

Independent Review of the Process for Determining Electoral Boundaries

Purpose

1. This paper provides an update on the Independent Review of the Process for Determining Electoral Boundaries (Independent Review).
2. Commissioners are asked to review the background information and provide a collective view on how the Commission wishes to respond to the Independent Review.

Background

3. The focus of the Independent Review is to explore the options for the introduction of a form of automaticity. The terms of reference and likely timescales are set out in Appendix A. As stated in the terms of reference, the Independent Review will also look at the processes which underpin boundary reviews, such as engagement and consultation with the public and elected representatives, and the supporting structures and resources.
4. The Chair had an informal meeting with the Chair of the Independent Review on 26 March 2025. This provided an opportunity to discuss the background to the Independent Review and to share some initial views on why the current process is not working. During this meeting, the Chair of the Independent Review was advised that the Commission's collective view would be provided after the 16 April 2025 Commission meeting.
5. The attached briefing note, summary of documents and pdf bundle of correspondence were shared with the Election Teams on 10 April 2025 (Appendix B). These documents summarise the approval process, key dates and the Commission's position on automaticity.
6. Previous Commission papers on automaticity are attached as Appendix C.

Discussion

7. The Commission's main priority is to work with Scottish Government and this Independent Review to ensure that automaticity is introduced. However, if the opportunity allows, it may be desirable for some process changes to be considered.

Conclusion

8. The Commission is invited to note the terms of reference for the Independent Review and the likely timescales.
9. The Commission is asked to consider the background information and agree its collective view on how it wishes to respond to the Independent Review.

Next steps

10. After the Final Report for the Second Review has been submitted, a lessons learned document will be prepared and shared with the Commission. Commissioners will be asked to consider this document and form a view on what areas of potential improvement should be prioritised.

11. The Chair and Secretary will be meeting with the Chair of the Independent Review and representatives from the Elections Team in late May.
12. The Chair of the Independent Review together with representatives from the Scottish Government's Elections Team will be attending the Commission meeting on 5 June 2025.

**Secretariat
April 2025**

APPENDICES NOT FOR PUBLICATION