

**Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries
Draft Revised Proposals for Constituencies - East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde,
Glasgow City and Renfrewshire Council areas**

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to agree its Revised Proposals for constituencies in East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Glasgow City and Renfrewshire Council areas, in light of the report from Assistant Commissioner Murphy on the Local Inquiry held in that area.

Background

2. The Commission agreed its provisional proposals after consideration of Papers BS41 and BS49 at its meetings of 9 March 2023 and 5 April 2023 respectively. The Commission agreed to consult on 12 constituencies within East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Glasgow City and Renfrewshire Council areas. The provisional proposals made changes to all of the existing constituency boundaries in order to improve variation from the electorate quota as ten of the existing 13 constituencies were below the electorate quota.
3. A table of the provisional proposals is shown in the table below and a map is shown in Appendix A.

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Glasgow Anniesland	60,545	1.1%	Glasgow 12-14
Glasgow Cardonald and Pollok	54,058	-9.8%	Glasgow 2(part), 3(part), 4, 6
Glasgow Central and Govan	61,924	3.4%	Glasgow 5, 8(part), 9(part), 10
Glasgow Kelvin and Maryhill	64,836	8.2%	Glasgow 16(part), 11, 15, 23
Glasgow Priesthill and Giffnock	63,822	6.5%	East Renfrewshire 3,4 Glasgow 2(part), 3(part)
Glasgow Shettleston and Baillieston	65,738	9.7%	Glasgow 9(part), 18-20
Glasgow Southside and Cathcart	58,859	-1.7%	Glasgow 1, 7, 8(part)
Glasgow Springburn and Provan	59,829	-0.1%	Glasgow 16(part), 17, 21-22
Inverclyde	60,794	1.5%	Inverclyde - all
Paisley and Renfrew	63,856	6.6%	Renfrewshire 1-3, 5-6, 7(part)
Renfrewshire South	61,966	3.4%	Renfrewshire 7(part),8(part),9 East Renfrewshire 1, 2, 5
Renfrewshire West	61,690	3.0%	Renfrewshire 4, 8(part), 10-12

4. The Commission consulted on its provisional proposals between 16 May and 17 June 2023.
5. The Commission considered responses to the consultation for East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Glasgow City and Renfrewshire Council areas at its meeting of 14 November (Paper BS77) and that paper is attached as an Annex. The Commission

agreed to conduct a local inquiry within these areas because both East Renfrewshire Council and Renfrewshire Council objected to the proposals and over 2,000 respondents opposed the proposals.

6. Paper BS 77 included a number of alternative suggestions that were submitted during the initial consultation.

Local Inquiry

7. Sheriff Principal Murphy (North Strathclyde Sheriffdom) acted as Assistant Commissioner at the local inquiry relating to this grouping held at: Lynnhurst Hotel, Park Road, Johnstone; and Parklands Hotel & Country Club, Ayr Road, Newton Mearns on Thursday 14 December 2023. There were representations from local councillors, MSPs, Councils, community groups and members of the public.
8. The Assistant Commissioner has submitted his report for the Inquiry to the Commission and it appears at Appendix B. A full transcript of the Johnstone part of the local inquiry is available at Appendix C1 and the Newton Mearns transcript is at Appendix C2.
9. The main issue raised at the Johnstone local inquiry was opposition to the proposals that divided Johnstone between two constituencies. The comments made at the local inquiry were similar to those received during the public consultation on provisional proposals for constituencies. In summary:
 - Councillor Andy Doig (Johnstone North, Kilbarchan, Howwood and Lochwinnoch) opposed the proposed boundary in Johnstone and explained his alternative suggestion submitted during the earlier consultation stage. The suggestion is described in Paper BS 77.
 - Johnstone Community Council opposed the proposals because they split Johnstone between two constituencies.
 - Councillor Janis McDonald (Paisley Northwest) opposed the proposals and supported Councillor Doig's alternative suggestion.
 - Councillor Andy Steel (Johnstone South and Elderslie) stated the proposals break local ties in Johnstone. He suggested two alternatives to keep Johnstone in a single constituency.
 - Councillor Ian McMillan (Johnstone South and Elderslie) and Councillor Chris Gilmour (Johnstone North, Kilbarchan, Howwood and Lochwinnoch) both opposed the proposals because they break historical ties in Johnstone and with Kilbarchan, Lochwinnoch and Howwood, areas connected by the A737 road and railway line.
 - Neil Bibby MSP, West of Scotland region, opposed the proposals. He stated there is little to connect Johnstone with East Renfrewshire and made an alternative suggestion in conjunction with the Scottish Labour Party.
 - Renfrewshire Council opposed the provisional proposals. They believe the Commission did not consider the review rules and they should consider a

