

**Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries  
Provisional Proposals for Constituencies Consultation  
Summary of Responses**

**For information**

1. This paper sets out a preliminary summary of the responses received during the Provisional Proposals for Constituencies public consultation stage of the Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries which commenced on 17 May 2023.

**Summary of responses so far received during Provisional Proposals consultation period (as at 24/05/23)**

2. There were 267 responses as at 24/05/23. 11 of the responses received were in favour of the proposals and a further 15 responses made comments outwith the scope of the Review regarding the cost of the Review etc. The remaining responses opposed the provisional proposals.

**Issues raised during public consultation**

3. A summary of responses by council area grouping is provided in Appendix A.
4. The Secretariat will offer an oral update at the meeting should any new issues or concerns arise in the second week of the consultation period.

**Next steps**

5. The Secretariat will fully analyse all responses received during the Provisional Proposals public consultation stage and present the analysis to the Commission at later meetings.

**Conclusion**

6. The Commission is invited to note this summary of responses to the Provisional Proposals consultation period.

**Secretariat  
May 2023**

**Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray Council areas****Summary of Proposals**

In this area the Commission retains seven of the existing constituencies unchanged.

The Commission has proposed a minor change at Mintlaw between the Aberdeenshire East constituency and Banff and Buchan Coast constituency (previously named Banffshire and Buchan).

**Number of responses at 24/05/23**

2

**Main issues raised by respondents**

- Opposition to Mintlaw change
- Fraserburgh linked to Turriff and Mintlaw, opposition to “coastal” constituency. Suggest a north/south Aberdeenshire split.

**Council/MSP response**

None to date

**Request for local inquiry received**

No request for local inquiry to date

**Initial Secretariat thoughts**

The existing arrangements in the area are all within 10% of variation from the electoral quota.

## **Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire Council areas**

### **Summary of Proposals**

In this area the Commission is proposing eight new constituencies. There are currently eight constituencies wholly within this group of Council areas and part of North Lanarkshire is in the existing Bellshill and Uddingston constituency with part of South Lanarkshire.

### **Number of responses at 24/05/23**

18

### **Main issues raised by respondents**

- Opposition to Clydebank being split between two constituencies;
- Opposition to Newmains being removed from a Motherwell constituency;
- Opposition to Baldernock being split from Milngavie. Baldernock is currently in a different constituency to Milngavie.

### **Council/MSP response**

Argyll & Bute Council and West Dunbartonshire Council have requested an extension until 30/06/23

### **Request for local inquiry received**

No request for local inquiry to date

### **Initial Secretariat thoughts**

4 options were considered which improved parity on the existing arrangements although some avoided splitting wards they did split towns to ensure that parity was kept below 10%.

**City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian Council areas****Summary of Proposals**

In this area the Commission has proposed 12 new constituencies including joining parts of West Lothian with wards in the west of Edinburgh. There are currently 11 constituencies in this grouping although part of Midlothian is in a constituency with part of Scottish Borders Council area.

**Number of responses at 24/05/23**

107

**Main issues raised by respondents**

- Lack of links between West of Edinburgh and Linlithgow which are together in the proposed Edinburgh Forth and Linlithgow constituency (72 responses);
- Opposition to Prestonpans being removed from East Lothian constituency (10 responses);
- General opposition to changes.

**Council/MSP response**

West Lothian Council have requested an extension until 20/06/23

**Request for local inquiry received**

No request for local inquiry to date

**Initial Secretariat thoughts**

Issues in West Edinburgh / West Lothian could be resolved by linking Balerno / Juniper Green with West Lothian but likely to receive similar comments. Alternatives include combining with other groupings such as Falkirk, Clackmannanshire, Stirling and/ or Scottish Borders, South Lanarkshire.

**Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Council areas****Summary of Proposals**

In this area the Commission has amended the boundary between the existing Clackmannanshire and Dunblane constituency and Stirling constituency by Doune. The existing Falkirk East and Falkirk West constituencies are unchanged.

**Number of responses at 24/05/23**

3

**Main issues raised by respondents**

- Opposition for Doune being removed from Stirling constituency (3 responses).

**Council/MSP response**

None to date

**Request for local inquiry received**

No request for local inquiry to date

**Initial Secretariat thoughts**

Existing arrangements have Clackmannanshire and Dunblane constituency over-represented at -1.3% variation from electoral quota.

## **Dumfries and Galloway Council area**

### **Summary of Proposals**

In this area the Commission's proposals retain the two existing constituencies which are unchanged.

### **Number of responses at 24/05/23**

None

### **Main issues raised by respondents**

- NA

### **Council/MSP response**

None to date

### **Request for local inquiry received**

No request for local inquiry to date

### **Initial Secretariat thoughts**

NA

## **Dundee City Council area**

### **Summary of Proposals**

In Dundee the Commission's proposals retain the two existing constituencies which are unchanged.

