

## Scottish Government Electoral Reform

### Purpose

1. This paper updates the Commission on Scottish Government work on electoral reform. This work, amongst other things, provides the legislative opportunity to amend the approval process for reviews conducted by the Commission and to change the date for submission of the next set of reviews of electoral arrangements from 2028 to 2031.

### Background

2. Scottish Government officials attended the July Commission meeting to outline plans for electoral reform. The planned consultation is a first step in the process of preparing a Bill to be considered by Parliament in 2024 (provisional title: Scottish Elections (Representation and Reform) Bill).
3. This Bill will take forward the Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party Shared Policy Programme commitments to enable more people to stand as candidates at Scottish Parliament and local government elections and to improve the accessibility of elections, with a particular focus on people with sight loss.
4. The consultation will also be an opportunity to consult on ways to increase voter registration and active participation in elections by under-represented groups, such as qualifying foreign nationals and young people.
5. The consultation is planned to be launched in late autumn 2022.
6. Scottish Government officials asked for the Commission to submit any ideas for what it would wish to see covered by the consultation. The Secretariat submitted the response contained in Appendix A.

### Next steps

7. An oral update will be given at the meeting. At this stage there is no detail available on how the Scottish Government will frame the consultation paper. It is envisaged that any response from the Commission will follow a similar outline to the briefing for the informal session with the Standards Procedures and Public Appointments Committee on 3 November 2022.

### Conclusion

8. The Commission are invited to note the response in Appendix A and consider if there are any further issues to be considered.

Secretariat  
October 2022