

**Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries  
East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire Council areas**

**Action required**

1. The Commission is invited to: -
  - Consider the consultation responses, the transcript of the local inquiry and the Assistant Commissioner's report.
  - Consider whether it wishes to adopt the Further Proposals as Final Recommendations for East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire Council areas; OR
  - Amend its proposals for constituency boundaries or names and consult further.

**Background**

2. Paper BS 140, discussed at the 4 November 2024 Commission meeting and attached, provides a background to the Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries in this grouping.
3. The Commission consulted on its Further Proposals for constituencies between 26 September and 26 October 2024.
4. Renfrewshire Council objected to the proposed regions. They were: content with the constituency boundary by Neilston; suggested Langbank be included in a constituency with Bishopton to maintain local ties there; opposed the splitting of the Paisley Northwest and Johnstone South and Elderslie wards; suggested the proposed boundary by Cardonald should follow the UK Parliament constituency boundary; and highlighted the expected growth in electorate at Dargavel Village.
5. The other issues raised during the consultation were:
  - a number of individual alternative suggestions within Glasgow but no strong support to any specific alternative boundary or name;
  - support for the proposed Eastwood constituency;
  - opposition to an Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald constituency because of a lack of ties between Cardonald and Erskine;
  - suggestions that Langbank should be included in a constituency with Bishopton to retain local ties between those two communities; and
  - suggestions for some alternative constituency names and boundaries.
6. The Commission agreed to hold local inquiry in Paisley.
7. Although the local inquiry was to focus on mainly the Renfrewshire constituencies the Commission agreed to defer making a decision on all of these constituencies until after the outcome of the local inquiry.

**Local Inquiry**

8. Sheriff Principal Murphy acted as Assistant Commissioner at the local inquiry, held at the Courtyard Glasgow Airport Hotel, Paisley on 28 November 2024.
9. The Paisley local inquiry was attended by representatives from Renfrewshire Council and East Renfrewshire Council, MSPs, local councillors, a political party and a member of the public.

