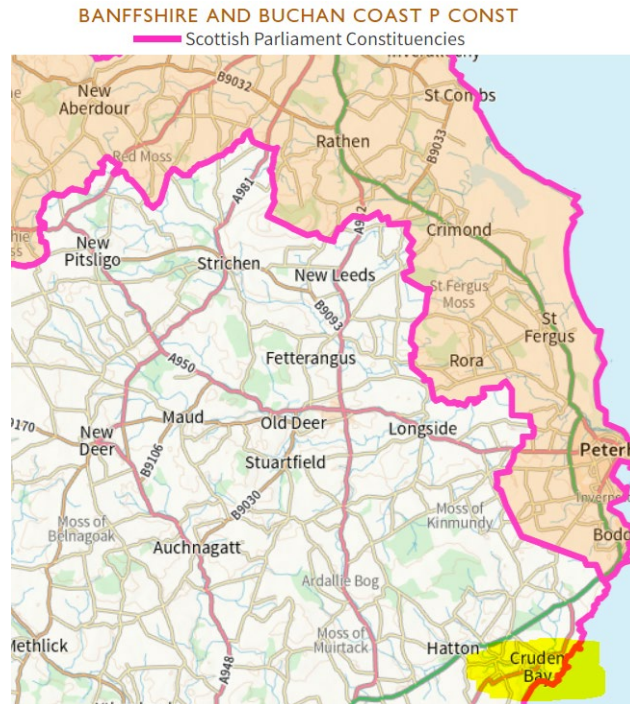
- 26. Aberdeenshire Council supported the Revised Proposals.
- 27. A member of the public supported reference to Banff in the proposed Banffshire and Buchan Coast constituency.
- 28. A member of the public believes the proposed Banffshire and Buchan Coast constituency should be smaller and suggested it be named Banff and Buchan.
- 29. During the provisional consultation, the Commission consulted on a constituency named Banff and Buchan Coast but responses preferred to retain the existing constituency name - Banffshire and Buchan Coast.
- 30. A member of the public stated the proposed Aberdeenshire West constituency is geographically too large. They suggested splitting the constituency into two constituencies - Aberdeenshire North and Aberdeenshire South.

31. There are 59,983 electors in the Aberdeenshire West constituency, two constituencies would have an average electorate of 29,991 each, well below the electorate quota (rule 2).
32. A member of the public suggested Stonehaven should be part of an Aberdeenshire constituency rather than an Angus constituency.
33. There are approximately 9,500 electors in Stonehaven. Variation from the electorate quota is shown in the table below with adding Stonehaven to an Aberdeenshire West constituency (rule 2).

Suggestion Stonehaven in Aberdeenshire	Electorate	Variation from electorate quota
Aberdeenshire West	69,507	16%
Angus North and Mearns	45,482	-24%

34. A member of the public is concerned that issues may arise in the proposed Banffshire and Buchan Coast constituency because it covers parts of Aberdeenshire Council and Moray Council.
35. The proposed Banffshire and Buchan Coast constituency includes Buckie from Moray Council area. Historically a Scottish or UK Parliament constituency has included parts of Aberdeenshire and Morayshire.
36. A member of the public commenting on the proposed Banffshire and Buchan Coast constituency wishes to remain within a Moray constituency.
37. A member of the public suggested Port Erroll (Cruden Bay) has closer geographical, historic and economic ties with a Banffshire and Buchan Coast constituency. They also suggested the constituency extend southwards to Collieston/ Forvie Nature Reserve, rather than to Boddam.
38. If the Banffshire and Buchan Coast constituency boundary were to be extended southwards to include Port Erroll, it would create an Aberdeenshire East constituency with variation from the electorate quota of 12.6% (rule 2). See table below and map highlighting Port Erroll (Cruden Bay) with the existing boundaries.

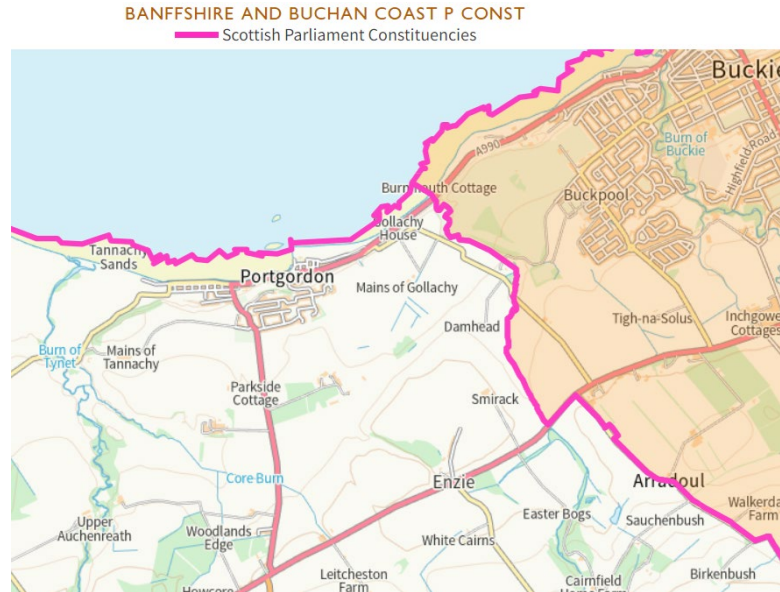
Suggestion - Port Erroll	Electorate	Variation from electorate quota
Banffshire and Buchan Coast	55,247	-7.8%
Aberdeenshire East	67,422	12.6%