wider grouping of council areas that includes East Dunbartonshire, South Lanarkshire and, or North Lanarkshire.

10. The main issue raised at the Newton Mearns local inquiry was opposition to the proposed Glasgow Priesthill and Giffnock constituency because there is little to connect communities in Glasgow with East Renfrewshire.
 - East Renfrewshire Council opposed the proposals because they do not consider social, cultural or geographical ties. They wish to retain the existing Eastwood constituency.
 - Jackson Carlaw, MSP for Eastwood constituency, opposed the proposals because they do not consider historical ties. He supported the comments made by East Renfrewshire Council and also wished to retain the existing Eastwood constituency.
 - A member of the public opposed the proposals because they do not consider cultural ties.
 - Thornliebank Community Council opposed the proposals because they have no ties with Glasgow. They wish Thornliebank to remain in a constituency with other East Renfrewshire communities.
 - Glasgow City Councillors Ahmed (Greater Pollok) and Curran (Newlands/Auldburn) both supported the proposed Glasgow Priesthill and Giffnock constituency because there are links between communities in these areas.
 - Councillor Hussain (Greater Pollok) opposed the proposals because there are poor transport links within the proposed Glasgow Priesthill and Giffnock constituency. He supported the comments from East Renfrewshire Council.
11. The Assistant Commissioners report acknowledged that the proposed boundaries in East Renfrewshire and the division of Johnstone between constituencies were the most common areas of discussion.
12. He believed consideration should be given to splitting a larger town such as Paisley rather than splitting Johnstone between constituencies.
13. He noted there was unanimous opposition to the proposals in East Renfrewshire but some support in Glasgow although it was unclear how many from Glasgow may support the proposals.
14. The Assistant Commissioners report stated modern communication systems avoided the need for in-person meetings between constituents and their MSP.
15. The Assistant Commissioner did not make any recommendations but believed all of the alternative suggestions were worthy of consideration and any revised proposals that minimised change to the existing arrangements may have some merit.

