

Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries Project Plan

For discussion

1. The Commission considered a project plan for the Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries at its April 2022, October 2022 and June 2024 meetings. The announcement of the UK General Election in May delayed the timing of the Falkirk local inquiry and has had a knock-on effect on the overall project plan.
2. This plan has been updated as follows: -
 - (a) Completed actions changed to pale grey text.
 - (b) Three workstreams have been updated (i) constituency (ii) regions and (iii) final reporting.
3. Attached is a forward planner setting out the likely dates for Commission meetings and what will be discussed at each meeting.

Conclusion

4. The Commission is invited to consider the revised project plan and note the pressure on the timescales for the regions workstream.

Secretariat
September 2024

Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries Project Plan

No	Task	Duration	Start	Finish	Notes	External events and pressures
1.1	Announcement of review	1 day	September 2022		Complete - announced 1 September 2022	
1.2	Pre-consultation engagement	8 weeks	6 October 2022	1 December 2022	Complete	BCS 2023 Review final consultation 8 November to 5 December 2022, after which final proposals need to be developed and agreed and report prepared.
Constituencies						
2.1	Development of Provisional Proposals for constituencies	16 weeks	10 October 2022	30 Jan 2023	Complete	Recess 8 - 23 October and 24 December 2022 - 8 January 2023.
2.2	Prepare materials for publication	8 weeks	30 Jan 2023	31 March 2023	Complete	Recess - 11 to 19 February 2023
3.1	Publication of Provisional Proposals	1 day	18 April 2023		Complete - 17 May 2023	
3.2	Statutory Consultation	1 month	18 April 2023	18 May 2023	Complete - 27 May 2023 - 16 June 2023	Easter Sunday 9 April Recess 1-16 April New Chair and Commissioner appointed end May
3.3	Consider representations	11 weeks	18 May 2023	3 August 2023	Complete	BCS 2023 Review report to be submitted before 1 July. Recess - 1 July to 27 August 2023
4.1	Prepare materials for Local Inquiries				Complete	
4.2	Arrange Local Inquiries	8 weeks			Complete	
4.3	Publicise Local Inquiries				Complete - 15 November 2023	
4.4	Conduct Local Inquiries	10 weeks	14 Sep 2023	23 Nov 2023	Complete - Dec 2023/Jan 2024	Recess 7 to 22 October 2023
4.5	Receive Inquiry reports	4 weeks	23 Nov 2023	23 Dec 2023	Complete	
5.1	Modifications to proposals with no Inquiries	8 weeks	1 Dec 2023	26 Jan 2024	Complete	Recess 23 December 2023 to 7 January 2024
5.2	Consider Inquiry Reports and Revised Recommendations	10 weeks	02 Jan 2024	9 March 2024	Complete	
5.3	Prepare Revised Recommendations for publication	10 weeks	9 March 2024	14 May 2024	Complete	Easter Sunday 31 March Possible UK General Election May 2024
5.4	Publish Revised Recommendations for constituencies	1 day		16 April 2024	Complete - RR for constituencies published 16 April	
6.1	Statutory Consultation	1 month	16 April 2024	15 May 2024	Complete RR for constituencies - 16 April - 15 May 2024	
6.2	Collation of representations	4 weeks	16 May 2024	12 June 2024	Complete	
7.1	Assessment of need for Inquiries	4 weeks	16 May 2024	19 June 2024	May - June 2024 Agreed Falkirk LI via email BS meeting 19 June 2024	
7.2	Prepare materials for Local Inquiries	6 weeks	May 2024 - 31 July 2024	31 July 2024		Pre-election period - no publication until after 4 July 2024 Parliament recess 29 June to 1 September
7.3	Publicise Local Inquiries	1 day	Early August 2024		25 July 2024	

