

Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries Provisional Proposals for Regions

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to consider its Provisional Proposals for regions for its Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries.

Background

2. The Scotland Act 1998 states there are to be eight Scottish Parliament regions, each returning seven MSPs.
3. The rules for the design of Scottish Parliament regions are:
 - Rule 1 - “a constituency must fall wholly within a region” and
 - Rule 2 - “the regional electorate of a region must be as near the regional electorate of each of the other regions as is practicable, having regard (where appropriate) to special geographical considerations.”
4. The regional rules do not make any mention of boundaries of local authority areas, local ties, or inconveniences attendant on alterations, all of which appear in the rules for constituency design.
5. The Commission is required to hold a local inquiry on its proposals for regions if a local authority objects (that is a local authority for part or all of the area of the proposed region) or a body of 500 or more electors for the proposed region.

Initial Regions

6. The initial Scottish Parliament regions, in use between 1999 and 2011, were based on the European Parliament constituencies in existence in 1999. When conducting its review of European Parliament constituencies, between 1995 and 1996, the Boundary Commission for Scotland considered special geographical considerations in recommending a Highland and Islands European Parliament constituency with variation from the electorate quota of -34%.

First Review

7. During the First Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries, one local inquiry was held following the consultation on provisional proposals for regions. This was a result of both Highland Council and West Dunbartonshire Council objecting to a Dumbarton constituency, made up of parts of Argyll and Bute and West Dunbartonshire Council areas, being included in the proposed Highlands and Islands Region. A total of 200 responses were submitted during the provisional consultation stage. A further consultation on revised proposals for regions received 13 responses.
8. The First Review made changes to all of the initial region boundaries.
9. The First Review considered special geographical circumstances in respect of the Highlands and Islands region, it had variation from the electorate quota of -32%. The table below shows the recommended regions from the First Review, with their electorates (2007) and variation from the electorate quota.

Scottish Parliament - First Review Recommendations for Regions	Electorate 2007	Variation from electoral quota
Central Scotland	493,340	0.2%
Glasgow	493,610	0%
Highlands and Islands	334,720	-32%
Lothian	517,110	5%
Mid Scotland and Fife	490,700	0%
North East Scotland	540,310	10%
South Scotland	540,840	10%
West Scotland	528,680	7%

10. Although the review rules make no mention of local authority area boundaries, following the first review four council areas contain parts of two regions (Argyll and Bute, East Lothian, Midlothian and Moray). One council area, South Lanarkshire, contains parts of three regions.

Electorate and Electorate Quota

11. The electorate quota for regions is based on the total electorate of Scotland at the start of the review or enumeration date (1 September 2022) divided by eight - 531,320 ($4,250,563 \div 8 = 531,320$). The range within 10% of the electorate quota is between about 478,000 and 585,000 electors.

12. Variation from the electorate quota of the current regions is shown in table below. The table highlights the electorate growth in Lothian in comparison to the other regions since the First Review and that some changes to the existing region boundaries are required.

13. A list of all existing regions and their constituencies is at Appendix A. A table with their electorate and variation from the electorate quota is shown below.

Existing Scottish Parliament Regions	Electorate 1 Sept. 2022	Variation from electorate quota
Central Scotland	524,623	-1%
Glasgow	522,897	-2%
Highlands and Islands	359,316	-32%
Lothian	617,420	16%
Mid Scotland and Fife	521,460	-2%
North East Scotland	589,074	11%
South Scotland	554,830	4%
West Scotland	560,943	6%

Options

14. Each Scottish Parliament region is formed by aggregating whole constituencies, therefore it is not possible to adjust the electorate of each Scottish Parliament region with any precision and some variation from the electoral quota is inevitable.

15. Glasgow is the largest council area with 460,012 electors but is still below quota so it needs to be combined with a neighbouring area. All options avoid splitting Glasgow or Edinburgh council areas between regions.

16. The Commission's revised proposals made a minor change to the boundary between the Moray and Banffshire and Buchan Coast constituencies to follow a ward boundary by Arradoul. Therefore there is a difference of 10 electors for the Highland and Islands and North East Scotland regions.
17. Five options have been developed for consideration.
18. The five options use the constituency electorate data from the revised proposals as some constituency boundaries have still to be agreed with further consultation to take place. These constituencies will be highlighted in the discussion below if close to 10% variation from the electorate quota.
19. The options set out below are provisional as the Commission has still conduct its Falkirk local inquiry and await the report and recommendations from the Assistant Commissioner.
20. Falkirk sits towards the middle of regions proposed in Options 2, 4 and 5.
21. Maps highlight existing region boundaries and health board area boundaries. There are 14 health boards in Scotland but only 8 Scottish Parliament regions. Health Board area boundaries follow council area boundaries. There are individual health boards for the islands: Orkney; Shetland; and Western Isles. The 11 mainland health boards include: Ayrshire and Arran; Borders; Dumfries and Galloway; Fife; Forth Valley; Grampian; Greater Glasgow and Clyde; Highland; Lanarkshire; Lothian; and Tayside
22. Options 1, 2 and 3 all retain the existing: Highlands and Islands; North East Scotland; and Mid Scotland and Fife regions.

Option 1

23. Option 1 retains three of the existing regions: Highland and Islands; Mid Scotland and Fife; and North East Scotland regions. Special geographical considerations are retained in the proposed Highlands and Islands region. The other five regions differ from the existing regions.
24. A map of Option 1 can be found at Appendix B.

Option 1 Region	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Constituencies
Highlands and Islands	359,306	-32.0%	Argyll and Bute; Caithness, Sutherland and Ross; Inverness and Nairn; Moray; Na h-Eileanan an Iar; Orkney Islands; Shetland Islands; Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch
Mid Scotland and Fife	521,460	-2.0%	Clackmannanshire and Dunblane; Cowdenbeath; Dunfermline; Fife North East; Kirkcaldy; Mid Fife and Glenrothes; Perthshire North; Perthshire South and Kinross-shire; Stirling

North East Scotland	589,084	11.0%	Aberdeen Central; Aberdeen Donside; Aberdeen South and North Kincardine; Aberdeenshire East; Aberdeenshire West; Angus North and Mearns; Angus South; Banffshire and Buchan Coast; Dundee City East; Dundee City West
Central Scotland	591,215	11.0%	Airdrie; Clydebank and Milngavie; Coatbridge and Chryston; Cumbernauld and Kilsyth; Dumbarton; East Kilbride; Rutherglen; Motherwell and Wishaw; Strathkelvin and Bearsden; Uddingston and Bellshill
Edinburgh	543,001	2.0%	Edinburgh Central; Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent; Edinburgh North Eastern; Edinburgh North Western; Edinburgh Northern; Edinburgh South Western; Edinburgh Southern; Lothian Eastern; Midlothian North
Glasgow	550,836	4.0%	Erskine and Cardonald; Glasgow Central; Glasgow Eastern; Glasgow North Eastern; Glasgow Northern; Glasgow South Eastern; Glasgow Southern; Glasgow Western; Paisley
South Scotland	554,746	4.0%	Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire; Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale; Clydesdale; Bathgate; Falkirk North; Linlithgow and Falkirk South; Livingston and Breich Valley; Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse; Eastwood
West Scotland	540,915	2.0%	Ayr; Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; Cunninghame North; Cunninghame South; Dumfriesshire; Galloway and West Dumfries; Inverclyde; Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley; Renfrewshire West

25. The advantages of Option 1 are it:

- retains three existing regions - Highlands and Islands, Mid Scotland and Fife and North East Scotland - which have been in place since 2011 and may avoid confusion for the local electorate and MSPs.

26. The disadvantages of Option 1 are it:

- proposes three regions with variation from the electoral quota in excess of 10%, although in one special geographical considerations apply and the

other two are at 11%. Further, the Central Scotland region boundary may be amended following the Falkirk Local Inquiry Assistant Commissioners report;

- the South Scotland region extends to the outskirts of Stirling and Glasgow; and
- creates an oddly shaped Central Scotland region which wraps around Glasgow.

Option 2

27. Option 2 also retains three of the existing regions: Highland and Islands; Mid Scotland and Fife; and North East Scotland.

28. A map of Option 2 can be found at Appendix C.

Option 2 Region	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Constituencies
Highlands and Islands	359,306	-32.0%	See Option 1
Mid Scotland and Fife	521,460	-2.0%	See Option 1
North East Scotland	589,084	11.0%	See Option 1
Central Scotland	609,274	15.0%	Bathgate; Falkirk North; Linlithgow and Falkirk South; Livingston and Breich Valley; Strathkelvin and Bearsden; Airdrie; Clydebank and Milngavie; Coatbridge and Chryston; Cumbernauld and Kilsyth; Dumbarton
Edinburgh	543,001	2.0%	Edinburgh Central; Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent; Edinburgh North Eastern; Edinburgh North Western; Edinburgh Northern; Edinburgh South Western; Edinburgh Southern; Lothian Eastern; Midlothian North
Glasgow	550,836	4.0%	Erskine and Cardonald; Glasgow Central; Glasgow Eastern; Glasgow North Eastern; Glasgow Northern; Glasgow South Eastern; Glasgow Southern; Glasgow Western; Paisley
South Scotland	536,687	1.0%	Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire; Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale; Clydesdale; Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse; Eastwood; East Kilbride; Rutherglen; Motherwell and Wishaw; Uddingston and Bellshill

West Scotland	540,915	2.0%	Ayr; Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; Cunninghame North; Cunninghame South; Dumfriesshire; Galloway and West Dumfries; Inverclyde; Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley; Renfrewshire West
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29. The advantages of Option 2 are it:

- retains three existing regions - Highlands and Islands, Mid Scotland and Fife and North East Scotland - which have been in place since 2011 and may avoid confusion for the local electorate and MSPs.

30. The disadvantages of Option 2 are it:

- proposes three regions with variation from the electoral quota in excess of 10%, although in one, special geographical considerations apply.

Option 3

31. Option 3 retains three of the existing regions: Highland and Islands; Mid Scotland and Fife; and North East Scotland.

32. The five other regions closely resemble the existing regions.

33. A map of Option 3, can be found at Appendix D.

Option 3 Region	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Constituencies
Highlands and Islands	359,306	-32.0%	See Option 1
Mid Scotland and Fife	521,460	-2.0%	See Option 1
North East Scotland	589,084	11.0%	See Option 1
Central Scotland	540,535	2.0%	Airdrie; Linlithgow and Falkirk South; Coatbridge and Chryston; Cumbernauld and Kilsyth; East Kilbride; Falkirk North; Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse; Motherwell and Wishaw; Uddingston and Bellshill
Edinburgh	562,038	6.0%	Edinburgh Central; Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent; Edinburgh North Eastern; Edinburgh North Western; Edinburgh Northern; Edinburgh South Western; Edinburgh Southern; Bathgate; Livingston and Breich Valley
Glasgow	555,158	4.0%	Erskine and Cardonald; Glasgow Central; Glasgow Eastern;

			Glasgow North Eastern; Glasgow Northern; Glasgow South Eastern; Glasgow Southern; Glasgow Western; Rutherglen
South Scotland	586,073	10.0%	Lothian Eastern; Midlothian North; Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire; Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale; Clydesdale; Dumfriesshire; Galloway and West Dumfries; Ayr; Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley
West Scotland	536,909	1.0%	Cunninghame North; Cunninghame South; Eastwood; Inverclyde; Renfrewshire West; Paisley; Dumbarton; Clydebank and Milngavie; Strathkelvin and Bearsden

34. The advantages of Option 3 are it:

- retains three existing regions - Highlands and Islands, Mid Scotland and Fife and North East Scotland - which have been in place since 2011 and may avoid confusion for the local electorate and MSPs;
- closely resembles the existing region boundaries.

35. The disadvantages of Option 3 are it:

- proposes two regions with variation from the electoral quota in excess of 10%, although in one special geographical considerations apply and the other is 11% variation from the electoral quota.

Option 4

36. Option 4 proposes new boundaries for all eight regions.

37. A map of Option 4, can be found at Appendix E.

Option 4 Region	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Constituencies
East Scotland	523,161	-2.0%	Cowdenbeath; Dundee City East; Dundee City West; Dunfermline; Fife North East; Kirkcaldy; Mid Fife and Glenrothes; Perthshire North; Perthshire South and Kinross-shire
Glasgow	550,836	-4.0%	Erskine and Cardonald; Glasgow Central; Glasgow Eastern; Glasgow North Eastern; Glasgow Northern; Glasgow South Eastern; Glasgow Southern; Glasgow Western; Paisley
Highlands and Islands	594,986	12.0%	Argyll and Bute; Caithness, Sutherland and Ross; Cunninghame North;

			Cunninghame South; Dumbarton; Inverclyde; Inverness and Nairn; Orkney Islands; Na h-Eileanan an Iar; Renfrewshire West; Shetland Islands; Skye, Lochaber and Badenock
Lothian	543,001	2.0%	Edinburgh Central; Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent; Edinburgh North Eastern; Edinburgh North Western; Edinburgh Northern; Edinburgh South Western; Edinburgh Southern; Lothian Eastern; Midlothian North;
Mid Scotland	553,097	4.0%	Bathgate; Clackmannanshire and Dunblane; Clydebank and Milngavie; Cumbernauld and Kilsyth; Falkirk North; Linlithgow and Falkirk South; Livingston and Breich Valley; Strathkelvin and Bearsden; Stirling
North East Scotland	539,472	2.0%	Aberdeen Central; Aberdeen Donside; Aberdeen South and North Kincardine; Aberdeenshire East; Aberdeenshire West; Angus North and Mearns; Angus South; Banffshire and Buchan Coast; Moray
South Scotland	474,566	-11.0%	Ayr; Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; Clydesdale; Dumfriesshire; Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire; Galloway and West Dumfries; Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley; Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale
West Scotland	471,444	-11.0%	Airdrie; Coatbridge and Chryston; Eastwood; East Kilbride; Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse; Motherwell and Wishaw; Rutherglen; Uddingston and Bellshill

38. The advantages of Option 4 are it:

- it proposes a South Scotland region similar to the existing South Scotland region.

39. The disadvantages of Option 4 are it:

- proposes a Highland and Islands region extending from North Ayrshire to Shetland and does not consider special geographical circumstances for remote or island areas. However the existing region extends from Shetland to Campbeltown;
- proposes three regions with variation from the electoral quota in excess of 10% although they are either 11% or 12%;

- does not retain any of the existing regions and may cause confusion for the local electorate and MSPs.

