

Future Reviews of Electoral Arrangements

Background

1. This paper sets out various topics the Commission may wish to consider in relation to its future reviews of electoral arrangements. The Commission is asked to consider: -
 - the statutory requirement to complete all electoral reviews by 31 October 2030 (except for four councils).
 - The timing of the next electoral reviews and whether the Commission wishes to commit to a rolling programme of reviews.
 - Other matters for future consideration.
2. The Commission will wish to consider this paper alongside Paper BS 183 Historical Reviews of Electoral Arrangements which provides further background information.

Statutory requirement

3. The Commission must undertake reviews of electoral arrangements every 15 years.
4. The next set of electoral reviews must be completed by 31 October 2030 except for four councils: Na h-Eileanan an Iar, North Ayrshire, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands. These four are to be completed by 2036, this is the 15 year period since the recommendations from those reviews were implemented.

Timing

5. Historically, reviews were completed 12 months prior to an election, to enable legislation to be drafted and implemented in Parliament and for councils to prepare for any new boundaries. The Scottish Elections (Representation and Reform) Act 2025 extended this to 18 months prior to elections for the electoral reviews which must be completed before the 2032 election.
6. Reviews of electoral arrangements usually take between 18-24 months to complete. Therefore it would be challenging for the Commission to undertake any electoral reviews prior to the next local government elections scheduled to take place on 6 May 2027.
7. Other election and review dates for noting include:
 - The next Scottish Parliament elections are scheduled to take place in 2026 and 2031. The Third Review of Scottish Parliament must be submitted between 8 -12 years after the date of submission of the Second Review.
 - The next UK Parliament elections are expected in 2029 and 2034. The next UK Parliament boundary review must be completed by 2031. A UK Parliament Boundary review takes approximately 2.5 years to complete. Therefore the 2031 Review will commence in 2028. This will cause a resourcing issue within the Secretariat when both a UK Parliament and Electoral Reviews are scheduled at the same time.
8. A schedule of reviews and election dates is provided at Appendix A.
9. The Commission may wish to consider the outcome of the Independent Review of the Process for Determining Electoral Boundaries in Scotland and whether

legislation introducing automaticity is likely to be introduced before scheduling its next reviews.

Phased/ rolling reviews

10. Historically the Commission has undertaken reviews of all areas in Scotland at the same, whether that was regions and districts or more recently all 32 council areas. When conducting the Fifth Reviews, between 2014 and 2016, there were time pressures when conducting all 32 reviews at the same time.
11. The Islands Reviews, conducted between 2018 and 2021, adopted some of the lessons learned from the Fifth Reviews such as scheduling. The Islands Reviews were conducted in a phased approach, firstly the three solely island councils and then the three island-mainland councils. This approach was potentially the start of a rolling programme of electoral reviews rather than conducting a review of all 32 council areas at the same time.
12. If conducting the next reviews in a phased approach, the Commission will wish to consider which Councils should be reviewed first. For example this could be: councils in the same category; those with high or low electoral disparities; or councils whose review recommendations have not been implemented since 2007 (Fourth Reviews) - Argyll and Bute, Dundee City and Scottish Borders Council areas. Appendix B provides a list of the latest National Records of Scotland published ward electorate data (December 2024) and the electorate disparities within each ward.
13. Once the Commission has an agreed approach, a programme or schedule of reviews can be developed for a later Commission meeting.
14. Separately, Ministers are also under a duty to inform Boundaries Scotland to conduct further reviews of Argyll and Bute and Highland Councils under section 17A. At the time of writing this paper there has been no formal discussion of any such direction being made but this position may change.

Other matters

Methodology – councillor numbers

15. The Commission will wish to agree its methodology for determining councillor numbers before it commences its next reviews.
16. In 2010, prior to the Fifth Reviews, which commenced in 2014, the Commission consulted stakeholders on how it should determine councillor numbers. The questions included:
 - should there be more or fewer councillors;
 - minimum and maximum number of councillors; and
 - suggestions for developing a methodology for determining councillor numbers.
17. A copy of the questionnaire from 2010 is attached as Appendix C. It is also published on the Commission's [archived website \(Paper 2172\)](#).
18. The responses to the consultation generally indicated:
 - no widespread support for significant increase or decrease in councillor numbers;

- support for a categorisation of councils to be used to set a ratio of electors to councillors for all councils in that category;
 - support for a reduction in the number of categories from the 7 used previously by the Commission;
 - suggestions of various factors to be used in a transparent methodology for categorising councils which share common characteristics; and
 - support for minimum and maximum council sizes.
19. The Fifth Reviews methodology for determining councillor numbers applied population distribution and SIMD (Scottish index of Multiple Deprivation). The Third Reviews had used population distribution and population density. There was no methodology for the Fourth Reviews, it simply merged the existing single member wards into three or four-member wards.
20. During the Fifth Reviews the use of a new methodology, especially the use of SIMD, caused unexpected concern. Some stakeholders struggled to understand the methodology and during the review a [statement on determining councillor numbers](#) was published. If a Council did not like the Commission's proposals or recommendations, some blamed the methodology and use of deprivation.
21. The Commission will also wish to consider whether to maintain: the minimum and maximum number councillors per council area (between 18 and 85); and a 10% cap on change in the overall number of councillors in any council area. This was designed to minimise disruption for a council's governance. Without the minimum/ maximum limits or 10% change rule, the Fifth Reviews methodology would have recommended 12 councillors for Clackmannanshire and 166 for Glasgow.
22. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) do not apply a strict mathematical criteria for council size or impose a national methodology. They discuss council size with each individual council and test or analyse the Councils assumptions. Councils can request a smaller or larger number of councillors.
23. Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru (DBCC) have adopted a methodology based on the Commission's Third Reviews. It is based on population distribution and density, has four categories and a maximum/ minimum number of councillors between 30 and 75.
24. The Commission may wish to undertake further analysis or discussion on how to determine councillor numbers. In 2024 DBCC published a research paper on the workload of County Councillors in Wales. The main issues highlighted regarding workload were: committee work; deprivation; active community councils; number of schools; geographical area; rurality; and areas with high levels of tourists. Wards which included a high number of students were not seen as an indicator which affected workload. It is available on the DBCC website but a copy can be printed on request, see <https://d34hss7hg6i3n.cloudfront.net/reviews/Research-on-the-workload-of-County-Councillors-in-Wales.pdf>.
25. During the Fifth Reviews the Commission applied some flexibility to its methodology for councillor numbers when considering ward boundaries. For example the methodology proposed 34 councillors for West Lothian, one more than it currently had. However the Commission recommended a ward design that

retained the existing ward boundaries with 33 councillors because it improved variation from electoral parity and maintained local ties.

26. The Secretariat has updated the methodology applied for the Third and Fifth Reviews with more recent data. For interest the total electorate in Scotland was: 3,727,320 for the Third Reviews (1996); 4,030,021 for the Fifth Reviews (2013); and at 2024 it is 4,283,287.
- Using the Third Reviews methodology today would see an overall increase of 77 councillors in Scotland. East Lothian is the only area to change category from category 4 to 3. See Appendix D.
 - Using the Fifth Reviews methodology today would see an overall increase of 55 councillors in Scotland. Seven council areas would change category (Angus, Dundee City, East Lothian, Fife, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire). See Appendix E.