No	Task	Duration	Start	Finish	Notes	External events and pressures
7.4	Conduct Local Inquiries	4 weeks	Early September 2024	Early Oct 2024	One local inquiry on 22 August 2024	
7.5	Receive Local Inquiry report	2 weeks	22 August 2024	5 Sept 2024		
7.6	Consider Inquiry reports and decide further recommendations (if required)	1 week	5 Sept 2024	12 Sept 2024	BS meeting on 12 September 2024	
8.1	Prepare Further Recommendations for constituencies	2 weeks	12 Sept 2024	26 Sept 2024	Consultation Period to begin on 26 September (depending on outcome of Falkirk local inquiry and 12 September meeting)	
8.2	Press Conference	1 day	25 Sept 2024	25 Sept 2024		
8.3	Distribute material for constituency Further Recommendations	2 weeks	12 Sept 2024	26 Sept 2024		
8.4	Consult on constituencies Further Recommendations	1 month	26 Sept 2024	26 Oct 2024		Parliament recess - 12 Oct - 27 Oct
8.5	Prepare final recommendations for constituencies	1 month	28 Oct 2025	28 Nov 2025		
Regions						
9.1	Development of Provisional Proposals for regions	8 weeks	May 2024	16 July 2024	BS 23 July 2024 meeting Agreed option 3C by email - w/b 12 Aug 2024	Summer holiday period
9.2	Prepare materials for publication	6 weeks	12 Aug 2024	26 September 2024		
10.1	Statutory Consultation	4 weeks	26 Sept 2024	26 Oct 2024		October holiday period
10.2	Collations of representations	1 week	28 Oct 2024	4 Nov 2024		
10.3	Assessment of Need for Local Inquiries	1 week	4 Nov 2024	11 Nov 2024	BS November meeting	
10.4	Prepare materials for Region Local Inquiries	1 week	11 Nov 2024	18 Nov 2024		
10.5	Publicise Regions Local Inquiries	2 weeks	18 Nov 2024	2 Dec 2024		
12.1	Conduct Local Inquiry	2 weeks	2 Dec 2024	16 Dec 2024		Risk of weather interruption/pre-Xmas period. Sheriff Principal availability
12.2	Receive Inquiry report	4 weeks	16 Dec 2025	13 Jan 2025		Christmas period
13.1	Consider Inquiry Report and agree revised recommendations for regions	1 week	13 Jan 2025	20 Jan 2025	BS January meeting If revised recommendations stage not required, final recommendations by end January 2025	
13.2	Prepare revised recommendations for publication	2 weeks	20 Jan 2025	4 Feb 2025		
13.3	Consult on Revised Recommendations for regions	1 month	5 Feb 2025	5 Mar 2025		
13.4	Prepare final recommendations for regions	1 week	5 Mar 2025	12 Mar 2025		
Report - Final Recommendations						
14.1	Draft executive summary, front section and sample constituency chapters	4 weeks	1 Oct 2024	28 Oct 2024	November meeting	Sept/ Oct. Liaise with APS and SG on report style, statutory requirements etc
14.2	Write and revise constituency chapters	6 weeks	28 Oct 2024	13 Dec 2024	December meeting - online or by email	

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14.3	Prepare data for report	10 weeks	1 Oct 2024	13 Dec 2024		
14.4	Write and revise report region chapters	1 month	6 Jan 2025	6 Feb 2025	February meeting - online or by email	
14.5	Prepare maps for report	10 weeks	6 Jan 2025	19 Mar 2025		
14.6	Design/format report	10 weeks	6 Jan 2025	19 Mar 2025		
14.7	Proof read, format and print report	5 weeks	19 Mar 2025	23 Apr 2025	April (beginning) meeting	Final sign off

<https://www.parliament.scot/about/how-parliament-works/recess-dates>

Standing Items	
Matters Arising Business Update Electoral Reform	
November 2024	
Second Review	<p>Consider consultation responses on Further Proposals (constituencies) and agree Final Recommendations</p> <p>Consider consultation responses on Provisional Proposals (regions), assess need for local inquiries and agree Revised Proposals/Final Recommendations</p> <p>Review first draft of Report – executive summary, front section and sample constituency appendices</p> <p>General discussion about post-review work</p>
Governance	Risk Register Finance Update
December 2024 (online or by email)	
Second Review	Review draft Report – Updated executive summary, front section and all constituency appendices
January 2025	
Second Review	<p>Consider output from local inquiry</p> <p>Agree revised proposals and/or final recommendations for regions</p>
Governance	Risk Register Finance Update
February 2025 (online or by email)	
Second Review	Review and agree draft report: regions appendices (except outstanding regions)
March 2025	
Second Review	<p>Consider consultation responses on Revised Proposals (regions)</p> <p>Agree Final Recommendations (regions)</p>
Governance	Risk Register Finance Update
Early April 2025	
Second Review	Full report – agree final wording