

## Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries Final Report Style

### Action required

1. The Commission is invited to consider the style of its final report for the Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries and provide a view on the preferred approach to the final report.

### Style and structure of First Review Final Report

2. A copy of the First Review final report is available to view on the Boundaries Scotland website, see [https://boundaries.scot/sites/default/files/1st\\_SP\\_Review\\_Report.pdf](https://boundaries.scot/sites/default/files/1st_SP_Review_Report.pdf). A printed copy of the report will be available to view at the meeting.
3. This paper compares the content or structure of the First Review final report with the Boundary Commission for Scotland's (BCS) 2023 Review final report [https://www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023\\_review\\_final/bcs\\_2023\\_review\\_final\\_report\\_print\\_version\\_reduced.pdf](https://www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023_review_final/bcs_2023_review_final_report_print_version_reduced.pdf). A printed copy of that report will be available to view at the meeting.
4. Both reports broadly follow a similar style, with: an introduction; principles; rules or approach; process; and final recommendations. However, there are some differences such as the appendices which are discussed below.
5. Appendix A in the First Review report included Membership of the Commission. This was an introductory page in the BCS 2023 Review report.
6. Appendix B included an extract of the Scotland Act 1998. The BCS 2023 Review report did not include an extract of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986.
7. Appendix C included a table of existing constituencies and regions with their electorates and variation from the electorate quota. Maps of each existing constituency were also included by council area(s) as well as an all Scotland map of existing regions. The BCS 2023 Review report simply had an all Scotland map and central belt map, with only the names of all the existing constituencies.
8. Appendix D provided a theoretical entitlement to constituencies for each council area in a table. The BCS 2023 Review report displayed this information in a map.
9. Appendix E explained the review and how it was conducted by council area groupings, including constituency electorate by ward. The BCS 2023 Review report followed a similar approach, see its Appendix A. The Commission will be mindful that some constituency-council area groupings changed during the review. The Commission considered a draft meeting paper style at its meeting of 16 May 2024 (Paper BS 93), it suggested drafting meeting papers which could then be replicated for the final report. The Secretariat adopted this style of meeting paper when considering responses to the revised consultation. The meeting papers summarised the review up to that point.
10. Appendix F explained the review of regions.

11. Appendix G discussed the local inquiries. The BCS 2023 Review Report had a similar Appendix.
12. Appendix H described which council area or ward was included in each constituency. The BCS 2023 Review Report had an Appendix that included the electorate of each ward or split ward in each constituency.
13. Appendix I provided a list of ONS codes for the recommended constituencies and regions. The BCS 2023 Review Report did not include these codes as BCS awaited confirmation of an Order being laid in Parliament before requesting ONS codes. ONS codes are required for some geographical areas (such as electoral/administrative boundaries, data zones, health boards, national parks etc) and changes to their boundaries require new codes.
14. The First Review report was 260 pages long, while the 2023 Review Report had 166 pages. However the First Review, reviewed more constituencies and also included regions.
15. The 2023 Review report included an Executive Summary at the start of the report.
16. The 2023 Review report included a map of each recommended constituency. The First Review final report displayed recommended constituencies within their council area groupings. Examples of urban and rural constituency and region maps are shown in Appendix A. These follow the same style used during the Second Review and are similar to the maps used for the 2023 Review report.
17. The Commission may wish to add recommendations for future reviews in its final report. The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) added a learning points section in its 2023 Final Report with several suggestions for future reviews, such as: use of modern technology to promote the consultation and engage the public; difficulty of creating a consistent and high-quality sub-ward layer of electoral boundary data; attendance at public hearings; the 'fallow' years between reviews; sponsorship of the Parliamentary Boundary Commissions; and timely refreshing of constituencies. Links to the other UK Parliament Boundary Commissions 2023 Review reports are provided below:
  - <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/>
  - [https://bcomm-wales.gov.uk/sites/bcomm/files/review/E02859434\\_Boundary%20Commission%20Wales%202023\\_English\\_Web%20Accessible\\_V03.pdf](https://bcomm-wales.gov.uk/sites/bcomm/files/review/E02859434_Boundary%20Commission%20Wales%202023_English_Web%20Accessible_V03.pdf)
  - <https://www.boundarycommission.org.uk/files/boundarycommission/2023-07/Final%20Recommendations%20Report%20of%20the%202023%20Review%20of%20Parliamentary%20Constituencies.PDF>

### Further Information

18. The Secretariat will liaise with the sponsor department in Scottish Government regarding the production of the final report to discuss any statutory requirements such as how to describe the new boundaries.
19. The Secretariat will also liaise with APS who will design and produce the final report. The Commission may wish to continue with the same style used during the second review and have a golden coloured front cover.