Methodology – Forecasting electors

27. The Commission must have regard to the likely change in electorate over a 5-year period when developing its recommendations.
28. Councils are asked to provide data on forecasts for new house building, any student housing or nursing home developments as well as any demolitions. This data is combined with the average number of electors per dwelling in the area. Using population projections from National Records Scotland (NRS) a scaling factor is applied to reflect the projected population change 5 years hence.
29. LG BCE apply two methods for forecasting electorates, one for wards which show electorate change unrelated to housing development, and another for wards which show a strong relationship between electorate change and housing development. DBCC ask each council to provide 5-year electorate forecast data.
30. It is challenging to accurately estimate future electorate growth. However in 2019 when the Commission considered whether to conduct any interim electoral reviews, it agreed electoral parity was acceptable and no interim reviews were required.

Engagement

31. When conducting Electoral Reviews the Commission has met with councils to explain the review, methodology and general approach.
32. During the Fifth Reviews a Lead Commissioner was assigned 5 or 6 councils. The Lead Commissioner made a presentation to the Council accompanied by a member of the Secretariat. The Lead Commissioner also assisted the Secretariat in developing ward boundary proposals during the review.
33. For the Island Reviews the Commission met with all Councils accompanied by a member of the Secretariat. The Secretariat followed this up with a further meeting to informally discuss any local issues such as publicising the reviews. Informal discussions between council officials and the Secretariat continued throughout the review where possible. Further meetings were offered with local community groups but it was not feasible to meet individual community councils.

34. Prior to commencing the reviews the Commission may wish to engage with stakeholders such as Scottish Government, COSLA, political parties, SOLAR (Society of Local Authority Lawyers and Administrators in Scotland), SOLACE (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives), Improvement Service etc to discuss its general approach to the reviews. Further, raising awareness of simultaneous reviews with electoral administrators may also be beneficial with their reviews of polling district boundaries. Prior to the Fifth Reviews the Commission met with both COSLA and SOLACE to discuss its approach for the Fifth Reviews.
35. At the start of the Fifth Reviews Scottish Ministers informed the Commission that they would find it difficult to justify an increase in the overall number of councillors at that time. The Commission will wish to discuss with Ministers if a similar approach remains in place.

Publicity

36. The Commission will wish to reflect on any lessons learned from its recent Second Review of Scottish Parliament boundaries.
37. The use of an agency to manage online advertising was seen as a success during the Second Review.
38. There was some misinformation or confusion regarding the Second Review. This has been an issue during recent reviews for both Boundaries Scotland and Boundary Commission for Scotland and can be partly sourced to misinformed comments on social media. The Commission may wish to consider research or seeking advice on how it can emphasise the purpose of its reviews.
39. The Commission will wish to consider the value of local or national newspaper advertising to publicise consultations. During the Islands Reviews, advertising in specific newspapers was possible, such as a full page advert in the Shetland Times and four-page wrap-around in the Stornoway Gazette.
40. The Chair was interviewed by the Local Government Information Unit during the Islands Reviews and the Commission may wish to consider appearing on a podcast.
41. The Commission has previously enquired about radio advertising and mailing households. Radio advertising was seen as too expensive and some homes have mailing preferences so do not receive any publicity materials.

Consultation

42. Reviews are conducted in stages. The Commission must consult with councils on its proposals for a two month period before consulting with the public.
43. During the Fifth Reviews the Commission consulted on councillor numbers first and then ward boundaries. Stakeholders did not have a view on councillor numbers until they had seen proposals for ward boundaries.
44. The Islands Reviews consulted on both councillor numbers and ward boundaries at the same time.

45. The Scottish Government recommends a 12-week period for public consultations.

Review name

46. Since the Commission was established in 1973 it has undertaken periodical reviews of all local government areas at the same time. These were named the First, Second, Third etc Reviews.

47. The Island Reviews started a rolling programme of six reviews. The final reports were simply named 'Review of Electoral Arrangements' with the council area name.

48. The Commission may wish to adopt the naming convention used by the Boundary Commission for Scotland. It had also named reviews as the First, Second, Third etc reviews until more recently when it had named reviews based on the year they were submitted to Parliament, for example the 2023 Review of UK Parliament Boundaries. The Commission could name the next set of electoral reviews as the 2030 Reviews of Electoral Arrangements.

Summary

49. Ahead of the next set of electoral reviews the Commission is invited to reflect on the issues and lessons learned from its recent reviews and to consider if it wishes to consider any further research or analysis on the various topics discussed in this paper:

- scheduling, and whether to review all 28 Councils at once or to undertake a rolling programme of reviews. If a rolling programme, which councils should be prioritised.
- its methodology for determining councillor numbers, whether to adopt the Fifth or Third reviews methodology or consider a new methodology approach which may offer councils an opportunity to review councillor numbers themselves.
- whether to consult with stakeholders on its methodology and general approach to the reviews.
- name for the reviews.
- how it may wish to engage with stakeholders during the review.
- how to publicise the reviews.