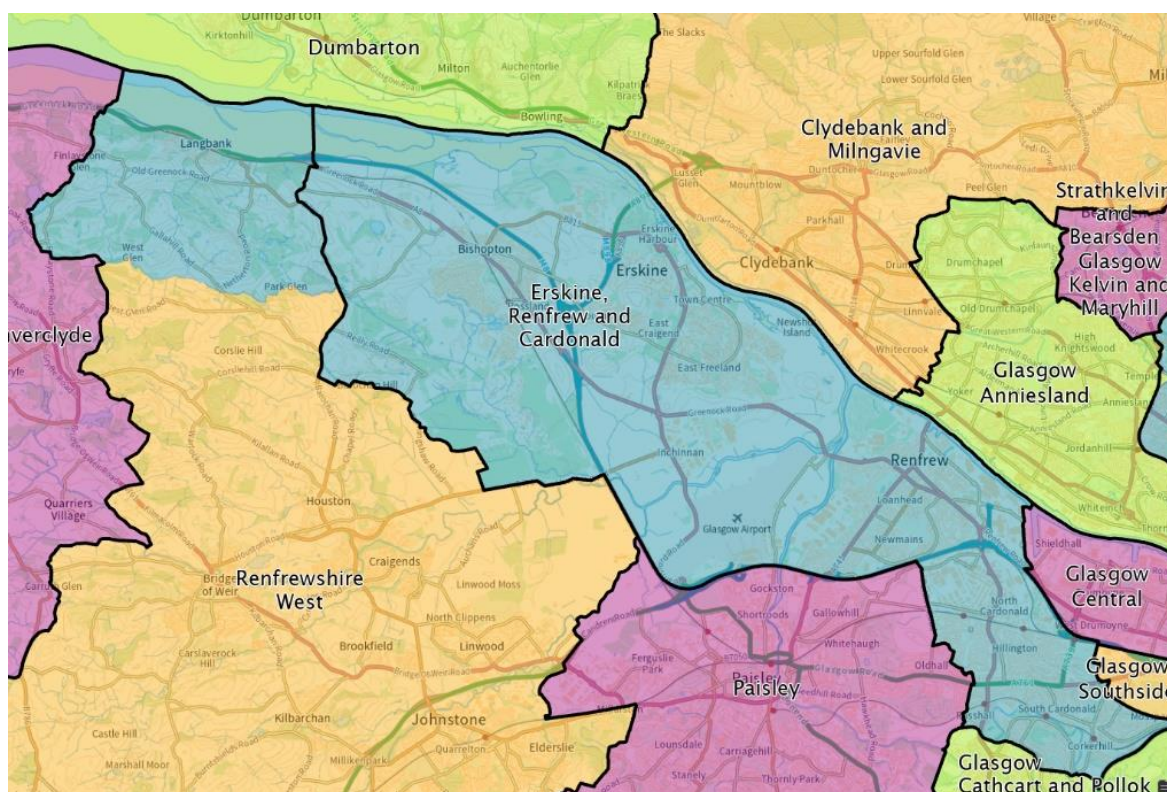
10. The key issues raised at the Paisley local inquiry were similar to those received during the public consultation.
11. A representative on behalf of Natalie Don-Innes, MSP for Renfrewshire North and West: supported the amended Renfrewshire West constituency boundary by Bishopton but suggested including Langbank within it to maintain local ties there; opposed including Cardonald in a Renfrewshire constituency but if that was essential, suggested including a smaller area of Cardonald; suggested the Commission should consider combining other neighbouring council areas with Glasgow rather than Renfrewshire; and they also suggested renaming the constituency as Renfrewshire North and Cardonald.
12. Renfrewshire Council made a similar response to their submission to the Further Proposals consultation. They were: content with the constituency boundary by Neilston; suggested Langbank be included in a constituency with Bishopton to maintain local ties there; opposed the splitting of the Paisley Northwest and Johnstone South and Elderslie wards; suggested the proposed boundary by Cardonald should follow the UK Parliament constituency boundary; highlighted the expected growth in electorate at Dargavel Village; and suggested the Commission should consider combining other neighbouring council areas with Glasgow rather than Renfrewshire. Renfrewshire Council's main objections were in relation to the proposed regions but reiterated its concerns with the Commission's approach of using council groupings.
13. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party were content with the proposed constituency boundaries but opposed the alternative suggestion from Renfrewshire Council to include Eastwood in a Glasgow region.
14. Neil Bibby, MSP for West Scotland, supported the comments made by Renfrewshire Council.
15. Councillor Kevin Montgomery (Renfrewshire Paisley Southwest ward), representing the Renfrewshire Council Labour group, also spoke in support of the comments made by Renfrewshire Council. He opposed the proposed Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald constituency because it will lead to voter confusion.
16. East Renfrewshire Council made no comment on the proposed constituency boundaries, solely regions.
17. A member of the public opposed a constituency that included parts of Renfrewshire and Glasgow. They also highlighted the expected population growth at Dargavel and Braehead.
18. Councillor Owen O'Donnell, the leader of East Renfrewshire Council and councillor for Newton Mearns North and Neilston ward, made no comment on the proposed constituency boundaries, solely regions.
19. Paul O'Kane, MSP for West Scotland supported the proposed Renfrewshire West constituency as it closely resembles the existing Renfrewshire South constituency but suggested naming it Renfrewshire West and Levern Valley. He also suggested Langbank be included with Bishopton and Erskine to maintain local ties there.

20. A full transcript of the local inquiry and any late responses to the consultation is available at Appendix B. The Assistant Commissioner’s Report will be sent prior to the 19 December 2024 Commission meeting.

**Alternative suggestion - Langbank**

21. A number of respondents suggested including the village of Langbank in the proposed Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald constituency because Langbank has close local ties with Bishopton and Erskine.

22. The map and table below shows Langbank in an Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald constituency. The suggestion would transfer approximately 900 Langbank electors between constituencies. The proposed boundary follows a community council area boundary.



23. The Langbank alternative suggestion makes minimal change to variation from the electorate quota within the proposed constituencies, see table below.

