

## **Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries Consultation on Revised Proposals for Regions and Additional Proposals for Constituencies**

### **Action required**

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

### **Timing**

2. Each consultation stage of the Review is for a period of one month.
3. It is planned that both the consultation on Additional Proposals for constituencies and Revised 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.
4. The Scottish Parliament is in recess from 8 to 16 February 2025. Political parties have previously advised that holding a consultation during a period of recess is not an issue.
5. The Secretariat is working towards commencing the consultations on 30 January 2025 until 1 March 2025, subject to the outcome of the 13 January 2025 Commission meeting.

### **Consultation on Additional Proposals for Constituencies**

6. The Commission will consult on Additional Proposals for the constituencies where changes have been made since the Further Proposal stage. These include constituency names and/or boundaries in East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire Council areas, including:
  - constituency names of Renfrewshire West and Lavern Valley; and Renfrewshire North and Cardonald;
  - boundaries between the proposed Paisley and Renfrewshire West and Lavern Valley constituencies to follow a ward boundary by Phoenix Retail Park;
  - boundaries between the proposed Paisley and Renfrewshire North and Cardonald constituencies to follow a ward boundary by Glasgow Airport; and
  - boundaries between the proposed Renfrewshire West and Lavern Valley and Renfrewshire North and Cardonald constituencies by Langbank.
7. Following consideration of Paper BS 160 - 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 which will be required to be consulted on.

### **Consultation on Revised Proposals - Regions**

8. The Commission will consult on Revised Proposals for regions for the boundaries of Glasgow; West Scotland; Central Scotland and Lothians West; and South Scotland regions. The Commission will also consult on the proposed region names of Central Scotland and Lothians West; and Edinburgh and Lothians East. There will be no consultation on the boundary of Edinburgh and Lothians East which remains unchanged from the Provisional Proposal stage.

**Draft news release**

9. A news release will be shared with the Chair and Deputy Chair for comment. It will explain both the consultation on Additional Proposals for constituencies and Revised Proposals for regions. The news release will: highlight what has changed from the existing boundaries, what has changed from the last consultation; and summarise the review and its rules.
10. The news release will include maps of the Revised Proposals for regions and Additional Proposals for constituencies. During earlier consultation stages of the Second Review, a booklet of the proposed constituencies or regions was produced. The Secretariat will look to put together a shorter version to summarise the Additional Proposals for constituencies and the Revised Proposals for regions. This may be less detailed than previous booklets as the Commission is consulting on less.

**Consultation materials**

11. All materials for the consultation on Additional Proposals for constituencies and Revised Proposals for regions will be produced digitally. Printed copies of materials will be available on request.
12. Printed copies will be available at display points to ensure information is available to members of the public who do not have digital access and also to comply with the requirements set out in the rules

**Advertising**

13. During the revised and further consultation stages on constituencies and provisional consultation on regions a marketing company was employed to manage advertising for the consultations.
14. The Commission noted that online advertising had been the most successful method of publicising the consultations and will wish to confirm it is prepared to spend any remaining marketing budget on commissioning the marketing company again.

**Animations**

15. The animations (video and GIFs) produced for the earlier consultation stages can be re-used for both consultations.

**Display Points**

16. 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 Additional Proposals for constituencies and Revised Proposals for regions these display point locations will be reviewed and re-used or alternative locations found.
17. The display points used include libraries, council offices or community centres. A list of the display points will be published on the Commission’s website.
18. The display point materials will include a poster with a map, news release and leaflet.

**Newspaper adverts**

19. Following recent analysis the Commission noted that newspaper advertising was a costly and less effective method of advertising.
20. The Commission has previously publicised its consultations in the following publications: the Herald, Scotsman, Press and Journal, Courier, Edinburgh Evening News and Glasgow Evening Times.
21. As previously discussed, newspaper advertising has been the least effective method of advertising and is costly. Also, it takes some time to update the adverts and place them through an agency. For this consultation, the Commission may wish to consider a different approach or, if adverts are to be placed, accept these may appear in newspapers after the start of the consultation period.

**News conference**

22. The Commission has held a news conference ahead of the last two consultation stages. Relatively low numbers have attended these conferences but it did provide the opportunity for journalists to ask the Chair questions and improve their understanding of the review process.
23. The Commission may wish to consider whether it continues with the same approach or consider holding the press conference online which may help increase attendance.

**Consultation site**

24. All advertising materials will encourage users to visit the consultation site, where comments can be submitted and alternative boundaries drawn on a map.
25. Stakeholders will still be able to email or post comments but no comments on social media will be considered.
26. A similar approach will be taken to the last consultation with two parallel consultations being used, one for Revised Proposals for regions and one for Additional Proposals for constituencies. On completion of each consultation users will be invited to respond to the other consultation.

**Conclusion**

27. The Commission is invited to note the planned approach to consultation on Additional Proposals for constituencies and Revised Proposals for regions.

**Secretariat,  
January 2025**