Options

16. The Commission is invited to consider alternative options and suggestions for constituencies.
17. The maps in this paper show alternative suggestions in block colours and existing ward boundaries in red. The black line mainly denotes existing boundaries unless otherwise stated.
18. There were a number of alternative suggestions provided in Paper BS 77, attached as an Annex, and at the local inquiry.
19. The Commission will wish to review Paper BS 77 again, it considered alternative suggestions from:
 - Broom, Kirkhill and Mearnskirik Community Council (Appendix C) considered local ties in Renfrewshire but created a constituency which included parts of three council areas and had little to connect Lochwinnoch and Pollokshaws within it.
 - East Renfrewshire Council (Appendix D) considered local ties in East Renfrewshire but two constituencies had variations from the electorate quota over 20%.
 - Cllr Graham and Cllr Gilmour (Appendix E) considered local ties in Renfrewshire but it would retain a Glasgow-East Renfrewshire constituency.
 - Cllr Andy Doig (Appendix F) considered local ties in Renfrewshire but it would retain a Glasgow-East Renfrewshire constituency.
 - Neil Bibby MSP (Appendix G) considered local ties in Renfrewshire but it would retain a Glasgow-East Renfrewshire constituency.
 - Cllr Alexander Belic (Appendix H) combined Glasgow with East Renfrewshire but two constituencies had variations from the electorate quota over 30%.
 - Cllr Angus Millar (Appendix I) considered local ties in Glasgow.
 - Bob Doris MSP (Appendix J) considered local ties in Possilpark, Glasgow.
 - The Glasgow Green Party (Appendix K) considered local ties in Glasgow. They did not offer any suggested boundaries in East Renfrewshire or Renfrewshire.
 - Glasgow City Council (Appendix L) considered local ties in Glasgow but it would retain a Glasgow-East Renfrewshire constituency.
 - A member of the public considered local ties in Renfrewshire but one constituency had variation from the electorate quota at 16% (Appendix M1) and they also considered local ties in Glasgow (Appendix M2).
 - The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party (Appendix N1, N2) made two suggestions for the south of Glasgow, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire.
 - A member of the public (Appendix O) designed 12 new constituencies but one included parts of South Lanarkshire.
 - A member of the public (Appendix P) considered local ties in Renfrewshire but one constituency had variation from the electorate quota at 18%
20. At the local inquiry alternative suggestions were discussed from:
 - Cllr Doig (Renfrewshire Council) who explained his earlier submission, this is discussed in Paper 77 (Appendix F).

- Cllr Steel (Renfrewshire Council) presented two alternative suggestions to keep Johnstone in a single constituency.
- Neil Bibby MSP /Scottish Labour Party made an alternative suggestion to preserve local ties in Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire.

Councillor Steel suggestion

21. Councillor Steel suggested two alternative ways of placing Johnstone in a single constituency while considering local ties. Both suggestions only make changes to the proposed Renfrewshire South and Renfrewshire West constituencies. He acknowledged the suggestions may not be an ideal solution but they kept Johnstone in a single constituency.

22. Suggestion 1 places all of Johnstone in a Renfrewshire South constituency along with Lochwinnoch, Neilston, Barrhead and Newton Mearns.

23. A table of suggestion 1 is shown below and a map can be found at Appendix D.

Cllr Steel Suggestion 1			
Constituency Name	Electorate	Variation from Electoral Quota	Wards
Paisley and Renfrew	63,856	6.6%	Renfrewshire 1,2,3,5,6,7(part)
Renfrewshire South	66,480	11.0%	East Renfrewshire 1,2,5 Renfrewshire 7(part),8(part),9(part)
Renfrewshire West	57,176	-4.6%	Renfrewshire 4,8(part),9(part), 10,11,12

24. The advantages of Cllr Steel suggestion 1 are that it:

- places the whole of Johnstone and neighbouring Elderslie in a single constituency (rule 4); and
- makes minimal changes to the provisional proposals in the suggested constituencies (rule 4).

25. The disadvantages of Cllr Steel suggestion 1 are that it:

- may break local ties between Kilbarchan and Johnstone (rule 4);
- creates a Renfrewshire South constituency with variation from the electoral quota over 10% (rule 2);
- retains the proposed Glasgow Priesthill and Giffnock constituency which was strongly opposed (Rule 1); and
- retains a Renfrewshire South constituency that extends from Lochwinnoch to Newton Mearns and Eaglesham, which was strongly opposed during the consultation (rule 4).

26. Councillor Steel suggestion 2 places Lochwinnoch in a Renfrewshire West constituency.

27. A table of suggestion 2 is shown below and a map can be found at Appendix E.

Cllr Steel Suggestion 2			
Constituency Name	Electorate	Variation from Electoral Quota	Wards
Paisley and Renfrew	63,856	6.6%	Renfrewshire 1,2,3,5,6,7(part)
Renfrewshire South	63,371	5.8%	East Renfrewshire 1,2,5 Renfrewshire 7(part),9(part)
Renfrewshire West	60,285	0.6%	Renfrewshire 4,8,9(part),10,11,12

28. The advantages of Steel suggestion 2 are that it:

- places the whole of Johnstone and neighbouring Elderslie in a single constituency (rule 4); and
- makes minimal changes to the provisional proposals in the suggested constituencies (rule 4).

