

## Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries Provisional Proposals for Regions Consultation Responses

### Action Required

1. The Commission is invited to: -
  - Note West Lothian Council and Renfrewshire Council’s objection to the Provisional Proposals and the Commission’s approval for local inquiries to be held in West Lothian and Renfrewshire.
  - Consider the consultation responses for the remaining regions and decide whether to hold a local inquiry.
  - Consider whether it wishes to
    - (a) adopt the published Provisional Proposals and names as Final Recommendations for the regions (except Central Scotland, Lothian, West Scotland and Glasgow) subject to satisfactory design in other groupings being agreed OR
    - b) amend its proposals for region boundaries or names and consult upon them again.
2. The Commission has been provided with all the consultation responses relating to Central Scotland, Lothian, West Scotland and Glasgow but will wish to defer making any decision until after the local inquiries are held.

### Rules

3. The rules for reviewing Scottish Parliament regions state:
  - 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.”

### Regions at the start of this review

4. The existing regions and their electorate are shown in the table below.

Region name	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%

### Provisional Proposals

5. The Commission discussed the Provisional Proposals for regions at the meeting of 23 July 2024. Region names were agreed at the 12 September 2024.  
[https://boundaries.scot/sites/default/files/BS\\_118\\_SP\\_Review\\_Regions.pdf](https://boundaries.scot/sites/default/files/BS_118_SP_Review_Regions.pdf)  
[https://boundaries.scot/sites/default/files/BS\\_128\\_SP\\_Review\\_Regions.pdf](https://boundaries.scot/sites/default/files/BS_128_SP_Review_Regions.pdf)

6. In deciding upon Provisional Proposals for regions the Commission agreed a:
- Central Scotland region boundary that includes all constituencies within Falkirk, North Lanarkshire and West Lothian Council areas. It also includes Bothwell in South Lanarkshire Council area.
  - Glasgow region boundary similar to the existing boundary except by Renfrew. It now includes an Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald constituency.
  - Highland and Islands region boundary with a minor change to the existing boundary to follow a new constituency boundary where it aligns with a Moray ward boundary by Arradoul. Special geographical conditions are also recognised in the Highland and Islands region where the electorate is substantially lower than other regions but the geographical area is vast.
  - Lothian region that includes the whole of Edinburgh Council and East Lothian Council areas as well as part of Midlothian Council area.
  - Mid Scotland and Fife region is unchanged.
  - North East Scotland region boundary with a minor change to the existing boundary to follow a new constituency boundary where it aligns with a Moray ward boundary by Arradoul.
  - South Scotland region boundary similar to the existing boundary except by East Lothian; East Kilbride / Hamilton; and Stewarton.
  - West Scotland region boundary similar to the existing boundary except by Stewarton and Renfrew
7. All eight regions retain their existing names.
8. The Provisional Proposals are as shown in the table below. It details the constituencies contained within each region.

Region	Constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electorate quota
Central Scotland	Airdrie; Almond Valley; Coatbridge and Chryston; Cumbernauld and Kilsyth; Falkirk East; Falkirk West; Linlithgow; Motherwell and Wishaw; Uddingston and Bellshill	550,717	3.7%
Glasgow	Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald; Glasgow Anniesland; Glasgow Baillieston and Shettleston; Glasgow Cathcart and Pollok; Glasgow Central; Glasgow Easterhouse and Springburn; Glasgow Kelvin and Maryhill; Glasgow Southside; Rutherglen and Cambuslang	563,298	6.0%

Highlands and Islands	Argyll and Bute; Caithness, Sutherland and Ross; Inverness and Nairn; Moray; Na h-Eileanan an Iar; Orkney Islands; Shetland Islands; Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch	359,306	-32.4%
Lothian	East Lothian Coast and Lammermuirs; Edinburgh Central; Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent; Edinburgh North Eastern and Leith; Edinburgh North Western; Edinburgh Northern; Edinburgh South Western; Edinburgh Southern; Midlothian North	543,001	2.2%
Mid Scotland and Fife	Clackmannanshire and Dunblane; Cowdenbeath; Dunfermline; Fife North East; Kirkcaldy; Mid Fife and Glenrothes; Perthshire North; Perthshire South and Kinross-shire; Stirling	521,460	-1.9%
North East Scotland	Aberdeen Central; Aberdeen Donside; Aberdeen Deeside and North Kincardine; Aberdeenshire East; Aberdeenshire West; Angus North and Mearns; Angus South; Banffshire and Buchan Coast; Dundee City East; Dundee City West	589,084	10.9%
South Scotland	Ayr; Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; Clydesdale; Dumfriesshire; East Kilbride; Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire; Galloway and West Dumfries; Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse; Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley; Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale	594,925	12.0%
West Scotland	Clydebank and Milngavie; Cunninghame North; Cunninghame South; Dumbarton; Eastwood; Inverclyde; Paisley; Renfrewshire West; Strathkelvin and Bearsden	528,772	-0.5%

9. On 26 September 2024 the Provisional Proposals were published, in conjunction with the Commission's Further Proposals for constituencies for the specified consultation period of one month.

#### Representations received

10. In total, over 300 representations were submitted regarding the consultation on Provisional Proposals for Regions. Some of these

representations also provided comments on the constituency boundaries within each region.

11. Some representations contained suggestions that did not comply with the statutory rules governing this review. We did not consider those suggestions further.

### Local Inquiries

12. A local inquiry will be held if a local authority wholly or partly included in the region objects or a body of 500 or more electors resident in the region objects. Boundaries Scotland may also hold a local inquiry if there is good reason for doing so.
13. West Lothian Council objected to both the proposed Central Scotland region and Lothian region and Further Proposals for constituencies therefore arrangements will be made to hold a local inquiry there.
14. Renfrewshire Council objected to the proposed Glasgow and West Scotland regions and arrangements will be made to hold a local inquiry there.

### Central Scotland Region

15. Three members of the public supported the proposed Central Scotland region because it places Blackness and Bo'ness in the same region as Linlithgow and it considers the changing demographics of Scotland.
16. Three members of the public seek no change to the existing boundaries.
17. A member of the public supported the inclusion of West Lothian in a Central region but suggested removing Airdrie and Motherwell. They also suggested that the proposed boundaries should follow data zone boundaries.
18. The proposed Airdrie and Motherwell and Wishaw constituencies neighbour the South Scotland region, adding them to the South Scotland region is shown in the table below.

<b>Airdrie and Motherwell and Wishaw suggestion. Region</b>	<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Variation from the electorate quota</b>
Central Scotland	429,414	-19.2%
South Scotland	716,228	34.8%

19. A member of the public opposed the proposed Central Scotland region because it includes areas with vastly different demographics.
20. A member of the public stated Councils in the proposed Central Scotland region have never worked together before.
21. A member of the public opposed the proposed Central Scotland region because it is too large and has poor transport links.

22. A member of the public suggested including Rutherglen in a Central Scotland region and that region boundaries should follow Council area boundaries where possible.
23. The table below shows variation from the electorate quota from transferring the proposed Rutherglen and Cambuslang constituency to the Central Scotland region.

<b>Rutherglen and Cambuslang Suggestion. Region</b>	<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Variation from the electorate quota</b>
Central Scotland	613,605	15.5%
Glasgow	500,410	-5.8%

24. A member of the public suggested Stirling be included in a Central Scotland region.
25. The suggestion to include Stirling constituency in a Central Scotland region is shown in the table below.

