

## Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries Draft Provisional Proposals for Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Council areas

### Action required

1. The Commission is invited to consider its Provisional Proposals for Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Council areas for its Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries.

### Background

2. The Commission considered provisional groupings of council areas as part of its approach to constituency design for the Second Review, which included a group of two constituencies contained wholly within Clackmannanshire and Stirling council areas, and two constituencies contained wholly within Falkirk council area (see Paper BS 24). This paper combines these areas and offers three options for constituencies within this grouping.
3. The electorate quota for the Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries is 59,902 electors per constituency.
4. The rules for reviewing Scottish Parliament constituencies state:
  - **Rule 1**
    - So far as is practicable, regard must be had to the boundaries of the local government areas having effect from time to time under section 1 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994.
  - **Rule 2**
    - The electorate of a constituency must be as near the electoral quota as is practicable, having regard to Rule 1.
    - Boundaries Scotland may depart from the strict application of Rule 1 if it thinks that it is desirable to do so to avoid an excessive disparity between the electorate of a constituency and the electoral quota or between the electorate of a constituency and that of neighbouring constituencies.
  - **Rule 3**
    - Boundaries Scotland may depart from the strict application of Rules 1 and 2 if it thinks that special geographical considerations (including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency) render it desirable to do so.
  - **Rule 4**
    - Boundaries Scotland need not aim at giving full effect in all circumstances to Rules 1 to 3 but it must take account (so far as it reasonably can)—
      - (a) of the inconveniences attendant on alterations of constituencies other than alterations made for the purposes of Rule 1, and
      - (b) of any local ties which would be broken by such alterations.
5. The constituency entitlement for Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Council areas is as shown in the table below:

Council area	Electorate (1 Sept 22)	Constituency entitlement
Clackmannanshire	40,031	0.7
Falkirk	125,390	2.1
Stirling	71,003	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>236,424</b>	<b>4.0</b>

6. The electorates of the four existing Scottish Parliament constituencies within Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Council areas are shown in the table below:

Existing constituency	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota
Clackmannanshire and Dunblane	52,150	-12.9%
Falkirk East	61,529	2.7%
Falkirk West	63,861	6.6%
Stirling	58,884	-1.7%

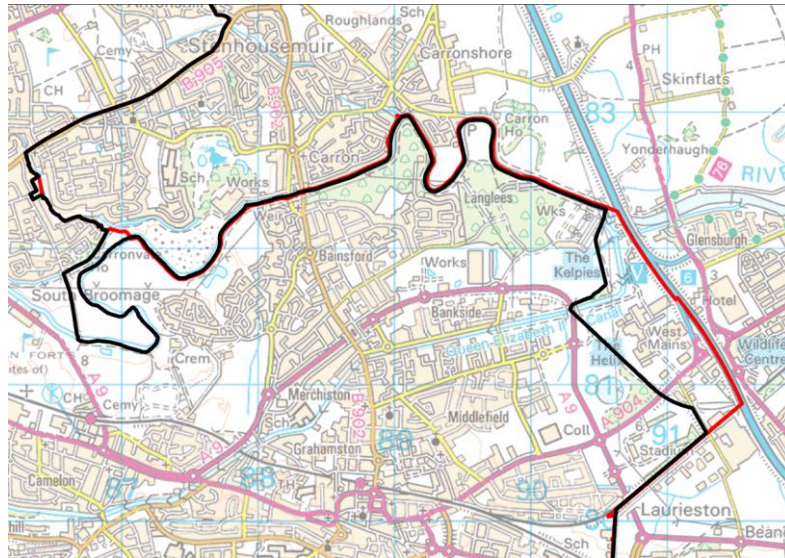
7. The existing Scottish Parliament boundaries have been in use since 2011.
8. Only one of the existing constituencies is out-with 10% of the electoral quota and it is open to the Commission to leave it unchanged for the Second Review.
9. The constituency names in this paper are provisional. The Commission will have the opportunity to review all constituency names and designations prior to the publication of its Provisional Proposals.
10. A map of the existing constituencies in this grouping can be found at Appendix A.

### Options

11. Three options are presented for consideration.

#### Option 1

12. Option 1 proposes to retain all four of the existing constituencies within Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling council areas.
13. The existing constituency boundaries in Stirling follow ward boundaries in place at the time of the First Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries but the ward boundaries were altered following the 5<sup>th</sup> Reviews of Electoral Arrangements in 2017. In Falkirk the constituency boundaries mainly follow ward boundaries from 1999 or the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reviews of Electoral Arrangements. The First Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries made minor changes to the existing constituency boundaries in Falkirk to create better defined boundary in a few areas, see map below (black line is boundary from 1999–2011 and the red line is the boundary from 2011).



Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Clackmannanshire and Dunblane	52,150	-12.9%	Clackmannanshire – all Stirling 3, 4 (part)
Falkirk East	61,529	2.7%	Falkirk 1-2, 4(part), 7(part), 8-9
Falkirk West	63,861	6.6%	Falkirk 3, 4(part), 5-6, 7(part),
Stirling	58,884	-1.7%	Stirling 1,2,4(part),5 – 7

14. A map of Option 1 can be found at Appendix A.

15. The advantages of Option 1 are it:

- retains the existing constituencies, which have been in place since 2011 and may avoid confusion for the local electorate; and
- avoids splitting the town of Falkirk and city of Stirling between constituencies.

16. The disadvantages of Option 1 are:

- it splits Stenhousemuir between constituencies;
- it may break local ties between Stirling and Bridge of Allan/ Dunblane; and
- the Clackmannanshire and Dunblane constituency has a variation from the electoral quota of -13%.

**Option 1A**

17. Option 1A is similar to Option 1 and the existing constituency boundaries.

18. Option 1A aims to minimise change to the existing constituency boundaries while addressing variation from electoral parity in the existing Clackmannanshire and Dunblane constituency.

19. Option 1A adds Doune with approx. 3,200 electors to the Clackmannanshire and Dunblane constituency. It splits the Stirling, Trossachs and Teith ward by following an historical ward boundary

20. Option 1A retains two constituencies unchanged: Falkirk East; and Falkirk West.

21. A map of Option 1A can be found at Appendix B.

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Clackmannanshire and Dunblane	55,421	-7.5%	Clackmannanshire - all Stirling 1(part), 3, 4(part)
Falkirk East	61,529	2.7%	Falkirk 1-2, 4(part), 7(part), 8-9
Falkirk West	63,861	6.6%	Falkirk 3, 4(part), 5-6, 7(part),
Stirling	55,613	-7.2%	Stirling 1 (part), 2, 4(part), 5 - 7

22. The advantages of Option 1A are:

- it retains two of the existing constituencies, which have been in place since 2011 and may avoid confusion for the local electorate;
- all four constituencies are within 10% variation from the electoral quota; and
- it avoids splitting the town of Falkirk and city of Stirling between constituencies.

23. The disadvantages of Option 1A are it:

- splits Stenhousemuir between constituencies; and
- may break local ties between Stirling and Bridge of Allan/ Dunblane.

## Option 2

24. Option 2 proposes a constituency design based on ward boundaries and proposes four new constituencies.

25. A map of Option 2 can be found at Appendix C.

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Clackmannanshire and Dunblane	63,305	5.7%	Clackmannanshire - all Stirling 3, 4
Falkirk	54,725	-8.6%	Falkirk 6-9
Forth Valley	59,402	-0.8%	Falkirk 1, 2, 4 Stirling 6, 7
West Stirlingshire	58,992	-1.5%	Falkirk 3, 5 Stirling 1, 2, 5

26. The advantages of Option 2 are it:

- avoids splitting any wards;
- all four constituencies are within 10% variation from electoral quota; and
- avoids splitting the town of Falkirk between constituencies.

27. The disadvantages of Option 2 are:

- three constituencies overlap a council area boundary;
- splits Stirling between three constituencies; and
- local ties may be broken between Larbert and Stenhousemuir;

**Summary**

28. Option 1 retains all four of the existing constituencies, offering continuity with the existing boundaries. Option 1A retains two of the existing constituencies. Option 2 proposes four new constituencies.
29. Options 1 and 1A both propose one constituency which overlaps a council area boundary. Option 2 proposes three constituencies which overlap a council area boundary.
30. Option 1 splits three wards between constituencies. Option 1A splits four wards. Option 2 avoids splitting any wards.
31. Option 1 proposes one constituency out-with 10% variation from the electoral quota. Options 1A and 2 propose all four constituencies within 10% variation from the electoral quota.
32. All three options avoid splitting Falkirk town between constituencies. Options 1 and 1A split Stenhousemuir between constituencies and may break local ties between Stirling and Bridge of Allan/ Dunblane. Option 2 splits Stirling between three constituencies.

**Conclusion**

33. The Commission is invited to agree its Provisional Proposals for public consultation, subject to satisfactory constituencies being designed in other groupings.

**Secretariat**  
**February 2023**