29. The disadvantages of Steel suggestion 2 are that it:

- may break local ties between Kilbarchan and Johnstone (rule 4); and
- retains the proposed Glasgow Priesthill and Giffnock constituency which was strongly opposed (Rule 1).

Scottish Labour Party and Neil Bibby MSP Suggestion

30. The suggestion from Neil Bibby MSP and the Scottish Labour Party places Johnstone in a single constituency.

31. They suggest a:

- Paisley North and Johnstone constituency that they believe would create a better shaped constituency and recognise community ties.
- Paisley South and East Renfrewshire constituency that includes Barrhead and Newton Mearns from East Renfrewshire with Paisley South.
- Renfrewshire North and West constituency which includes Renfrew, Houston, Bishopton, Bridge of Weir and Erskine.

32. A table of this suggestion is shown below and a map can be found at Appendix F.

Scottish Labour Party and Neil Bibby MSP Suggestion			
Constituency Name	Electorate	Variation from Electoral Quota	Wards
Paisley North and Johnstone	61,041	1.9%	Renfrewshire 3,4,5,6(part), 7(part),8,9
Paisley South and East Renfrewshire	64,260	7.3%	East Renfrewshire 1,2,5 Renfrewshire 6(part),7(part)
Renfrewshire North and West	62,211	3.9%	Renfrewshire 1,2,10,11,12

33. The advantages of Neil Bibby MSP/Scottish Labour Party suggestion are that it:

- presents acceptable variation from electoral parity in suggested constituencies (Rule 2); and
- maintains local ties in Johnstone and the North and West of Renfrewshire (Rule 4).

34. The disadvantages of Neil Bibby MSP/Scottish Labour suggestion are that it:

- presents an unusually shaped Paisley North and Johnstone constituency; and
- retains the proposed Glasgow Priesthill and Giffnock constituency which was strongly opposed (Rule 1).

Alternative Option 1 – existing grouping

35. Option 1 proposes an alternative constituency design within the grouping of East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Glasgow City and Renfrewshire Council areas.

36. Option 1 retains none of the existing constituency boundaries.

37. Option 1 proposes:

- the same Inverclyde constituency from the provisional proposals.
- an Eastwood constituency that follows ward boundaries in East Renfrewshire. It is similar to the existing Eastwood constituency boundary but also includes Neilston.
- a Paisley constituency, placing all five Paisley wards in one constituency. The proposed constituency also includes Gallowhill in the north-east of Paisley. The boundary follows the M8 motorway and splits one ward, Renfrew South and Gallowhill. The constituency also includes Glasgow Airport but creates an oddly-shaped constituency. The Commission could also use the M8 motorway to split the Paisley Northwest ward there. About 10 electors reside in the north of the Paisley Northwest ward, north of the M8.
- a Renfrewshire West constituency, that includes Barrhead (East Renfrewshire) and the western half of Renfrewshire (Johnstone, Bridge of Weir, Lochwinnoch). The existing Renfrewshire South constituency includes Barrhead, Johnstone and Lochwinnoch.
- an Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald constituency that follows the southern bank of the River Clyde. It includes Erskine and Renfrew as well as Govan and Cardonald in Glasgow. The 2023 Review of UK Parliament constituencies recommended a Paisley and Renfrewshire North which crossed the Glasgow-Renfrewshire Council area boundary and includes Bishopton, Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald.
- five Glasgow constituencies that follow ward boundaries. The other two constituencies split two wards. The Govan ward is split by following the A739 (Clyde Tunnel road), partly a community council area and polling district boundary. The Canal ward, in the north of Glasgow, is split by following the Forth and Clyde canal and the A879 road (Balmore Road, Saracen Street), a school catchment area, and partly a community council area and polling district boundary.

