

Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries Fife Council Area

Action required

1. The Commission is asked to: -
 - 1) Consider the consultation responses for Fife Council area as set out in paragraphs 19 to 32 and decide whether to hold a local inquiry.
 - 2) a) Consider whether it wishes to 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.
 - 3) If a local inquiry or further consultation is not required, consider the draft Final Report as set out in paragraphs 3 to 18 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, Fife Council area was covered by five constituencies wholly within the council area. The constituencies are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 - Constituencies at the start of this review

Constituency name	Designation	Electorate	Variation from Electoral Quota
Cowdenbeath	County	56,363	-5.9%
Dunfermline	County	62,615	4.5%

Constituency name	Designation	Electorate	Variation from Electoral Quota
Kirkcaldy	County	60,642	1.2%
Mid Fife and Glenrothes	County	54,098	-9.7%
North East Fife	County	56,669	-5.4%

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 five constituencies exactly covering the extent of Fife Council area. The area has an electorate of 290,387 and a theoretical entitlement to 4.8 constituencies.
- We discussed our Provisional Proposals for this council area and our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minute of our meetings of 14 December 2022 and 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.
- In deciding upon our Provisional Proposals for Fife Council area we agreed a constituency design that considered the Fife Council area boundary and retained five constituencies within it. The proposals retained the existing North East Fife constituency boundary but renamed it Fife North East to differentiate it from the UK Parliament constituency name. The proposals also amended the existing constituency boundaries by Burntisland following community council boundaries and made changes by Dundonald and Cardenden with those areas becoming part of the proposed Mid Fife and Glenrothes constituency rather than Cowdenbeath. The Cowdenbeath constituency was also expanded to include the whole of the Rosyth ward. The changes were made with aim of improving overall variation from the electoral quota (Rule 2).
- 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	Designation	Electorate	Variation from Electoral Quota
Cowdenbeath	County	59,195	-1.2%
Dunfermline	County	60,987	1.8%
Fife North East	County	56,669	-5.4%
Kirkcaldy	Burgh	55,100	-8.0%
Mid Fife and Glenrothes	County	58,436	-2.4%

- 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

- We considered the representations received on our Provisional Proposals in this council area and our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minutes of our meeting of 29 August 2023.

10. We received ten representations in response to the consultation on our Provisional Proposals for Fife Council area. All responses have been shared with the Commission. The representations included: opposition to naming a constituency Fife North East; a suggestion to make other constituencies names more representative of the communities that are included within them; and opposition to the proposed boundaries by Burntisland and Kirkcaldy.
11. On 15 November 2023 we published the representations we received during the consultation on our Provisional Proposals.

Local Inquiry

12. Fife 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.
13. 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

14. We considered the responses received on our Provisional Proposals and noted the strong opposition to Burntisland being placed in a separate constituency to Kirkcaldy as well as some suggestions for alternative constituency names.
15. It was agreed that reverting to the existing constituency boundaries would provide acceptable variation from the electoral quota and avoid breaking local ties between Burntisland and Kirkcaldy (Rules 2 and 4).
16. After considering all of the evidence we agreed to adopt the existing Scottish Parliament constituency boundaries within Fife Council area as our Revised Proposals and retained Fife North East as a constituency name.
17. On 16 April 2024 we published our Revised Proposals for these council areas for the specified consultation period of one month.
18. 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	Designation	Electorate	Variation from Electoral Quota
Cowdenbeath	County	56,363	-5.9%
Dunfermline	County	62,615	4.5%
Fife North East	County	56,669	-5.4%
Kirkcaldy	Burgh	60,642	1.2%
Mid Fife and Glenrothes	County	54,098	-9.7%

Responses to Revised Proposals Public Consultation

19. We received ten responses during the one-month consultation period for Fife Council area.
20. A member of the public stated that communities in the north and south of the proposed Cowdenbeath constituency are very different.
21. A member of the public stated North Queensferry has closer links with Dunfermline than Cowdenbeath such as access to local amenities.
22. From 1999 to 2011 North Queensferry was part of a Dunfermline East constituency. Periodically since the 1950's North Queensferry has been part of a Dunfermline constituency (rule 4).
23. A member of the public stated the Dunfermline constituency now includes Dollar and does not consider expected population growth.
24. The individual is referring to a UK Parliament Dunfermline and Dollar constituency. The review rules do not require the Commission to consider forecast electorate.
25. A member of the public opposed the proposed Dunfermline constituency boundary.
26. A member of the public suggested including Lundin Links, Lower and Upper Largo in a North East Fife constituency. They also questioned the constituency name change.
27. From 1999 to 2011 Lundin Links, Lower Largo and Upper Largo were part of a North East Fife Scottish Parliament constituency. Since at least 1950 they were part of a North East Fife or East Fife UK Parliament constituency. There are approximately 2,200 electors by Lundin Links, Lower and Upper Largo. Adding those villages to a Fife North East constituency would result in a Mid Fife and Glenrothes constituency with variation from the electorate quota of -13.4% as shown in the table below (rule 2).

Suggestion – Lundin Links/ Largo's	Electorate	Variation from Electoral Quota
Fife North East	58,869	-1.7%
Mid Fife and Glenrothes	51,898	-13.4%

28. A member of the public supported the proposed Fife North East constituency.
29. A member of the public supported the proposed Mid Fife and Glenrothes constituency.
30. A member of the public believed the Cowdenbeath and Dunfermline constituency boundaries had changed due to housing development at Dunfermline and Lochgelly.
31. The Scottish Liberal Democrats supported the Revised Proposals but suggested retaining the existing Fife North East constituency name. They believe Fife North East will be confusing for the local electorate.

32. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party supported the Revised Proposals.

Summary

33. The five existing Fife constituencies were all within 10% of the electorate quota.

34. The Commission agreed to make minor changes to the existing constituency boundaries to improve variation from the electorate quota. It also renamed the North East Fife constituency as Fife North East.

35. During the consultation on its Provisional Proposals there were few responses. Those that responded opposed: the proposed boundary by Burntisland; and the Fife North East constituency name.

36. Neither Fife Council or a body of 100 electors objected to the Provisional Proposals therefore the Commission agreed not to hold a local inquiry there.

37. When considering Revised Proposals, the Commission noted that reverting to the existing constituency boundaries would provide acceptable variation from the electoral quota and avoid breaking local ties between Burntisland and Kirkcaldy. The Commission agreed to retain the proposed Fife North East constituency name.

38. During the consultation on its Revised Proposals Fife Council did not object nor did a body of 100 electors.

Constituency Names

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