<b>Stirling suggestion. Region</b>	<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Variation from the electorate quota</b>
Central Scotland	605,019	13.9%
Mid Scotland and Fife	467,158	-12.1%

26. A member of the public suggested West Lothian should sit within a Lothian region because West Lothian has little in common with Uddingston, Airdrie or Wishaw.
27. A member of the public seeks no change to the existing boundaries.
28. A member of the public suggested the proposed East Kilbride and Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse constituencies should remain in a Central Scotland region rather than a South Scotland region because East Kilbride and Hamilton are urban areas compared with rural south Scotland. They stated the proposals for both constituencies and regions do not consider rule 4, local ties. Hamilton is split between constituencies with Hamilton Racecourse and Hamilton Academicals football stadium located in the neighbouring Uddingston and Bellshill constituency. They suggested adding the Almond Valley and Linlithgow constituencies to the Lothian region and the East Lothian Coast and Lammermuirs constituency to the South Scotland region to reflect the existing region boundaries and would avoid confusing the local electorate.
29. A member of the public opposed the inclusion of West Lothian in a Central Scotland region because West Lothian, Edinburgh and the Borders share health services.
30. A member of the public opposed the proposed region boundaries because residents in North Lanarkshire look towards Airdrie, Motherwell and Wishaw, while residents in West Lothian look towards Bathgate and Livingston. They stated there are no common links, geographically or socially, between the two areas.

31. Councillor Pauline Clark (West Lothian Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley ward) stated: West Lothian belongs in a Lothian region because of historical links with the rest of Lothian; issues raised in their ward are often similar to the rest of West Lothian; and challenging for an MSP to deal with two different councils with common issues such as transport, health and employment. They wish Fauldhouse to remain within an Almond Valley constituency and Lothian region.
32. Fauldhouse Community Council wish to remain in a Lothian region.
33. Jamie Hepburn, MSP Cumbernauld and Kilsyth, supported the inclusion of a Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency in a Central Scotland region because it has been in the same region since 1999. He also stated that any new constituencies joining a Central Scotland region may have closer links to other regions.
34. West Lothian Council objected to including West Lothian constituencies in a Central Scotland region. They suggested including the West Lothian constituencies in a Lothian region because they share historical, community, transport, employments and geographical links with the wider Lothian region.
35. Councillor Willie Goldie (North Lanarkshire Cumbernauld South ward) supported retaining Cumbernauld and Kilsyth in a Central Scotland region.

**The comments summarised below were submitted to the region consultation but relate more to the Further Proposals for constituencies in that region. Any analysis on them is considered below rather than the constituency consultation grouping papers.**

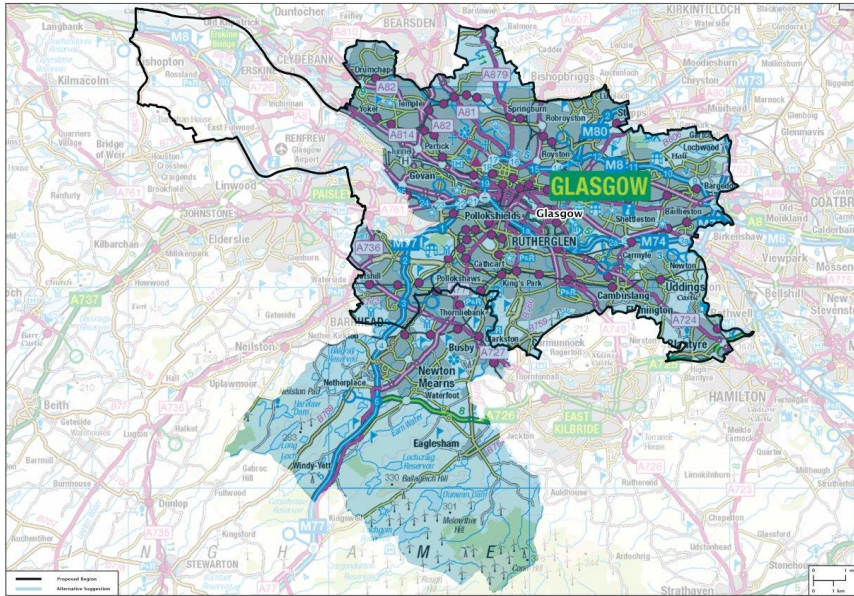
36. A member of the public supported the proposed Falkirk boundaries.
37. A member of the public stated “Kilsyth always seems to be linked inappropriately.”
38. A member of the public suggested Shotts be included in the same constituency as Wishaw, because they share more local links.
39. Shotts and Wishaw have never been in the same Scottish or UK Parliament constituency.
40. A member of the public suggested Cumbernauld should be in a different council area to North Lanarkshire. A member of the public wishes Cumbernauld and Kilsyth to be in a different council area than North Lanarkshire.
41. A member of the public suggested a Forth Valley constituency which includes Stirling and Clackmannan, areas with a common heritage. They also suggested electoral boundaries should follow council area or health board boundaries.
42. Stirling and Clackmannan Council areas have an electorate of 101,949, too many for a single constituency. The Commission’s proposals retained two constituencies within Stirling and Clackmannan Council areas.

43. A member of the public would like to retain the existing Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency because it keeps those two towns in the same constituency. They stated Cumbernauld and Kilsyth look eastwards and westwards and have nothing in common with Caldercruix, Plains or the other smaller villages by Airdrie. Caldercruix and Plains look towards Airdrie for council services, social sector organisations and local media newspaper and there are poor transport links to Cumbernauld.
44. A member of the public opposed the proposed Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency because local issues in Caldercruix will be forgotten.
45. A member of the public opposed the proposed Airdrie constituency because it affect bus services, access to healthcare, education and employment.
46. Councillor Alan Beveridge (Airdrie North ward) opposed the inclusion of Caldercruix, Upperton, Wattson, Longrigend, Greengairs and Plains in a Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency because these areas have close links with Airdrie and little in common with Cumbernauld. He stated there are no transport links between these communities and Cumbernauld. He advised that the Airdrie North ward should not be split because it would be challenging and hinder him in his role dealing with two MSP's rather than one.
47. Councillor Louise Roarty (North Lanarkshire Murdostoun ward) stated there is potential to increase the size of the proposed Motherwell and Wishaw constituency.