20. A limited number of printed copies of the final report will be produced for reference (Secretariat office and SPICe etc). No printed copies of the final reports will be produced for MSPs or stakeholders.

21. The Final Report for the Second Review must be submitted to Parliament before 1 May 2025.

**Conclusion**

22. The Commission is invited to provide any suggestions on the style and format of the Second Review final report.

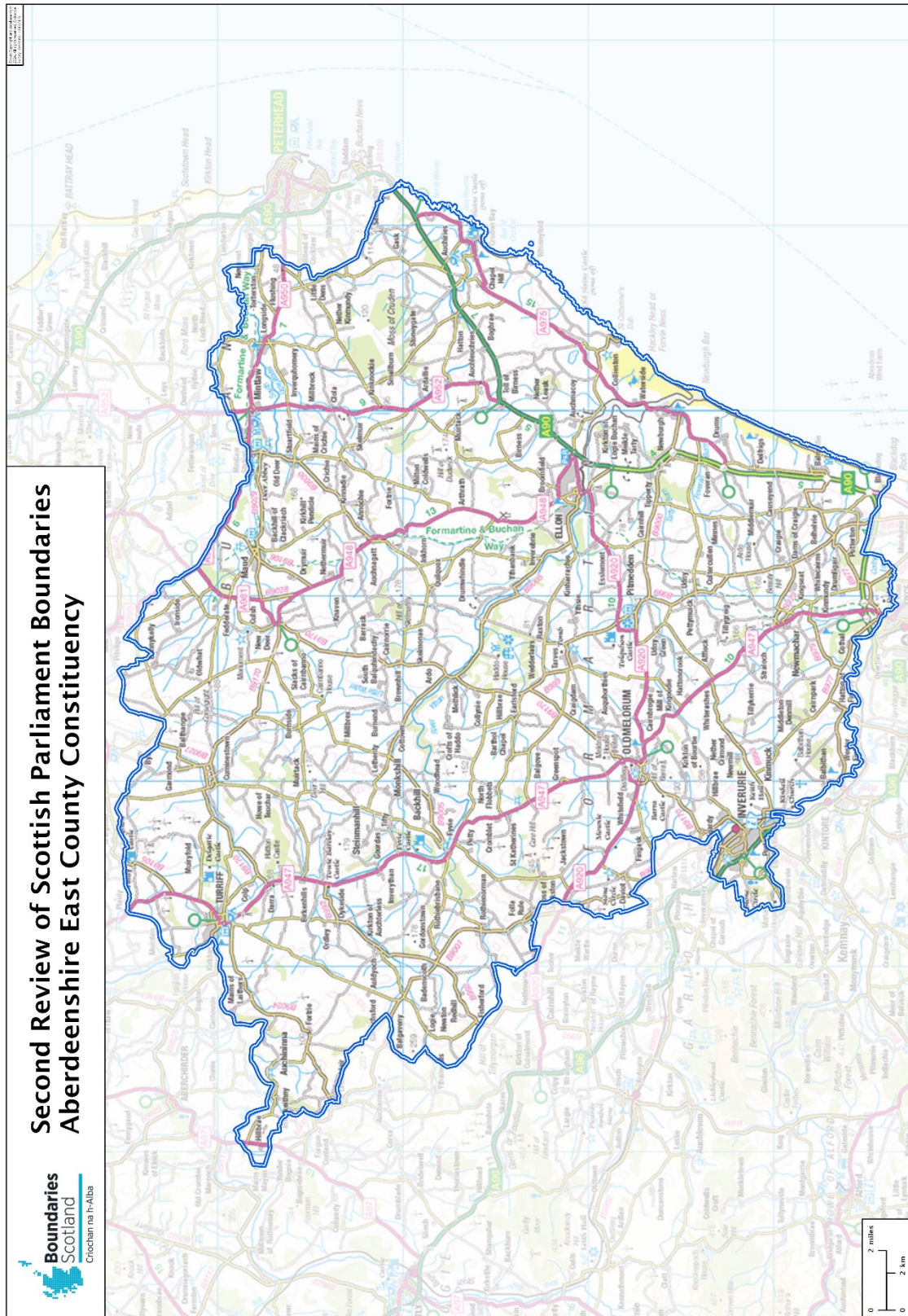
23. The Secretariat suggests following a similar style of report as the 2023 Review report with an Executive Summary and summary of the review, and to shorten the number of Appendices.

**Secretariat**  
**September 2024**

Appendix A  
Example of an urban constituency map for final report



Example of a rural constituency map for final report



Region map for final report