50. The Commission is welcome to add any other topics or lessons learned from recent reviews.

Secretariat
May 2025

Council Area	Electoral Ward	Cllrs	2024 Dec Total electorate	% Variation from parity	Wards over ±10%	Wards over ±15%
Aberdeen City		45	171,157			
Aberdeen City	Airyhall/ Broomhill/ Garthdee	3	12,230	7.2%		
Aberdeen City	Bridge of Don	4	15,674	3.0%		
Aberdeen City	Dyce/ Bucksburn/ Danestone	4	17,536	15.3%	x	
Aberdeen City	George St/ Harbour	4	13,361	-12.2%	x	
Aberdeen City	Hazlehead/ Queens Cross/ Countesswells	4	16,121	6.0%		
Aberdeen City	Hilton/ Woodside/ Stockethill	3	11,043	-3.2%		
Aberdeen City	Kincorth/ Nigg/ Cove	4	13,313	-12.5%	x	
Aberdeen City	Kingswells/ Sheddocksley/ Summerhill	3	11,839	3.8%		
Aberdeen City	Lower Deeside	3	13,013	14.0%	x	
Aberdeen City	Midsocket/ Rosemount	3	11,696	2.5%		
Aberdeen City	Northfield/ Mastrick North	3	11,422	0.1%		
Aberdeen City	Tillydrone/ Seaton/ Old Aberdeen	3	8,646	-24.2%		x
Aberdeen City	Torry/ Ferryhill	4	15,263	0.3%		
Aberdeenshire		70	207,528			
Aberdeenshire	Aboyne, Upper Deeside and Donside	3	9,031	1.5%		
Aberdeenshire	Banchory and Mid Deeside	3	9,404	5.7%		
Aberdeenshire	Banff and District	3	9,168	3.1%		
Aberdeenshire	Central Buchan	4	11,474	-3.2%		
Aberdeenshire	East Garioch	4	10,699	-9.8%		
Aberdeenshire	Ellon and District	4	11,892	0.3%		
Aberdeenshire	Fraserburgh and District	4	11,599	-2.2%		
Aberdeenshire	Huntly, Strathbogie and Howe of Alford	4	12,372	4.3%		
Aberdeenshire	Inverurie and District	4	12,539	5.7%		
Aberdeenshire	Mearns	4	12,422	4.7%		
Aberdeenshire	Mid Formartine	4	11,957	0.8%		
Aberdeenshire	North Kincardine	4	13,049	10.0%		
Aberdeenshire	Peterhead North and Rattray	4	11,813	-0.4%		
Aberdeenshire	Peterhead South and Cruden	3	9,168	3.1%		
Aberdeenshire	Stonehaven and Lower Deeside	4	11,425	-3.7%		
Aberdeenshire	Troup	3	7,472	-16.0%		x
Aberdeenshire	Turriff and District	4	10,542	-11.1%	x	
Aberdeenshire	West Garioch	3	9,370	5.4%		
Aberdeenshire	Westhill and District	4	12,132	2.3%		
Angus		28	91,668			
Angus	Arbroath East and Lunan	3	10,439	6.3%		
Angus	Arbroath West, Letham and Friockheim	4	13,891	6.1%		
Angus	Brechin and Edzell	3	8,709	-11.3%	x	
Angus	Carnoustie and District	3	11,253	14.6%	x	
Angus	Forfar and District	4	12,396	-5.3%		
Angus	Kirriemuir and Dean	3	8,836	-10.0%		
Angus	Monifieth and Sidlaw	4	14,230	8.7%		
Angus	Montrose and District	4	11,914	-9.0%		
Argyll and Bute		36	70,310			
Argyll and Bute	Cowal	3	6,012	2.6%		
Argyll and Bute	Dunoon	3	5,580	-4.8%		
Argyll and Bute	Helensburgh and Lomond South	3	6,131	4.6%		
Argyll and Bute	Helensburgh Central	4	7,920	1.4%		
Argyll and Bute	Isle of Bute	3	4,902	-16.3%		x
Argyll and Bute	Kintyre and the Islands	3	5,374	-8.3%		
Argyll and Bute	Lomond North	3	6,289	7.3%		
Argyll and Bute	Mid Argyll	3	6,200	5.8%		
Argyll and Bute	Oban North and Lorn	4	8,615	10.3%		
Argyll and Bute	Oban South and the Isles	4	8,185	4.8%		
Argyll and Bute	South Kintyre	3	5,102	-12.9%	x	
City of Edinburgh		63	406,064			
City of Edinburgh	Almond	4	29,654	15.0%	x	
City of Edinburgh	City Centre	4	22,383	-13.2%	x	
City of Edinburgh	Colinton/ Fairmilehead	3	19,510	0.9%		
City of Edinburgh	Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	3	19,588	1.3%		
City of Edinburgh	Craigtinny/ Duddingston	4	23,776	-7.8%		
City of Edinburgh	Drum Brae/ Gyle	3	19,038	-1.5%		
City of Edinburgh	Forth	4	25,547	-0.9%		
City of Edinburgh	Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	3	18,464	-4.5%		
City of Edinburgh	Inverleith	4	24,716	-4.1%		
City of Edinburgh	Leith	3	20,490	6.0%		
City of Edinburgh	Leith Walk	4	26,943	4.5%		
City of Edinburgh	Liberton/ Gilmerton	4	30,949	20.0%		x
City of Edinburgh	Morningside	4	24,895	-3.4%		

City of Edinburgh	Pentland Hills	4	24,838	-3.7%		
City of Edinburgh	Portobello/ Craigmillar	4	27,578	7.0%		
City of Edinburgh	Sighthill/ Gorgie	4	23,981	-7.0%		
City of Edinburgh	Southside/ Newington	4	23,714	-8.0%		
Clackmannanshire		18	40,554			
Clackmannanshire	Clackmannanshire Central	3	6,314	-6.6%		
Clackmannanshire	Clackmannanshire East	3	7,126	5.4%		
Clackmannanshire	Clackmannanshire North	4	8,597	-4.6%		
Clackmannanshire	Clackmannanshire South	4	9,481	5.2%		
Clackmannanshire	Clackmannanshire West	4	9,036	0.3%		
Dumfries and Galloway		43	117,552			
Dumfries and Galloway	Abbey	3	8,452	3.1%		
Dumfries and Galloway	Annandale East and Eskdale	3	8,567	4.5%		
Dumfries and Galloway	Annandale North	4	11,615	6.2%		
Dumfries and Galloway	Annandale South	4	11,175	2.2%		
Dumfries and Galloway	Castle Douglas and Crocketford	3	7,585	-7.5%		
Dumfries and Galloway	Dee and Glenkens	3	8,284	1.0%		
Dumfries and Galloway	Lochar	4	11,408	4.3%		
Dumfries and Galloway	Mid and Upper Nithsdale	3	8,061	-1.7%		
Dumfries and Galloway	Mid Galloway and Wigtown West	4	10,655	-2.6%		
Dumfries and Galloway	Nith	4	10,456	-4.4%		
Dumfries and Galloway	North West Dumfries	4	9,996	-8.6%		
Dumfries and Galloway	Stranraer and the Rhins	4	11,298	3.3%		
Dundee City		29	114,115			
Dundee City	Coldside	4	15,372	-2.3%		
Dundee City	East End	3	11,940	1.1%		
Dundee City	Lochee	4	15,222	-3.3%		
Dundee City	Maryfield	3	13,381	13.4%	x	
Dundee City	North East	3	12,075	2.3%		
Dundee City	Strathmartine	4	15,395	-2.2%		
Dundee City	The Ferry	4	16,506	4.9%		
Dundee City	West End	4	14,224	-9.6%		
East Ayrshire		32	97,179			
East Ayrshire	Annick	4	12,826	5.6%		
East Ayrshire	Ballochmyle	4	11,268	-7.2%		
East Ayrshire	Cumnock and New Cumnock	4	10,926	-10.1%		
East Ayrshire	Doon Valley	3	8,768	-3.8%		
East Ayrshire	Irvine Valley	3	9,584	5.2%		
East Ayrshire	Kilmarnock East and Hurlford	4	12,341	1.6%		
East Ayrshire	Kilmarnock North	3	9,871	8.3%		