### Glasgow Region

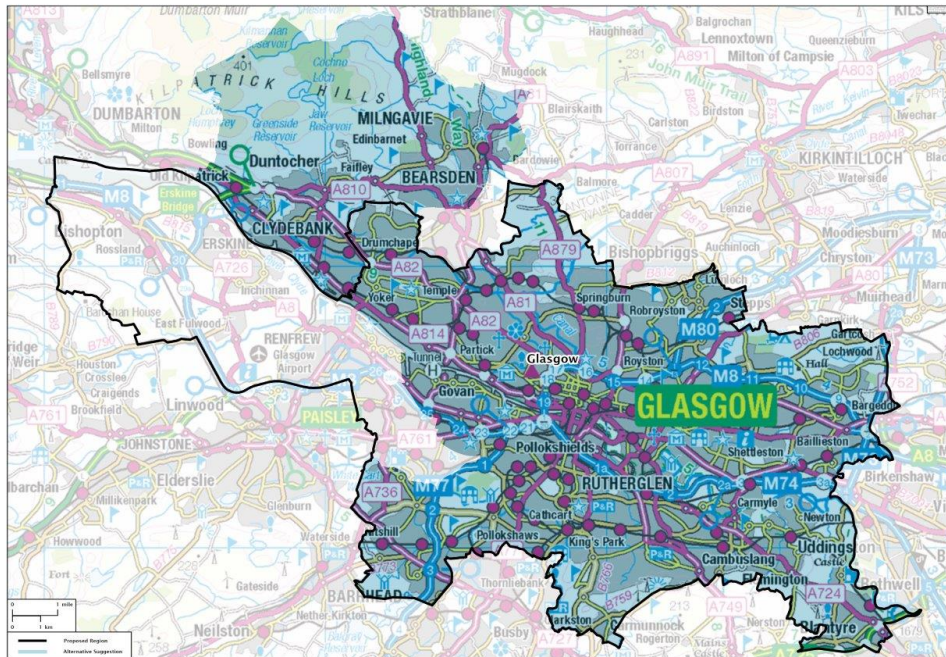
48. Two members of the public seek no change to the existing boundaries.
49. A member of the public suggested including Giffnock, Newton Mearns or Bearsden in a Glasgow region rather than Bishopton or Erskine. A member of the public made a similar suggestion to include Eastwood as well as Barrhead Neilston and Uplawmoor in a Glasgow region rather than Bishopton, Erskine or Renfrew.
50. A member of the public believes that Renfrew, Erskine, Bishopton and Inchinnan should be in the same constituency but not as part of a Glasgow region because Glasgow will be the focus.
51. A member of the public suggested Bishopton should sit within a West Scotland region rather than a Glasgow region.
52. There were suggestions to include the Eastwood constituency in a Glasgow region and Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald in a West Scotland region. This is shown in the map and table below.

<b>Suggested regions – transfer Eastwood with Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald</b>	<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Variation from the electorate quota</b>
Glasgow	563,298	6.0%
West Scotland	528,772	-0.5%



- 53. A member of the public suggested including Clydebank in a Glasgow region rather than Erskine.
- 54. The suggestion to include the Clydebank and Milngavie constituency in a Glasgow region and Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald in a West Scotland region is shown in the map below. It would split Bearsden between regions.

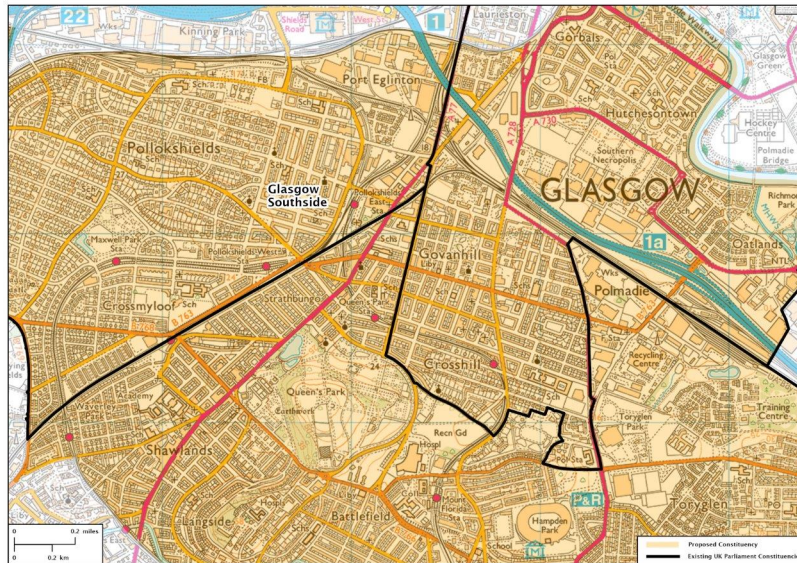
Suggested regions - transfer Clydebank and Milngavie with Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald	Electorate	Variation from the electorate quota
Glasgow	555,568	4.6%
West Scotland	536,502	1.0%



55. A member of the public from Cardonald wishes to remain in a Glasgow region rather than Renfrewshire.
56. The proposals will retain Cardonald in a Glasgow region but place Cardonald in an Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald constituency.
57. A member of the public suggested the Glasgow region should include the Glasgow conurbation (Airdrie, Giffnock, Newton Means, East Kilbride, Hamilton, Paisley, Bearsden, Milngavie, Bishopbriggs, Uddingston, Kirkintilloch, Coatbridge, Clydebank, Cumbernauld) because it would have many economic benefits.
58. The electorate of the suggested constituencies outside Glasgow is approximately 570,000. Including these constituencies in a Glasgow region would create a region with approximately 1,130,000 electors.
59. A member of the public suggested placing Cumbernauld in a Glasgow region because Cumbernauld has close links with Glasgow.
60. The proposed Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency does not neighbour the Glasgow region. Therefore this suggestion would also require the Strathkelvin and Bearsden or Coatbridge and Chryston constituencies being added to the Glasgow region.
61. A member of the public opposed the proposed Glasgow region.
62. Councillor Kenny MacLaren (Renfrewshire Paisley Northwest ward) opposed the proposed Glasgow region because it extends into Renfrewshire. They suggested Glasgow has closer links with Bearsden, Cadder, Clydebank, Chryston, Kirkintilloch or Newton Mearns than Erskine. They also stated the proposals will confuse the local electorate as they will be unsure who represents them and also challenging to administer elections.

**The comments summarised below were submitted to the region consultation but relate more to the Further Proposals for constituencies in that region. Any analysis on them is considered below rather than the constituency consultation grouping papers.**

63. A member of the public commented on the boundary between Govanhill and Strathbungo by Victoria Road.
64. The Further Proposals place Govanhill and Strathbungo in a Glasgow Southside constituency and Glasgow region. It is assumed this is a comment regarding the new UK Parliament constituency boundaries. The map below shows the proposed Glasgow Southside constituency and the UK Parliament boundary as a black line.



### Highlands and Islands Region

65. 10 members of the public stated the proposed Highlands and Islands region is too large.
66. A member of the public opposed the proposed Highlands and Islands region because it is too large and it also splits Moray between two regions.
67. There are no rules regarding the area of Scottish Parliament constituencies or regions.
68. A member of the public seeks no change to the existing region boundaries.
69. A member of the public suggested placing Caithness and Sutherland in the same region.
70. Caithness and Sutherland are currently in the same constituency and region. The Second Review proposed no changes to the existing Caithness, Sutherland and Ross constituency boundary.
71. Two members of the public suggested placing Arran in a Highland and Islands region.
72. The review rules state a region must include a whole constituency therefore this suggestion would include a Cunninghame North constituency in the Highlands and Islands region.
73. A member of the public suggested Scotland should have more councillors and there should be an equal number of MPs across the UK.
74. A member of the public wished to retain Nairnshire in a Highlands and Islands region.
75. The Provisional Proposals retain Nairnshire in a Highlands and Islands region. Nairnshire sits within the proposed Inverness and Nairn constituency.

76. Two members of the public suggested including Helensburgh and Lomond in a Highlands and Islands region.

77. Helensburgh and Lomond are the areas of Argyll and Bute Council area not included in the Argyll and Bute constituency or Highlands and Islands region. The existing region boundary to the north of Arrochar is retained. The table below adds the Dumbarton constituency to a Highland and Islands region.

<b>Alternative suggestion – including Dumbarton in a Highlands and Islands region</b>	<b>Electorate 1 Sept. 2022</b>	<b>Variation from electorate quota</b>
Highlands and Islands	415,435	-22%
West Scotland	472,643	-11%

78. A member of the public suggested “Orkney, Western Isles, Inverness, Shetland and Caithness should each be separate. Sutherland should be split in two.”

