

LGBCS Paper 2538**Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries
Approach to constituency names and designations****Action required**

1. The Commission will wish to further consider its approach on the naming and designation of constituencies ahead of the Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries expected to commence in 2022.

Background

2. Following discussion of Paper LGBCS 2530 at its meeting of 21 July 2020, the Commission asked the Secretariat to draft a set of criteria for considering Scottish Parliament constituency names, including length of names, and use of localities and compass points. The Commission also asked the Secretariat to review the historical use of “burgh” or “county” designations.
3. The Boundary Commission for Scotland (BCS), advised it is content to continue its existing policy regarding the naming of constituencies, ahead of its 2023 Review of UK Parliament constituencies, but would be happy to engage with the Commission before confirming this. An extract from the BCS policy on naming and designation of constituencies for its 2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies is shown at Appendix A.

Constituency designations

4. Each constituency has to be designated as either a county constituency or a burgh constituency. These designations affect the allowable expenses for candidates during elections. The legislation does not state how to define designations.
5. The initial and current Scottish Parliament constituencies have followed previous practice by designating constituencies which comprise predominantly urban areas as burgh constituencies and constituencies which comprise predominantly rural areas as county constituencies. The Scottish Parliament designations have followed the UK Parliament designations because the initial Scottish Parliament constituencies were based on the UK Parliament constituencies as they stood in 1999.
6. Appendix B shows the area of the initial Scottish Parliament constituencies. Appendices C and D list the current Scottish and UK Parliament constituencies by area. They broadly demonstrate that constituencies with an area of less than 100 km² are designated as burgh constituencies while those over 100 km² are designated county constituencies. The Secretariat have considered historical UK Parliament constituencies and noted for example that the 1950–1955 constituencies had no burghs over 100 km² and only two county constituencies under 100 km² (Rutherglen, Bothwell).

Constituency names criteria

7. The current UK and Scottish Parliament constituency names differ most notably in the main cities. The Scottish Parliament constituency names in Glasgow use locality names such as Glasgow Kelvin or Glasgow Provan, while UK Parliament constituency names use compass points such as Glasgow East or Glasgow North. In Edinburgh, constituency names for both Parliaments use compass points. These are differentiated as Edinburgh Southern or Edinburgh Western for the Scottish Parliament and Edinburgh South or Edinburgh West for the UK Parliament.

8. When conducting its first review of Scottish Parliament boundaries BCS agreed that when using a compass point as part of a name, efforts should be made to avoid placing it at the beginning of the constituency name.
9. In addition BCS noted that respondents to the first review, particularly in Glasgow, identified a strong preference for constituency names which incorporated names of localities rather than compass points. By contrast, representations on constituencies in City of Edinburgh council area asked for constituency names incorporating compass points to be retained.
10. Taking all of these factors into account, the BCS agreed that it would be necessary for decisions on constituency names to be taken in the light of the individual circumstances surrounding them. They also noted that, historically, the BCS had adopted a general approach of following the advice on names provided by Councils and saw no reason to depart from that approach.
11. The Commission may wish to note that there are currently 8 instances where the constituency names for both UK and Scottish Parliaments are the same. These are either in cases where the constituency is close to or exactly coterminous with the council area (Moray, Argyll and Bute, Na h-Eileanan an Iar, East Lothian and Stirling) or where the parliamentary boundaries are close to coterminous and no obvious alternative exists (North East Fife, Motherwell and Wishaw, Airdrie and Shotts).
12. The Commission may wish to consider the following general criteria with a view to a simpler and potentially more consistent approach to constituency naming while specific criteria might be considered further when the 2nd Review commences:
 - have regard to the BCS policy on naming UK Parliament constituencies;
 - in order to minimise voter confusion, names of Scottish Parliament constituencies should in general differ from those of UK Parliament constituencies, where an appropriate and distinct alternative is available;
 - constituency names should reflect their geographic extents but, where possible, be short and should not attempt to describe an area exhaustively; and
 - consistency with historical names is important where a constituency is recognisably similar.
13. Consultation with the public remains a key part of the constituency naming process. The Commission will therefore continue to take all reasonable local views into account when considering constituency names.

Conclusion

14. A key element for the Commission to consider in developing its approach for naming constituencies will be to decide if they wish to ensure that constituency names differ for each parliament where an appropriate and distinct alternative is available.