East Ayrshire	Kilmarnock South	3	8,219	-9.8%		
East Ayrshire	Kilmarnock West and Crosshouse	4	13,376	10.1%		
East Dunbartonshire		22	87,378			
East Dunbartonshire	Bearsden North	3	12,112	1.7%		
East Dunbartonshire	Bearsden South	3	11,095	-6.9%		
East Dunbartonshire	Bishopbriggs North and Campsie	4	15,734	-1.0%		
East Dunbartonshire	Bishopbriggs South	3	12,392	4.0%		
East Dunbartonshire	Kirkintilloch East and North and Twechar	3	12,495	4.9%		
East Dunbartonshire	Lenzie and Kirkintilloch South	3	12,896	8.2%		
East Dunbartonshire	Milngavie	3	10,654	-10.6%		
East Lothian		22	90,969			
East Lothian	Dunbar and East Linton	3	12,806	3.2%		
East Lothian	Haddington and Lammermuir	4	16,644	0.6%		
East Lothian	Musselburgh	4	16,587	0.3%		
East Lothian	North Berwick Coastal	3	12,453	0.4%		
East Lothian	Preston, Seton and Gosford	4	15,610	-5.6%		
East Lothian	Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	4	16,869	2.0%		
East Renfrewshire		18	75,586			
East Renfrewshire	Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor	4	14,923	-11.2%	x	
East Renfrewshire	Clarkston, Netherlee and Williamwood	4	16,370	-2.5%		
East Renfrewshire	Giffnock and Thornliebank	3	12,843	1.9%		
East Renfrewshire	Newton Mearns North and Neilston	3	12,399	-1.6%		
East Renfrewshire	Newton Mearns South and Eaglesham	4	19,051	13.4%	x	
Falkirk		30	127,526			
Falkirk	Bo'ness and Blackness	3	12,626	-1.0%		
Falkirk	Bonnybridge and Larbert	3	13,437	5.4%		
Falkirk	Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst	4	17,490	2.9%		
Falkirk	Denny and Banknock	4	15,553	-8.5%		
Falkirk	Falkirk North	4	17,170	1.0%		
Falkirk	Falkirk South	3	13,482	5.7%		
Falkirk	Grangemouth	3	12,739	-0.1%		
Falkirk	Lower Braes	3	12,072	-5.3%		
Falkirk	Upper Braes	3	12,957	1.6%		
Fife		75	289,830			
Fife	Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	4	13,782	-10.8%		
Fife	Burrtisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	3	11,778	1.6%		
Fife	Cowdenbeath	4	17,078	10.5%		
Fife	Cupar	3	11,355	-2.1%		
Fife	Dunfermline Central	4	17,130	10.8%		
Fife	Dunfermline North	3	12,788	10.3%		
Fife	Dunfermline South	4	17,716	14.6%	x	
Fife	East Neuk and Landward	3	10,362	-10.6%		
Fife	Glenrothes Central and Thornton	3	12,324	6.3%		
Fife	Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	4	14,645	-5.3%		
Fife	Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	3	11,950	3.1%		
Fife	Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	3	11,224	-3.2%		
Fife	Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	4	14,715	-4.8%		
Fife	Kirkcaldy Central	3	11,718	1.1%		
Fife	Kirkcaldy East	3	11,546	-0.4%		
Fife	Kirkcaldy North	3	12,432	7.2%		
Fife	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	4	15,223	-1.5%		
Fife	Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	4	14,224	-8.0%		
Fife	Rosyth	3	11,630	0.3%		
Fife	St Andrews	4	10,546	-31.8%		x
Fife	Tay Bridgehead	3	12,254	5.7%		
Fife	West Fife and Coastal Villages	3	13,410	15.7%	x	
Glasgow City		85	455,451			
Glasgow City	Anderston/ City/ Yorkhill	4	18,949	-11.6%	x	
Glasgow City	Baillieston	3	18,687	16.3%		x
Glasgow City	Calton	4	20,092	-6.3%		
Glasgow City	Canal	4	19,332	-9.8%		
Glasgow City	Cardonald	4	21,905	2.2%		
Glasgow City	Dennistoun	3	15,056	-6.3%		
Glasgow City	Drumchapel/ Anniesland	4	20,852	-2.7%		
Glasgow City	East Centre	4	19,757	-7.8%		
Glasgow City	Garscadden/ Scotstounhill	4	22,016	2.7%		
Glasgow City	Govan	4	20,382	-4.9%		
Glasgow City	Greater Pollok	4	25,060	16.9%		x
Glasgow City	Hillhead	3	17,384	8.1%		
Glasgow City	Langside	4	24,525	14.4%	x	
Glasgow City	Linn	4	21,718	1.3%		
Glasgow City	Maryhill	3	14,487	-9.9%		
Glasgow City	Newlands/ Auldburn	3	19,296	20.0%		x
Glasgow City	North East	3	15,029	-6.5%		
Glasgow City	Partick East/ Kelvindale	4	21,155	-1.3%		
Glasgow City	Pollokshields	4	21,681	1.2%		
Glasgow City	Shettleston	4	20,102	-6.2%		
Glasgow City	Southside Central	4	20,453	-4.6%		
Glasgow City	Springburn/ Robroyston	4	20,134	-6.1%		
Glasgow City	Victoria Park	3	17,399	8.2%		
Highland		74	187,845			