79. Orkney Islands, Shetland Islands and Na h-Eileanan an Iar are all single reserved constituencies. There are approximately 10,000 electors in Sutherland and 21,000 electors in Caithness. Two Sutherland constituencies would have approximately 5,000 electors each.

80. A member of the public stated Aviemore has closer links with Inverness than Elgin.

81. Aviemore sits within the proposed Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch constituency and not with Inverness or Elgin.

82. A member of the public suggested “should the larger populated areas not have more division to even out population sizes?”

83. A member of the public opposed the proposed Highlands and Islands region because Moray has closer links to the north-east.

84. A member of the public suggested an Inverness region and to add Skye and Lochalsh to the Western Isles.

85. It is assumed this comment suggested changes to the Highland Council area boundary rather than the Highlands and Islands region boundary.

86. A member of the public stated consideration should be made of the poor transport and lack of infrastructure in Lochaber and that future population growth should be considered.

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87. Two members of the public opposed the inclusion of Lochaber in an Argyll and Bute constituency.
88. The Second Review is not amending the Scottish Parliament constituency or region boundary by Lochaber. It is assumed this comment relates to the new UK Parliament constituency - Argyll, Bute and South Lochaber.
89. A member of the public suggested the Black Isle should sit within the Caithness, Sutherland and Ross constituency.
90. When developing its Provisional Proposals for constituencies the Commission considered an option with the Black Isle in a Caithness, Sutherland and Ross constituency, see 5 April 2023 meeting minute - [https://boundaries.scot/sites/default/files/M003\\_05\\_Apr\\_23.pdf](https://boundaries.scot/sites/default/files/M003_05_Apr_23.pdf). It stated “adding the Black Isle to a Caithness, Sutherland and Ross constituency would create a constituency of two parts – the Black Isle would be separate from Easter Ross, Caithness and Sutherland, worsen variation from electoral parity in a remote constituency and increase the area of an already large constituency with poor transport links.”

### **Lothian Region**

91. Six members of the public supported the proposals because: East Lothian and Edinburgh have close links with each other; there are fewer links between East Lothian and the south of Scotland; or East Lothian has closer links with Edinburgh than West Lothian.
92. A member of the public stated that rural East Lothian has different needs to urban Edinburgh and wish no change to the existing boundaries.
93. Two members of the public seeks no change to the existing boundaries.
94. A member of the public seeks no change because there is no benefit for East Lothian to become part of Edinburgh.
95. A member of the public wishes their “voting station is within reach and does not involve buses etc for elderly people.”
96. A member of the public suggested Edinburgh and Lothian as a region name.
97. A member of the public suggested South Queensferry has closer links with West Lothian.
98. South Queensferry is situated within Edinburgh City Council area and in the proposed Edinburgh North Western constituency and Lothian region.
99. A member of the public seeks no change to the existing boundaries because East Lothian and Edinburgh have different needs.
100. A member of the public would prefer if the whole of Midlothian was in a single region.

101. A member of the public suggested the Lothian region includes the whole of Edinburgh and West Lothian.
102. Edinburgh and West Lothian Council areas have a combined electorate of 460,177. The Commission considered an option in Paper BS118 at its 23 July 2024 meeting which proposed an Edinburgh and part West Lothian region but preferred an alternative option because it avoided splitting West Lothian between regions.
103. A suggestion to place Edinburgh and West Lothian Council areas in the same region is shown under General Comments later in this paper.
104. A member of the public suggested more MSPs for Lothian region rather than amending the boundary.
105. A member of the public opposed the proposed Lothian region because it does not include the whole of Midlothian or West Lothian. They also wish to retain East Lothian as constituency name.
106. A Lothian region that includes Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian Council areas would have an electorate of 711,592. The average electorate for regions is 531,320.
107. 50 members of the public opposed the Lothian region because West Lothian is not included within it. They stated West Lothian is a historical county and has no links with Lanarkshire. They also opposed including Whitburn, Greenrigg, Longridge and Fauldhouse in an Airdrie constituency due to concerns with access to local services, house prices, schooling, transport, council tax, community events, loss of identity and will lead to voter apathy.
108. Some of these comments may have mis-read a news article stating Fauldhouse and Whitburn were moving to North Lanarkshire Council area.
109. East Lothian Constituency Labour Party supported the proposed Lothian region because East Lothian has closer links with Edinburgh than the south of Scotland.

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110. A member of the public supported the inclusion of Leith in a constituency name.
111. A member of the public supported the proposals and including Fauldhouse in North Lanarkshire because there are better services there.
112. A member of the public opposed placing Tranent in an Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent constituency.

113. A member of the public opposed an Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent constituency. They wish Wallyford and Musselburgh to remain within an East Lothian constituency.
114. A member of the public opposed the proposed Edinburgh East, Musselburgh and Tranent constituency because Edinburgh and East Lothian residents have different needs.
115. A Tranent community group opposed the proposed Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent constituency because: Edinburgh will be the focus of the constituency rather than Tranent; the proposals do not consider council area boundaries; and the boundary “represents a poverty line between the haves and have nots in the community.”
116. A member of the public opposed the proposed Edinburgh East, Musselburgh and Tranent constituency because Tranent and Elphinstone identify as being part of East Lothian rather than Edinburgh.
117. A member of the public wishes Musselburgh and Tranent to remain within an East Lothian constituency.
118. A member of the public wished to retain the existing East Lothian constituency name.
119. A member of the public opposed the proposals because there is little to connect Edinburgh with Musselburgh, Wallyford or Tranent, such as health, travel and work.
120. A member of the public wishes to keep Musselburgh in East Lothian rather than Edinburgh.
121. Musselburgh was in an Edinburgh East and Musselburgh constituency from 1999-2011 and a Midlothian North and Musselburgh constituency from 2011. The Further Proposals place Musselburgh in a Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent constituency.
122. A member of the public stated Tranent belongs with East Lothian rather than Edinburgh. They suggested adding Prestonpans, Cockenzie and Blindwells to an Edinburgh constituency.
123. The Provisional Proposals for constituencies placed Musselburgh and Prestonpans in a Midlothian North and Musselburgh constituency but there was strong opposition to this proposal.
124. A member of the public suggested retaining Fauldhouse in an Almond Valley constituency.
125. A member of the public opposed the proposed Airdrie constituency because North Lanarkshire and West Lothian have little in common.
126. A member of the public opposed the proposed Edinburgh North Western constituency because it is geographically too large and has too many diverse communities, for example there is little to connect South Queensferry with the west-end of Edinburgh.