38. A table of Option 1 – existing grouping is shown in the table below and a map is shown in Appendix G.

Option 1 – existing grouping			
Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Inverclyde	60,794	1.5%	All wards
Paisley	58,570	-2.2%	Renfrewshire 2(part), 3-7
Eastwood	60,536	1.1%	East Renfrewshire 2-5
Renfrewshire West	65,751	9.8%	East Renfrewshire 1 Renfrewshire 8-11
Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald	55,859	-6.7%	Renfrewshire 1,2(part), 12 Glasgow 4, 5(part)
Glasgow Central	61,799	3.2%	Glasgow 5(part), 6, 10
Glasgow Southern	66,213	10.5%	Glasgow 1-3
Glasgow South Eastern	64,249	7.3%	Glasgow 7-9
Glasgow Western	60,545	1.1%	Glasgow 12-14
Glasgow Northern	64,836	8.0%	Glasgow 11, 15, 16(part), 23
Glasgow North Eastern	59,829	0.0%	Glasgow 16(part), 17, 21-22
Glasgow Eastern	58,936	-2.0%	Glasgow 18-20

39. The advantages of Option 1 are that it:

- avoids Johnstone being split between two constituencies and a Glasgow Priesthill and Giffnock constituency. Both were strongly opposed during the consultation (Rule 4).
- proposes a number of constituencies similar to the existing constituencies (Paisley, Renfrewshire West, Glasgow Western, Glasgow Southern) (Rule 4).
- Splits two wards in Glasgow to better reflect local ties there (Rule 4).

40. The disadvantages of Option 1 are that it:

- proposes an Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald constituency that crosses the Glasgow-Renfrewshire Council area boundary, although the 2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies recommended a Paisley and Renfrewshire North constituency that includes Cardonald (Rule 1); and
- proposes a Glasgow Central constituency that includes Govan and the city centre. The provisional proposals proposed a Glasgow Central and Govan constituency which a few respondents opposed because it covered both sides of the Clyde and there was little to connect communities within it (Rule 4).

Alternative Option 2 – existing grouping

41. Option 2 proposes a further alternative constituency design within the grouping of East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Glasgow City and Renfrewshire Council areas that aims to consider ward boundaries.

42. Option 2 proposes:

- the same Eastwood and Inverclyde constituencies as Option 1.
- three Glasgow constituencies similar to existing boundaries (Glasgow Western, Glasgow Northern, Glasgow North Central).
- three Glasgow constituencies that follow ward boundaries. The other four Glasgow constituencies split four wards:
 - Langside ward is split by following a railway line, also partly a community council area and polling district boundary.

- Southside Central ward is split by following Cathcart Road, also partly a polling district boundary.
- Shettleston ward is split by following Killin Street, Carmyle Avenue and a railway line. The boundary also follows community council area, historic ward and polling district boundaries.
- Dennistoun ward is split by following the M8 motorway, also a community council area and polling district boundary.
- a Barrhead, Johnstone and Paisley South constituency that follows ward boundaries.
- a Paisley North and a Paisley South constituency.
- a Renfrewshire West and Paisley North constituency that includes Cardonald in Glasgow. The 2023 Review of UK Parliament constituencies recommended a boundary that includes Cardonald with parts of Renfrewshire.

43. A table of Option 2 – existing grouping is shown in the table below and a map is shown in Appendix H.

Option 2 – existing grouping			
Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Inverclyde	60,794	1.5%	All wards
Barrhead, Johnstone and Paisley South	61,300	2.3%	East Renfrewshire 1 Renfrewshire 6-9
Eastwood	60,536	1.1%	East Renfrewshire 2-5
Renfrewshire West and Paisley North	59,450	-0.8%	Renfrewshire 2(part), 3-5 Glasgow 4
Renfrewshire North	58,269	-2.7%	Renfrewshire 1, 2(part), 10-12
Glasgow South Central	63,746	6.4%	Glasgow 5, 6, 7(part), 8(part)
Glasgow Southern	66,213	10.5%	Glasgow 1-3
Glasgow Eastern	65,301	9.0%	Glasgow 7(part), 8(part), 9, 19(part), 22(part)
Glasgow Western	60,545	1.1%	Glasgow 12-14
Glasgow North Central	61,203	2.2%	Glasgow 10-11, 23
Glasgow North Eastern	62,089	3.7%	Glasgow 18, 19(part), 20-21
Glasgow Northern	58,471	-2.4%	Glasgow 15-17, 22(part)