Recommendation

15. The Commission is invited to consider the draft criteria and approach for the naming and designation of its proposed constituencies for the Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries expected to commence in 2022 and to share this with BCS.

Extract from BCS 2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies: Policies and Procedures

Naming and designation of constituencies

As part of a review, we recommend a name for each constituency, and whether it should be designated as a county constituency or a burgh constituency. The designation affects the expenses allowable at elections.

We have developed a set of guidelines when proposing names for constituencies:

- to use an existing constituency name where there is a successor constituency that is recognisably similar;
- to prefer constituency names that are short rather than attempt to describe an area exhaustively;
- to ensure that names of Scottish Parliament constituencies in general differ from those of Westminster constituencies where an appropriate and distinct alternative is available. Relying on word order alone (e.g. "Glasgow East" and "East Glasgow") or conjunctions (e.g. "North and East Fife" and "North East Fife") is generally not a sufficient difference;
- not to place compass points at the beginning of a name, in order to help make an alphabetically sorted list easier to use. We make an exception if a constituency is named after a council area or town which has a compass point at the start of its name (such as East Lothian or East Kilbride); and
- not to use the same name for a constituency and a council area unless the two are coterminous.

We take account of local views when recommending names for constituencies, and find suggestions from local authorities particularly useful.

We are required to designate each constituency as either a burgh or a county constituency, but the legislation does not define these terms. We consider that constituencies comprising predominantly urban areas will normally be designated as burgh constituencies, and constituencies which are predominantly rural will normally be designated as county constituencies.

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

Appendix B

Initial Scottish Parliament Constituencies (1999–2011)					
Name	Designation	Area (km ²)	Name	Designation	Area (km ²)
Glasgow Kelvin	Burgh	13	Eastwood	County	174
Glasgow Shettleston	Burgh	15	Linlithgow	County	200
Glasgow Anniesland	Burgh	16	Dunfermline East	County	207
Edinburgh Central	Burgh	17	Falkirk East	County	207
Edinburgh North and Leith	Burgh	17	Airdrie and Shotts	Burgh	225
Glasgow Cathcart	Burgh	18	Livingston	County	231
Glasgow Govan	Burgh	19	Midlothian	County	263
Glasgow Springburn	Burgh	20	East Kilbride	County	284
Glasgow Maryhill	Burgh	20	West Renfrewshire	County	288
Glasgow Pollok	Burgh	23	Kilmarnock and Loudoun	County	375
Dundee East	Burgh	23	Ochil	County	442
Edinburgh South	Burgh	24	Dumbarton	County	541
Dundee West	Burgh	25	East Lothian	County	690
Aberdeen Central	Burgh	25	Angus	County	757
Glasgow Rutherglen	Burgh	27	Cunninghame North	County	786
Edinburgh East and Musselburgh	Burgh	30	North East Fife	County	799
Glasgow Baillieston	Burgh	31	Orkney	County	1,086
Paisley South	Burgh	39	Banff and Buchan	County	1,209
Paisley North	Burgh	40	Clydesdale	County	1,387
Motherwell and Wishaw	Burgh	42	Perth	County	1,423
Hamilton North and Bellshill	Burgh	48	Shetland	County	1,656
Hamilton South	Burgh	63	Moray	County	1,939
Clydebank and Milngavie	County	66	Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley	County	1,975
Greenock and Inverclyde	County	74	Gordon	County	2,041
Coatbridge and Chryston	Burgh	77	Dumfries	County	2,083
Aberdeen South	Burgh	90	Stirling	County	2,178
Aberdeen North	Burgh	91	Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale	County	2,246
Edinburgh Pentlands	Burgh	92	Roxburgh and Berwickshire	County	2,589
Kirkcaldy	County	101	Western Isles	County	3,269
Edinburgh West	Burgh	105	West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine	County	3,407
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth	County	105	Galloway and Upper Nithsdale	County	4,593
Central Fife	County	105	North Tayside	County	5,257
Falkirk West	County	108	Argyll and Bute	County	6,768
Cunninghame South	County	118	Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross	County	8,358
Strathkelvin and Bearsden	County	135	Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber	County	8,798
Ayr	County	155	Ross, Skye and Inverness West	County	9,317
Dunfermline West	County	161			