<b>Langbank suggestion</b>			
<b>Constituencies</b>	<b>Council areas</b>	<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Variation from the electorate quota</b>
Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald	Glasgow Renfrewshire	63,832	6.6%
Renfrewshire West	East Renfrewshire Renfrewshire	59,717	-0.3%

24. The advantages of the Langbank suggestion are:

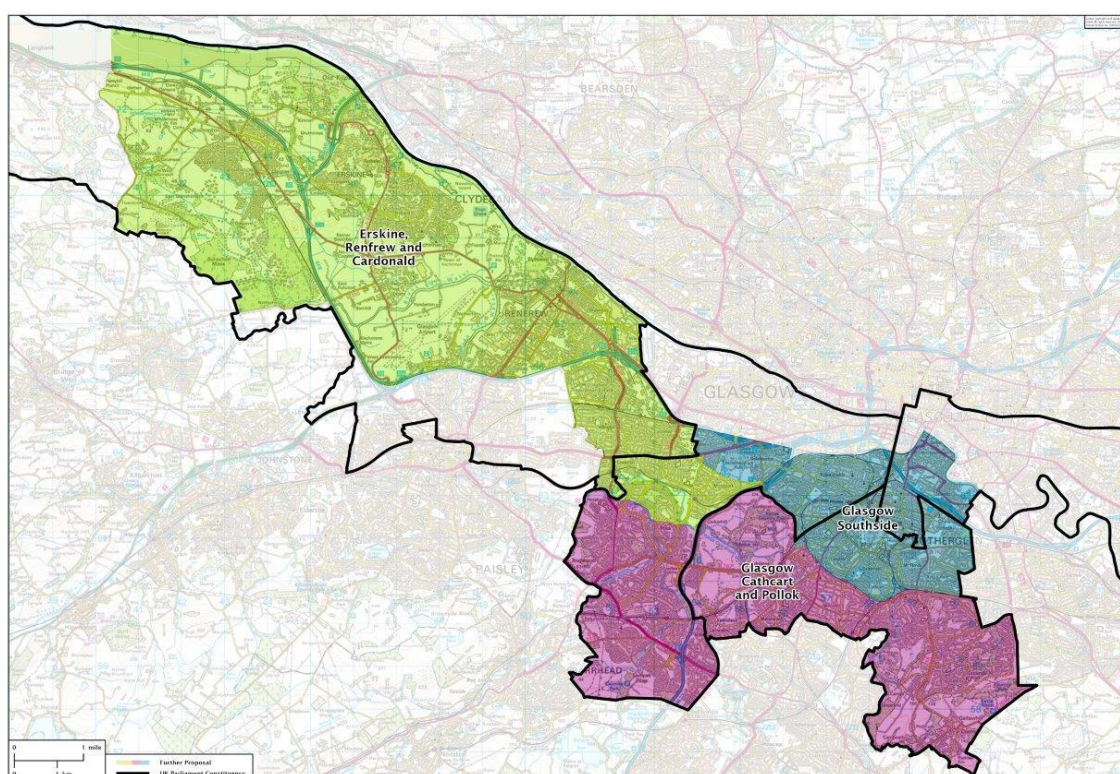
- It may better reflect local ties between Bishopton/ Erskine and Langbank (rule 4); and
- both constituencies are within 10% variation from the electorate quota (rule 2).

25. There are no obvious disadvantages to this suggestion.

### Alternative suggestion - Cardonald

26. Renfrewshire Council suggested the proposed boundary by Cardonald should follow the UK Parliament constituency boundary to avoid confusing the local electorate. The UK Parliament boundary partly follows the A761 Paisley Road West and White Cart Water. The proposed Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald constituency includes 22,444 Cardonald electors. The suggestion, to follow the UK Parliament constituency boundary, would include only 11,675 Cardonald electors. As a result the Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald constituency would have 52,073 electors with variation from the electorate quota at -13.1% or 53,063 electors with variation from the electorate quota at -11% if it included Langbank.

27. Renfrewshire Council offered no explanation of the consequential changes required from their suggestion. The remaining 10,769 Cardonald electors would need to be added to either the Glasgow Cathcart and Pollok constituency or Glasgow Southside constituency, the only two Glasgow constituencies adjacent to Cardonald. They have electorates of 66,213 and 65,486 respectively. These three Further Proposals constituencies are shown on the map below with the UK Parliament constituency boundary (black line). The Commission could consider making consequential changes to other Glasgow constituencies, such as Glasgow Central with 61,723 electors, but this would require changes to three of four Glasgow constituency boundaries where has been little opposition to the Further Proposals.