Highland	Aird and Loch Ness	4	10,164	0.1%		
Highland	Badenoch and Strathspey	4	10,914	7.5%		
Highland	Black Isle	3	8,581	12.7%	x	
Highland	Caol and Mallaig	3	7,180	-5.7%		
Highland	Cromarty Firth	4	9,613	-5.3%		
Highland	Culloden and Ardersier	3	9,540	25.3%		x
Highland	Dingwall and Seaforth	4	10,008	-1.4%		
Highland	East Sutherland and Edderton	3	6,419	-15.7%	x	
Highland	Eilean a' Chèo	4	8,667	-14.6%	x	
Highland	Fort William and Ardnamurchan	4	8,816	-13.2%	x	
Highland	Inverness Central	3	8,357	9.7%		
Highland	Inverness Millburn	3	7,316	-3.9%		
Highland	Inverness Ness-Side	3	9,200	20.8%		x
Highland	Inverness South	4	12,587	24.0%		x
Highland	Inverness West	3	8,365	9.8%		
Highland	Nairn and Cawdor	4	10,303	1.5%		
Highland	North, West and Central Sutherland	3	4,898	-35.7%		x
Highland	Tain and Easter Ross	3	7,090	-6.9%		
Highland	Thurso and Northwest Caithness	4	9,866	-2.8%		
Highland	Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	4	9,969	-1.8%		
Highland	Wick and East Caithness	4	9,992	-1.6%		
Inverclyde		22	61,221			
Inverclyde	Inverclyde Central	3	7,916	-5.2%		
Inverclyde	Inverclyde East	3	8,787	5.3%		
Inverclyde	Inverclyde East Central	3	8,103	-2.9%		
Inverclyde	Inverclyde North	4	10,452	-6.1%		
Inverclyde	Inverclyde South	3	8,058	-3.5%		
Inverclyde	Inverclyde South West	3	9,305	11.5%	x	
Inverclyde	Inverclyde West	3	8,600	3.0%		
Midlothian		18	78,322			
Midlothian	Bonnyrigg	3	14,555	11.5%	x	
Midlothian	Dalkeith	3	11,984	-8.2%		
Midlothian	Midlothian East	3	12,380	-5.2%		
Midlothian	Midlothian South	3	12,715	-2.6%		
Midlothian	Midlothian West	3	15,410	18.1%		x
Midlothian	Penicuik	3	11,278	-13.6%	x	
Moray		26	75,599			
Moray	Buckie	3	8,207	-5.9%		
Moray	Elgin City North	3	9,329	6.9%		
Moray	Elgin City South	3	10,321	18.3%		x
Moray	Fochabers Lhanbryde	3	8,326	-4.6%		
Moray	Forres	4	12,898	10.9%		
Moray	Heldon and Laich	4	11,203	-3.7%		
Moray	Keith and Cullen	3	8,035	-7.9%		
Moray	Speyside Glenlivet	3	7,280	-16.5%		x
Na h-Eileanan Siar		29	21,509			
Na h-Eileanan Siar	An Taobh Siar agus Nis	3	2,473	11.1%	x	
Na h-Eileanan Siar	Barraigh agus Bhatarsaigh	2	988	-33.4%		x
Na h-Eileanan Siar	Loch a Tuath	3	2,212	-0.6%		
Na h-Eileanan Siar	Na Hearadh	2	1,510	1.8%		
Na h-Eileanan Siar	Sgìr' Ùige agus Càrlabhadh	2	1,320	-11.0%	x	
Na h-Eileanan Siar	Sgìre an Rubha	2	1,721	16.0%		x
Na h-Eileanan Siar	Sgìre nan Loch	2	1,444	-2.7%		
Na h-Eileanan Siar	Steòrnabhagh a Deas	4	2,991	0.8%		
Na h-Eileanan Siar	Steòrnabhagh a Tuath	4	3,078	3.7%		
Na h-Eileanan Siar	Uibhist a Deas, Èirisgeigh agus Beinn na Faoghla	3	2,474	11.2%	x	
Na h-Eileanan Siar	Uibhist a Tuath	2	1,298	-12.5%	x	
North Ayrshire		33	107,931			
North Ayrshire	Ardrossan	3	8,199	-16.4%		x
North Ayrshire	Arran	1	4,030	23.2%		x
North Ayrshire	Garnock Valley	5	15,955	-2.4%		
North Ayrshire	Irvine East	3	10,203	4.0%		
North Ayrshire	Irvine South	3	9,008	-8.2%		
North Ayrshire	Irvine West	4	11,706	-10.5%		
North Ayrshire	Kilwinning	4	13,656	4.4%		
North Ayrshire	North Coast	5	18,336	12.1%	x	
North Ayrshire	Saltcoats and Stevenston	5	16,838	3.0%		
North Lanarkshire		77	265,065			
North Lanarkshire	Airdrie Central	4	12,606	-8.5%		
North Lanarkshire	Airdrie North	4	15,225	10.6%		
North Lanarkshire	Airdrie South	4	14,830	7.7%		
North Lanarkshire	Bellshill	4	12,086	-12.2%	x	
North Lanarkshire	Coatbridge North	4	12,004	-12.8%	x	
North Lanarkshire	Coatbridge South	4	13,348	-3.1%		
North Lanarkshire	Coatbridge West	3	10,307	-0.2%		
North Lanarkshire	Cumbernauld East	4	13,028	-5.4%		
North Lanarkshire	Cumbernauld North	4	15,184	10.3%		
North Lanarkshire	Cumbernauld South	4	12,697	-7.8%		
North Lanarkshire	Fortissat	4	12,301	-10.7%		
North Lanarkshire	Gartcosh, Glenboig and Moodiesburn	3	11,459	11.0%	x	
North Lanarkshire	Kilsyth	3	9,813	-5.0%		

North Lanarkshire	Mossend and Holytown	3	10,706	3.7%		
North Lanarkshire	Motherwell North	4	13,680	-0.7%		
North Lanarkshire	Motherwell South East and Ravenscraig	4	15,455	12.2%	x	
North Lanarkshire	Motherwell West	3	11,223	8.7%		
North Lanarkshire	Murdostoun	4	14,310	3.9%		
North Lanarkshire	Stepps, Chryston and Muirhead	3	10,803	4.6%		
North Lanarkshire	Thorniewood	3	10,675	3.4%		
North Lanarkshire	Wishaw	4	13,325	-3.2%		
Orkney Islands		21	17,818			
Orkney Islands	East Mainland, South Ronaldsay and Burray	3	2,713	6.6%		
Orkney Islands	Kirkwall East	4	3,686	8.6%		
Orkney Islands	Kirkwall West and Orphir	4	3,711	9.3%		
Orkney Islands	North Isles	3	1,805	-29.1%		x
Orkney Islands	Stromness and South Isles	3	2,260	-11.2%	x	
Orkney Islands	West Mainland	4	3,643	7.3%		
Perth and Kinross		40	122,489			
Perth and Kinross	Almond and Earn	3	7,969	-13.3%	x	
Perth and Kinross	Blairgowrie and Glens	3	9,283	1.0%		
Perth and Kinross	Carse of Gowrie	3	8,287	-9.8%		
Perth and Kinross	Highland	3	7,615	-17.1%		x
Perth and Kinross	Kinross-shire	4	12,173	-0.6%		
Perth and Kinross	Perth City Centre	4	13,038	6.4%		
Perth and Kinross	Perth City North	3	9,057	-1.4%		
Perth and Kinross	Perth City South	4	13,485	10.1%		
Perth and Kinross	Strathallan	3	9,518	3.6%		
Perth and Kinross	Strathearn	3	8,940	-2.7%		
Perth and Kinross	Strathmore	4	12,793	4.4%		
Perth and Kinross	Strathtay	3	10,331	12.5%	x	
Renfrewshire		43	144,643			
Renfrewshire	Bishopton, Bridge of Weir and Langbank	3	13,917	37.9%		x
Renfrewshire	Erskine and Inchinnan	4	13,057	-3.0%		
Renfrewshire	Houston, Crosslee and Linwood	4	13,009	-3.3%		
Renfrewshire	Johnstone North, Kilbarchan, Howwood and Lochwinnoch	4	11,921	-11.4%	x	
Renfrewshire	Johnstone South and Elderslie	4	13,607	1.1%		
Renfrewshire	Paisley East and Central	3	10,833	7.3%		
Renfrewshire	Paisley Northeast and Ralston	3	9,143	-9.4%		
Renfrewshire	Paisley Northwest	4	14,263	6.0%		
Renfrewshire	Paisley Southeast	3	9,559	-5.3%		
Renfrewshire	Paisley Southwest	4	11,804	-12.3%	x	
Renfrewshire	Renfrew North and Braehead	4	14,032	4.3%		
Renfrewshire	Renfrew South and Gallowhill	3	9,498	-5.9%		
Scottish Borders		34	95,094			
Scottish Borders	East Berwickshire	3	9,038	7.7%		
Scottish Borders	Galashiels and District	4	12,108	8.2%		
Scottish Borders	Hawick and Denholm	3	7,216	-14.0%	x	
Scottish Borders	Hawick and Hermitage	3	7,187	-14.3%	x	
Scottish Borders	Jedburgh and District	3	7,161	-14.7%	x	
Scottish Borders	Kelso and District	3	8,574	2.2%		
Scottish Borders	Leaderdale and Melrose	3	9,184	9.5%		
Scottish Borders	Mid Berwickshire	3	8,836	5.3%		
Scottish Borders	Selkirkshire	3	8,033	-4.3%		
Scottish Borders	Tweeddale East	3	9,164	9.2%		
Scottish Borders	Tweeddale West	3	8,593	2.4%		
Shetland Islands		23	17,738			
Shetland Islands	Lerwick North and Bressay	3	2,342	1.2%		
Shetland Islands	Lerwick South	4	2,927	-5.1%		
Shetland Islands	North Isles	3	2,108	-8.9%		
Shetland Islands	Shetland Central	4	3,186	3.3%		
Shetland Islands	Shetland North	3	2,506	8.3%		
Shetland Islands	Shetland South	4	3,300	7.0%		
Shetland Islands	Shetland West	2	1,369	-11.2%	x	
South Ayrshire		28	91,593	0.0%		
South Ayrshire	Ayr East	3	10,108	3.0%		
South Ayrshire	Ayr North	4	12,729	-2.7%		
South Ayrshire	Ayr West	4	14,647	11.9%	x	
South Ayrshire	Girvan and South Carrick	3	8,628	-12.1%	x	
South Ayrshire	Kyle	3	10,810	10.2%		
South Ayrshire	Maybole, North Carrick and Coylton	3	9,089	-7.4%		
South Ayrshire	Prestwick	4	12,434	-5.0%		
South Ayrshire	Troon	4	13,148	0.5%		
South Lanarkshire		64	261,960			
South Lanarkshire	Avondale and Stonehouse	3	15,527	26.4%		x
South Lanarkshire	Blantyre	3	12,846	4.6%		
South Lanarkshire	Bothwell and Uddingston	3	10,611	-13.6%	x	
South Lanarkshire	Cambuslang East	3	14,344	16.8%		x
South Lanarkshire	Cambuslang West	3	13,139	7.0%		
South Lanarkshire	Clydesdale East	3	10,686	-13.0%	x	
South Lanarkshire	Clydesdale North	3	11,763	-4.2%		
South Lanarkshire	Clydesdale South	3	11,624	-5.3%		