Option 5

40. Option 5 retains two of the existing regions: Mid Scotland and Fife; and North East Scotland.

41. A map of Option 5, can be found at Appendix F.

Option 5 Region	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Constituencies
Mid Scotland and Fife	521,460	-2.0%	See Option 1
North East Scotland	589,084	11.0%	See Option 1
Glasgow	550,836	4.0%	Erskine and Cardonald; Glasgow Central; Glasgow Eastern; Glasgow North Eastern; Glasgow Northern; Glasgow South Eastern; Glasgow Southern; Glasgow Western; Paisley
Highlands and Islands	541,980	2.0%	Argyll and Bute; Caithness, Sutherland and Ross; Dumbarton; Inverclyde; Inverness and Nairn; Moray; Na h-Eileanan an Iar; Orkney Islands; Renfrewshire West; Shetland Islands; Skye, Lochaber and Badenock
Lothian	486,799	-8.0%	Edinburgh Central; Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent; Edinburgh North Eastern; Edinburgh North Western; Edinburgh Northern; Edinburgh South Western; Edinburgh Southern; Midlothian North
Mid Scotland	553,145	4.0%	Airdrie; Bathgate; Clydebank and Milngavie; Coatbridge and Chryston; Cumbernauld and Kilsyth; Falkirk North; Linlithgow and Falkirk South; Livingston and Breich Valley; Strathkelvin and Bearsden
South Scotland	533,438	0.0%	Clydesdale; Dumfriesshire; Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire; Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse; Lothian Eastern; Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale; Motherwell and Wishaw; Rutherglen; Uddingston and Bellshill
West Scotland	473,821	-11.0%	Ayr; Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; Cunninghame North; Cunninghame South; Eastwood; East Kilbride; Galloway and West

			Dumfries; Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley
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42. The advantages of Option 5 are it:

- retains two existing regions - Mid Scotland and Fife and North East Scotland - which have been in place since 2011 and may avoid confusion for the local electorate and MSPs.

43. The disadvantages of Option 5 are it:

- proposes two regions with variation from the electoral quota at 11%;
- it does not apply special geographical considerations;
- proposes a Highland and Islands region extending from Renfrewshire to Shetland and does not apply special geographical considerations for remote or island areas. However the existing region extends from Shetland to Campbeltown.

Names

44. The First Review recommended minor changes to the names of three regions, as shown in the table below.

Names of Regions 1999-2011	Names of Regions from 2011
Central Scotland	Central Scotland
Glasgow	Glasgow
Highlands and Islands	Highlands and Islands
Lothians	<i>Lothian</i>
Mid Scotland and Fife	Mid Scotland and Fife
North East Scotland	North East Scotland
South of Scotland	<i>South Scotland</i>
West of Scotland	<i>West Scotland</i>

45. The naming convention of regions places compass points at the start of names. Since the number of regions is small this does not present the same difficulty with alphabetical ordering than it would with constituency names.

Summary

46. As referred to above, the options presented are provisional as the Commission has still to conduct its Falkirk local inquiry and await the report and recommendations from the Assistant Commissioner. Consultation will also take place on Further Proposals for some constituencies.

47. Options 1, 2 and 3 retain three existing regions Highland and Islands; Mid Scotland and Fife; and North East Scotland.

48. Option 4 does not consider the existing region boundaries.

49. Option 5 retains two existing regions Mid Scotland and Fife; and North East Scotland.

50. Option 3 most closely resembles the existing region boundaries.

51. The rules state “electorate of a region must be as near the regional electorate of each of the other regions as is practicable, having regard (where appropriate) to special geographical considerations.”
52. Options 1, 2 and 3 all apply special geographic considerations to the Highlands and Islands region. The First Review applied special geographic considerations to the Highlands and Islands region.
53. All options propose at least one region with variation from the electorate quota above 10%. Each region is formed by aggregating whole constituencies therefore some variation from the electoral quota is inevitable. Options 1, 3 and 5 all propose regions within 11% variation from the electorate quota. Option 2 proposes a region with 15% variation from the electorate quota. Option 4 proposes a region with 12% variation from the electorate quota.

Conclusion

54. The Commission is invited to agree its Provisional Proposals for regions for public consultation.

Secretariat
July 2024

Existing regions, constituencies and electorates

Scottish Parliament Region	Electorate 1 Sept. 2022	Total
CENTRAL SCOTLAND		
Airdrie and Shotts	54,205	
Coatbridge and Chryston	56,877	
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth	51,210	
East Kilbride	60,763	
Falkirk East		
Falkirk West	63,861	
Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse	59,596	
Motherwell and Wishaw	57,740	
Uddingston and Bellshill	58,842	524,623
GLASGOW		
Glasgow Anniesland	55,540	
Glasgow Cathcart	59,981	
Glasgow Kelvin	62,061	
Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn	52,341	
Glasgow Pollok	61,428	
Glasgow Provan	56,025	
Glasgow Shettleston	59,014	
Glasgow Southside	53,622	
Rutherglen	62,885	522,897
HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS		
Argyll and Bute	49,535	
Caithness, Sutherland and Ross	56,532	
Inverness and Nairn	70,493	
Moray	63,133	
Na h-Eileanan an Iar	21,769	
Orkney Islands	17,696	
Shetland Islands	17,965	
Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch	62,193	359,316
LOTHIAN		
Almond Valley	70,119	
Edinburgh Central	65,240	
Edinburgh Eastern	72,512	
Edinburgh Northern and Leith	74,827	
Edinburgh Pentlands	59,274	
Edinburgh Southern	62,786	
Edinburgh Western	65,827	
Linlithgow	76,337	
Midlothian North and Musselburgh	70,498	617,420
MID SCOTLAND AND FIFE		
Clackmannanshire and Dunblane	52,150	
Cowdenbeath	56,363	
Dunfermline	62,615	
Kirkcaldy	60,642	

Mid Fife and Glenrothes	54,098	
North East Fife	56,669	
Perthshire North	57,021	
Perthshire South and Kinross-shire	63,018	
Stirling	58,884	521,460
NORTH EAST SCOTLAND		
Aberdeen Central	55,994	
Aberdeen Donside	62,531	
Aberdeen South and North Kincardine	61,544	
Aberdeenshire East	64,217	
Aberdeenshire West	59,983	
Angus North and Mearns	55,006	
Angus South	58,622	
Banffshire and Buchan Coast	58,442	
Dundee City East	56,030	
Dundee City West	56,705	589,074
SOUTH SCOTLAND		
Ayr	62,566	
Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley	59,218	
Clydesdale	61,011	
Dumfriesshire	61,848	
East Lothian	67,523	
Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire	55,131	
Galloway and West Dumfries	57,094	
Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley	65,742	
Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale	64,697	554,830
WEST SCOTLAND		
Clydebank and Milngavie	55,121	
Cunninghame North	56,604	
Cunninghame South	51,298	
Dumbarton	56,120	
Eastwood	56,258	
Greenock and Inverclyde	56,629	
Paisley	55,806	
Renfrewshire North and West	56,326	
Renfrewshire South	52,886	
Strathkelvin and Bearsden	63,895	560,943

**Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries
Provisional Proposals for Regions**

Background

1. At its meeting of 23 July 2024 the Commission considered its Provisional Proposals for regions for its Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries (Paper BS 118).
2. The Commission preferred Option 3 but wished to consider if an Edinburgh and East Lothian Council area region was feasible.
3. The Secretariat have developed three further options: 3A, 3B or 3C for consideration.
4. Option 3 is also included for comparison.
5. The Commission are reminded there are only two rules for regions:
 - Rule 1 - “a constituency must fall wholly within a region” and
 - Rule 2 - “the regional electorate of a region must be as near the regional electorate of each of the other regions as is practicable, having regard (where appropriate) to special geographical considerations.”
6. The region electorate quota for the Second Review is 531,320.

Option 3

7. Option 3 retains three of the existing regions: Highland and Islands; Mid Scotland and Fife; and North East Scotland.
8. The five other regions closely resemble the existing regions.
9. A map of Option 3, can be found at Appendix A.

Option 3 Region	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Constituencies
Highlands and Islands	359,306	-32.4%	Argyll and Bute; Caithness, Sutherland and Ross; Inverness and Nairn; Moray; Na h-Eileanan an Iar; Orkney Islands; Shetland Islands; Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch
Mid Scotland and Fife	521,460	-1.9%	Clackmannanshire and Dunblane; Cowdenbeath; Dunfermline; Fife North East; Kirkcaldy; Mid Fife and Glenrothes; Perthshire North; Perthshire South and Kinrossshire; Stirling
North East Scotland	589,084	10.9%	Aberdeen Central; Aberdeen Donside; Aberdeen South and North Kincardine; Aberdeenshire East; Aberdeenshire West; Angus North and Mearns; Angus South;

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			Banffshire and Buchan Coast; Dundee City East; Dundee City West
Central Scotland	540,535	1.7%	Airdrie; Linlithgow and Falkirk South; Coatbridge and Chryston; Cumbernauld and Kilsyth; East Kilbride; Falkirk North; Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse; Motherwell and Wishaw; Uddingston and Bellshill
Edinburgh	562,038	5.8%	Edinburgh Central; Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent; Edinburgh North Eastern; Edinburgh North Western; Edinburgh Northern; Edinburgh South Western; Edinburgh Southern; Bathgate; Livingston and Breich Valley
Glasgow	555,158	4.5%	Erskine and Cardonald; Glasgow Central; Glasgow Eastern; Glasgow North Eastern; Glasgow Northern; Glasgow South Eastern; Glasgow Southern; Glasgow Western; Rutherglen
South Scotland	586,073	10.3%	Lothian Eastern; Midlothian North; Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire; Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale; Clydesdale; Dumfriesshire; Galloway and West Dumfries; Ayr; Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley
West Scotland	536,909	1.1%	Cunninghame North; Cunninghame South; Eastwood; Inverclyde; Renfrewshire West; Paisley; Dumbarton; Clydebank and Milngavie; Strathkelvin and Bearsden

10. The advantages of Option 3 are it:

- retains three existing regions - Highlands and Islands, Mid Scotland and Fife and North East Scotland - which have been in place since 2011 and may avoid confusion for the local electorate and MSPs; and
- closely resembles the existing region boundaries.

11. The disadvantages of Option 3 are it:

- proposes two regions with variation from the electoral quota in excess of 10%, although in one special geographical considerations apply and the other is 11% variation from the electoral quota.

Option 3A

12. Option 3A is similar to option 3 but adds the:

- Lothian Eastern constituency to an Edinburgh region; and
- Livingston and Breich Valley constituency to the South Scotland region.

13. A map of Option 3A, can be found at Appendix B.

Option 3A Region	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Constituencies
Edinburgh	554,499	4.4%	Edinburgh Central; Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent; Edinburgh North Eastern; Edinburgh North Western; Edinburgh Northern; Edinburgh South Western; Edinburgh Southern; Bathgate; Lothian Eastern
South Scotland	593,612	11.7%	Livingston and Breich Valley; Midlothian North; Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire; Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale; Clydesdale; Dumfriesshire; Galloway and West Dumfries; Ayr; Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley
Highlands and Islands	359,306	-32.4%	See Option 3
Mid Scotland and Fife	521,460	-1.9%	See Option 3
North East Scotland	589,084	10.9%	See Option 3
Central Scotland	540,535	1.7%	See Option 3
Glasgow	555,158	4.5%	See Option 3
West Scotland	536,909	1.1%	See Option 3

14. The advantages of Option 3A are it:

- retains three existing regions - Highlands and Islands, Mid Scotland and Fife and North East Scotland - which have been in place since 2011 and may avoid confusion for the local electorate and MSPs; and
- proposes an Edinburgh region which includes Edinburgh and East Lothian Council areas, areas with close links.

15. The disadvantages of Option 3A are it:

- proposes three regions with variation from the electoral quota in excess of 10%, although in one special geographical considerations apply and in the others variation from the electoral quota is 11.7% and 10.9%;
- does not consider the existing Lothian-South Scotland region boundary but keeps Edinburgh and East Lothian Council areas in a single region;
- creates an elongated, oddly-shaped Edinburgh region; and

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- West Lothian Council area is split between three regions.

Option 3B

16. Option 3B is similar to option 3 but adds the:

- Lothian Eastern and Midlothian North constituencies to an Edinburgh region; and
- Bathgate and Livingston and Breich Valley constituencies to the South Scotland region.

17. A map of Option 3B, can be found at Appendix C.

Option 3B Region	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Constituencies
Edinburgh	543,001	2.2%	Edinburgh Central; Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent; Edinburgh North Eastern; Edinburgh North Western; Edinburgh Northern; Edinburgh South Western; Edinburgh Southern; Lothian Eastern; Midlothian North
South Scotland	605,110	13.9%	Bathgate; Livingston and Breich Valley; Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire; Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale; Clydesdale; Dumfriesshire; Galloway and West Dumfries; Ayr; Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley
Highlands and Islands	359,306	-32.4%	See Option 3
Mid Scotland and Fife	521,460	-1.9%	See Option 3
North East Scotland	589,084	10.9%	See Option 3
Central Scotland	540,535	1.7%	See Option 3
Glasgow	555,158	4.5%	See Option 3
West Scotland	536,909	1.1%	See Option 3

18. The advantages of Option 3B are it:

- retains three existing regions - Highlands and Islands, Mid Scotland and Fife and North East Scotland - which have been in place since 2011 and may avoid confusion for the local electorate and MSPs; and
- proposes an Edinburgh region which includes Edinburgh, East Lothian and most of Midlothian Council areas. These are all areas with close links although West Lothian also has close links with Edinburgh.

19. The disadvantages of Option 3B are it:

Boundaries Scotland

- proposes three regions with variation from the electoral quota in excess of 10%, although in one special geographical considerations apply but the South Scotland region proposes variation from the electoral quota at 13.9%; and
- does not consider the existing Lothian-South Scotland region boundary but keeps Edinburgh and East Lothian Council areas in a single region.

Option 3C

20. Option 3C is similar to option 3 but adds the:

- Lothian Eastern and Midlothian North constituencies to an Edinburgh region;
- Bathgate and Livingston and Breich Valley constituencies to a Central Scotland region; and
- East Kilbride and Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse constituencies to a South Scotland region.