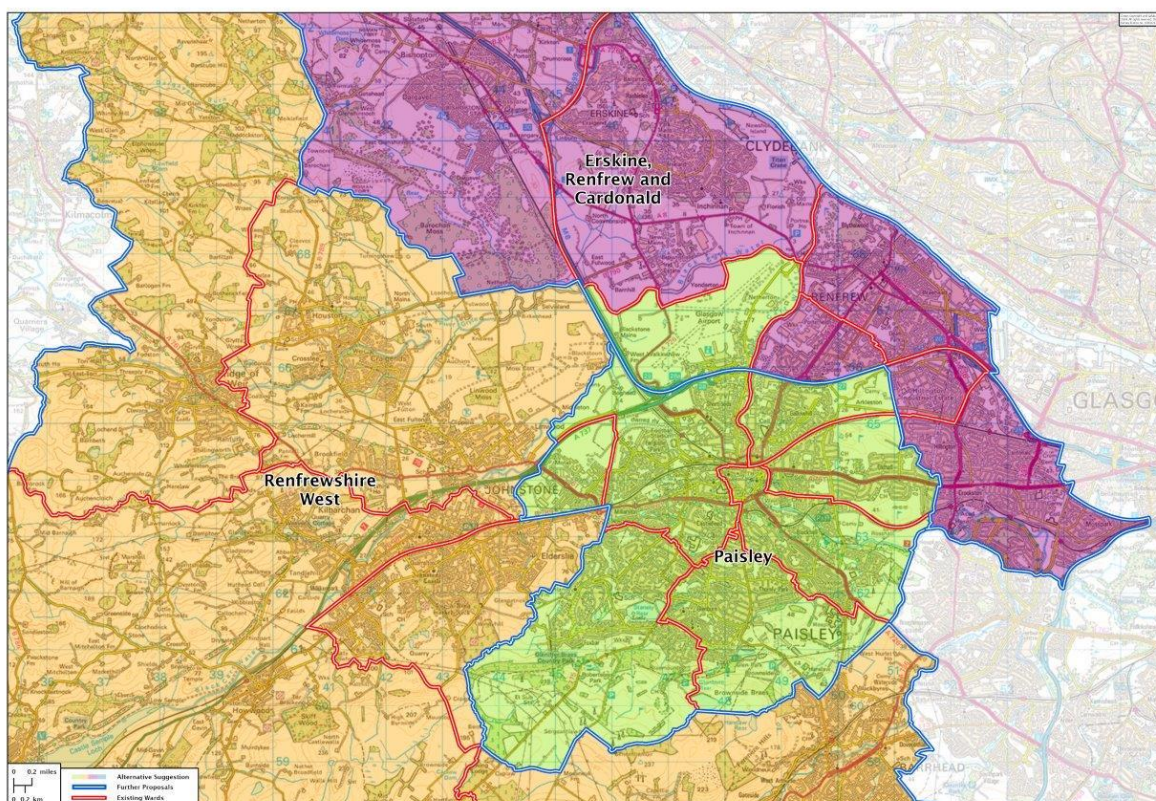
28. The advantages of the Cardonald suggestion are it may avoid confusion to the local electorate in Cardonald, having the same parliamentary boundaries.

29. The disadvantages of this suggestion are it:

- would propose a Glasgow constituency with high variation from the electorate quota and an Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald constituency with low electorate; and
- offers no description of which constituency should include the remaining Cardonald electors.

