

Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries
Consideration of responses to consultation on provisional proposals for
constituency boundaries – Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Council areas

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to consider responses to the consultation on its provisional proposals and whether it wishes to make changes to its proposals for constituencies in Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Council areas or hold a local inquiry.

Background

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

Existing 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

3. The provisional proposals were very similar to the existing constituency boundaries. They made no changes to the two Falkirk constituencies, but the existing constituency boundary was amended by Doune placing it in an expanded Clackmannanshire and Dunblane constituency rather than the Stirling constituency as it is at present.
4. The provisional proposals aimed to adhere to the principles of the review. The provisional proposals: considered council area boundaries, retained two existing constituencies unchanged (Falkirk East and Falkirk West); improved variation from the electoral quota from the existing arrangements; and aimed to minimise change to the existing boundaries while considering local ties.
5. Stirling Council responded to the consultation but made no comment. Clackmannanshire and Falkirk Councils did not respond to the consultation.

Therefore no councils opposed the proposals, nor did a body of 100 electors resident in any of the proposed constituencies.

6. Clackmannanshire Council area has an electorate of 40,031 electors and an entitlement to 0.7 constituencies. Stirling Council area has an electorate of 71,003 electors and an entitlement to 1.2 constituencies. Falkirk Council area has an electorate of 125,390 electors and an entitlement to 2.1 constituencies. When developing its provisional proposals the Commission grouped these council areas together to consider historical boundaries. The neighbouring council areas include: Fife, 290,387 electors, an entitlement to 4.8 constituencies and its own identity; and Perth and Kinross, 120,039 electors, an entitlement to 4.8 constituencies and the physical boundary of the Ochils. The other neighbouring councils: North Lanarkshire, 264,752 electors, entitlement to 4.4 constituencies; and West Lothian, 146,456 electors, entitlement to 2.4 constituencies would worsen variation from the electorate quota within this grouping.
7. The electorates of the four proposed Scottish Parliament constituencies within Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Council areas are shown in the table below:

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

8. A map of the provisional proposals is at Appendix A.

Representations received

9. 14 responses were received for these constituencies during the one-month consultation period. All responses have been shared with the Commission. Responses to the consultation will be available on the Commission's consultation site www.consult.boundaries.scot if the respondent gave permission to do so.

Summary of responses

10. Suggestions and comments received during the initial consultation included Doune and surrounding area has no links with Clackmannanshire and changing the boundary may sever local ties.
11. There was little opposition to the provisional proposals for Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Council areas.
12. Unless otherwise stated, the maps in this paper show alternative suggestions in block colours, existing ward boundaries are red and initial proposal boundaries are a black line.

Stirling Consultation Responses and Analysis

13. A member of the public and Doune resident stated Doune, Thornhill and Deanston have little in common with and no links to Clackmannanshire. They believe Doune has closer links with Stirling or Callander. They advised a Clackmannanshire and Dunblane MSP would not understand the issues in their area.
14. A member of the public opposed the provisional proposals and stated Doune and Dunblane have nothing in common with Clackmannanshire.
15. A member of the public opposed the provisional proposals because Doune and or Deanston have closer links with Stirling than with Clackmannanshire.
16. Three members of the public opposed the provisional proposals because rural Thornhill has little in common with urban Clackmannanshire.
17. Councillor Gene Maxwell (Stirling – Trossachs and Teith ward) opposed the provisional proposals. Cllr Maxwell stated Doune, Deanston and Thornhill and their rural surroundings have strong links with Stirling such as transport, services, shopping and employment. They stated the area has almost no links to Clackmannanshire, Alloa or Dunblane.
18. Historically Doune has never been situated in the same constituency as Clackmannanshire for either Scottish or UK Parliament constituencies.
19. A member of the public opposed the provisional proposals because they will break local ties and cause confusion for electors.

20. A member of the public stated the provisional proposals will create a constituency too large for one individual to represent.
21. A member of the public suggested using population data rather than electorate data for each constituency.
22. A member of the public stated the current Clackmannanshire and Dunblane MSP never visits or discusses Dunblane. They suggested a constituency similar to the historical West Perthshire UK Parliament constituency and a Stirling and Clackmannanshire constituency.
23. A West Perthshire constituency would have an impact on the proposals elsewhere and would necessitate changes to the proposals for Perth and Kinross Council area which received no responses and is proposed to have minor changes from the existing arrangements.
24. Stirling Council responded to the consultation, although as they did not have a position on the proposals, they made no comment.