Moray

- 39. A member of the public supported the proposed Moray constituency because there is minor change.
- 40. Moray Constituency Labour Party supported the proposed Moray constituency.
- 41. A member of the public suggested including Buckie in Moray but the comment makes reference to the council, council tax and council services rather than constituency boundaries.
- 42. Two members of the public suggested Buckie sit within a Moray constituency. A member of the public suggested Buckie and Cullen sit within a Moray constituency because they are closer to Elgin and Keith than Inverurie.
- 43. A Moray constituency which follows the Moray Council area boundary, including Buckie, would have 74,808 electors and variation from the electorate quota of 24.9% (rule 2).
- 44. A member of the public suggested that Portgordon should sit within the same constituency as Buckie and that the constituency boundary should follow the Tynet Burn.
- 45. Portgordon, to the west of Buckie, with approximately 700 electors could be added to a Banffshire and Buchan Coast constituency. This is shown in the table below with a map showing the location of Portgordon and Tynet Burn. The proposed and current constituency boundary here follows a ward boundary between Buckie and Portgordon (rule 4).

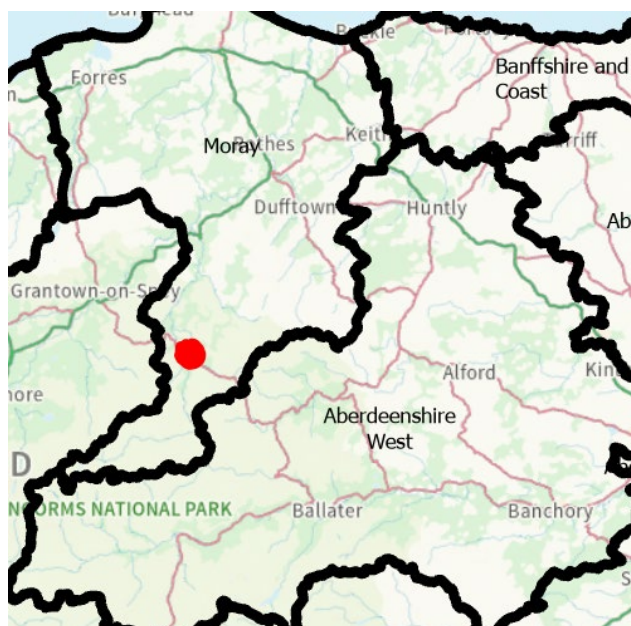
Suggestion - Portgordon	Electorate	Variation from electorate quota
Banffshire and Buchan Coast	62,291	4.0%
Moray	62,423	4.2%



46. A member of the public suggested Moray be moved to the north east region rather than the Highland region because it has closer social and cultural ties to the north east. They also suggested adding Tomintoul and Speyside to an Aberdeenshire West constituency and Buckie to a Moray constituency.

47. There are less than 500 electors in Tomintoul, adding them to an Aberdeenshire West constituency is shown in the table below. The map below shows the Revised Proposals (black line) and location of Tomintoul (red dot).

Tomintoul suggestion Constituency	Electorate	Variation from the electorate quota
Aberdeenshire West	60,483	1.0%
Moray	62,623	4.5%



48. A member of the public suggested Forres should be in Highland, not Grampian.
49. Forres currently sits in Moray Council area. The individual could be referring to the old local government structure of regions from 1974-1995.
50. A member of the public would prefer if Nairn was in a different constituency to Inverness.
51. Since 1999 a Scottish Parliament constituency has included Nairn with Inverness or part of Inverness.
52. A member of the public supported Inverness being in a single constituency because rural areas have different needs to Inverness.
53. From 1999-2011, Inverness was divided between two constituencies: Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber; and Ross, Skye and Inverness West. The Revised Proposals maintain the existing boundary by Inverness since 2011.
54. Moray Council supported the Revised Proposals.

Summary

55. The existing constituencies were all within 10% of the electorate quota.
56. The Commission made minor changes to the Provisional Proposals and amended the boundary of two constituencies by Mintlaw/Longside and renamed Banffshire and Buchan Coast as Banff and Buchan Coast.
57. Few comments were submitted during the provisional consultation. There were suggestions to amend the proposed boundary by Longside and retain the existing Banffshire and Buchan Coast constituency name.
58. No Council or body of 100 electors objected to the Provisional Proposals. The Commission agreed a local inquiry was not required there.
59. The Revised Proposals amended the proposed boundaries by Arradoul to follow a ward boundary and at Longside to avoid dividing it between constituencies. The Commission reverted to the existing Banffshire and Buchan Coast constituency name.
60. During the consultation on revised proposals there were few comments. No Council or body of 100 electors objected to the revised proposals. There were some suggestions regarding the boundary by Buckie to keep it in a Moray constituency but it would create a Moray constituency with 74,808 electors and variation from the electorate quota of 24.9%.

Constituency Names

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

Secretariat

June 2024

**Sample Constituency map for Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries
Final Report**

Revised Proposals by Council Area Grouping Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray Council areas