21. A map of Option 3C can be found at Appendix D.

Option 3C Region	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Constituencies
Edinburgh	543,001	2.2%	Edinburgh Central; Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent; Edinburgh North Eastern; Edinburgh North Western; Edinburgh Northern; Edinburgh South Western; Edinburgh Southern; Lothian Eastern; Midlothian North
South Scotland	594,925	12.0%	Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire; Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale; Clydesdale; Dumfriesshire; Galloway and West Dumfries; Ayr; Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley; East Kilbride; Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse
Central Scotland	550,720	3.7%	Bathgate; Livingston and Breich Valley; Airdrie; Linlithgow and Falkirk South; Coatbridge and Chryston; Cumbernauld and Kilsyth; Falkirk North; Motherwell and Wishaw; Uddingston and Bellshill
Highlands and Islands	359,306	-32.4%	See Option 3
Mid Scotland and Fife	521,460	-1.9%	See Option 3
North East Scotland	589,084	10.9%	See Option 3
Glasgow	555,158	4.5%	See Option 3

Boundaries Scotland

West Scotland	536,909	1.1%	See Option 3
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22. The advantages of Option 3C are it:

- retains three existing regions - Highlands and Islands, Mid Scotland and Fife and North East Scotland - which have been in place since 2011 and may avoid confusion for the local electorate and MSPs;
- proposes an Edinburgh region which includes Edinburgh, East Lothian and most of Midlothian Council areas. These are all areas with close links although West Lothian also has close links with Edinburgh; and
- creates a recognisable Central Scotland region. It covers the area between Edinburgh and Glasgow.

23. The disadvantages of Option 3C are it:

- proposes three regions with variation from the electoral quota in excess of 10%, although in one special geographical considerations apply and in the others variation from the electoral quota is 12.0% and 10.9%;
- does not consider the existing Lothian-South Scotland region boundary but keeps Edinburgh and East Lothian Council areas in a single region; and
- does not consider the existing Central Scotland-South Scotland region boundary.

Summary

24. The options presented are provisional as the Commission has still to conduct its Falkirk local inquiry and await the report and recommendations from the Assistant Commissioner. Consultation will also take place on Further Proposals for some constituencies.

25. The existing Lothian region included Edinburgh, West Lothian and partly Midlothian and East Lothian Council areas. It has an electorate of 617,420 and variation from the electorate quota of 16%.

26. At its meeting of 23 July 2024 the Commission considered its Provisional Proposals for regions and preferred Option 3 but wished to consider if an Edinburgh and East Lothian Council area region was feasible. Option 3 closely resembled the existing region boundaries.

27. The existing East Lothian constituency sits within a South Scotland region.

28. The rules for electoral parity differ for constituencies and regions. For regions “the regional electorate of a region must be as near the regional electorate of each of the other regions as is practicable, having regard (where appropriate) to special geographical considerations.” For constituencies “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.”

29. The table below compares the range of electors for each option. All options exclude the electorate of the Highlands and Islands region where special geographic considerations are applied.

Boundaries Scotland

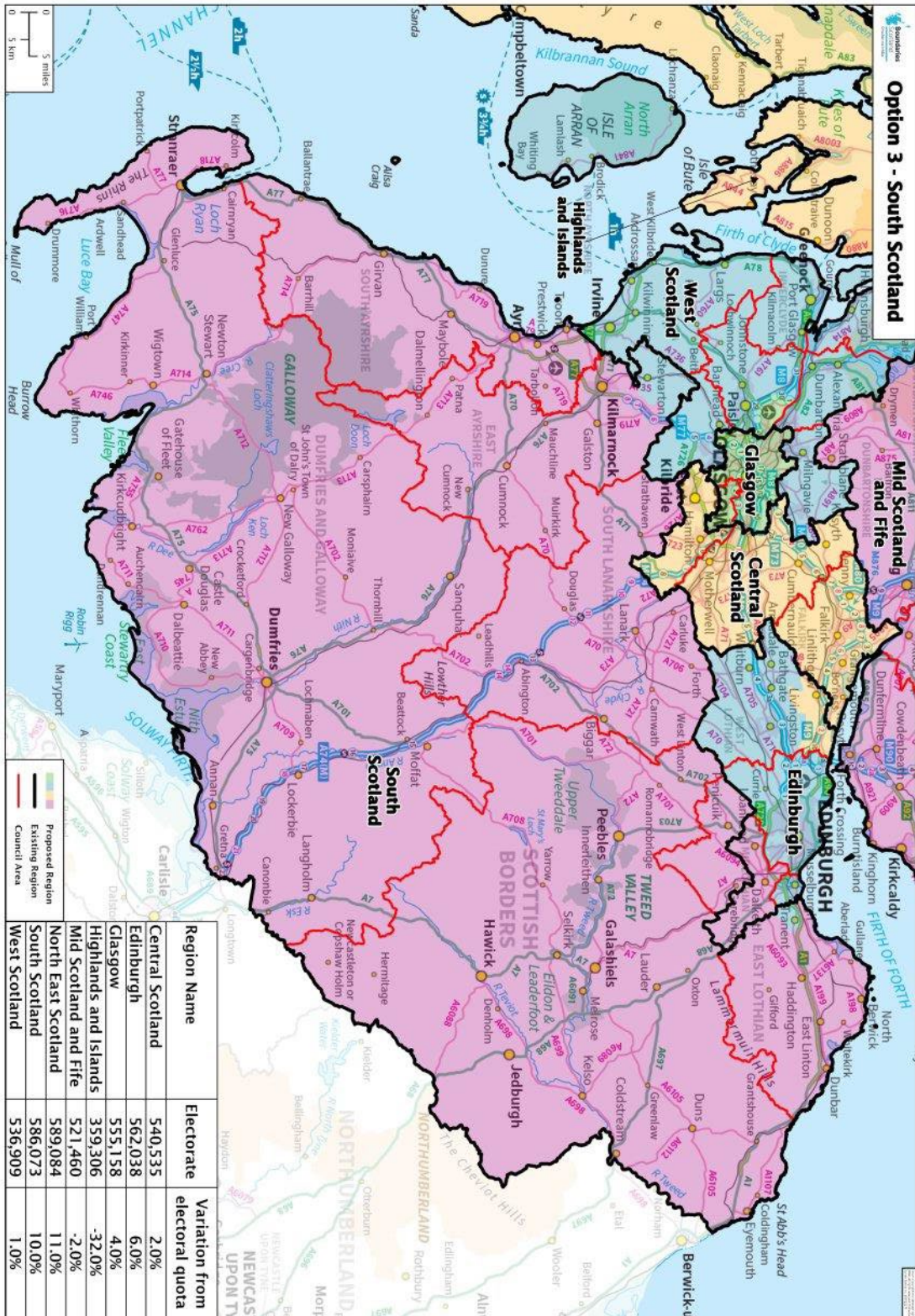
Option	Region with lowest electorate	Region with highest electorate	Difference/ range of electors
3	521,460	589,084	67,624
3A	521,460	593,612	72,152
3B	521,460	605,110	83,650
3C	521,460	594,925	73,465

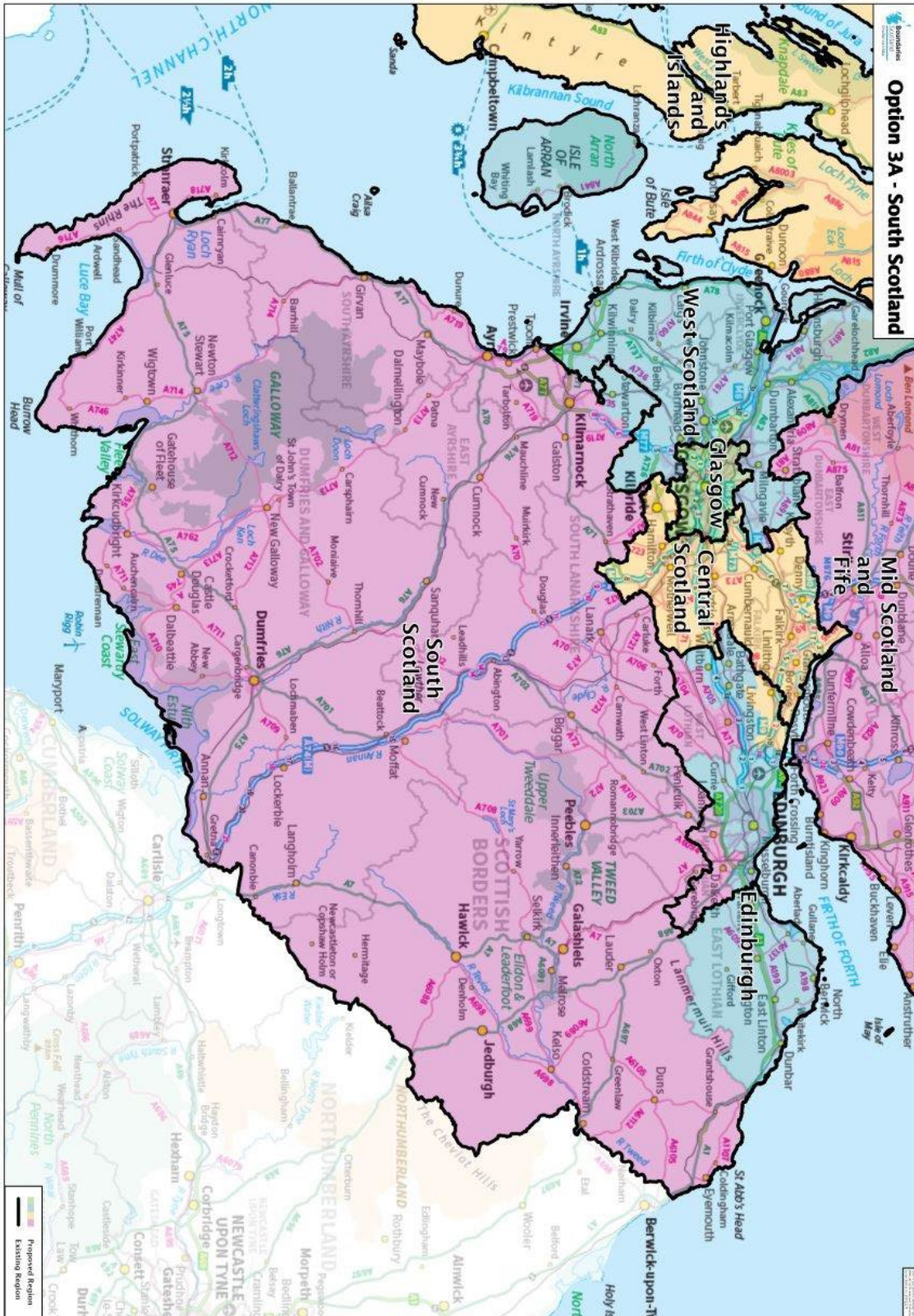
30. Options 3A, 3B and 3C all place Edinburgh and East Lothian Council areas in the same region.
31. Option 3A proposes an oddly shaped Edinburgh region and splits West Lothian Council area between three regions.
32. Option 3B proposes a South Scotland region with variation from the electoral quota at 13.9%.
33. Option 3C creates an identifiable Central Scotland region but does not consider the existing Lothian-South Scotland or Central Scotland-South Scotland boundaries.
34. All options propose a region named Edinburgh but the Commission may wish to retain Lothian as a region name. In Option 3 an Edinburgh region includes Edinburgh, partly East Lothian and partly West Lothian Council areas. In Option 3A an Edinburgh region includes Edinburgh, East Lothian and partly West Lothian Council areas. In Options 3B and 3C an Edinburgh region includes Edinburgh, East Lothian and partly Midlothian Council areas.

