

Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries Consultation on Revised Proposals for Constituencies

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to consider preparations for its consultation on revised constituency boundaries.

Background - First Review

2. During the First Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries, the Commission consulted on revised constituency boundaries at the same time as provisional proposals for regions, across the whole of Scotland.
3. For the consultation on further recommendations for constituency boundaries, the Commission only consulted on three areas: Aberdeen City; Argyll and Bute; and the City of Edinburgh.

Consultation areas

4. The Commission will wish to consider whether to consult on revised proposals across the whole of Scotland or just those areas where there has been changes to the provisional proposals.
5. In some areas the revised proposals so far agreed (Appendix A) have:
 - made no changes from the provisional proposals;
 - reverted to existing boundaries; or
 - made minimal changes.
6. In other areas the Commission is considering alternative constituency design groupings and more substantial changes to the provisional proposals.

Constituency names

7. The Commission has still to agree constituency names and designations for its revised proposals. Constituency names can be considered by email after the Commission meeting of 22 February 2024 once all the revised proposals are agreed.

Timing

8. The Commission will wish to consider the timing of its revised consultation for constituencies.
9. Each consultation stage of the Review is for a period of one month.
10. The Easter holiday weekend is 29 March – 1 April 2024 with the Scottish Parliament in recess from 30 March to 14 April 2024.
11. Therefore, the Commission may wish to consult from mid-April to mid-May 2024, although there could be a UK General Election early May or later in the year.
12. Looking ahead, the Commission may also wish to consider when it conducts its consultation on region boundaries and possibly a further consultation on revised constituency boundaries. The Scottish Parliament summer recess is from 29 June to 1 September 2024.

Consultation materials

13. Several publications will be produced to assist stakeholders engage during the public consultation.
14. The materials will aim to provide further explanation of the review, the revised proposals and to avoid any misinformation.
15. During the provisional proposals consultation, the following materials were published:
 - news release with background information and summary of provisional proposals;
 - Summary of Provisional Proposals Booklet with some brief background information as well as maps and descriptions of each constituency; and
 - Policy and Procedures Booklet;
16. Similar materials will be produced for the revised consultation.

Advertising

17. Facebook had proven to be a more efficient outlet than Twitter (or X) for publicising consultations.
18. GIFs produced from the earlier consultation can be reused to accompany promoted posts on social media. The Commission may wish to focus Facebook adverts on specific areas rather than across the whole of Scotland.
19. Enquiries regarding radio advertising were made during the initial consultation stage but there was insufficient budget for this.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. Display points such as libraries, council offices, community centres, places of worship etc will be sent materials to help publicise the review as a place for inspection. The Secretariat can liaise with councils on the most suitable display point locations.
23. The Commission may wish to only send materials to areas where there has been change.

Consultation site

24. All advertising materials will encourage users to visit the consultation site, where comments can be submitted and alternative boundaries drawn on a map.
25. Users can submit comments on specific areas or Scotland-wide.
26. The Commission’s council area groupings will again be used as a focus of areas to comment on.

27. The consultation site will also provide copies of the consultation materials.
28. The Commission may wish to only open the consultation site for areas where there has been change.

Summary

29. At its meetings of 29 August 2023 the Commission considered responses to the initial consultation and agreed its revised proposals for all those areas where a local inquiry was not required, ie where a Council did not object to the provisional proposals for constituencies and nor did a body of 100 electors resident in any of the proposed constituencies. A table of these areas is produced in Appendix A with a brief description of changes from existing boundaries to provisional proposals and revised proposals.
30. The Commission has still to agree its revised proposals in areas where it conducted a local inquiry: East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire; City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian; Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire; East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire; and Argyll & Bute, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire Council areas.

Conclusion

31. Ahead of its consultation on revised proposals for constituencies, the Commission is invited to consider:
- the timing of the consultation stage;
 - whether it wishes to consult across the whole of Scotland or in specific areas; and
 - if it wishes to offer any suggestions for the revised constituency consultation stage.

**Secretariat,
February 2024**

Council area/ constituency grouping	Changes from existing boundaries to provisional proposals	Comments received during provisional consultation	Changes from provisional proposals to revised proposals
Dumfries and Galloway	No change.	None.	No change.
Perth and Kinross	Minor change to follow ward boundaries in Perth	None.	No change.
Dundee	No change.	None.	No change.
Fife	Changes by Mid Fife and Rosyth	Oppose changes	Reverted to existing constituency boundaries.
Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray	minor changes by Mintlaw and Strichen	Suggestions to avoid Longside being split	Minor changes by Arradoul and Longside.
Highland	Changes in Speyside	Suggestions for four Highland constituencies and follow ward boundary	Minor change by Grantown to follow ward boundary.
Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, and Stirling	Changes by Doune	Broke local ties by Doune.	Retained existing boundary by Doune. Minor change by Causewayhead (north of Stirling) instead.