South Lanarkshire	Clydesdale West	4	15,866	-3.1%		
South Lanarkshire	East Kilbride Central North	3	12,638	2.9%		
South Lanarkshire	East Kilbride Central South	3	11,907	-3.0%		
South Lanarkshire	East Kilbride East	3	10,849	-11.6%	x	
South Lanarkshire	East Kilbride South	3	13,224	7.7%		
South Lanarkshire	East Kilbride West	3	13,655	11.2%	x	
South Lanarkshire	Hamilton North and East	3	12,207	-0.6%		
South Lanarkshire	Hamilton South	4	16,676	1.9%		
South Lanarkshire	Hamilton West and Earnock	4	15,806	-3.5%		
South Lanarkshire	Larkhall	4	15,392	-6.0%		
South Lanarkshire	Rutherglen Central and North	3	11,650	-5.1%		
South Lanarkshire	Rutherglen South	3	11,550	-5.9%		
Stirling		23	72,125			
Stirling	Bannockburn	3	9,111	-3.2%		
Stirling	Dunblane and Bridge of Allan	4	11,946	-4.8%		
Stirling	Forth and Endrick	3	10,842	15.2%	x	
Stirling	Stirling East	3	8,701	-7.5%		
Stirling	Stirling North	4	11,553	-7.9%		
Stirling	Stirling West	3	10,502	11.6%	x	
Stirling	Trossachs and Teith	3	9,470	0.7%		
West Dunbartonshire		22	68,889			
West Dunbartonshire	Clydebank Central	4	11,787	-5.9%		
West Dunbartonshire	Clydebank Waterfront	4	11,760	-6.1%		
West Dunbartonshire	Dumbarton	4	13,560	8.3%		
West Dunbartonshire	Kilpatrick	3	8,912	-5.1%		
West Dunbartonshire	Leven	4	13,879	10.8%		
West Dunbartonshire	Lomond	3	8,991	-4.3%		
West Lothian		33	150,579			
West Lothian	Armadale and Blackridge	3	13,327	-2.6%		
West Lothian	Bathgate	4	18,312	0.3%		
West Lothian	Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	4	17,352	-4.9%		
West Lothian	East Livingston and East Calder	4	19,751	8.2%		
West Lothian	Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	3	13,107	-4.3%		
West Lothian	Linlithgow	3	12,449	-9.1%		
West Lothian	Livingston North	4	18,633	2.1%		
West Lothian	Livingston South	4	20,550	12.6%	x	
West Lothian	Whitburn and Blackburn	4	17,098	-6.3%		
			4,283,287		64	29



**Local Government
Boundary Commission for Scotland**

Consultation Paper

Determining councillor numbers

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Consultation on determining councillor numbers

Introduction

1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland (LGBCS) is responsible for making recommendations to Scottish Ministers on local authority boundaries and local authority electoral arrangements in Scotland in the interests of effective and convenient local government.
2. The definition of the term "electoral arrangements" includes the total number of councillors on the council for a local government area, as well as the definition of electoral wards and the number of councillors elected for each ward. We refer to the total number of councillors on a council as councillor numbers.
3. This consultation paper invites views on the factors which the Commission might use in a methodology to determine councillor numbers for each council area when it carries out its next general reviews of electoral arrangements in all Scottish local authorities.
4. The Commission's assumption is that the Fifth statutory general reviews will take place for each of the current 32 local authorities in Scotland between 2013 and 2016. However, before those reviews of individual councils begin, the Commission wishes to consult on general principles with regard to councillor numbers.
5. Having considered responses to this consultation, the Commission intends to consult further on possible methodologies for establishing councillor numbers, probably in 2011-12, before deciding in 2012-13 on how precisely it will approach each council review. The Commission will aim to complete those reviews in time for any changes to take effect at the 2017 local government elections.
6. LGBCS is aware of the establishment in November 2010 by the Scottish Government of the Commission on the Future Delivery of Public Services, chaired by Dr Campbell Christie. This consultation does not conflict with or prejudge the outcome of the Commission on the Future Delivery of Public Services, and will inform any LGBCS response to the Commission.

Discussion

7. The Commission's current view is that there are merits in taking a uniform, objective and transparent approach to setting councillor numbers for each local authority in Scotland. Such an approach aims to ensure a degree of consistency in the numbers of electors per councillor (and hence their accessibility to their electors) and in the workloads of councillors.
8. In the past, the Commission has recognised that there are substantial variations in the characteristics of Scotland's 32 local authorities, and that any approach should take those variations into account when setting councillor numbers. Annex 1 shows the methodology which was used in the Third Reviews in 1994-96, and carried forward to the Fourth Reviews.

