

Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries
Consideration of responses to consultation on provisional proposals for
constituency boundaries – Dumfries and Galloway Council area

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 Dumfries and Galloway Council area or hold a local inquiry.

Background

2. The electorates of the two existing Scottish Parliament constituencies within Dumfries and Galloway Council area are shown in the table below:

Existing constituencies	Electorate	Variation from the electoral quota	Wards
Dumfriesshire	61,848	3.2%	1,2,3,4,5,6,7
Galloway and West Dumfries	57,094	-4.7%	7,8,9,10,11,12

3. The provisional proposals aimed to adhere to the principles of the review. The provisional proposals: had regard to the Dumfries and Galloway Council area boundary and retained the two existing constituencies unchanged wholly within it that offered an equal balance of electors while considering local ties.
4. Dumfries and Galloway Council has an electorate of 118,942 with an entitlement to 1.99 constituencies. Therefore there was no advantage in combining this council area with a neighbouring council area. The existing arrangements had two constituencies wholly within Dumfries and Galloway Council area.
5. Dumfries and Galloway Council did not respond to the consultation on provisional proposals or request a local inquiry and neither did a body of 100 electors resident in any of the proposed constituencies.
6. A map of the provisional proposals is at Appendix A.

Dumfries and Galloway Consultation Responses and Analysis

7. There were no responses commenting solely on the provisional proposals for Dumfries and Galloway council area.

All Scotland Consultation Responses

8. Over 60 responses made general comments opposing the review or made comments out-with the legislation.
9. Six responses made general comments supporting the review.
10. A further 18 responses commented on more than one area. This included the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party who supported no change to the existing arrangements.

Summary

11. The Commission's provisional proposals retained the existing: constituency boundaries and names.
12. There was no opposition or alternative suggestions to the provisional proposals for Dumfries and Galloway Council area.

Recommendations

13. 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

Provisional Proposals – for Dumfries and Galloway Council area

