

**Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries
Draft Provisional Proposals for Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and
Moray Council areas**

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to consider its Provisional Proposals for Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray council areas for its Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries.

Background

2. The Commission previously considered Provisional Proposals for Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray Council areas at its meeting of 9 February 2023, see BS Paper 34.
3. At the February 2023 meeting the Commission considered the two options presented and agreed that Option 1 was an acceptable arrangement but prior to agreeing they asked the Secretariat to refine the boundaries in Option 1 in a way that recognises Rules 2 and 3 of the legislation by Keith in Moray and Maud in Aberdeenshire.
4. The electorate quota for the Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries is 59,902 electors per constituency.
5. The constituency entitlement for Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray council areas is 8.9 or rounded up to 9 constituencies.
6. The Commission may wish to consider this paper alongside Paper 37 Draft Provisional Proposals for Highland Council area.

Options

7. Two options are presented for consideration. Option 1, the existing arrangements and an Option 1A which amends the existing constituency boundaries by Maud/Mintlaw in Aberdeenshire and Keith in Moray.
8. 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.
9. A constituency design which combines Highland Council area with this council area grouping is considered in Highland Paper 37. It discusses an option that proposes to add Nairn or Strathspey to a Moray constituency.

Option 1

10. Option 1 proposes to retain the nine existing constituencies within Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray Council areas.
11. The existing constituency boundaries follow ward boundaries in place at the time of the First Review but the ward boundaries were altered following the 5th Reviews of Electoral Arrangements in 2017.

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Aberdeen Central	55,994	-6.5%	Aberdeen City 5(part), 6-8, 10(part), 11(part), 12(part)
Aberdeen Donside	62,531	4.4%	Aberdeen City 1-4, 5(part)
Aberdeen South and North Kincardine	61,544	2.7%	Aberdeen City 9, 10(part), 11(part), 12(part), 13 Aberdeenshire 17
Aberdeenshire East	64,217	7.2%	Aberdeenshire 4, 6(part), 7-9, 11, 12(part)
Aberdeenshire West	59,983	0.1%	Aberdeenshire 10, 12(part), 13-16, 18(part)
Angus North and Mearns	55,006	-8.2%	Aberdeenshire 18 (part), 19 Angus 2,3,8
Angus South	58,622	-2.1%	Angus 1, 4-7
Banffshire and Buchan Coast	58,442	-2.4%	Aberdeenshire 1-3, 5, 6(part) Moray 2(part), 3
Moray	63,133	5.4%	Moray 1, 2(part), 4-8

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

13. 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
- all constituencies have a variation from the electoral quota within 10%.

14. The disadvantages of Option 1 are:

- three constituencies cross council area boundaries; and
- it splits eight wards.

Option 1A

15. Option 1A is similar to Option 1, the existing arrangements, but amends the constituency boundaries north of Maud/ Mintlaw, to the west of Peterhead.

16. Option 1A amends the boundary between the Aberdeenshire East constituency and Banffshire and Buchan Coast constituency. The Central Buchan ward is split by following a community council area boundary and transfers approx. 2,500 electors between those constituencies.

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

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Aberdeenshire East	61,702	3.0%	Aberdeenshire 4(part), 6(part), 7-9, 11, 12(part)
Banffshire and Buchan Coast	60,957	1.8%	Aberdeenshire 1-3, 4(part), 5, 6(part) Moray 2(part), 3

18. The advantages of Option 1A are it:

- minimises change by amending the boundary of only two existing constituencies, which have been in place since 2011 and may avoid confusion for the local electorate; and
- improves variation from the electoral quota for both constituencies.

19. The disadvantages of Option 2 are it makes changes where all of the proposed constituencies are within 10% variation from the electoral quota.

20. The Commission could include the whole of the Aberdeenshire Central Buchan ward, which includes Maud and Mintlaw, in a Banffshire and Buchan Coast constituency but the constituency would propose 69,682 electors with variation from the electoral quota at 16.3%.

21. There are 8,143 electors in the Moray, Keith and Cullen ward. Currently 4,561 Keith electors sit within a Moray constituency. The remaining electors sit within the Banffshire and Buchan Coast constituency.

22. The Commission could add Keith to the existing Banffshire and Buchan Coast constituency. As a consequence, the Banffshire and Buchan Coast constituency would have 63,003 electors and variation from the electoral quota at 5.2% and the Moray constituency would have 58,572 electors and variation from the electoral quota at -2.2%.

23. There are approx. 1,300 electors who reside in the area in-between Cullen and Keith. The Commission could add these electors to the Moray constituency. This would propose a: Moray constituency with approx. 64,433 electors and variation from the electoral quota at 7.6%; and a Banffshire and Buchan Coast constituency with approx. 57,142 electors and variation from the electoral quota at -4.6%.

Summary

24. Option 1 retains all nine of the existing constituencies, offering continuity with the existing boundaries. Option 2 retains seven of the existing constituencies and makes changes to the Moray constituency and the Banffshire and Buchan Coast constituency.

25. Both options propose all constituencies within 10% variation from the electoral quota.

26. Both options propose three constituencies that overlap a council area boundary.

27. Option 1 splits eight wards. Option 1A splits 9 wards.

28. Keith could be added to a Banffshire and Buchan Coast constituency or the area in-between Cullen and Keith could be added to a Moray constituency. Both options would propose all constituencies within 10% variation from the electoral quota.

Conclusion

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

**Secretariat
March 2023**