44. The advantages of Option 2 are that it:

- avoids Johnstone being split between two constituencies and a Glasgow Priesthill and Giffnock constituency. Both were strongly opposed during the consultation.
- proposes three Glasgow constituencies similar to the existing constituencies (Rule 4); and
- avoids a Govan – city centre constituency which was opposed during consultation (Rule 4);

45. The disadvantages of Option 2 are that it:

- proposes a Renfrewshire West and Paisley North constituency that crosses the Glasgow-Renfrewshire Council area boundary. The 2023 Review

recommended a Paisley and Renfrewshire North constituency containing North Cardonald (Rule 1);

46. At its meeting of 5 October 2023, the Commission also discussed Paper BS 73 - Alternative constituency design groupings - and asked the Secretariat to develop alternative proposals for constituencies based on different council area groupings that might identify improvements to the provisional proposals. One alternative option has also been developed.

New grouping option - East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Glasgow City, Renfrewshire, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Council areas

47. This new grouping option proposes 17 constituencies within a grouping of East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Glasgow City, Renfrewshire, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Council areas. This option should be considered with Paper BS 83 East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Council areas.

48. The new grouping proposes to:

- retain three of the existing Glasgow constituencies, north of the Clyde (Glasgow Anniesland, Glasgow Provan and Glasgow Shettleston);
- make minor changes to a further two constituencies (Glasgow Kelvin and Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn) to address the low electorate of the existing Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn constituency. It has 52,341 electors;
- retain the River Clyde as a strong boundary in Glasgow and proposes three Glasgow constituencies south of the Clyde. The Glasgow Southside and Cathcart constituency has variation from electorate quota of 11.7% but the southern Glasgow constituencies have strong easily identifiable boundaries, the M77 motorway and railway lines act as boundaries;
- creates an elongated Barrhead, Cardonald and Pollok constituency. Rural Uplawmoor with only 700 electors, to the west of Barrhead, could be added to a neighbouring constituency to create a more urban Barrhead, Cardonald and Pollok constituency;
- Inverclyde, Paisley and Eastwood constituencies as proposed in Option 1;
- An Ayr, Troon and Prestwick constituency that follows the same boundary as the existing Ayr constituency;
- Three Ayrshire constituencies (South East Ayrshire; Kilmarnock; and Irvine, Kilwinning and the Three Towns) similar to the existing boundaries but named differently. The South-East Ayrshire constituency includes parts of three council areas. It includes Dreghorn, to the south of Irvine from North Ayrshire. Otherwise the Irvine, Kilwinning and the Three Towns would have 69,437 electors and variation from the electorate quota at 15.9%. The Irvine South ward is split by following a river and streams at Dreghorn;
- Johnstone, Dalry and Arran constituency that follows the A737, the main road that links North Ayrshire with Glasgow and Paisley. Arran could be included in a constituency with Ardrossan (Irvine, Kilwinning and the Three Towns) but it would propose a constituency with approximately 68,500 electors.