### **Number of responses at 24/05/23**

None

### **Main issues raised by respondents**

- NA

### **Council/MSP response**

None to date

### **Request for local inquiry received**

No request for local inquiry to date

### **Initial Secretariat thoughts**

NA

## **East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Council areas**

### **Summary of Proposals**

In this area the Commission has retained three of the existing constituencies and amended the boundary by Stewarton between the existing Cunninghame South and Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley constituencies. The Commission retained the existing constituency names.

### **Number of responses at 24/05/23**

1

### **Main issues raised by respondents**

- Issue with Cunninghame South no longer being representative of its name.

### **Council/MSP response**

MSP Willie Coffey MSP for Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley contacted the Secretariat to discuss proposals.

East Ayrshire Council and North Ayrshire Council have requested extensions until 23/06/23

### **Request for local inquiry received**

No request for local inquiry to date

### **Initial Secretariat thoughts**

The existing Cunninghame South constituency has a variation from electoral quota of -14%.

**East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire Council areas****Summary of Proposals**

In this area the Commission has proposed 12 new constituencies. There are currently 13 constituencies.

**Number of responses at 24/05/23**

56

**Main issues raised by respondents**

- Opposition to splitting Eastwood and the proposals for south Glasgow and East Renfrewshire more generally (53 respondents);
- 2 relating to wholly Glasgow constituencies.

**Council/MSP response**

None to date

**Request for local inquiry received**

No request for local inquiry to date

**Initial Secretariat thoughts**

A number of alternatives were considered over 3 meetings including changing groupings. The Commission could consider expanding the grouping into neighbouring groupings.

## **Fife Council Area**

### **Summary of Proposals**

In this area the Commission has retained one existing constituency but renamed it "Fife North East". The Commission has amended the boundaries of the other four constituencies but retained their names.

### **Number of responses at 24/05/23**

3

### **Main areas raised by respondents**

- Opposition to Fife constituency names (1 respondent);
- Opposition to moving part of Burntisland into the proposed Cowdenbeath constituency (2 respondents).

### **Council/MSP response**

None to date

### **Request for local inquiry received**

No request for local inquiry to date

### **Initial Secretariat thoughts**

The Commission could retain all constituencies as all are at or below 10% variation from the electoral quota.

## **Highland Council area**

### **Summary of Proposals**

In Highland the Commission's proposals retain the existing Caithness, Sutherland and Ross constituency and make changes to the existing constituency boundaries south of Inverness by Grantown-on-Spey and Strathdearn.

### **Number of responses at 24/05/23**

4

### **Main issues raised by respondents**

- Issues regarding size of Caithness and Inverness constituencies, opposition to Black Isle not being in Caithness constituency.

### **Council/MSP response**

None to date

### **Request for local inquiry received**

No request for local inquiry to date

### **Initial Secretariat thoughts**

At its meeting of 9 April 2023 the Commission considered adding the Black Isle to a Caithness, Sutherland and Ross constituency but agreed it would create a constituency of two parts – the Black Isle would be separate from Easter Ross, Caithness and Sutherland, worsen variation from electoral parity in a remote constituency and increase the area of an already large constituency with poor transport links and so did not proceed. There are no statutory area limits for Scottish Parliament constituencies.

## **Perth and Kinross Council area**

### **Summary of Proposals**

The Commission is proposing two constituencies for Perth and Kinross Council area. There are minor changes to the existing constituency boundaries by Perth.

### **Number of responses at 24/05/23**

None

### **Main issues raised by respondents**

- NA

### **Council/MSP response**

None to date

### **Request for local inquiry received**

No request for local inquiry to date

### **Initial Secretariat thoughts**

NA

## **South Lanarkshire and Scottish Borders Council areas**

### **Summary of Proposals**

The Commission is proposing six constituencies for this grouping with Etrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire unchanged but changes elsewhere in the grouping. There are currently 7 constituencies containing parts of these council areas although Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale constituency includes electors from Midlothian Council area and Uddingston and Bellshill constituency includes electors from North Lanarkshire Council area.

### **Number of responses at 24/05/23**

20

### **Main issues raised by respondents**

- Opposition to changes within Clydesdale area (15 respondents). Particularly the proposal for Lanark and Carluke to be in separate constituencies.

### **Council/MSP response**

None to date

### **Request for local inquiry received**

No request for local inquiry to date

### **Initial Secretariat thoughts**

Difficulties in design as parts of North Lanarkshire and Midlothian were included in the existing arrangements for this grouping. As such the status quo was not an option.