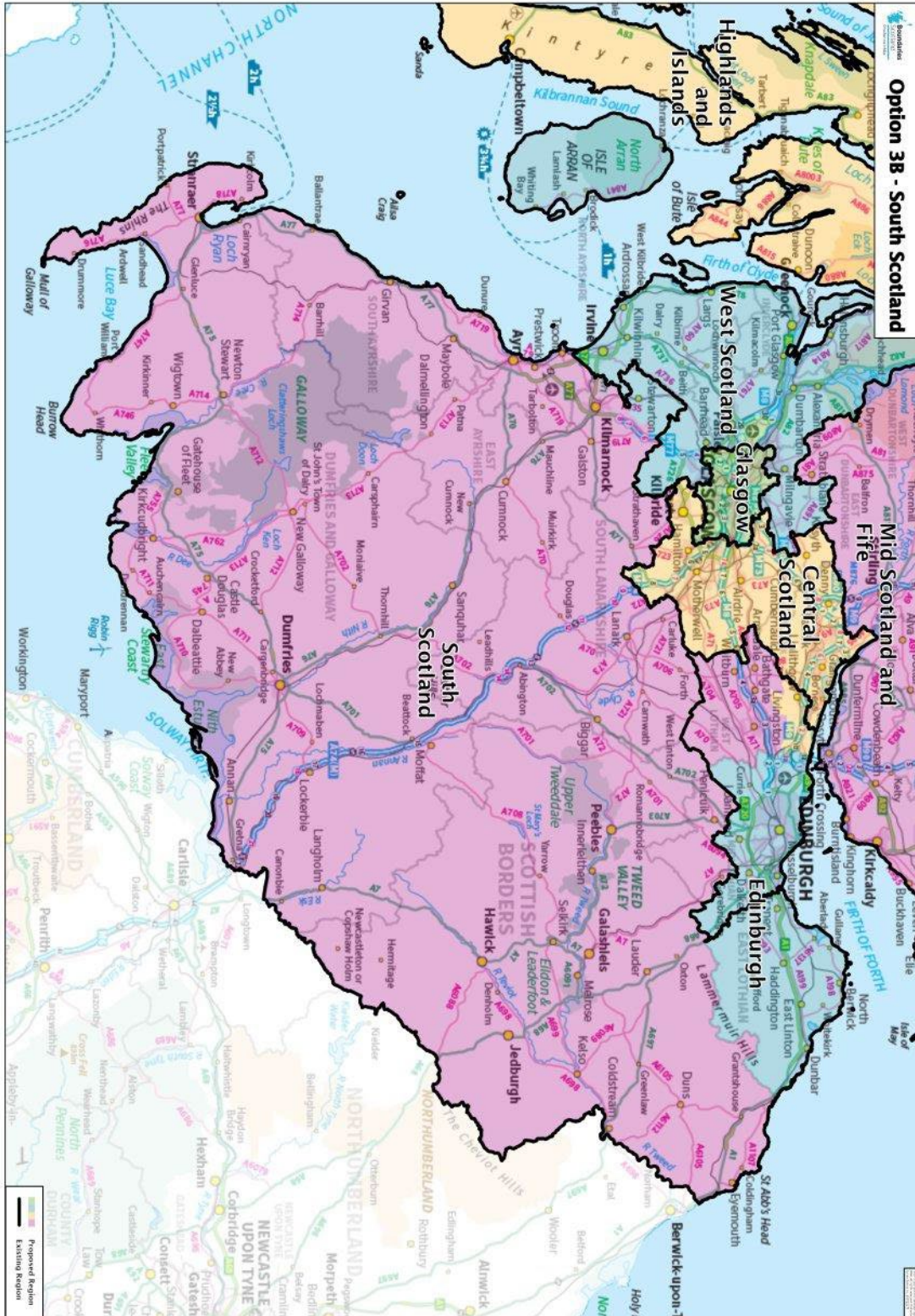
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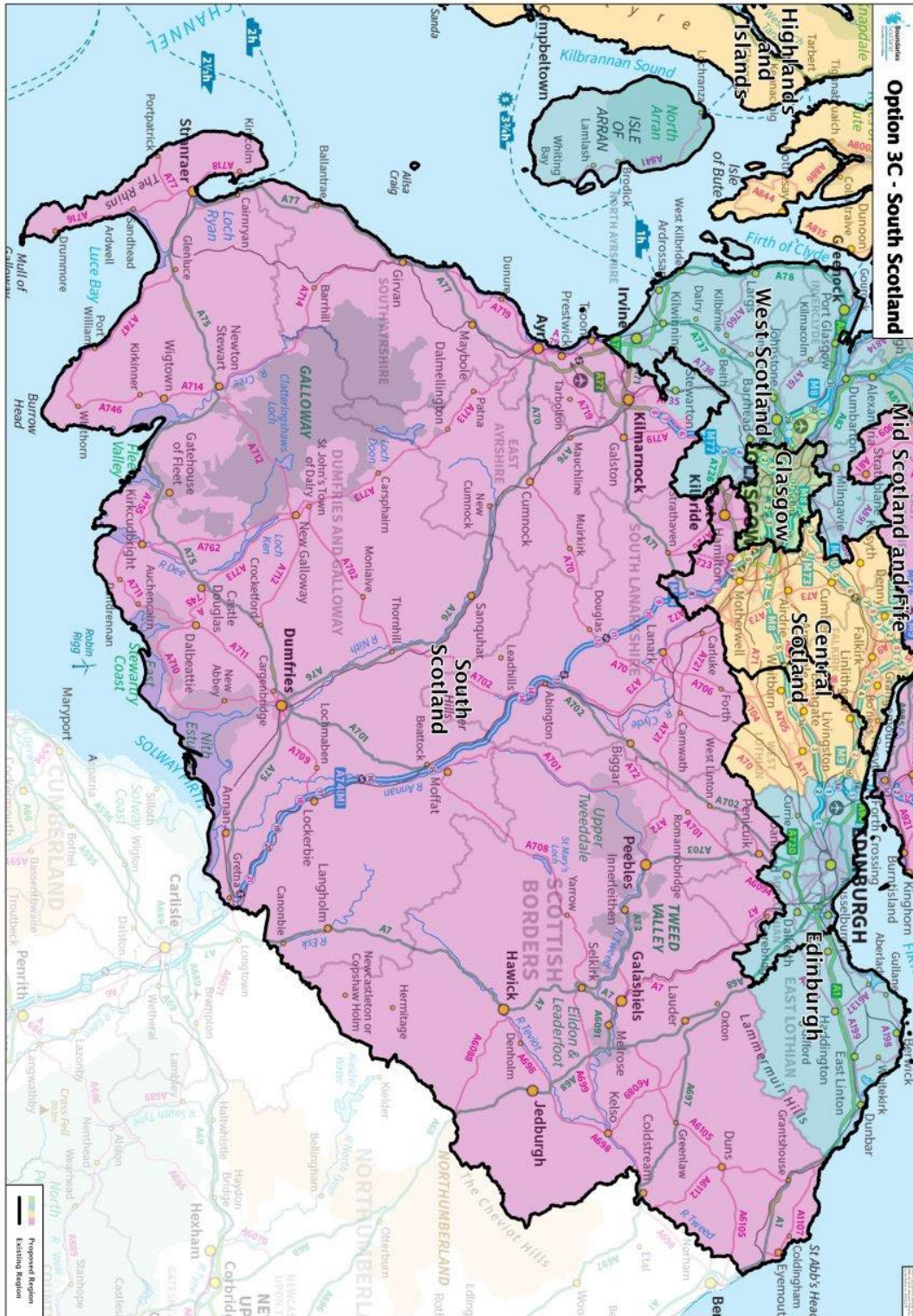
35. The Commission is invited to provide a preference for either Option 3, 3A, 3B or 3C and the region names.

**Secretariat
July 2024**





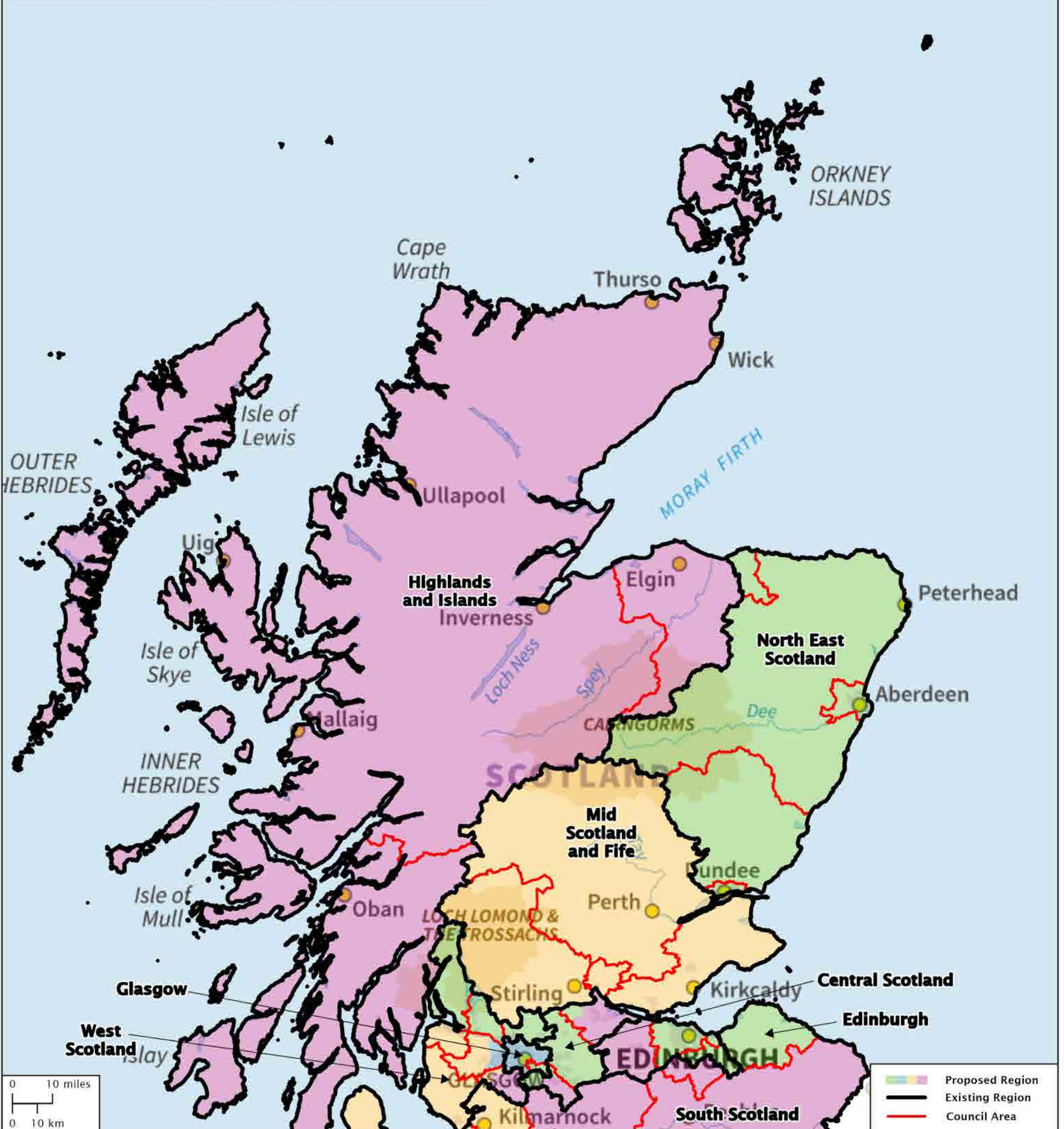




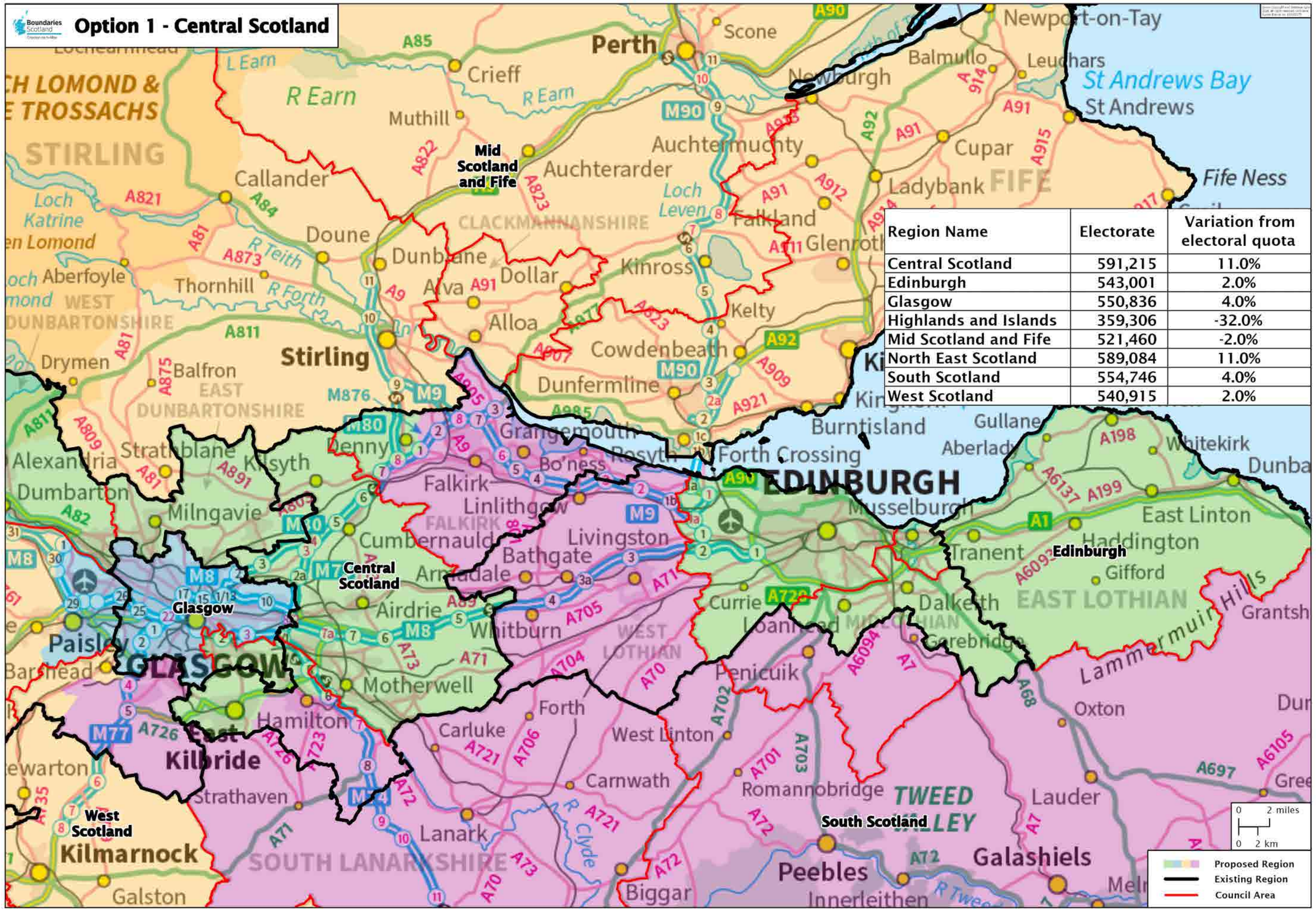
Option 1 - North Scotland

Small text: 2014-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100

Region Name	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota
Central Scotland	591,215	11.0%
Edinburgh	543,001	2.0%
Glasgow	550,836	4.0%
Highlands and Islands	359,306	-32.0%
Mid Scotland and Fife	521,460	-2.0%
North East Scotland	589,084	11.0%
South Scotland	554,746	4.0%
West Scotland	540,915	2.0%



Option 1 - Central Scotland



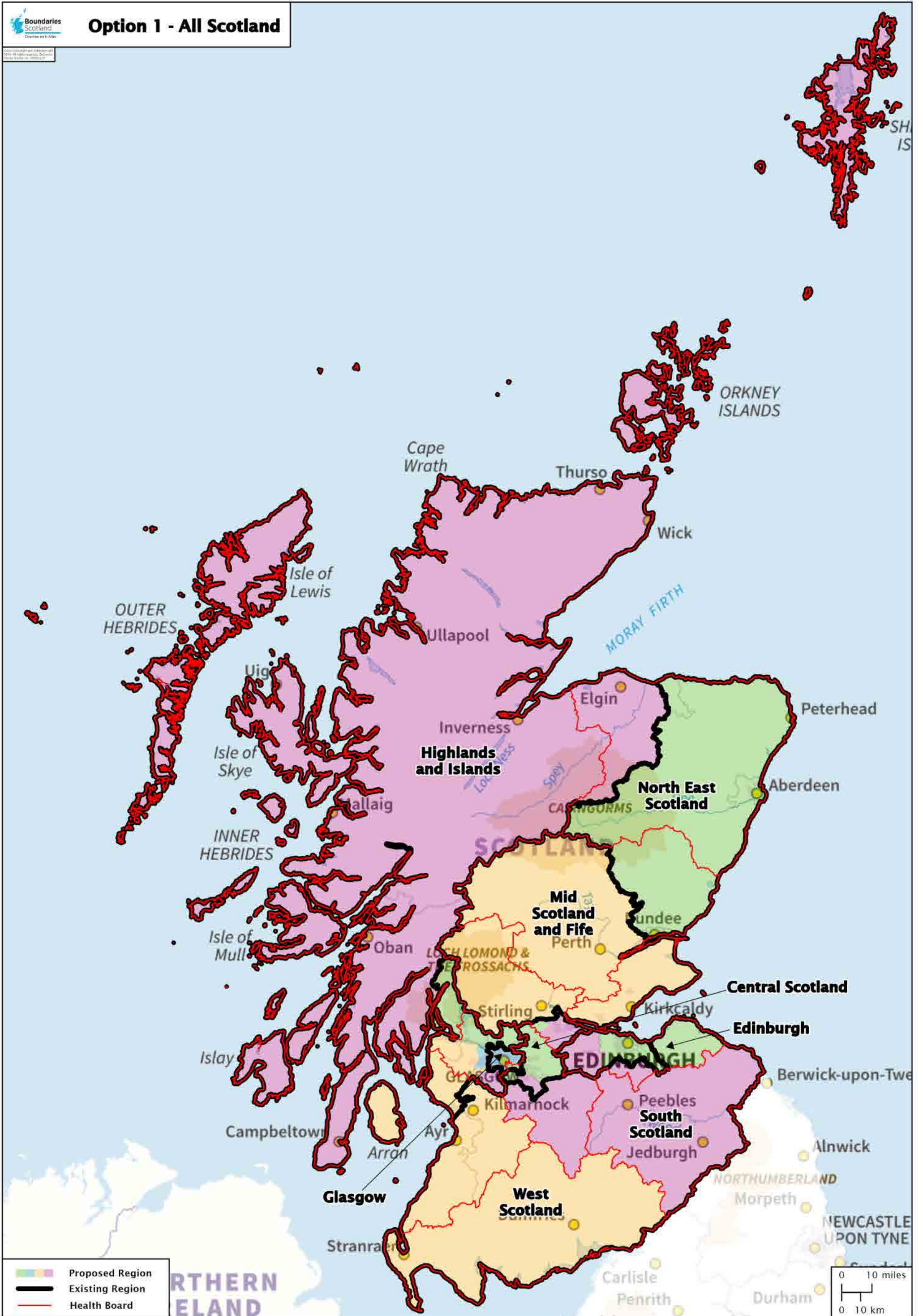
Region Name	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota
Central Scotland	591,215	11.0%
Edinburgh	543,001	2.0%
Glasgow	550,836	4.0%
Highlands and Islands	359,306	-32.0%
Mid Scotland and Fife	521,460	-2.0%
North East Scotland	589,084	11.0%
South Scotland	554,746	4.0%
West Scotland	540,915	2.0%