Falkirk Council Consultation Responses and Analysis

25. A member of the public suggested north-south, rather than east-west, Falkirk constituencies, to better reflect local community ties within the area. They suggested following ward boundaries to create Falkirk North and Falkirk South constituencies.
26. This suggestion is similar to the UK Parliament constituencies of Falkirk and Linlithgow and Falkirk East which was in place from 2005 to 2023.

Suggested constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Falkirk North	62,384	4.1%	Falkirk 3-6
Falkirk South	63,006	5.2%	Falkirk 1,2,7-9

27. The advantages of this suggestion are it:
- does not split any wards;
 - follows both ward and council area boundaries in Falkirk;
 - presents equal electorate in each constituency; and

- is similar to the existing UK Parliament constituencies in the area, although these will be changing when the 2023 Review of UK Parliament constituencies is enacted.

28. The disadvantages of this suggestion are it makes changes to the existing arrangements which received no opposition during the consultation and offer equally acceptable variation from the electoral quota.

Clackmannanshire Consultation Responses and Analysis

29. Keith Brown MSP for Clackmannanshire and Dunblane made an alternative suggestion. He suggested including the area of Causewayhead, just north of Stirling, in the proposed Clackmannanshire & Dunblane constituency to improve connectivity, cohesion and accessibility within the constituency as well as limiting the geographical size.

30. If the Commission were to adopt this suggestion, he would suggest naming the constituency Clackmannanshire and Allan Water because it references the communities of Bridge of Allan, Clackmannanshire and Dunblane. If the Commission retained the provisional proposals, he advised the Commission should consider an alternative constituency name to reflect the communities of Doune, Blair Drummond and Thornhill. See table below Appendix B for a map of this suggestion.

Suggested constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Clackmannanshire and Allan Water	56,732	-5.3%	Clackmannanshire - all Stirling 3, 4(part)
Stirling	54,302	-9.3%	Stirling 1, 2, 4(part), 5 - 7

31. The advantages of this suggestion are it:

- would minimise change to the existing arrangements;
- would split fewer wards than the provisional proposals; and
- makes use of the River Teith to create a strong bounding feature in the area.

32. The disadvantages of this suggestion are variation from electoral quota in the suggested Stirling constituency is -9%.

All Scotland Consultation Responses

33. Over 60 responses made general comments opposing the review or made comments out-with the legislation.
34. Six responses made general comments supporting the review.
35. A further 18 responses commented on more than one area. This included a member of the public who supported the proposed Falkirk constituencies but suggested an alternative Clackmannanshire and Dunblane constituency boundary. Their suggestion would include most of the Stirling, Bannockburn ward but not the town of Bannockburn, in a Clackmannanshire and Dunblane constituency.
36. This suggestion is mapped in Appendix D and see table below.

Suggested constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Clackmannanshire and Dunblane	58,323	-2.6%	Clackmannanshire All wards Stirling 3, 4(part), 7(part)
Stirling	52,711	-12.0%	Stirling 1,2,4(part),5,6,7(part)

37. The advantages of this suggestion are it:
- splits only two wards as in the provisional proposals;
 - seeks to minimise change from the existing arrangements; and
 - uses boundaries previously used for Scottish Parliament constituencies in the area.
38. The disadvantages of this suggestion are it proposes variation from the electoral quota for the Stirling constituency at -12%.
39. Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party made no comment on the proposed constituency boundaries or names for this grouping other than to restate their position from the First Review when they opposed the placing of Clackmannanshire in a constituency with Bridge of Allan and Dunblane.

Summary

40. The existing Clackmannanshire and Dunblane constituency has a variation from the electoral quota of nearly -13%.

41. The Commission's provisional proposals minimised change to the existing constituencies by Doune and made no changes to the two constituencies covering Falkirk Council area.
42. None of the Council's opposed the provisional proposals or requested a local inquiry and less than 100 members of the public responded to the consultation.
43. Most responses opposed the proposed boundary by Doune and stated Clackmannanshire has no connection with Doune and its neighbouring communities.
44. There was a suggestion to amend the proposed boundary by Bannockburn. The suggestion would avoid Doune being placed in the same constituency as Clackmannanshire but it offered wide variation from the electorate quota.
45. There was a suggestion to amend the proposed boundary by Causewayhead, between Bridge of Allan and Stirling. The suggestion would avoid Doune being placed in the same constituency as Clackmannanshire and would create an easily identifiable constituency boundary.
46. There was a suggestion to amend the boundary in Falkirk Council area, by following ward boundaries. The suggestion presented acceptable variation from the electoral quota and was similar to UK Parliament constituency boundaries.