49. A table of the new grouping option is shown in the table below and a map is shown in Appendix 11 and 12.

New grouping option - East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Glasgow City, Renfrewshire, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Council areas			
Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Ayr, Troon and Prestwick	62,566	4.4%	South Ayrshire 1-5
Barrhead, Cardonald and Pollok	62,083	3.6%	Glasgow 3-4 East Renfrewshire 1
Eastwood	60,536	1.1	East Renfrewshire 2-5
Glasgow Anniesland	55,540	-7.3%	tbc
Glasgow Govan, Pollokshaws and Pollokshields	60,529	1.0%	Glasgow 2, 5-6
Glasgow Kelvin	56,071	-6.4%	Glasgow 10,11,12,15(part), 16(part),23(part)
Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn	58,331	-2.6%	Glasgow 15(part),16(part),17(part), 22(part),23(part)
Glasgow Provan	56,025	-6.5%	Glasgow 17(part),18,20,21,22(part)
Glasgow Shettleston	59,014	-1.5%	Glasgow 9,18(part),19,20(part)
Glasgow Southside and Cathcart	66,900	11.7%	Glasgow 1, 7-8
Inverclyde	60,794	1.5%	Inverclyde - all wards
Irvine, Kilwinning and the Three Towns	64,562	7.8%	North Ayrshire 3, 5-8, 9(part)
Johnstone, Dalry and Arran	63,720	6.4%	Renfrewshire 8-9 North Ayrshire 1-2, 4
Kilmarnock	65,558	9.4%	East Ayrshire 1-6(part)
North Renfrewshire	58,269	-2.7%	Renfrewshire 1, 2(part), 10-12
Paisley	58,570	-2.2%	Renfrewshire 2(part) 3-7
South-East Ayrshire	64,277	7.3%	East Ayrshire 6(part),7 North Ayrshire 9(part) South Ayrshire 6-8

50. The advantages of the new grouping option are that it:

- retains four existing constituencies (Glasgow Anniesland, Glasgow Provan, Glasgow Shettleston and Ayr) (Rule 4);
- proposes a number of other constituencies similar to the existing constituencies (Paisley, Eastwood, Kilmarnock, South-East Ayrshire, Glasgow Kelvin and Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn) (Rule 4);
- uses the River Clyde to retain an easily identifiable boundary in Glasgow (Rule 4);
- avoids Johnstone being split between two constituencies and a Glasgow Priesthill and Giffnock constituency. Both were strongly opposed during the consultation.
- presents only one constituency with variation from the electoral quota outwith 10%, Glasgow Southside and Cathcart. It has strong boundaries: council area boundary; River Clyde; and railway lines (Rule 2).

51. The disadvantages of the new grouping are:
- there is little to connect Johnstone with Arran other than the A737 road in a Johnstone, Dalry and Arran constituency (Rule 4);
 - proposes a constituency covering parts of three council areas, although this is to improve variation from the electorate quota in the proposed Irvine, Kilwinning and the Three Towns constituency (Rule 2);
 - Arran is placed in a different constituency to Ardrossan which may break local ties and ferry transport links (Rule 4). Although there have been recent discussions that Troon could replace Ardrossan as the ferry terminal; and
 - The three Ayrshire Councils provide shared local services within Ayrshire and may oppose a North Ayrshire-Renfrewshire constituency and any attendant impact on electoral administration in the area (Rule 1 and 4).

Summary

52. The existing constituencies were created in a grouping of five constituencies within East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire Council areas and a grouping of eight constituencies within Glasgow City Council area.
53. Ten of the existing 13 constituencies within East Renfrewshire, Glasgow, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire Council areas have an electorate below the electorate quota of 59,902.
54. For the Second Review: East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire Council areas now have an entitlement to 4.6 constituencies; while Glasgow has an entitlement to 7.7 constituencies.
55. The provisional proposals proposed 12 new constituency boundaries within East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Glasgow City and Renfrewshire Council areas.
56. During the consultation on provisional proposals for constituencies, both East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire Council objected to the proposals, triggering a local inquiry. There was strong opposition to: a Glasgow Priesthill and Giffnock constituency because there was little to connect communities in East Renfrewshire and Glasgow; splitting Johnstone between constituencies; and a Renfrewshire South constituency with little to connect communities within it.
57. There was support for the proposed Inverclyde constituency and few comments within Glasgow.
58. At the local inquiry similar issues were raised that had been submitted during the earlier consultation.
59. The Assistant Commissioners Report made no recommendations but stated that all of the alternatives were worthy of consideration.
60. Inverclyde, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire Council areas have a total of 277,905 electors and an entitlement to 4.6 constituencies. Four constituencies within Inverclyde, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire Council areas would have an average electorate of 69,476 electors, while five constituencies would have an average electorate of 55,581. If the Commission agreed to five constituencies it would need to recommend seven constituencies in Glasgow with an average