**Alternative suggestion – Renfrewshire wards**

30. Renfrewshire Council opposed the splitting of two wards to avoid voter confusion. The Further Proposals split four wards in Renfrewshire; Renfrew South and Gallowhill; Paisley Northwest; Johnstone South and Elderslie; and Bishopston, Bridge of Weir and Langbank.
31. Renfrewshire Council opposed the proposed boundary by Glasgow Airport which splits the Paisley Northwest ward mainly because it would split the ward between two regions. The proposed boundary follows the M8 motorway to create an easily identifiable boundary. There are only seven electors in this area, to the north of the M8, therefore following the ward boundary would make no change to variation from the electorate quota.
32. The advantages of the suggestion to follow a ward boundary by Glasgow airport are it:
- may avoid voter confusion and aid electoral administration.
  - has minimal impact on variation from the electorate quota as only seven electors are affected.
33. The disadvantages of this suggestion are it creates an oddly shaped constituency.
34. The map below shows this alternative suggestion by Glasgow Airport as block colours. The Further Proposals are the blue line and the ward boundary as a red line.



35. Renfrewshire Council also opposed the Johnstone South and Elderslie ward being split by the Phoenix Retail Park, to the west of Paisley. The Revised Proposals had followed the ward boundary here but the Commission agreed to adopt a suggestion from the revised consultation to follow the existing constituency boundary there, a railway line.

36. The Renfrewshire Council suggestion to follow the ward boundary would transfer 1,185 electors between constituencies.

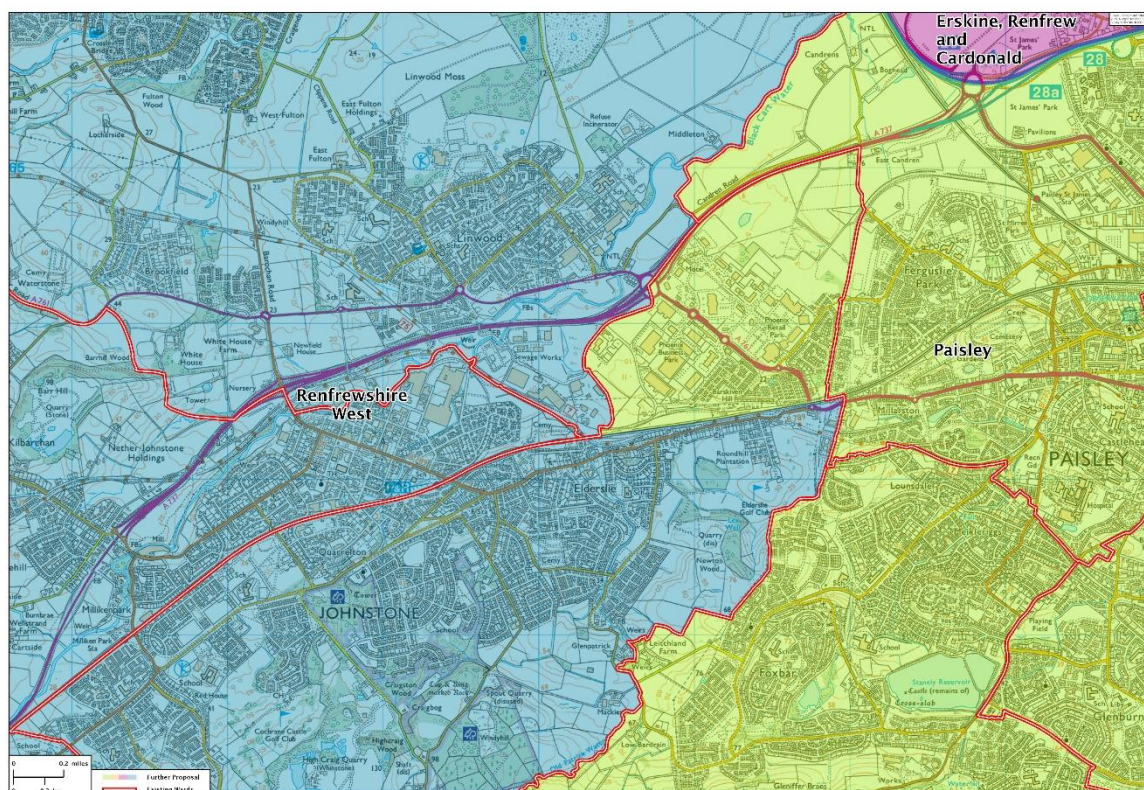
37. The map below shows the Further Proposals as block colours and the ward boundary as a red line.

38. The advantages of this suggestion, to follow a ward boundary by Phoenix Retail Park, are it:

- may avoid voter confusion and aid electoral administration.
- has minimal impact on variation from the electorate quota.