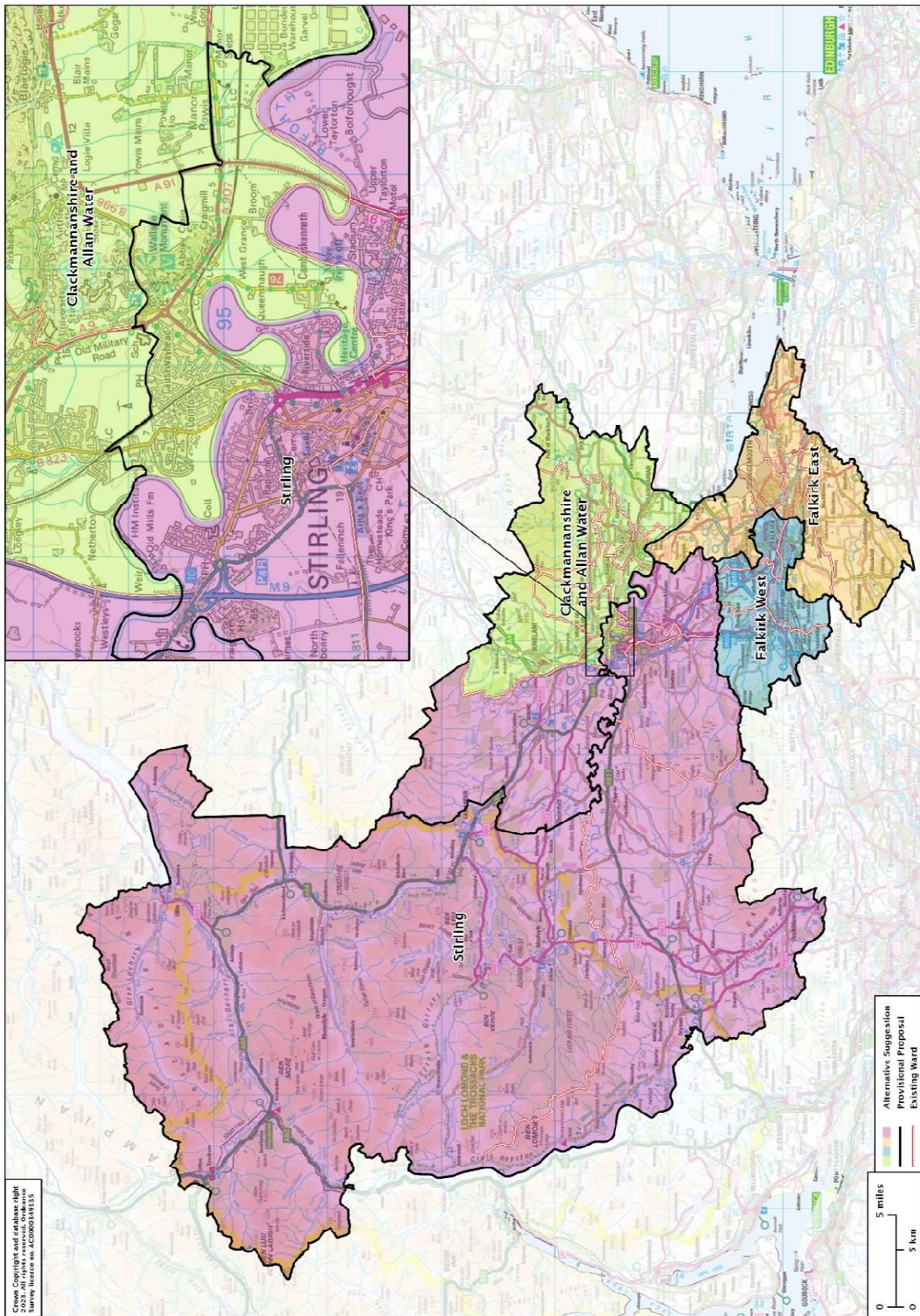
Recommendations

47. Taking into account all of the evidence arising from the public consultations on the provisional proposals, the Secretariat invites the Commission to decide whether to:
 - adopt the published provisional proposals as its final recommendations subject to satisfactory design in other groupings being agreed;
 - amend its proposals for constituency boundaries or names and consult upon them again; and
 - hold a local inquiry.