Option 1 - South Scotland

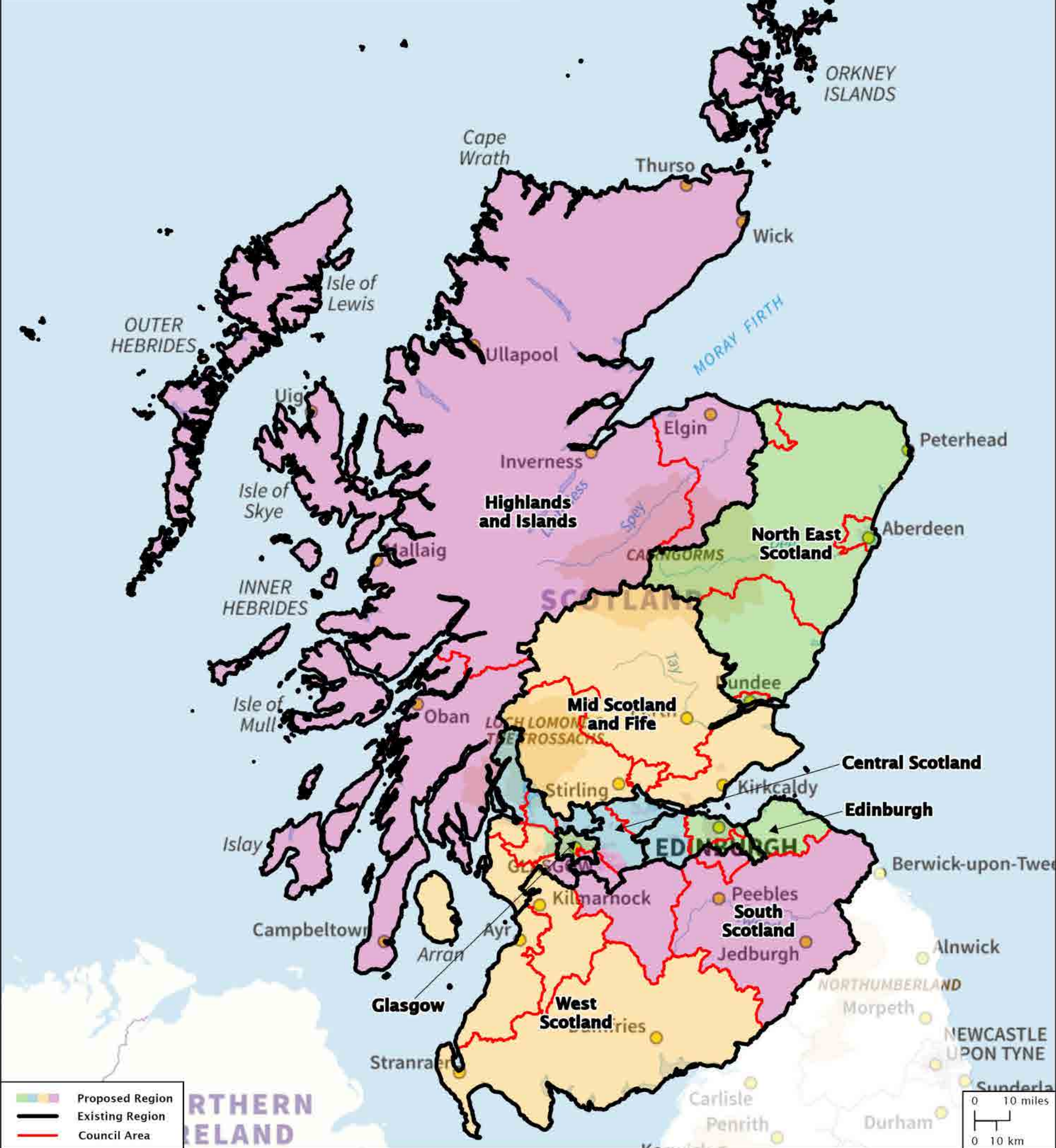
Region Name	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota
Central Scotland	591,215	11.0%
Edinburgh	543,001	2.0%
Glasgow	550,836	4.0%
Highlands and Islands	359,306	-32.0%
Mid Scotland and Fife	521,460	-2.0%
North East Scotland	589,084	11.0%
South Scotland	554,746	4.0%
West Scotland	540,915	2.0%

■ Proposed Region
 Existing Region
 Council Area



Option 2 - All Scotland

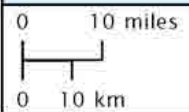
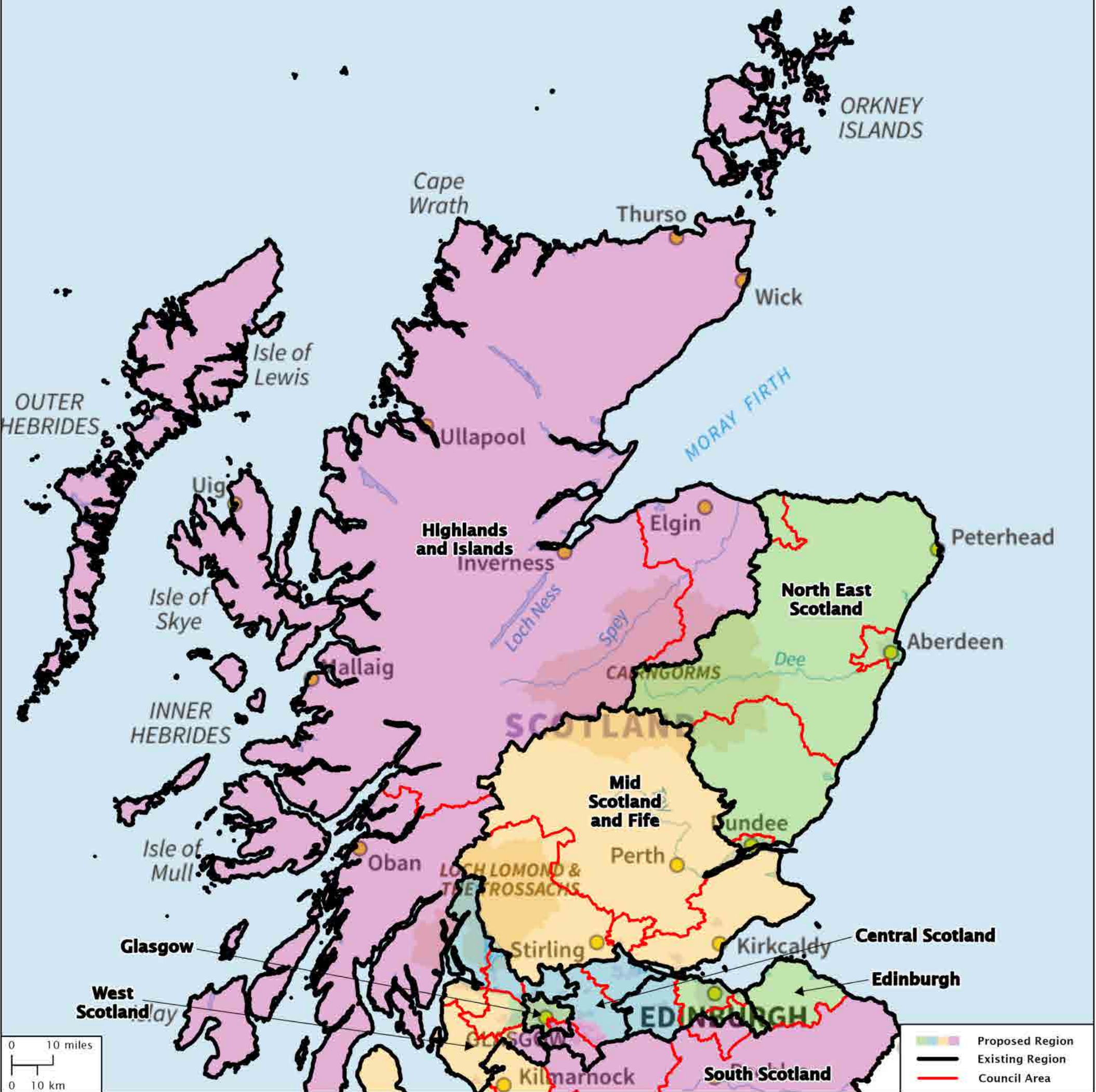
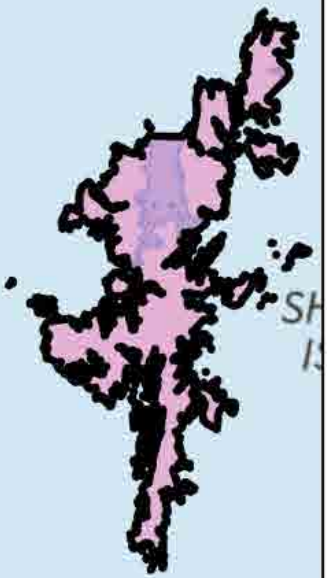
Region Name	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota
Central Scotland	609,274	15.0%
Edinburgh	543,001	2.0%
Glasgow	550,836	4.0%
Highlands and Islands	359,306	-32.0%
Mid Scotland and Fife	521,460	-2.0%
North East Scotland	589,084	11.0%
South Scotland	536,687	1.0%
West Scotland	540,915	2.0%



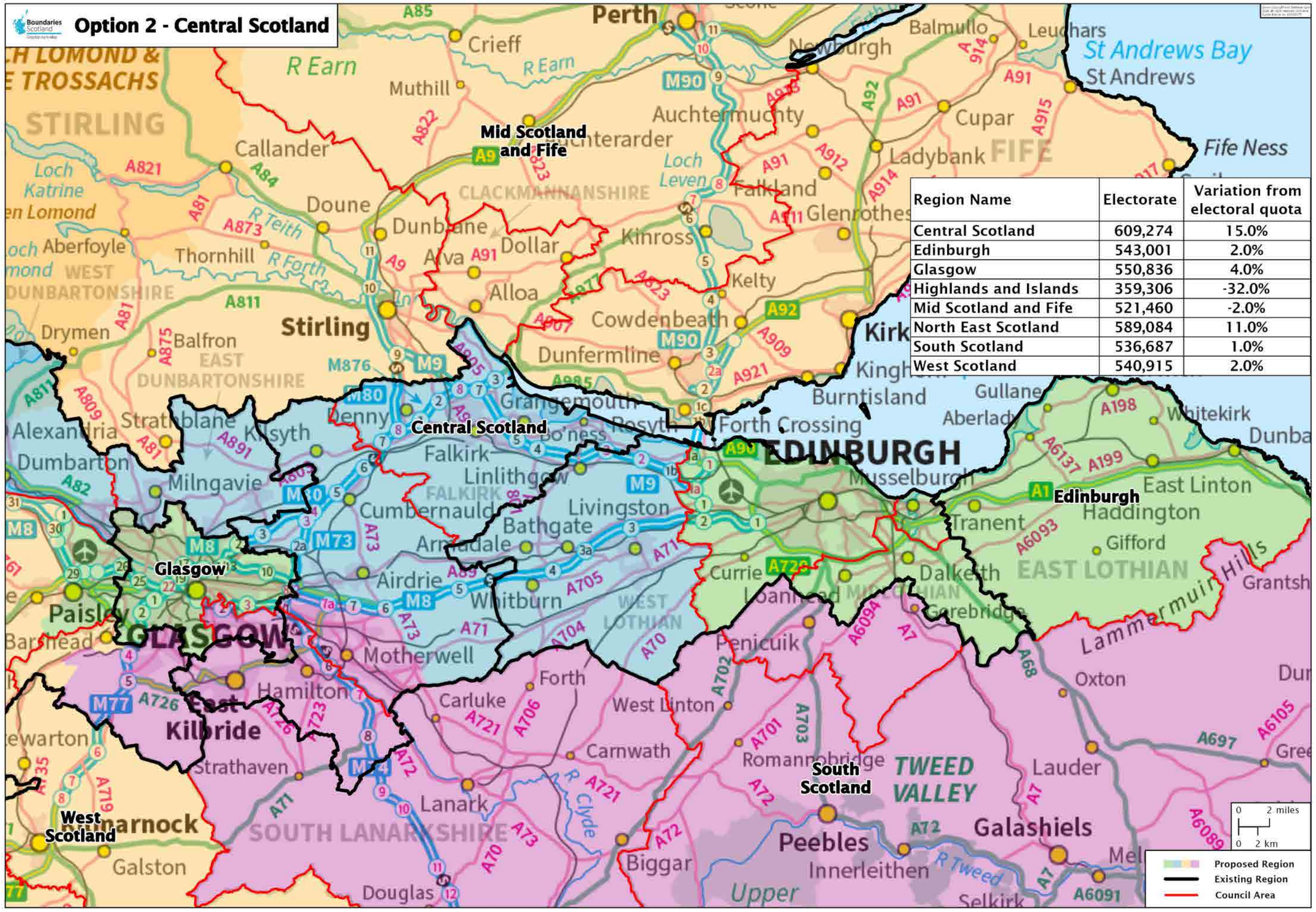
Option 2 - North Scotland

OSG058 to 5-AR6
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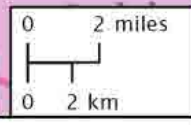
Region Name	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota
Central Scotland	609,274	15.0%
Edinburgh	543,001	2.0%
Glasgow	550,836	4.0%
Highlands and Islands	359,306	-32.0%
Mid Scotland and Fife	521,460	-2.0%
North East Scotland	589,084	11.0%
South Scotland	536,687	1.0%
West Scotland	540,915	2.0%