39. The disadvantages of this suggestion are some may prefer to retain the existing constituency boundary that has been in place since 2011 and was suggested during the revised consultation.

<b>Phoenix Retail Park suggestion</b>			
<b>Constituencies</b>	<b>Council areas</b>	<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Variation from the electorate quota</b>
Paisley	Renfrewshire	58,563	-2.2%
Renfrewshire West	East Renfrewshire Renfrewshire	61,892	3.3%



## Summary

40. The First Review gave Glasgow City council area a theoretical entitlement to 7.96 constituencies, while Inverclyde (1.1), East Renfrewshire (1.2) and Renfrewshire (2.3) had an entitlement to 4.6 constituencies, rounded to 5 constituencies. Theoretically, all constituencies recommended during the First Review within this grouping would have an electorate below the electorate quota.
41. Since the First Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries, the electorate for mainland Scotland has grown by about 8.5% (from 2007-2022). In East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire Council areas the electorate has grown by nearly 12%. However in Glasgow the electorate has grown by less than 6% while the Inverclyde electorate has remained static.
42. For the Second Review: East Renfrewshire; Inverclyde; and Renfrewshire Council areas had an entitlement for 4.6 constituencies and Glasgow 7.7. The Commission's consulted on a constituency grouping of 12 constituencies within East Renfrewshire, Glasgow, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire Council areas.
43. There was strong opposition to the Provisional Proposals because: they proposed a Glasgow Priesthill and Giffnock constituency including parts of East Renfrewshire and Glasgow City Council areas; and divided Paisley and Johnstone between constituencies. Both East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire Council objected to the Provisional Proposals.
44. The Revised Proposals aimed to address the concerns raised at the Provisional Proposals consultation and proposed: an Eastwood constituency similar to the existing constituency; an Erskine and Cardonald constituency; and made further changes in Glasgow and Renfrewshire. The responses to the Revised Proposals

consultation suggested using Glasgow localities instead of compass points as constituency names and suggestions to amend the boundaries by Bishopton and the Lavern Valley to better reflect local ties there.

45. The Further Proposals proposed alternative constituency names in Glasgow and amended the constituency boundaries by Bishopton, Lavern Valley, Paisley and the south-side of Glasgow. Renfrewshire Council objected to the Further Proposals and the Commission agreed to hold a local inquiry there. There were suggestions for alternative constituency names and boundaries across Glasgow and Renfrewshire.
46. At the Paisley local inquiry, further representations were made opposing an Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald constituency because there is little to connect communities within it.

### Conclusion

47. The Commission is invited to:

- Consider whether it wishes to adopt the Further Proposals as Final Recommendations for these constituencies. OR
- Amend its proposals for constituency boundaries or names and consult further.

48. The alternative constituency names suggested include:

- Renfrewshire West and Lavern Valley, instead of Renfrewshire West
- Renfrewshire North and Cardonald, instead of Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald constituency
- Glasgow West, Glasgow Western District or North West Glasgow instead of Glasgow Anniesland
- Glasgow Carntyne and Cranhill instead of Glasgow Baillieston and Shettleston
- Glasgow Springburn and Provan instead of Glasgow Easterhouse and Springburn
- Renfrewshire North or Renfrewshire North and Cardonald instead of Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald.

49. The alternative constituency boundaries suggested include:

- Langbank (Renfrewshire) - to better reflect local ties between Langbank and Bishopton;
- Glasgow Airport (Renfrewshire) - to follow a ward boundary;
- Phoenix Retail Park (Renfrewshire) - to follow a ward boundary;
- Cardonald (Glasgow) - to follow a UK Parliament constituency boundary;
- Strathcona (Glasgow) - to better reflect local ties;
- Ilay Court (Glasgow) - to better reflect local ties;
- Dennistoun (Glasgow) - to better reflect local ties;
- Woodlands (Glasgow) - to better reflect local ties;
- Possilpark (Glasgow) - to better reflect local ties; and
- alternative boundaries in the southside of Glasgow and Renfrewshire (Glasgow and Renfrewshire) - to avoid an Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald constituency.

