

Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries Constituency Provisional Proposals – Consultation

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to note preparations for its consultation on its constituency provisional proposals for the Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries.

Background

2. At its meeting of 6 October 2022 the Commission considered Paper 19 Stakeholder Engagement and agreed a number of actions.

Consultation site

3. The Commission had asked the Secretariat to draft text for the consultation site. This is produced at Appendix A.
4. Page 1 will provide some background information. Page 2 asks for the respondents name and who they are. Page 3 allows for general comments to be submitted. Users can then also submit comments on specific areas, see pages 4A and 4B as examples, or go directly to page 5 to submit their comments. The Commission's council area groupings will be used as areas to comment on.
5. The consultation site will provide further information, such as a summary of provisional proposals booklet, constituency maps of the provisional proposals, FAQs and news release.

Consultation materials

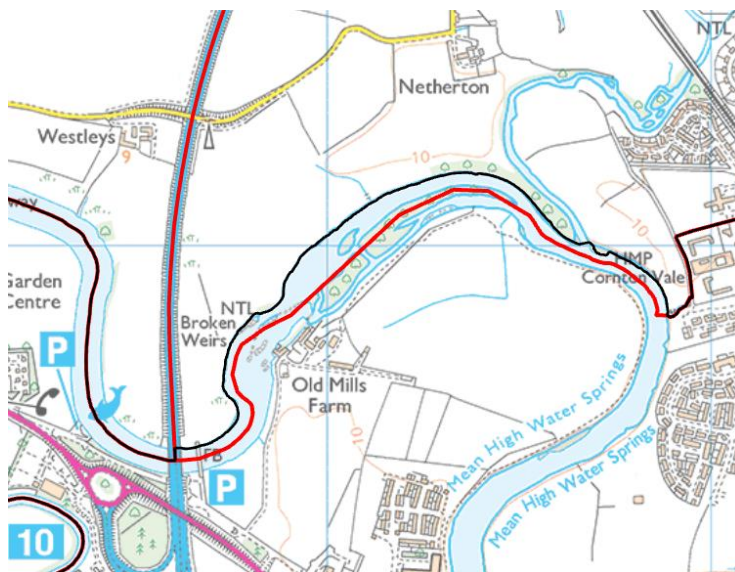
6. Several publications will be produced to assist stakeholders engage during the public consultation, these include:
 - Summary of Provisional Proposals Booklet with some brief background information as well as maps and descriptions of each constituency;
 - Summary Leaflet;
 - Policy and Procedures Booklet;
 - news release with background information and summary of the provisional proposals; and a
 - frequently asked questions document.
7. At its meeting of 6 October 2022 the Commission stated a preference for social media advertising through Facebook rather than Twitter. Facebook had proven a more popular outlet during the Boundary Commission for Scotland's 2023 Review public consultations.
8. The Secretariat are currently working with a marketing company to develop publicity materials for print and social media.
9. The Commission had asked the Secretariat to make enquiries regarding radio advertising. The quote received (approx. £30,000) anticipated that the campaign would reach over two million adults in Scotland, who would hear the campaign on average 10.6 times. The Commission do not have sufficient budget to conduct radio advertising for several consultations and is not considered to offer value for money.
10. The Scottish Elections (Reform) Act 2020 amended the requirement to publicise "in at least one newspaper circulating in each constituency" to "such manner as it

thinks fit.” The requirement to make the proposals available for inspection in at least one place in each constituency remains.

11. The Commission may wish to place adverts in some national newspapers at the start of the consultation period such as the Herald, Scotsman, Metro, Press and Journal or Courier.
12. The Commission may wish to hold a news conference and invite broadcast and print journalists.
13. The Secretariat have collated a contact list of all Scottish community council and they will be contacted at the start of each consultation stage of the review.
14. Display points such as libraries, council offices, community centres, places of worship etc will be sent materials to help publicise the review. The Secretariat can liaise with councils on the best display point locations.

Boundary Alignment

15. There are a number of small anomalies between the boundaries of the provisional proposals which the Commission may wish to correct.
16. The existing constituency boundaries have been in place since 2011 and most of those followed ward boundaries in place at that time. Since then the Commission completed its Fifth Reviews of Electoral Arrangements and amended ward boundaries to follow the centre of a road rather than a pavement or the centre of a river rather than a riverbank.
17. The discrepancies are small and unlikely to affect the electorate of any recommended constituencies but may allow stakeholders to more easily identify their electoral boundaries.
18. An example is shown below where the black line is the existing/proposed constituency boundary and the red line is the existing ward boundary.



Recommendation

19. The Secretariat invites the Commission to provide any comments or further suggestions on preparations for its consultation on its constituency provisional proposals for the Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries.

Secretariat
March 2023