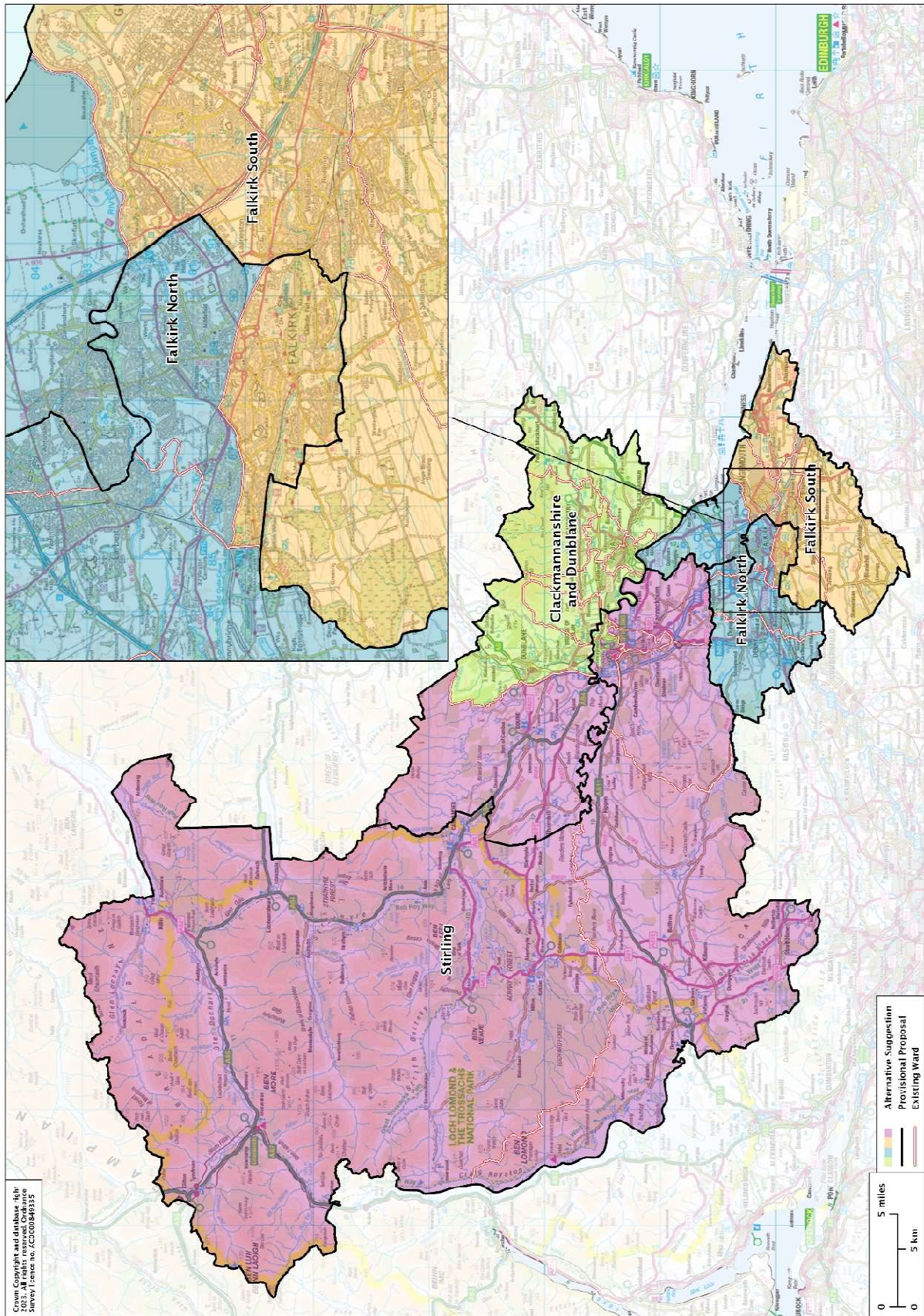
Secretariat

August 2023

Alternative Suggestion – Causewayhead with Clackmannanshire and Dunblane



Alternative Suggestion – Falkirk North and South constituencies



Alternative Suggestion – Bannockburn Village in Stirling constituency

