

## Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries Project Plan

### For discussion

1. The Commission considered a draft project plan for the Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries at its April 2022 meeting and asked for the plan to be expanded to show pressure points. The Secretariat is continuing to explore options for alternative presentation of the plan. For now, there is further information set out in the right hand column of the plan in Appendix A indicating other events and activity that are likely to have an impact on the review timescales.
2. The principal change in the plan is the proposed start date for the initial consultation. While it may be possible to hold to the 1 March 2023 date previously suggested, that would depend on early decision by the Commission on its Provisional Proposals. If that is not possible, then commencing the first consultation period after the Easter parliamentary recess in 2023 would be sensible. As the consultation period is only a month long the Secretariat recommends avoiding Easter weekend and the recess (1–16 April 2023).
3. Other work to be included in the plan is any review of electoral arrangements to be completed before the 2027 local government elections. These would require to be submitted, under current arrangements, by May 2026. Depending on how many reviews were to be undertaken these would likely need to start in 2024.
4. A meeting between the Chair and the Minister for Parliamentary Business is in the process of being arranged and one of the topics for discussion will be the next steps with the reviews of electoral arrangements in Argyll and Bute and Highland council areas. It is likely that the Commission will be asked to conduct a further review in these areas in light of the Parliamentary rejection. However, the Commission has previously raised with Scottish Ministers the need for further consideration of the approval process before conducting any electoral reviews and the timing of the planned electoral reform legislation is unlikely to see any change before 2025.
5. After 1 July 2023 the Boundary Commission for Scotland will have completed its 2023 Review of UK Parliamentary Constituencies.

### Conclusion

6. The main pressure for the Secretariat at present is the completion of the UK Parliament Review by 1 July 2023 while also preparing for the first consultation stage of the Scottish Parliament Review. That pressure is manageable but a later start for the first consultation period for the Scottish Parliamentary review will help manage delivery for both Commissions.
7. The Commission is invited to consider the revised plan and offer any comments.

Secretariat  
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