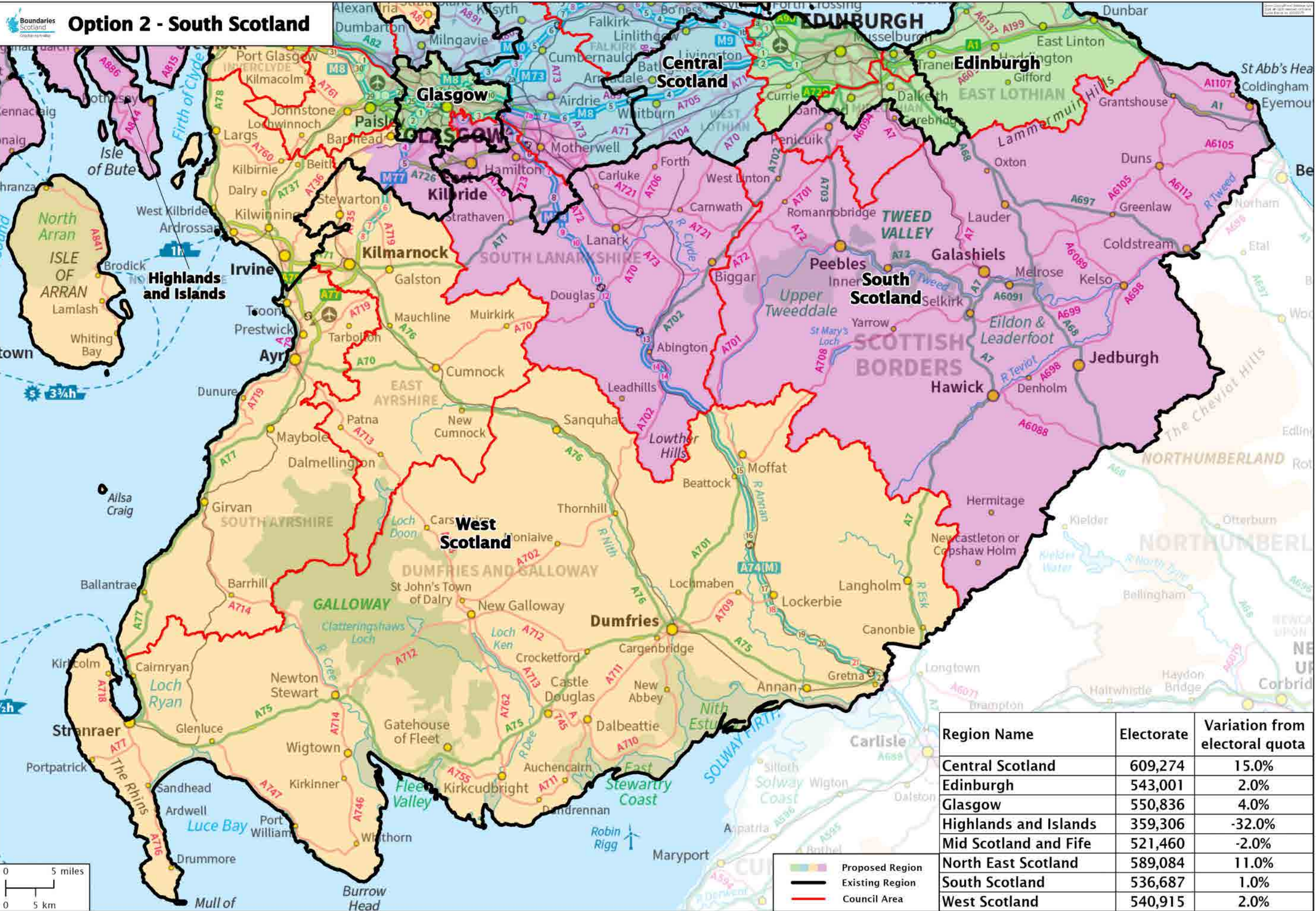
Option 2 - Central Scotland



Region Name	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota
Central Scotland	609,274	15.0%
Edinburgh	543,001	2.0%
Glasgow	550,836	4.0%
Highlands and Islands	359,306	-32.0%
Mid Scotland and Fife	521,460	-2.0%
North East Scotland	589,084	11.0%
South Scotland	536,687	1.0%
West Scotland	540,915	2.0%



- █ Proposed Region
- █ Existing Region
- █ Council Area



Option 2 - All Scotland

Scale: 1:100,000
Date: 10/14/08
Author: [illegible]



Legend:

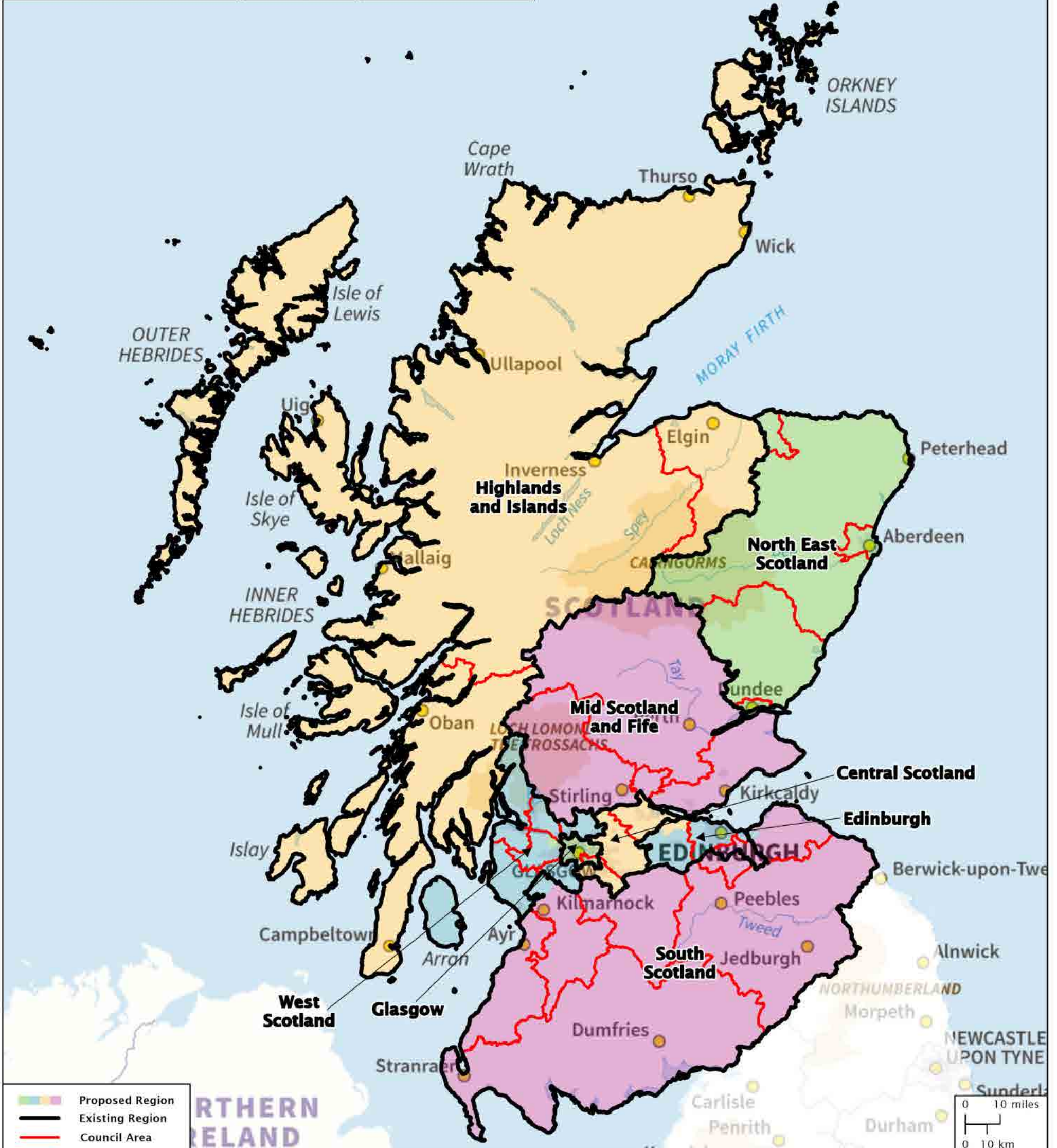
- Proposed Region (colored box)
- Existing Region (thick black line)
- Health Board (thin red line)

Scale:

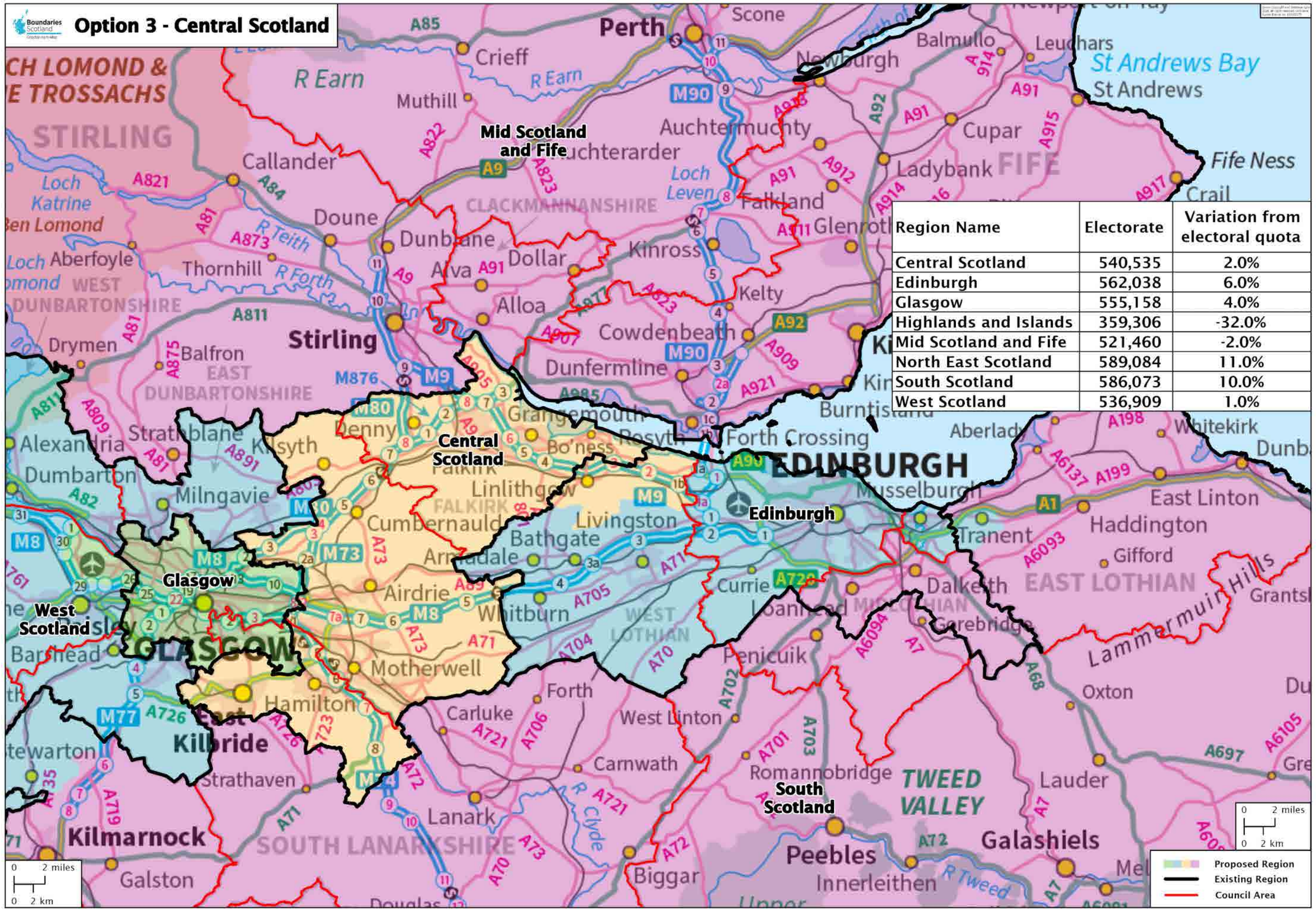
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- 0 10 km

Option 3 - All Scotland

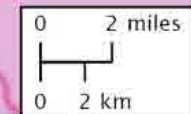
Region Name	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota
Central Scotland	540,535	2.0%
Edinburgh	562,038	6.0%
Glasgow	555,158	4.0%
Highlands and Islands	359,306	-32.0%
Mid Scotland and Fife	521,460	-2.0%
North East Scotland	589,084	11.0%
South Scotland	586,073	10.0%
West Scotland	536,909	1.0%



