

Interim Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries at Cardowan, Stepps – Timetable

Purpose

1. The Commission is invited to note this paper which lays out the key milestones of the agreed Interim Review of the Scottish Parliament constituency boundary between Glasgow Provan constituency and Coatbridge and Chryston constituency, and the Scottish Parliament region boundary between Glasgow region and Central Scotland region, at Cardowan, Stepps.

Background

2. The Initial Proposals, as agreed at the Commission's meeting of 17 June 2019, will be published in September 2019 for the statutory 1 month period of public consultation, lasting until October 2019.
3. To publicise the Initial Proposals, as required by the legislation, the Secretariat will place a notice in the Edinburgh Gazette, and a notice in local papers circulating in the affected constituencies. In addition, the Secretariat will write to national political parties, MSPs, MPs, local authorities, community councils and local residents.
4. Respondents will be encouraged to view the Commission's proposals and respond to them online, through the Commission's consultation hub.
5. The previous Scottish Parliament boundary review undertaken by the Boundary Commission for Scotland at Robroyston received two responses, one from each of the council areas affected.

Other considerations

6. Recommended changes to Scottish Parliament constituency and region boundaries as a result of the Interim Review will be submitted to Scottish Ministers in time to come into force for the next Scottish Parliament elections in May 2021. The next full review of Scottish Parliament boundaries is expected to take place between 2021 and 2024 subject to the expected Electoral Reform Bill.
7. The boundary between (Coatbridge Chryston and Bellshill) UK Parliament constituency and (Glasgow East) UK Parliament constituency is also out of alignment with the revised council area boundary in this area. A full review of UK Parliament constituencies was completed by the Boundary Commission for Scotland in September 2018 but, due to the timing of the enactment of the Commission's recommendations for the administrative area boundary review at Cardowan, the UK Parliament recommendations are based on the previous – and now outdated – council area boundaries. Under the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, there is no mechanism for an Interim Review of UK Parliament constituencies and the next review of UK Parliament constituency boundaries is, under current legislation, due to report in September 2023.

Publication of the report

8. Subject to responses to the public consultation on the Commission's Initial Proposals, and once they are agreed by the Commission, the Secretariat would hope to publish Final Recommendations in the first quarter of 2020. Any relevant representations objecting to the Initial Proposals may trigger a local inquiry and push back the development of Final Recommendations.

Recommendations

9. The Secretariat recommends that the Commission:
 - Note the provisional timetable for the Review and agree to consider updates on progress of the Review as it continues over the next 6–12 months.

Secretariat
July 2019