electorate of 65,716 or consider a wider area. Glasgow has 460,012 electors and an entitlement to 7.7 constituencies. Therefore Inverclyde, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire Council areas have to be considered with a neighbouring council area or areas.

61. Inverclyde, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire Council areas neighbour Ayrshire, Glasgow, Dunbartonshire and Lanarkshire. The River Clyde acts as a natural boundary between Renfrewshire and Dunbartonshire. Higher ground partly acts as a natural boundary between Ayrshire and Renfrewshire/ Inverclyde. East Renfrewshire is close to South Lanarkshire but the closest town is East Kilbride and any proposals would likely require East Kilbride being split between two constituencies. East Kilbride currently sits in its own constituency. Since the 1950's the same UK Parliament constituency boundary has remained between Inverclyde and North Ayrshire. This boundary follows the historical county boundary between Ayrshire and Renfrewshire. Historically there has never been a Renfrewshire-Dunbarton, Renfrewshire-Glasgow, Renfrewshire-Ayrshire or Renfrewshire-Lanarkshire UK Parliament constituency.
62. The 2023 Review of UK Parliament constituencies has recommended a Paisley and Renfrewshire North constituency which crossed the Glasgow-Renfrewshire Council area boundary and it includes Bishopton, Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald. There are no strong bounding features between Glasgow and Renfrewshire Council areas by Cardonald, the boundary mainly follows the rear fence line of dwellings in that area.
63. There was strong opposition to the proposed Glasgow Priesthill and Giffnock constituency. It included: Busby, Clarkston and Giffnock from East Renfrewshire; along with Darnley, Newlands and Priesthill in Glasgow. The existing Eastwood constituency has 56,258 electors. By following ward boundaries and including Neilston the electorate would be 60,536. The existing East Renfrewshire UK Parliament constituency has remained relatively unchanged since the 1950's, although it has also been named Eastwood. Historically that constituency has always included Clarkston, Giffnock, Barrhead and Neilston.
64. A number of alternative suggestions were presented in Paper BS 77. The Commission will wish to review these again but few of them considered the whole area or addressed the proposed Glasgow Priesthill and Giffnock constituency. Two new alternative suggestions were presented for boundaries in Renfrewshire and parts of East Renfrewshire at the local inquiry but both would likely retain a Glasgow Priesthill and Giffnock constituency.
65. Two alternative options have been developed within East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Glasgow City and Renfrewshire Council areas. Both Option 1 and Option 2 avoid a Glasgow Priesthill and Giffnock constituency and splitting Johnstone between constituencies. Both options propose a constituency that includes Renfrewshire and Cardonald (Glasgow). The 2023 Review of UK Parliament constituencies recommended a Paisley and Renfrewshire North constituency that includes Bishopton, Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald
66. A further option has been developed to resolve issues raised during the consultation and at the local inquiry within a wider grouping of constituencies. It proposes 17 constituencies within East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Glasgow City, Renfrewshire, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Council areas. It considers a number of existing constituency boundaries but there was little

opposition to the provisional proposals in Ayrshire and there has never been an Ayrshire-Renfrewshire constituency. This option should be considered with Paper BS 83 East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Council areas.

Conclusion

67. The Commission is invited to agree its Revised Proposals constituencies in East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Glasgow City and Renfrewshire Council areas for public consultation, subject to satisfactory constituencies being designed in other groupings.

**Secretariat
February 2024**

Appendices B and C on website