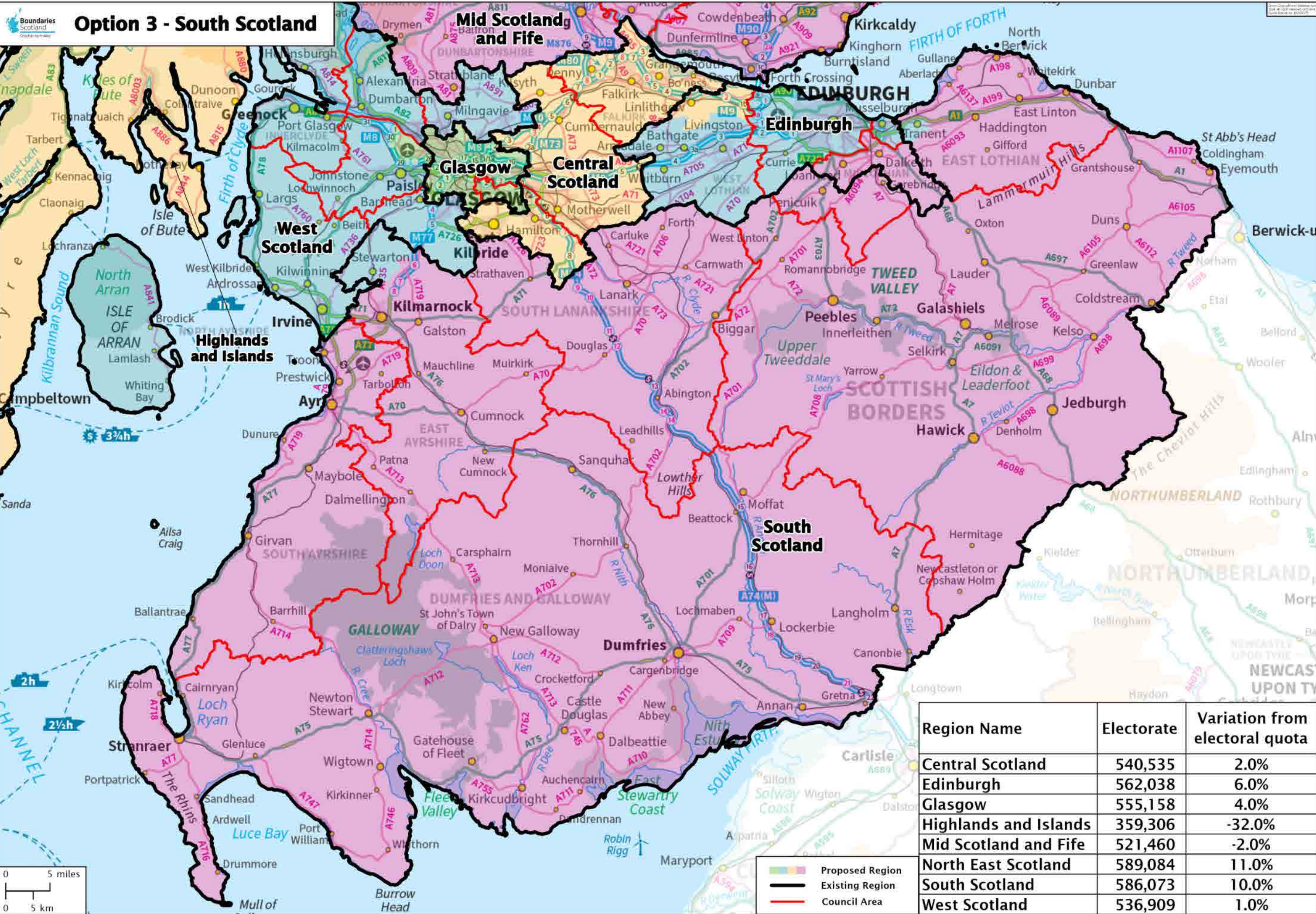
Option 3 - Central Scotland



Region Name	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota
Central Scotland	540,535	2.0%
Edinburgh	562,038	6.0%
Glasgow	555,158	4.0%
Highlands and Islands	359,306	-32.0%
Mid Scotland and Fife	521,460	-2.0%
North East Scotland	589,084	11.0%
South Scotland	586,073	10.0%
West Scotland	536,909	1.0%



- Proposed Region
- Existing Region
- Council Area



Option 3 - South Scotland

Region Name	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota
Central Scotland	540,535	2.0%
Edinburgh	562,038	6.0%
Glasgow	555,158	4.0%
Highlands and Islands	359,306	-32.0%
Mid Scotland and Fife	521,460	-2.0%
North East Scotland	589,084	11.0%
South Scotland	586,073	10.0%
West Scotland	536,909	1.0%

■ Proposed Region
 Existing Region
 Council Area

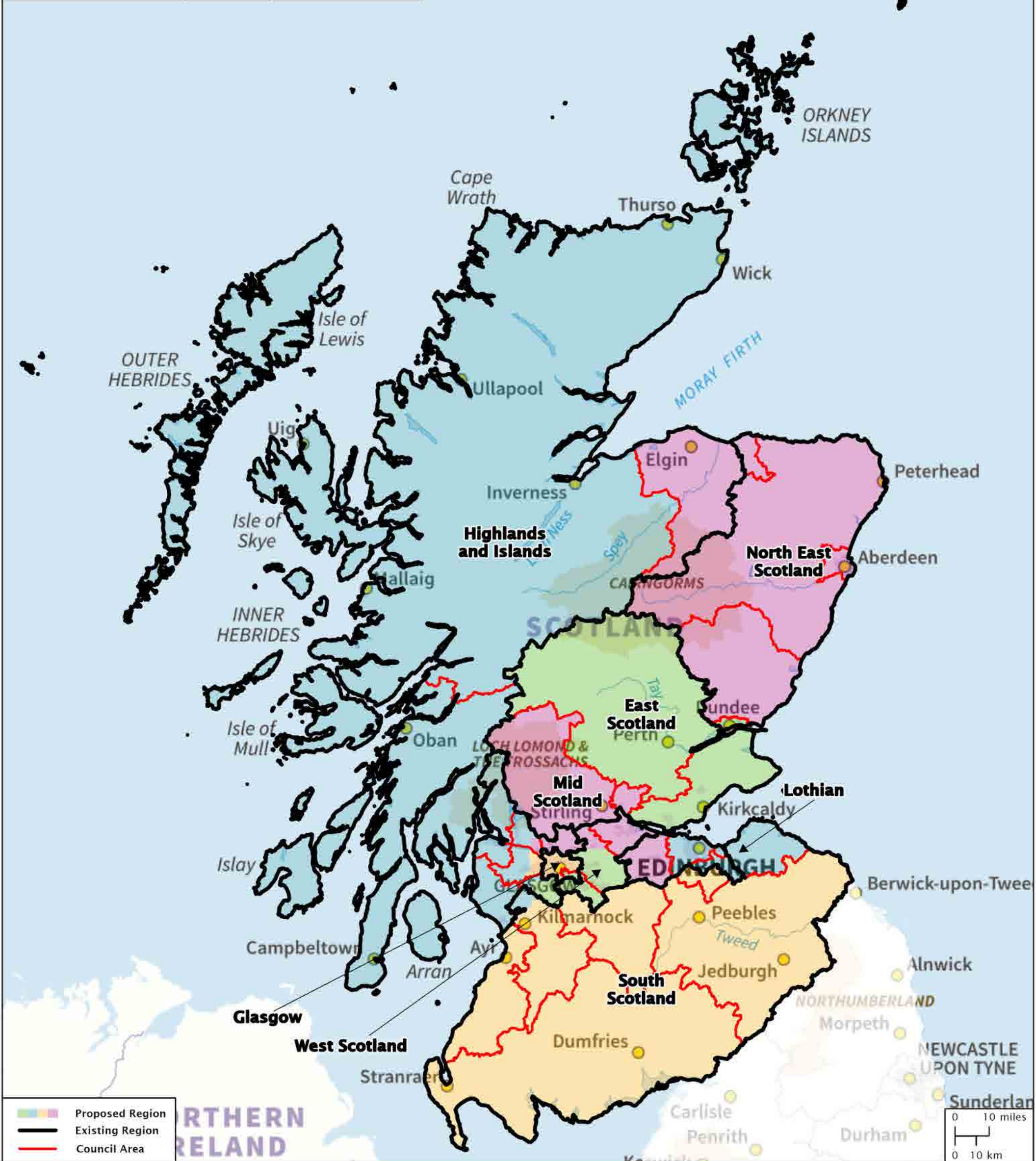
Option 3 - All Scotland

Map of Scotland and Northern Ireland
Scale: 1:100,000
Date: 15/03/2017

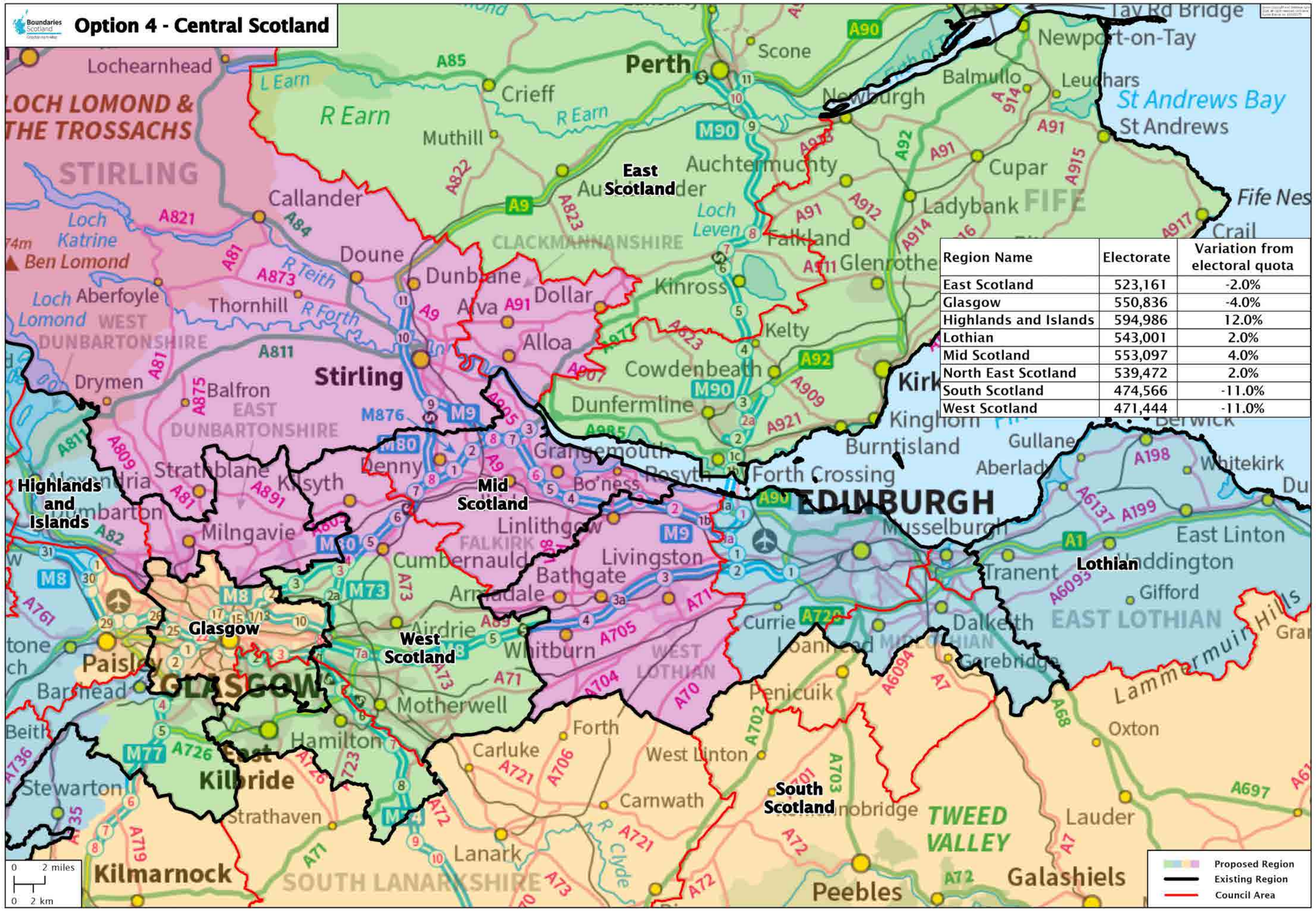


Option 4 - All Scotland

Region Name	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota
East Scotland	523,161	-2.0%
Glasgow	550,836	-4.0%
Highlands and Islands	594,986	12.0%
Lothian	543,001	2.0%
Mid Scotland	553,097	4.0%
North East Scotland	539,472	2.0%
South Scotland	474,566	-11.0%
West Scotland	471,444	-11.0%



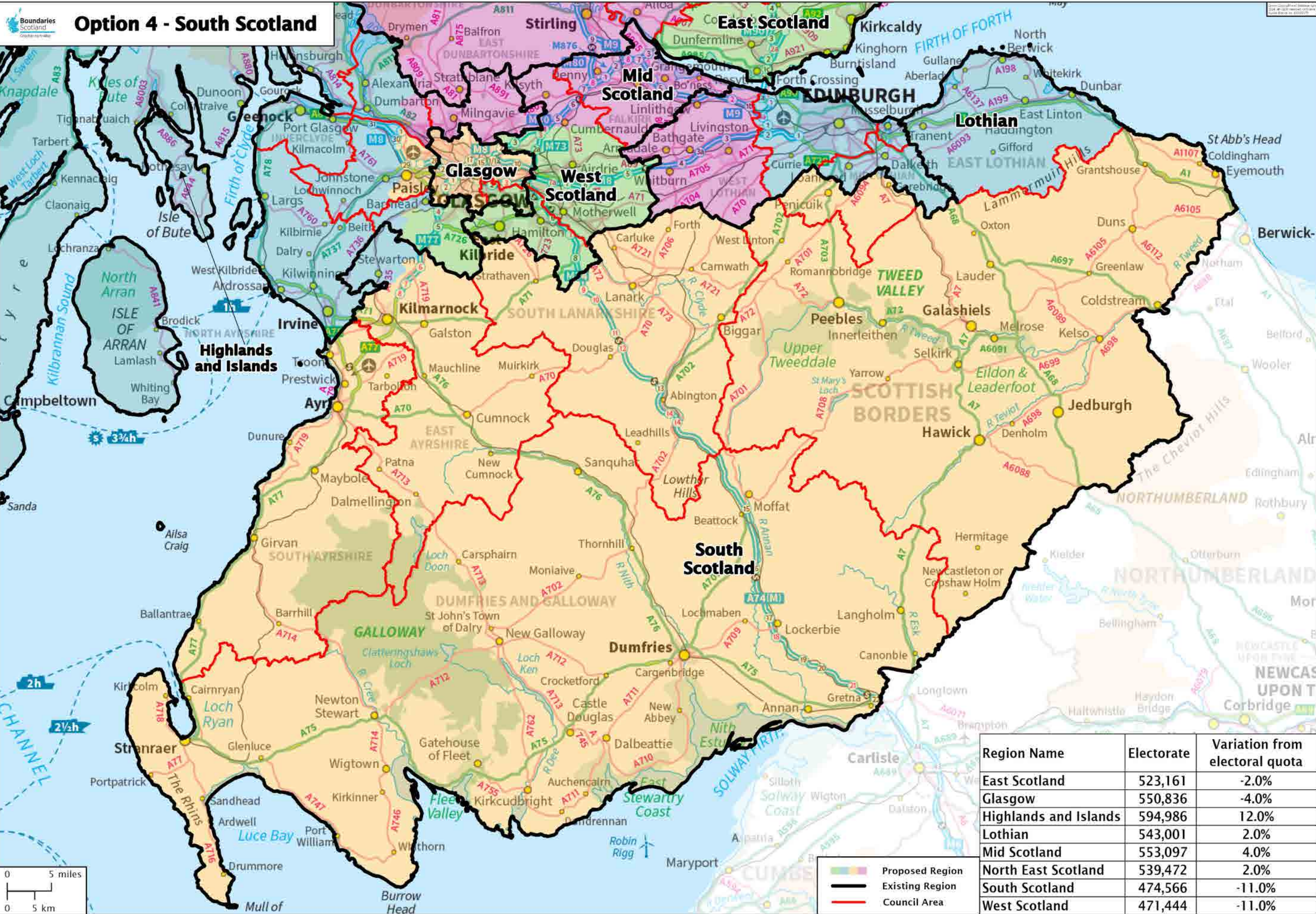
Option 4 - Central Scotland



Region Name	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota
East Scotland	523,161	-2.0%
Glasgow	550,836	-4.0%
Highlands and Islands	594,986	12.0%
Lothian	543,001	2.0%
Mid Scotland	553,097	4.0%
North East Scotland	539,472	2.0%
South Scotland	474,566	-11.0%
West Scotland	471,444	-11.0%