9. The Commission recognises that in broad terms, councillors fulfil 4 distinct roles:
- executive decision-making;
 - scrutiny of decisions taken by others within a local authority;
 - regulatory functions, such as planning and licensing;
 - representing all the residents and interest groups within their ward and dealing with issues that they raise.
10. The 1994-96 methodology in Annex 1 was based on assumptions as to how the workload of councillors would develop in the single tier structure introduced in 1996. However, there have been significant changes in the context and working of local government since the current local authorities were established, and the Commission now wishes to test the validity of these assumptions for local government, for application in 2017 - more than 20 years since the methodology was first applied. These changes have had an impact on the work of councillors, the context of their work and changing public expectations and attitudes, and include:
- devolution from Westminster to the Scottish Parliament, with an associated increase in the total number of elected members representing the interests of any one area;
 - establishment of multi-member electoral wards for local government so that any elector has a choice of 3 or 4 councillors to turn to;
 - increased remuneration for councillors, which means councillors may be able to afford to spend more time on council business with less pressure to earn an outside income;
 - changing public perceptions of elected members and the associated costs;
 - electronic communications, including email and websites which make it easier for councillors to communicate with electors, and vice versa;
 - responsibilities transferred to local communities, for example through development trusts, with a corresponding increased requirement to consult with local communities;
 - services transferred to standalone bodies, such as leisure services trusts, housing associations, joint venture companies, countryside and heritage trusts;
 - partnership initiatives with other bodies;
 - introduction of forms of cabinet government within some local authorities, which means that while all councillors will still have a representative and scrutiny role, not all will have executive decision-making responsibilities, while others will have more;
 - moves to increase efficiency and effectiveness, such as combining services and reducing the number of senior officers and committees;
 - delegation of decision making from whole councils to area committees with devolved responsibilities and to officers;
 - shared services with neighbouring councils and the possibility that this may increase in the face of financial and other pressures;
 - establishment of National Parks, with a transfer of some responsibilities to them, but with councillor involvement on their boards;
 - changing demographic structure of Scotland and changing spatial distribution of the population.

11. The Commission wishes to know the extent to which these and other changes have affected councillor workload, and other factors contributing to effective and convenient local government. We wish also to hear views on how these changes, and likely changes in the future, affect perceptions about the need to maintain, reduce or increase the number of councillors in Scotland as a whole, and within each local authority.
12. As noted in paragraph 7, the Commission sees merits in a uniform, objective and transparent methodology for setting councillor numbers. The alternative would be for the Commission to look in detail at each of the 32 councils, and reach individual conclusions having regard to its view of the role of councillors on each council. This latter option would be time consuming, and the resulting conclusions might be overtaken as administrations change following elections.
13. We are required by law to keep the number of electors per councillor "as nearly as may be" the same within an individual local authority, while also having regard to changes in numbers of electors over the following 5 years. However, there is no restriction in law on variations in number of electors per councillor between councils. The previous methodology resulted in considerable variation of the number of electors represented by individual councillors, ranging from 6000 in large cities to 750 for island authorities.

Consultation

14. Consultees are invited to respond to the following questions, and give reasons supporting their answers:
 1. Do institutional and cultural changes since 1996 suggest that for Scotland as a whole there should be more or fewer councillors from 2017 onwards?
 2. Should there be a minimum for councillor numbers in any local authority, and if so what should it be?
 3. Should there be a maximum for councillor numbers in any local authority, and if so what should it be?
 4. Should the Commission continue to apply a uniform, transparent and objective methodology for determining councillor numbers?
 5. What factors, in addition to electorate per councillor, are relevant in determining councillor numbers?
 6. Should councillor numbers be determined differently for different categories of local authorities and, if so, what factors should be used to define those categories?
 7. Are there any other factors which are relevant to the Commission's consideration of councillor numbers?
15. Consultees are asked to submit their responses to the Commission by 31 March 2011. All responses will be made public in due course on the Commission's website.

Annex 1 - Past practice by the Commission

Third Statutory Reviews of Electoral Arrangements

1. When the Commission carried out the Third Statutory Reviews of Electoral Arrangements between 1994 and 1996, it developed a consistent methodology which could be applied across all council areas to determine councillor numbers. The Commission consulted with all councils when developing the methodology. The Commission believed that by using such a methodology, its approach would be seen to be equitable and consistent.
2. The methodology developed to formulate proposals for the number of councillors for council areas was guided by three main principles:
 - setting minimum councillor numbers which support effective delivery of local authority responsibilities;
 - setting maximum councillor numbers which support effective management of councils; and
 - achieving greater equity amongst electors in different areas by setting the number of electors per councillor to be broadly the same within a council area and between similar council areas.
3. The Commission recognised that there was some number below which it was impossible for councillors collectively to effectively discharge their duties, and that similarly, there was some number above which a council becomes unwieldy. The Royal Commission on Local Government in Scotland 1966-69 (the Wheatley Commission), had concluded that councillor numbers should not generally exceed 75 members.
4. The Commission concluded that an upper limit of 80 councillors should be set for Scotland. The Commission also recommended that the minimum number of councillors should be 18.
5. With respect to equity between voters, the Commission considered that ideally each elector's vote should possess the same weight and significance in local government elections throughout the country. It was also agreed that ideally there should be similar mutual accessibility between electors and councillors. However, the Commission also recognised that Scotland is a country of great diversity, both geographically and demographically, and that therefore some variations in the number of electors per councillor were needed to reflect this.
6. Having come to this conclusion, the Commission recognised that a fair degree of homogeneity exists within certain categories of councils, which exhibit broadly similar geographic and demographic characteristics. It therefore decided to aim for equal numbers of electors per councillor within each of these categories.
7. Two categories were used for large and small city local authorities respectively, with a further category for island local authorities. The remaining local authorities were categorised by two factors. The first was distribution of population, represented by the percentage of population outwith settlements of

10,000 or more. The second factor was density of population, represented by persons per hectare. The data used was from the 1991 Census of Population.

8. For each category, the Commission agreed a ratio of councillors to electors.
9. Figure 1 shows the categories and ratios of councillors to electors which the Commission agreed for its Third Reviews.

Category	Description	Ratio
1	Large Cities	1:6,000
2	Cities	1:4,000
3	Authorities with less than 60% of the population living outwith settlements of 10,000 or more persons AND an overall population density of one person or more per hectare	1:3,500
4	Authorities with EITHER 60% or more of the population living outwith settlements of 10,000 or more persons OR an overall population density of less than one person per hectare	1:3,000
5	Authorities with 60% or more of the population living outwith settlements of 10,000 or more persons AND an overall population density of less than one person per hectare	1:2,500
6	Authorities with 60% or more of the population living outwith settlements of 10,000 or more persons AND an overall population density of less than 0.2 persons per hectare	1:2,000
7	Island authorities	1:750

Figure 1: categories of local authorities and ratios of councillors to electors

10. The methodology then applied the ratio to the number of electors, and applied the maximum and minimum councillor numbers to arrive at councillor numbers for each local authority. One exception was made for Argyll and Bute where the number of councillors was increased by 1 to reflect the geography of the islands.
11. Where the number of councillors calculated from the methodology was only 1 different from the existing councillor numbers, the Commission discussed and agreed with the affected council whether to retain the existing size.
12. Figure 2 shows for each local authority, its category, the figures for population distribution and population density, and the resulting councillor numbers.