**Mid Scotland and Fife Region**

127. 10 members of the public supported no change to the existing Mid Scotland and Fife region boundary.
128. A member of the public suggested including Fife in a region with Dundee or Lothian rather than mid-Scotland of the public stated north-east Fife has far more in common with Dundee than it does with Perth or Stirling.
129. Fife Council area has 280,536 electors but the respondent offered no suggestion of which area(s) would replace Fife in the proposed Mid Scotland and Fife region.
130. Three members of the public stated the proposed region is too large. One opposed it due to the growing population within the area. One suggested a Fife region.
131. There are no rules regarding the area of Scottish Parliament regions or constituencies. A Fife region would have 280,536 electors.
132. A member of the public opposed the inclusion of a Stirling constituency in Mid Scotland and Fife region.
133. A member of the public wished to keep Stirling intact.
134. Stirling Council area has an electorate of 71,003. The proposals for constituencies made a minor change to the existing constituency boundaries.
135. A member of the public suggested including a Perthshire South and Kinross-shire constituency in a Central Scotland region with Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire because it would align with social care boundaries.
136. A region that includes Clackmannanshire, Fife, Perth and Kinross and Stirling Council areas would have an electorate of 356,463. The electorate average for regions is 531,320.
137. A member of the public commented on voting in Fife and Dollar.
138. It is assumed this comment relates to the new UK Parliament constituency – Dunfermline and Dollar.
139. A member of the public suggested Stirling should be in a Central Scotland region. They also stated Stirling should not be included with Strathallan.
140. A table with a Stirling constituency in a Central Scotland region is shown under Central Scotland region. It is assumed this comment relates to the new UK Parliament constituency - Stirling and Strathallan.

**North East Scotland Region**

141. A member of the public supported the proposed North East Scotland region.

142. Three members of the public wished no change to the existing North East Scotland region.
143. A member of the public opposed the proposed North East region because Dundee belongs with the Central Belt (politically, socially, geographically) and Moray belongs with the Highlands and Islands.
144. There are 112,735 Dundee electors but the respondent offered no suggestion of which area(s) would replace Dundee in the proposed North East Scotland region.
145. A member of the public stated Dundee and Angus have little in common with Aberdeen and closer links with Perth, Perthshire and North East Fife.
146. A member of the public stated Dundee has little in common with Aberdeenshire.
147. A member of the public suggested renaming the region Grampian.
148. The Grampian local government region from 1974 to 1995 included the current Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray Council areas. The proposed North East Scotland region includes part Moray, Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Dundee City Council areas.
149. A member of the public suggested increasing the size of the proposed North East Scotland region because they believe the north-east is forgotten in comparison to the central belt.

**The comments summarised below were submitted to the region consultation but relate more to the Further Proposals for constituencies in that region. Any analysis on them is considered below rather than the constituency consultation grouping papers.**

150. A member of the public wishes to retain the existing Aberdeen South and North Kincardine constituency name.
151. A member of the public suggested all constituencies should reflect similar issues.
152. A member of the public stated “it needs an update to better reflect the people of Scotland.”
153. A member of the public suggested placing Kirriemuir and Forfar in the same constituency.
154. Kirriemuir, with approximately 5,800 electors, sits within an Angus South constituency. Forfar, with approximately 12,000 electors, sits within an Angus North and Mearns constituency.

### **South Scotland Region**

155. Three members of the public supported the proposed South Scotland region.

156. A member of the public suggested naming the region Dumfriesshire.
157. Six members of the public stated the region is too large. One suggested regions based on historical county boundaries.
158. There are no rules regarding the area of Scottish Parliament constituencies or regions.
159. A member of the public stated the region is too large and suggested a South Scotland region containing Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish Borders; a Lanarkshire region; an Edinburgh and the Lothians region; and a Fife, Falkirk and Clacks region.
160. This suggestion is shown in the table below but it offers wide variations from the electorate quota.

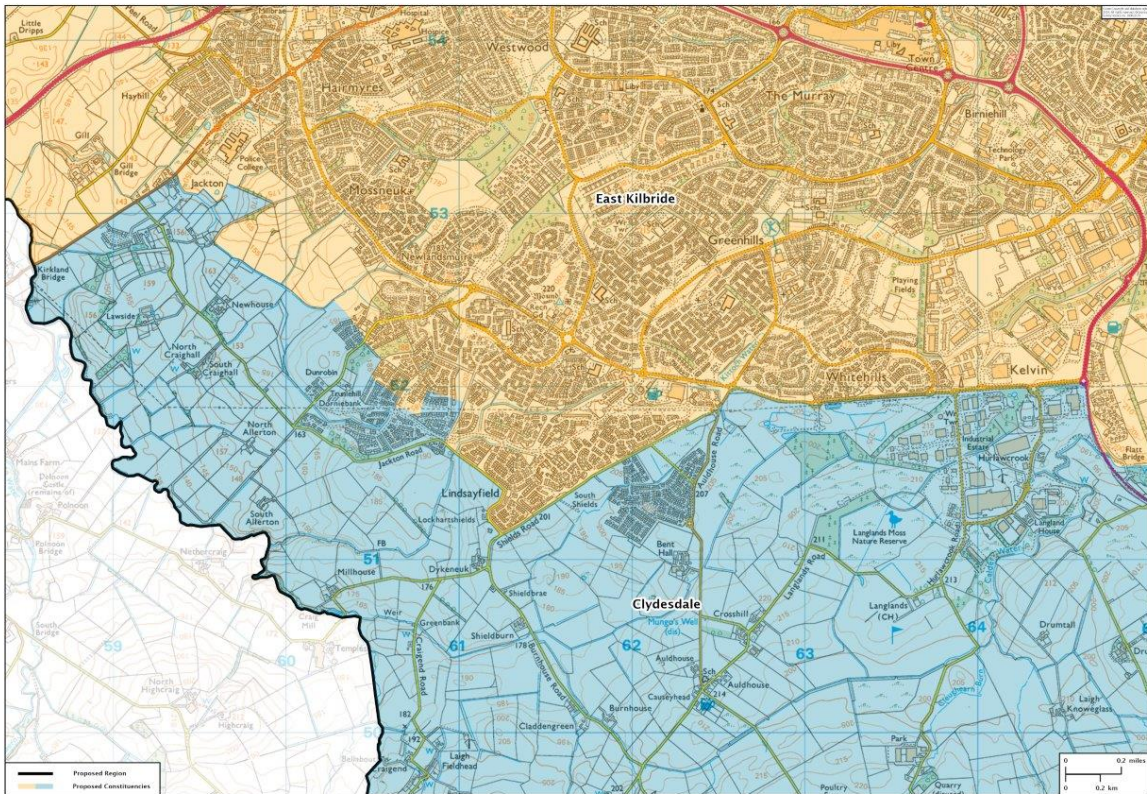
<b>Suggested regions</b>	<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Variation from the electorate quota</b>
Dumfries and Galloway, Scottish Borders	212,121	-60.1%
Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Fife	455,808	-14.2%
Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian	711,592	33.9%
North and South Lanarkshire	523,129	-1.5%

161. A member of the public opposed the constituency and region boundary by Stewarton because it breaks local ties with Kilmarnock.
162. A member of the public opposed the proposed South Scotland region because the geography, population and lifestyle are very different.
163. A member of the public opposed the proposals because Dumfries and Galloway will lose its identity.
164. A member of the public believes the proposals will lead to a loss of representation and dilution of budgets.
165. A member of the public suggested including the south-east of Scotland in the same region as East Lothian because their area would get more investment.
166. An option which placed East Lothian in a region with the south-east of Scotland is shown under General Comments later in this paper.
167. A member of the public suggested the proposed Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse and East Kilbride constituencies should sit within a Central Scotland region because they have similar political and social issues.
168. The existing constituencies of East Kilbride and Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse are in the existing Central Scotland region. A suggestion which places the constituencies of Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse and East Kilbride in a Central Scotland region are shown under General Comments later in this paper.