0 2 miles
 0 2 km

Proposed Region
 Existing Region
 Council Area



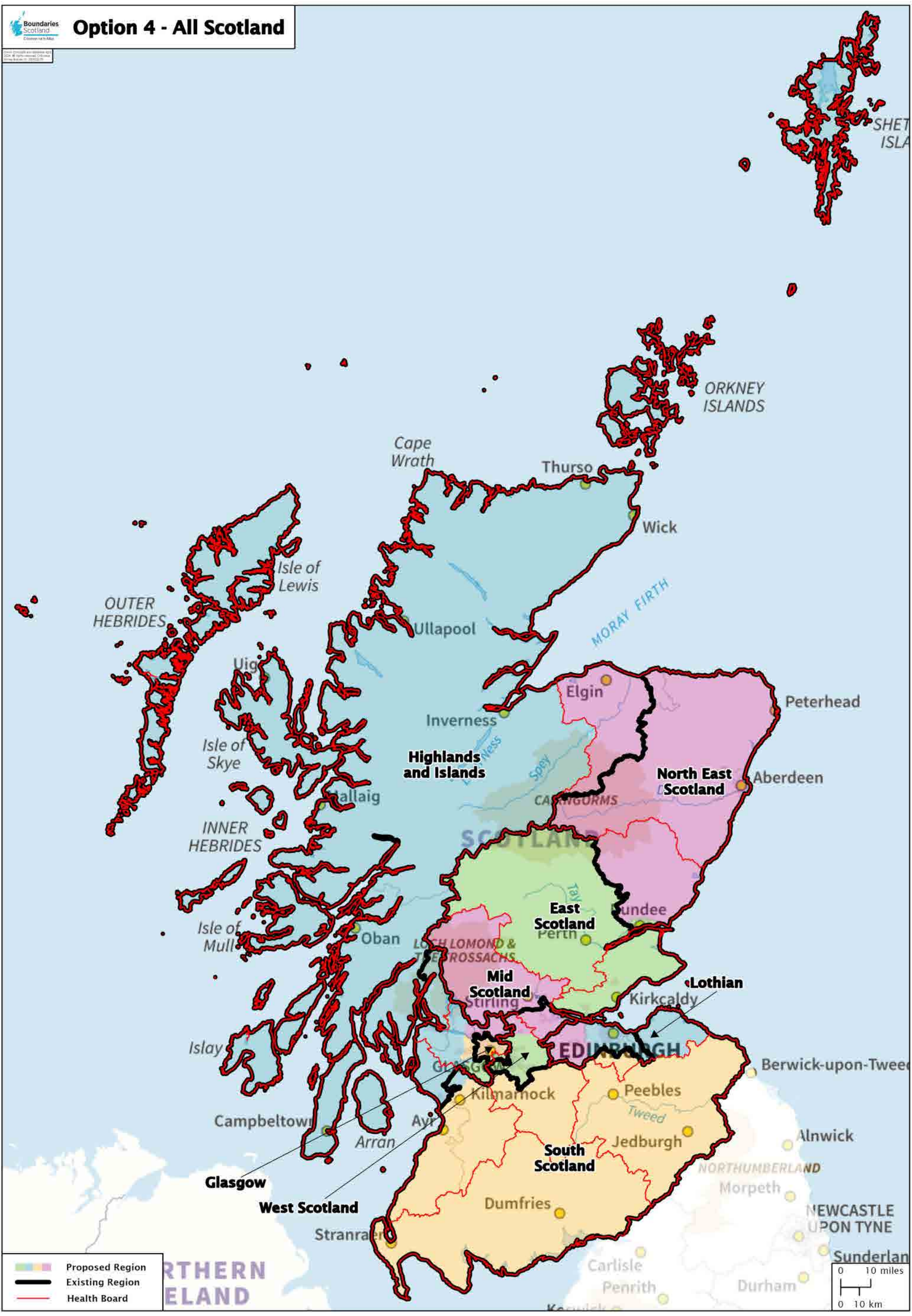
Option 4 - South Scotland

Region Name	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota
East Scotland	523,161	-2.0%
Glasgow	550,836	-4.0%
Highlands and Islands	594,986	12.0%
Lothian	543,001	2.0%
Mid Scotland	553,097	4.0%
North East Scotland	539,472	2.0%
South Scotland	474,566	-11.0%
West Scotland	471,444	-11.0%

- Proposed Region
- Existing Region
- Council Area

Option 4 - All Scotland

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Legend

- Proposed Region
- Existing Region
- Health Board

0 10 miles
0 10 km

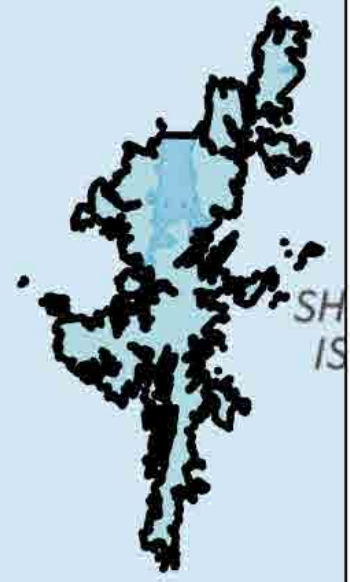
From 2022 onwards
 50% of population at 2022
 from 2022 onwards

Region Name	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota
Mid Scotland and Fife	521,460	-2.0%
Glasgow	550,836	-4.0%
Highlands and Islands	541,980	2.0%
Lothian	486,799	-8.0%
Central Scotland	553,145	4.0%
North East Scotland	589,084	11.0%
South Scotland	533,438	0.0%
West Scotland	473,821	-11.0%

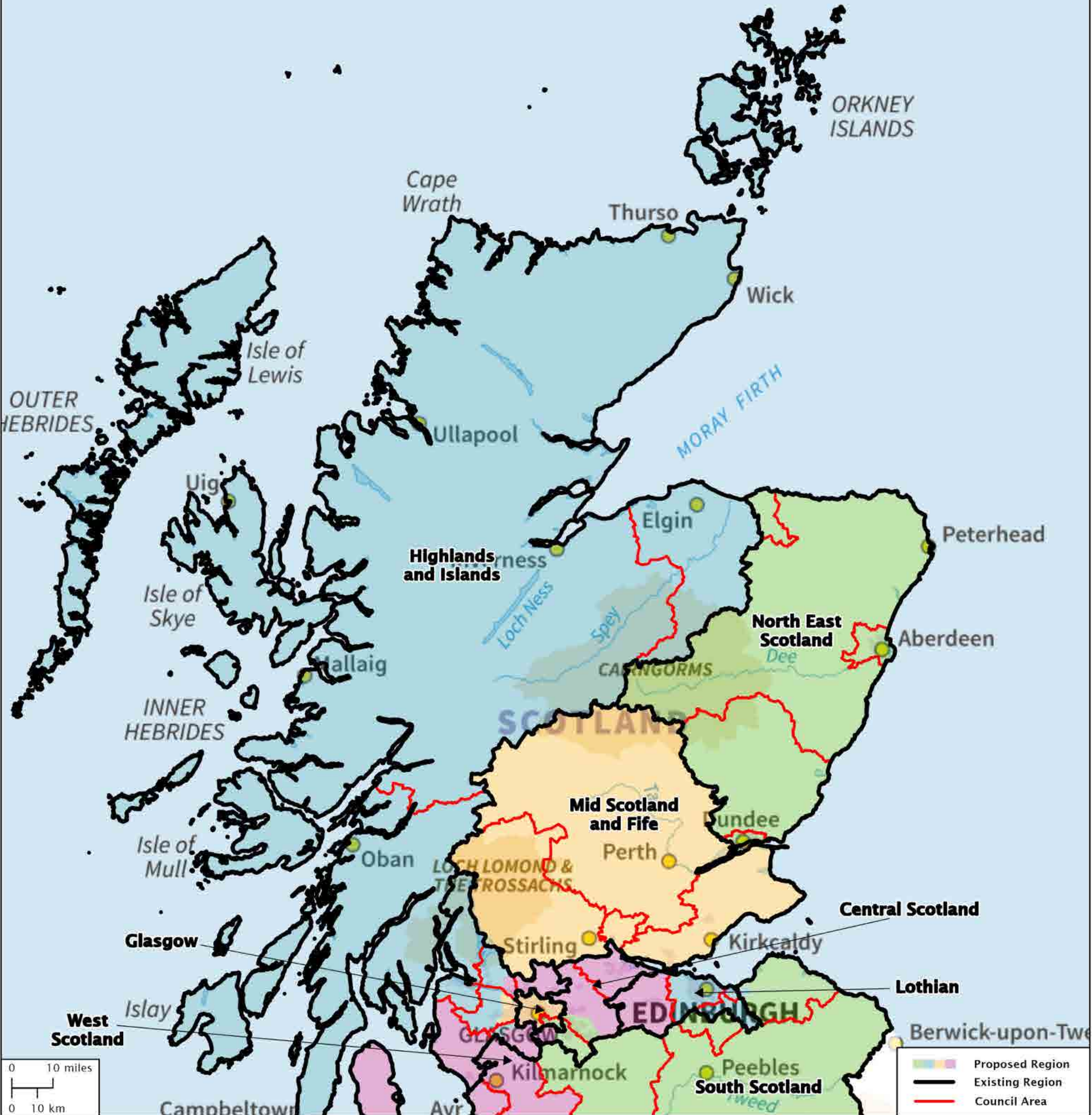


Option 5 - North Scotland

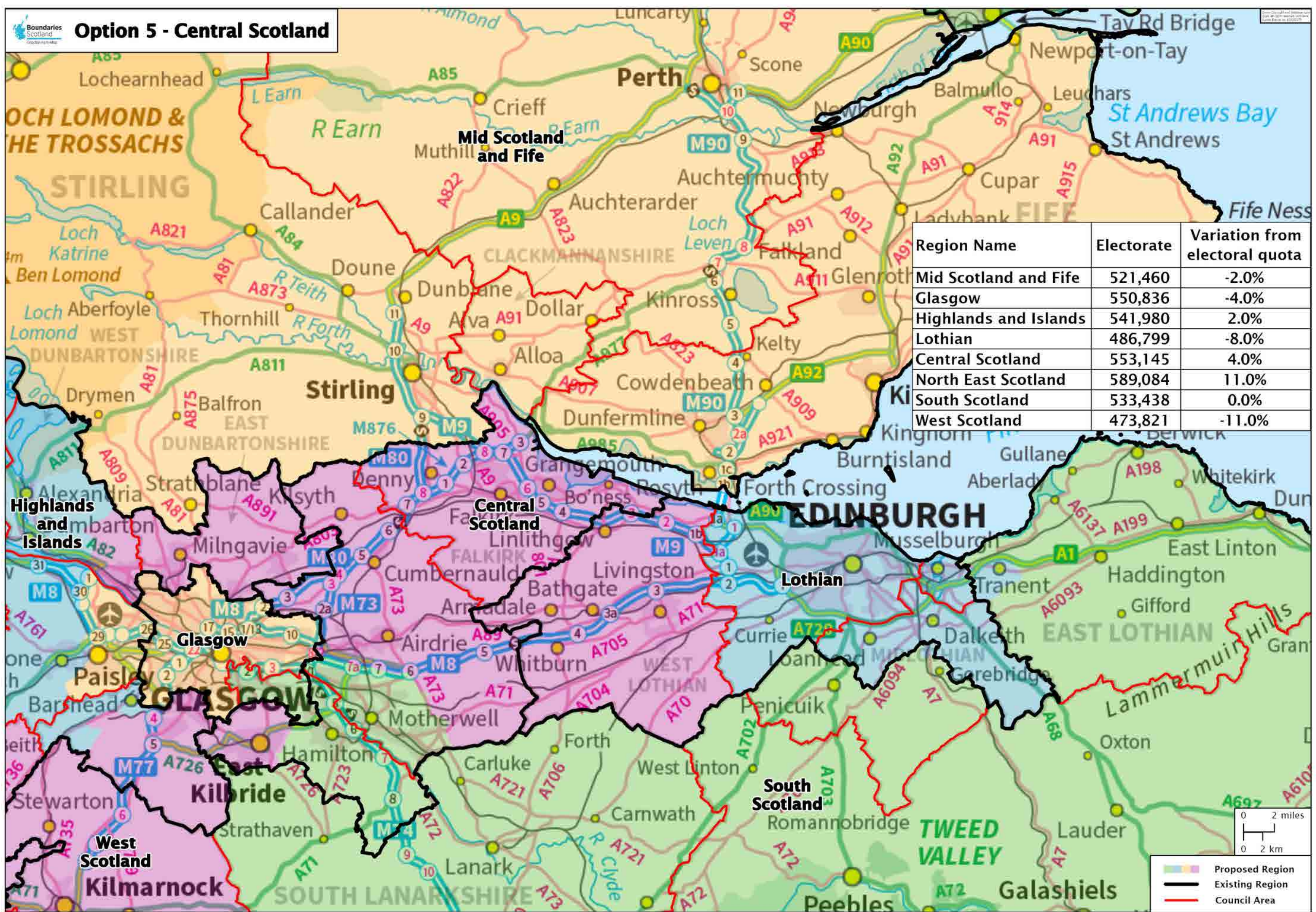
OSG052 to 5.4.16
OSG052 to 5.4.16
OSG052 to 5.4.16



Region Name	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota
Mid Scotland and Fife	521,460	-2.0%
Glasgow	550,836	-4.0%
Highlands and Islands	541,980	2.0%
Lothian	486,799	-8.0%
Central Scotland	553,145	4.0%
North East Scotland	589,084	11.0%
South Scotland	533,438	0.0%
West Scotland	473,821	-11.0%



Option 5 - Central Scotland



0 2 miles
0 2 km

- Proposed Region
- Existing Region
- Council Area



Option 5 - South Scotland

0 5 miles
0 5 km

Proposed Region
Existing Region
Council Area