Category	Local authority	% population outwith settlements of 10,000	Persons per hectare	Councillor numbers
1	City of Edinburgh	4.02	15.97	58
	Glasgow City	0.00	34.66	79
2	Aberdeen City	1.92	11.03	43
	Dundee City	1.89	23.00	29
3	Clackmannanshire	46.07	3.04	18
	East Dunbartonshire	13.14	6.37	24
	East Renfrewshire	13.84	4.94	20
	Falkirk	5.56	4.72	32
	Fife	30.18	2.58	78
	Inverclyde	9.60	5.57	20

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

*Consultation on determining councillor numbers
Annex 1 - Past practice by the Commission*

Category	Local authority	% population outwith settlements of 10,000	Persons per hectare	Councillor numbers
	Midlothian	14.27	2.22	18
	North Ayrshire	31.67	1.55	30
	North Lanarkshire	9.93	6.84	70
	Renfrewshire	4.29	6.63	40
	South Lanarkshire	21.22	1.69	67
	West Dunbartonshire	1.20	5.92	22
	West Lothian	26.30	3.39	32
4	Angus	43.80	0.49	29
	East Ayrshire	47.21	0.98	32
	East Lothian	75.47	1.24	23
	South Ayrshire	31.74	0.94	30
	Stirling	47.77	0.36	22
5	Aberdeenshire	84.70	0.34	68
	Dumfries & Galloway	66.94	0.23	47
	Moray	77.24	0.37	26
	Perth and Kinross	67.16	0.24	41
	Scottish Borders	71.54	0.22	34
6	Argyll and Bute	68.47	0.13	36
	Highland	70.63	0.08	80
7	Na h-Eileanan an Iar	100.00	0.09	31
	Orkney Islands	100.00	0.20	21
	Shetland Islands	100.00	0.16	22

Figure 2: local authorities: population measures and councillor numbers

Fourth Statutory Reviews of Electoral Arrangements

13. When conducting its Fourth Statutory Reviews of Electoral Arrangements, carried out between 2004 and 2006, the Commission decided that councillor numbers for each council should remain the same as that recommended by the Third Statutory Reviews of Electoral Arrangements. No changes were made to reflect alterations in the numbers and distribution of electors since the Third Reviews. The priority in the Fourth Reviews was to devise wards for the new multi-member system in a very short period.

3rd Review Methodology using updated electorate and population density data

Local Authority	Current cllr no's (2025)	Electorate (Dec. 2024)	Persons per Hectare	% outwith 10,000	Category	Ratio	Cllr no's	Cllr no's max/ min	Notes
Aberdeen City	45	171,157	11.08	3.80	2	4,000	43	43	
Aberdeenshire	70	207,528	0.42	69.40	5	2,500	83	80	max limit
Angus	28	91,668	0.52	37.70	4	3,000	31	31	
Argyll and Bute	36	70,310	0.12	81.30	6	2,000	35	35	
City of Edinburgh	63	406,064	19.17	1.90	1	6,000	68	68	
Clackmannanshire	18	40,554	3.17	59.30	3	3,500	12	18	min limit
Dumfries and Galloway	43	117,552	0.22	76.60	5	2,500	47	47	
Dundee City	29	114,115	24.11	1.30	2	4,000	29	29	
East Ayrshire	32	97,179	0.95	57.20	4	3,000	32	32	
East Dunbartonshire	22	87,378	6.26	12.50	3	3,500	25	25	
East Lothian	22	90,969	1.63	36.80	3	3,500	26	26	
East Renfrewshire	18	75,586	5.66	8.60	3	3,500	22	22	
Falkirk	30	127,526	5.04	7.80	3	3,500	36	36	
Fife	75	289,830	2.72	35.00	3	3,500	83	80	max limit
Glasgow City	85	455,451	35.83	0.40	1	6,000	76	76	
Highland	74	187,845	0.09	68.00	6	2,000	94	80	max limit
Inverclyde	22	61,221	4.51	14.30	3	3,500	17	18	min limit
Midlothian	18	78,322	2.77	24.00	3	3,500	22	22	
Moray	26	75,599	0.42	62.80	5	2,500	30	30	
Na h-Eileanan Siar	29	21,509	0.08	100.00	7	750	29	29	
North Ayrshire	33	107,931	1.48	28.30	3	3,500	31	31	
North Lanarkshire	77	265,065	7.24	16.10	3	3,500	76	76	
Orkney Islands	21	17,818	0.20	100.00	7	750	24	24	
Perth and Kinross	40	122,489	0.28	67.10	5	2,500	49	49	
Renfrewshire	43	144,643	6.93	10.10	3	3,500	41	41	
Scottish Borders	34	95,094	0.25	75.00	5	2,500	38	38	
Shetland Islands	23	17,738	0.14	100.00	7	750	24	24	
South Ayrshire	28	91,593	0.91	30.80	4	3,000	31	31	
South Lanarkshire	64	261,960	1.86	21.00	3	3,500	75	75	
Stirling	23	72,125	0.41	46.20	4	3,000	24	24	
West Dunbartonshire	22	68,889	4.86	1.40	3	3,500	20	20	
West Lothian	33	150,579	4.26	19.50	3	3,500	43	43	
	1,226	4,283,287					1,314	1,303	

Fifth Reviews - methodology for determining councillor numbers - UPDATED

council area	existing councillor numbers	electorate (Dec 2024)	category	ratio (electors per councillor)	electorate divided by ratio	change, limited to ±10% of existing numbers	min (18) and max (85) limits on councillor numbers applied	new councillor numbers	change in councillor numbers
Aberdeen City	45	171,157	3	3,800	45			45	0
Aberdeenshire	70	207,528	4	2,800	74			74	4
Angus	28	91,668	2	3,000	31			31	3
Argyll and Bute	36	70,310	4	2,800	25	-3		33	-3
Clackmannanshire	18	40,554	2	3,000	14		18	18	0
Dumfries and Galloway	43	117,552	4	2,800	42			42	-1
Dundee City	29	114,115	1	2,800	41	3		32	3
East Ayrshire	32	97,179	2	3,000	32			32	0
East Dunbartonshire	22	87,378	3	3,800	23			23	1
East Lothian	22	90,969	2	3,000	30	2		24	2
East Renfrewshire	18	75,586	3	3,800	20			20	2
Edinburgh, City of	63	406,064	3	3,800	107	6		69	6
Eileanan an Iar, Na h-	29	21,509	5	800	27			27	-2
Falkirk	30	127,526	3	3,800	34	3		33	3
Fife	75	289,830	2	3,000	97	7		82	7
Glasgow City	85	455,451	1	2,800	163		85	85	0
Highland	74	187,845	4	2,800	67			67	-7
Inverclyde	22	61,221	1	2,800	22			22	0
Midlothian	18	78,322	3	3,800	21	2		20	2
Moray	26	75,599	4	2,800	27			27	1
North Ayrshire	33	107,931	2	3,000	36			36	3
North Lanarkshire	77	265,065	2	3,000	88	7		84	7
Orkney Islands	21	17,818	5	800	22			22	1
Perth and Kinross	40	122,489	4	2,800	44			44	4
Renfrewshire	43	144,643	2	3,000	48	4		47	4
Scottish Borders	34	95,094	4	2,800	34			34	0
Shetland Islands	23	17,738	5	800	22			22	-1
South Ayrshire	28	91,593	2	3,000	31			31	3
South Lanarkshire	64	261,960	2	3,000	87	6		70	6
Stirling	23	72,125	4	2,800	26	2		25	2
West Dunbartonshire	22	68,889	1	2,800	25	2		24	2
West Lothian	33	150,579	3	3,800	40	3		36	3
	1,226	4,283,287				1,442		1,281	55