

Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries Consultation on Provisional Proposals for Regions and Further Proposals for Constituencies

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to note the planned approach for the consultation on Further Proposals for constituencies and Provisional Proposals for regions.

Background

2. Mr Macmillan has provided advice and feedback on a number of the materials discussed below.

Timing

3. Each consultation stage of the Review is for a period of one month.
4. It is planned that both the consultation on Further Proposals for constituencies and Provisional Proposals for regions will run at the same time as per the project plan so that the review can be completed by 1 May 2025. This may maximise interest in both consultations and encourage stakeholders to respond. It will also allow the use of simplified or general advertising materials suitable for both consultations.
5. The Scottish Parliament is in recess from 12 to 27 October 2024. The UK political party conferences are held in late September and early October (Labour 22- 25 September and Conservatives 29 September to 2 October 2024). Political parties have previously advised that holding a consultation during a period of recess is not an issue.
6. The Secretariat is working towards commencing the consultations on 26 September 2024 until 26 October 2024, subject to the outcome of 12 September 2024 Commission meeting.

Consultation on Further Proposals for Constituencies

7. The Commission will consult on areas of change from the Revised Proposals. These areas include:
 - constituency names or boundaries in Edinburgh and East Lothian Council areas except the Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent constituency;
 - constituency names or boundaries in Glasgow, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire Council areas. (The proposed Inverclyde constituency name and boundary are unchanged);
 - in Highland, the boundary between the proposed Inverness and Nairn and Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch constituencies is amended by Strathdearn;
 - in Aberdeen, the Aberdeen South and North Kincardine constituency name is renamed Aberdeen Donside and North Kincardine; and
 - near Blantyre, the boundary between the proposed: Rutherglen; and Uddingston and Bellshill constituencies is amended.
8. Following consideration of Paper BS 126 - Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian Council areas, there may be further constituency boundary or name changes.

Consultation on Provisional Proposals - Regions

9. The Commission will consult on the whole of Scotland for its Provisional Proposals for regions. This comprises the Highlands and Islands region which contains the three protected constituencies: Na h-Eileanan an Iar; Orkney Islands; and Shetland Islands.
10. Only one proposed region is unchanged – Mid Scotland and Fife.

Draft news release

11. A draft generic news release has been shared with the Chair and Deputy Chair for comment. It explains both the consultation on Further Proposals for constituencies and Provisional Proposals for regions and includes a description of what has changed from the existing boundaries and summarises the review and its rules.

Consultation materials

12. For the consultation on Provisional Proposals for constituencies, all of the consultation materials were printed and posted to MSPs, Councils and political parties. These included: policies and procedures booklet; Booklet - Summary of Provisional Proposals; news release; and all Scotland maps.
13. For the consultation on Revised Proposals for constituencies only the political parties received printed consultation materials because they had requested them. During the revised consultation there were no comments from MSPs or Councils regarding a lack of printed materials.
14. All materials for the consultation on Further Proposals for constituencies and Provisional Proposals for regions will be produced digitally. Printed copies of materials will mainly be available on request but printed copies will be available at the display points to ensure information is available to members of the public who do not have digital access.

Booklet - Summary of Provisional Proposals Regions

15. A booklet with maps of the regions, list of constituencies within each region and summary of the review will be produced. A draft version will be available at the Commission meeting.

Booklet - Summary of Further Proposals Constituencies

16. A booklet with maps of the further constituency names and boundaries and summary of the review will be produced. A draft version will be available at the Commission meeting.

Advertising

17. During the provisional consultation on constituencies the Secretariat paid for Facebook advertising but there were no metrics to reflect on how successful this was.
18. During the revised consultation on constituencies a marketing company was employed to manage advertising for the consultation. The publicity materials were viewed over two million times, this included advertising on Facebook and on websites with a cost of approximately £16,000.
19. The Commission will wish to confirm it is prepared to spend a similar amount for this consultation. The cost for the consultation on provisional proposals for

regions and further proposals for constituencies is expected to be about £18,000, this includes updated consultation materials.

Animations

20. The animations (video and GIFs) produced for the earlier consultation stages have been updated and re-used for both consultations.

Display Points

21. The Scottish Elections (Reform) Act 2020 amended the requirement to publicise “in at least one newspaper circulating in each constituency” to “such manner as it thinks fit.” The requirement to make the proposals available for inspection in at least one place in each constituency remains. During the earlier consultations approximately 120 display points were used. For the consultation on Further Proposals for constituencies and Provisional Proposals for regions these display point locations will be reviewed and re-used or alternative locations found.

22. The display points used include libraries, council offices or community centres. A list of the display points will be published on the website.

23. The display point materials will include a poster with a map, news release and leaflet.

Newspaper adverts

24. Newspaper adverts will be placed in the following national newspapers during the consultation period: the Herald, Scotsman, Press and Journal, Courier, Edinburgh Evening News and Glasgow Evening Times.

News conference

25. Ahead of the revised consultation the Commission held a news conference at the Holyrood Marriott Hotel.

26. The Commission plans to repeat this and hold a news conference on 25 September where embargoed materials will be made available for journalists and they will have an opportunity to interview the Chair or Secretary.

27. The Edinburgh Training Centre on St Mary’s Street has been identified as a possible location for a news conference.

Consultation site

28. All advertising materials will encourage users to visit the consultation site, where comments can be submitted and alternative boundaries drawn on a map.

29. Stakeholders will still be able to email or post comments but no comments on social media will be considered.

30. Two parallel consultations will be used, one for regions and one for Further Proposals for constituencies. On completion of each consultation users will be invited to respond to the other consultation.

Conclusion

31. The Commission is invited to note the planned approach to consultation on Further Proposals for constituencies and Provisional Proposals for regions.

**Secretariat,
September 2024**