169. A member of the public stated East Kilbride and Hamilton do not belong in a South Scotland region.
170. A member of the public opposed adding East Kilbride to a South Scotland region because it has nothing in common with Dumfries.
171. A member of the public suggested the proposed South Scotland region should contain wholly rural areas.
172. A member of the public opposed the inclusion of East Kilbride in a South Scotland region because: East Kilbride has historical ties with other towns in central Scotland, especially with Glasgow, and they feel part of Greater Glasgow; they look towards Glasgow for employment and healthcare; and have little in common with the Borders and towns such as Melrose. They also believe it may result in lower voter turn out at elections because they have little in common with the south of Scotland.
173. A member of the public opposed the inclusion of a Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse constituency in a South Scotland region because Hamilton and the south of Scotland have different demographics.
174. A member of the public stated the existing South of Scotland region is too diverse and suggested East Kilbride and Hamilton remain in a Central Scotland region and East Lothian remain in a South Scotland region.
175. A member of the public is unsure if South Lanarkshire sits within a Glasgow or South Scotland region.
176. Councillor Fay Sinclair (Scottish Borders Galashiels and District ward) opposed including the constituencies of East Kilbride and Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse in a South Scotland region because East Kilbride and Hamilton are urban areas with closer links with Glasgow, while the south of Scotland is a more rural area. They suggested including the proposed East Lothian Coast and Lammermuirs constituency in a South Scotland region because it would be similar to the existing South Scotland region boundary and better reflect the more rural south of Scotland and more urban central Scotland.
177. This suggestion is shown under General Comment later in this paper.

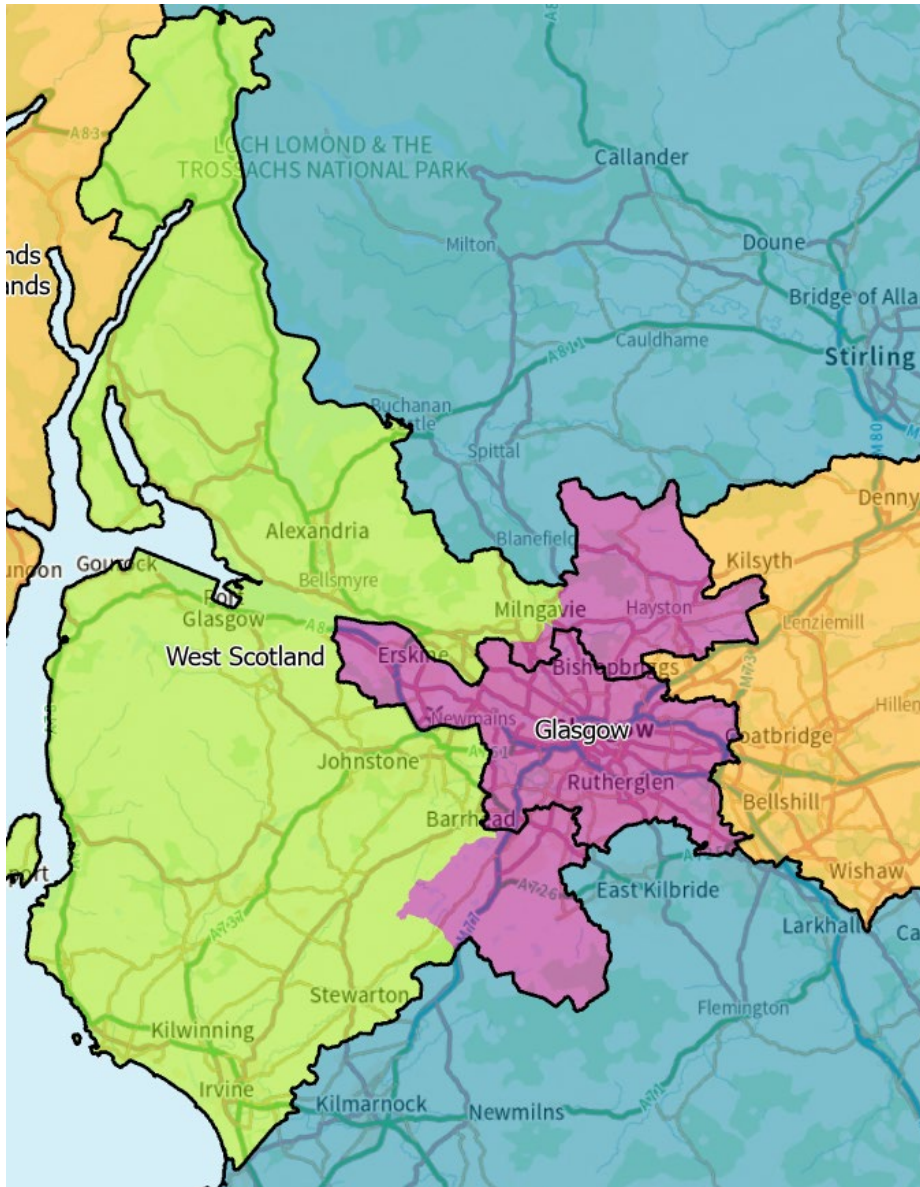
**The comments summarised below were submitted to the region consultation but relate more to the Further Proposals for constituencies in that region. Any analysis on them is considered below rather than the constituency consultation grouping papers.**

178. Two members of the public opposed the proposed East Kilbride constituency boundary because it does not consider new developments at Benthall Farm and Jackton.
179. The map below shows the proposed constituency boundaries and new housing developments to the south of East Kilbride. The whole of East Kilbride sits within the proposed South Scotland region. The proposed East Kilbride constituency boundary is unchanged from the existing boundary.



### West Scotland Region

180. Two members of the public supported the proposed West Scotland region.
181. A member of the public stated Erskine belongs in a West Scotland region rather than a Glasgow region.
182. Other suggestions which place the proposed Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald constituency in a West Scotland region are shown under Glasgow region in this paper.
183. A member of the public suggested West Strathclyde as an alternative region name.
184. Two members of the public seek no change to the existing boundaries in Renfrewshire
185. A member of the public seeks no change to the existing boundaries
186. A member of the public suggested the proposed Strathkelvin and Bearsden and Eastwood constituencies should sit within a Glasgow region.



Strathkelvin and Bearsden and Eastwood Suggestion. Region	Electorate	Variation from the electorate quota
Glasgow	683,451	28.6%
West of Scotland	408,619	-23.1%

- 187. A member of the public suggested the Strathkelvin and Bearsden and Clydebank and Milngavie constituencies have close links with Glasgow.
- 188. A map of this suggestion is shown under Glasgow region.
- 189. A member of the public stated it “will change the demographics of Dumbarton and will change the constituency MSP.”
- 190. A member of the public believes the proposed boundaries by Stewarton and Renfrew were politically motivated.
- 191. A member of the public stated Renfrew and Cardonald should not be in the same constituency and that constituencies should not split local

authority responsibilities. They suggested placing Renfrew and Erskine in a Paisley constituency and Cardonald in a Glasgow constituency.

192. A member of the public stated “It looks like the boundaries have not changed.”
193. A member of the public supported the proposed West Scotland region because there is little change to the existing boundaries.
194. Plastic Free Helensburgh supported the proposals because it keeps Helensburgh and Lomond in the same constituency (Dumbarton) and region (West Scotland).
195. Natalie Don-Innes, MSP Renfrewshire North and West, objected to the Inclusion of the Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald constituency in the Glasgow Region because: Renfrew has its own identity and separate from Glasgow; Erskine is distant to Glasgow in comparison to communities north of the Clyde who have closer links to Glasgow than Renfrew; it is a predominantly Renfrewshire constituency and should therefore remain in the West Scotland region; a Renfrewshire ward would be split between regions; and Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Council areas work closely together (including the Renfrewshire Valuation Board).
196. Councillor Sam Mullin (Erskine and Inchinnan ward Renfrewshire Council) opposed the proposed West Scotland and Glasgow regions because it breaks the review rules (1, 3). He wishes Renfrew, Erskine, Inchinnan and Bishopton to remain with the rest of Renfrewshire in a West Scotland region.

### **General Comments**

197. Five members of the public seek no change to the existing boundaries.
198. A member of the public stated the regions are too large and have different needs, social demographics and issues. They suggested smaller regions that consider council area or healthcare boundaries.
199. A member of the public suggested Gaelic names for region instead of using compass points.
200. A member of the public suggested smaller Councils.
201. A member of the public wished to retain West Lothian in a Lothian region.
202. A member of the public suggested smaller regions so that MSPs are more accountable.
203. The legislation for the reviews of Scottish Parliament boundaries state there are to be 73 constituencies and eight regions.
204. A member of the public wished to abolish regions because region MSPs are remote and lack accountability.

205. A member of the public suggested including Cowal (Dunoon) in Renfrew (Inverclyde) as they have more in common with each other than Inverness.
206. This suggestion would add the proposed Argyll and Bute constituency to a West Scotland region, worsening variation from the electorate quota in the Highlands and Islands region, and is shown in the table below.

Suggested regions (Cowal)	Electorate	Variation from the electorate quota
Highlands and Islands	309,771	-42%
West Scotland	578,307	9%

207. A member of the public reflected that the proposals have little impact on most people.
208. A member of the public suggested urban or rural constituencies rather than urban-rural constituencies. They also suggested having fewer MSPs.
209. A member of the public suggested having fewer MSPs.
210. A member of the public suggested removing regional MSPs and having “top up seats could be allocated in a similar manner using the whole country.”
211. A member of the public suggested a region based on the local government Tayside Region (1974-95) because the current regions do not reflect the geography and population of the area. They suggested 9 or 10 regions with between 6-8 MSPs in each region.
212. Legislation states there are to be eight Scottish Parliament regions.
213. A member of the public suggested the East Kilbride and Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse constituencies should be included in a Central Scotland region because they are urban areas in Greater Glasgows conurbation and the Almond Valley and Linlithgow constituencies should be placed within the Lothian region and East Lothian Coast and Lammermuirs constituency should be placed within the South Scotland region.

**The comments summarised below were submitted to the region consultation but relate more to the Further Proposals for constituencies in that region. Any analysis on them is considered below rather than the constituency consultation grouping papers.**

214. A member of the public commented on boundaries that placed Larbert and Grangemouth with Alloa and Dollar with Dunfermline.
215. This comment relates to the new UK Parliament constituency boundaries.

### **Ballot Box Scotland**

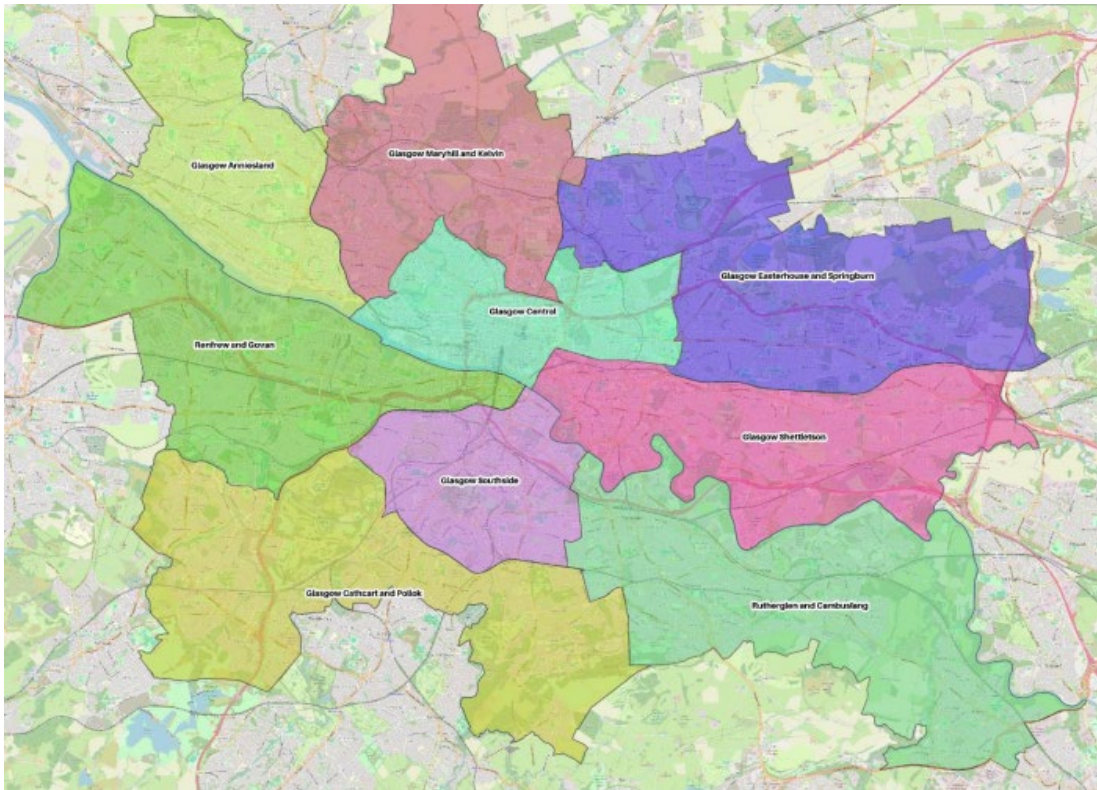
216. Ballot Box Scotland suggested the Commission should have consulted on proposals for regions when it consulted on provisional and revised

proposals for constituencies because both constituency and region boundary proposals should be considered at the same time.

217. They suggested the Commission use an alternative method for calculating electoral parity for regions, by dividing the total electorate of Scotland by the total number of MSPs ( $4,250,563 \div 129 = 32,950$ ). They believe this method offers greater flexibility to develop proposals for regions.
218. They suggested alternative designs for both constituency boundaries in Glasgow and Renfrewshire as well as for regions. They suggested retaining three of the proposed regions: Highlands and Islands; North East Scotland; and Mid Scotland and Fife.

### **Glasgow Region**

219. Ballot Box Scotland strongly opposed the proposed Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald constituency because Bishopton and Erskine are not part of Greater Glasgow. They also stated that by including Erskine in a Glasgow region there is no direct link between communities in the West Scotland region on either side of the Clyde.
220. They submitted an alternative constituency design suggestion for Glasgow and Renfrewshire. It retains three of the existing constituencies in the proposed Glasgow region (Glasgow Anniesland, Glasgow Cathcart and Pollok, Rutherglen and Cambuslang) to create more coherent constituencies and more closely resemble the existing Glasgow region boundary.
221. They acknowledge they do not have detailed electorate data and some of the totals proposed differ from the Secretariat's calculations but these could be refined.
222. This suggestion is shown in the table and map below. It uses the Clyde as a boundary in Glasgow but still extends into Renfrewshire.



<b>Alternative suggestion Ballot Box Scotland - Glasgow</b>	<b>Electorate 1 Sept. 2022</b>	<b>Variation from electorate quota</b>
<i>Glasgow Anniesland</i>	60,545	1.1%
<i>Glasgow Cathcart and Pollok</i>	66,213	10.5%
<i>Rutherglen and Cambuslang</i>	62,888	5.0%
Glasgow Southside	61,770	3.1%
Glasgow Maryhill and Kelvin	56,201	-6.2%
Glasgow Central	54,781	-8.5%
Glasgow Shettleston	56,089	-6.4%
Glasgow Easterhouse and Springburn	57,365	-4.2%
Renfrew and Govan	64,664	7.9%

**West Scotland Region**

223. Ballot Box Scotland alternative constituency design suggestion for the West Scotland region retains three of the proposed constituencies (Dumbarton, Clydebank and Milngavie, Strathkelvin and Bearsden). It proposes a: Paisley constituency similar to the further proposals; Cunninghame North constituency that includes Inverkip and Wemyss Bay from Inverclyde; Eastwood constituency similar to the revised proposals; Inverclyde and Bishopton constituency and a Mid Renfrewshire constituency.

224. This suggestion is shown in the table and map below.



Alternative suggestion Ballot Box Scotland - West	Electorate 1 Sept. 2022	Variation from electorate quota
<i>Dumbarton</i>	56,129	-6.3%
<i>Clydebank and Milngavie</i>	56,877	-5.0%
<i>Strathkelvin and Bearsden</i>	63,895	6.7%
Eastwood	60,536	1.1%
Paisley	59,748	-0.3%
Inverclyde and Bishopston	67,717	13.0%
Mid Renfrewshire	67,321	12.4%
Cunninghame North	61,571	2.8%

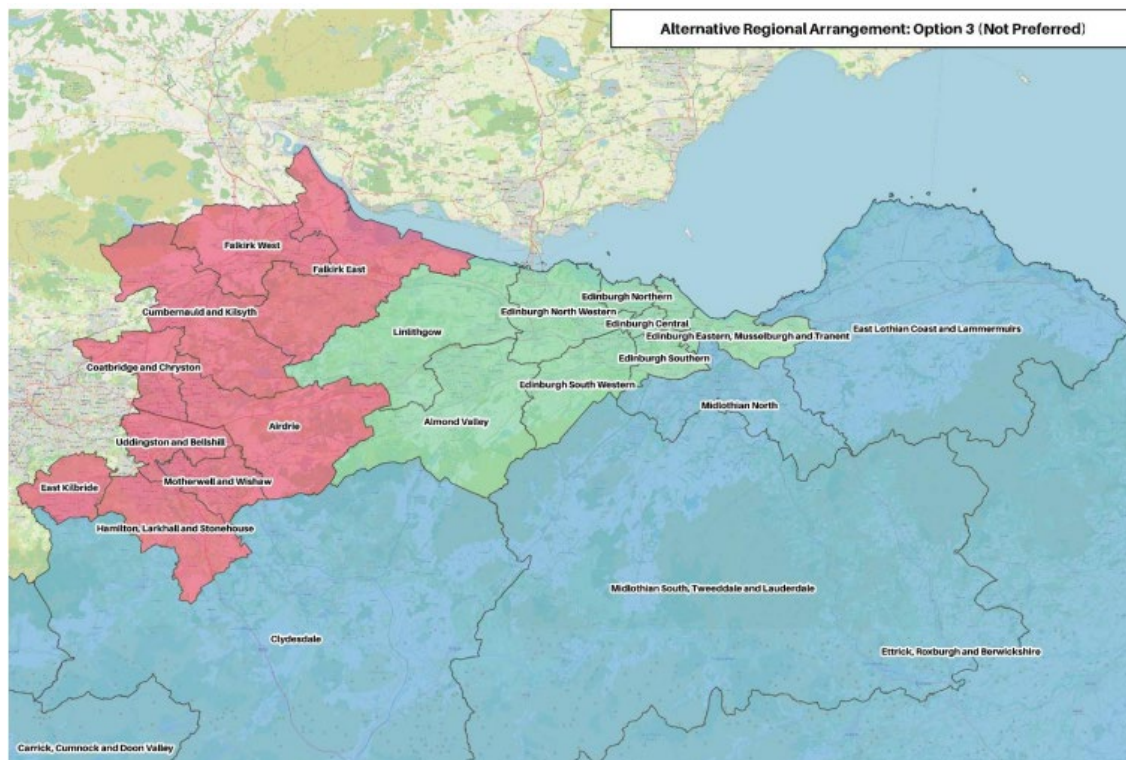
**Central Scotland, South Scotland, Lothian Region**

225. Ballot Box Scotland opposed including an East Kilbride constituency and a Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse constituency in a South Scotland region because these areas cover a large urban area while the rest of the South Scotland region is very rural. They suggested retaining these constituencies in a Central Scotland region and adding the proposed West Lothian constituencies (Almond Valley and Linlithgow) to a Lothian region.

226. They submitted three alternative suggestions to resolve this issue. All three options propose the same Central Scotland region. The three options

either place a Midlothian South constituency or East Lothian and Lammermuirs constituency in a Lothian or South Scotland region.

227. Options 1 and 2 both propose a Lothian region with variation from the electorate quota over 16%. Option 3 is shown in the map and table below.



Alternative suggestion Ballot Box Scotland - Option 3	Electorate 1 Sept. 2022	Variation from electorate quota
Lothian	562,762	5.9%
Central Scotland	539,808	1.6%
South Scotland	586,073	10.3%

228. North Ayrshire Council submitted a provisional response as the Council meets on 6 November 2024. They note the proposed region boundaries follow the new constituency boundary by Stewarton and do not expect to submit any alternative suggestions.

229. Aberdeenshire Council noted the change to the proposed North East Scotland region but made no comment on it.

230. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party stated the East Kilbride and Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse constituencies belong to a Central Scotland region rather than a South Scotland region because they have little in common with Ayrshire, Dumfriesshire or the Borders. They also stated the West Lothian constituencies look towards Edinburgh and East Lothian has been in a South Scotland region since 1999.

**Summary**

231. The Provisional Proposals for regions retained a single region Mid Scotland and Fife and made a minor change to the North East Scotland and Highlands and Islands. Few comments were submitted regarding these regions.
232. Both West Lothian Council and Renfrewshire Council objected to the proposed regions and the Commission has agreed to hold local inquiries in those areas.
233. Elsewhere most comments opposed the inclusion of an East Kilbride constituency and Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse constituency in a South Scotland region. As a consequence they suggested adding the West Lothian constituencies to a Lothian region and the East Lothian and Lammermuirs constituency to a South Scotland region.

**Conclusion**

234. After considering the consultation responses for Highlands and Islands; Mid Scotland and Fife; North East Scotland and South Scotland, the Commission is asked to confirm whether: -
- a local inquiry should be held in any of these regions.
  - it wishes to adopt the Provisional Proposals as its Final Recommendations for Highlands and Islands, Mid Scotland and Fife; and North East Scotland.
  - If any changes should be made to any of these region boundaries and consulted on further.
  - Confirm its earlier decision on names as its Final Recommendations.
235. Although the trigger for a local inquiry has not been met for South Scotland, the Commission may wish to defer agreeing the Final Recommendations for this region as it may be impacted by the outcome of the local inquiries.
236. The Commission will wish to defer agreeing its Final Recommendations or revising proposals for Central Scotland; Glasgow; Lothian; and West Scotland until after receiving the Assistant Commissioner's Report from the local inquiries to be held in Renfrewshire and West Lothian.

**Secretariat**  
**November 2024**



Appendix B – Alternative Suggestion for regions (Ballot Box Scotland)