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Appendix C

Current Scottish Parliament Constituencies (Since 2011)					
Name	Designation	Area (km ²)	Name	Designation	Area (km ²)
Glasgow Kelvin	Burgh	12	Midlothian North and Musselburgh	County	168
Glasgow Southside	Burgh	14	Renfrewshire South	County	169
Edinburgh Central	Burgh	15	Aberdeen South and North Kincardine	County	198
Edinburgh Northern and Leith	Burgh	16	Falkirk East	County	206
Glasgow Anniesland	Burgh	17	Linlithgow	County	209
Edinburgh Southern	Burgh	20	Dunfermline	County	213
Glasgow Cathcart	Burgh	24	Airdrie and Shotts	Burgh	214
Glasgow Pollok	Burgh	25	Almond Valley	County	223
Glasgow Shettleston	Burgh	25	Clackmannanshire and Dunblane	County	255
Aberdeen Central	Burgh	26	Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley	County	373
Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn	Burgh	27	Dumbarton	County	597
Dundee City East	Burgh	28	East Lothian	County	676
Glasgow Provan	Burgh	31	North East Fife	County	776
Edinburgh Eastern	Burgh	32	Cunninghame North	County	777
Rutherglen	Burgh	33	Banffshire and Buchan Coast	County	928
Dundee City West	Burgh	35	Orkney Islands	County	1,086
Paisley	Burgh	37	Angus South	County	1,320
Ayr	Burgh	49	Aberdeenshire East	County	1,426
Motherwell and Wishaw	Burgh	50	Angus North and Mearns	County	1,428
East Kilbride	Burgh	50	Perthshire South and Kinross-shire	County	1,450
Uddingston and Bellshill	Burgh	53	Clydesdale	County	1,573
Coatbridge and Chryston	Burgh	63	Shetland Islands	County	1,657
Clydebank and Milngavie	County	71	Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale	County	1,761
Edinburgh Western	Burgh	85	Inverness and Nairn	County	1,819
Aberdeen Donside	Burgh	93	Moray	County	2,056
Kirkcaldy	County	100	Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley	County	2,083
Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse	Burgh	104	Stirling	County	2,164
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth	County	105	Dumfriesshire	County	2,882
Edinburgh Pentlands	Burgh	106	Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire	County	3,193
Falkirk West	County	109	Na h-Eileanan an Iar	County	3,269
Greenock and Inverclyde	County	127	Aberdeenshire West	County	3,532
Cunninghame South	County	127	Galloway and West Dumfries	County	3,794
Eastwood	County	129	Perthshire North	County	3,969
Cowdenbeath	County	135	Argyll and Bute	County	6,710
Strathkelvin and Bearsden	County	144	Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch	County	11,863
Mid Fife and Glenrothes	County	150	Caithness, Sutherland and Ross	County	12,791
Renfrewshire North and West	County	156			

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Appendix D

Current UK Parliament Constituencies (Since 2005)					
Name	Designation	Area (km ²)	Name	Designation	Area (km ²)
Glasgow North	Burgh	17	Central Ayrshire	County	237
Glasgow North West	Burgh	19	Dunfermline and West Fife	County	240
Glasgow Central	Burgh	21	Livingston	County	271
Edinburgh North and Leith	Burgh	21	Linlithgow and East Falkirk	County	294
Edinburgh East	Burgh	27	Midlothian	County	355
Glasgow South	Burgh	27	Lanark and Hamilton East	County	364
Glasgow South West	Burgh	27	East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow	County	408
Glasgow North East	Burgh	28	East Lothian	County	701
Edinburgh South	Burgh	29	Kilmarnock and Loudoun	County	702
Glasgow East	Burgh	39	North East Fife	County	802
Rutherglen and Hamilton West	Burgh	52	North Ayrshire and Arran	County	834
Aberdeen North	Burgh	57	Gordon	County	1,523
Motherwell and Wishaw	Burgh	58	Banff and Buchan	County	1,600
Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill	Burgh	83	Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock	County	1,636
East Dunbartonshire	County	85	Ochil and South Perthshire	County	1,722
Edinburgh South West	Burgh	90	Angus	County	1,987
Aberdeen South	Burgh	92	Stirling	County	2,255
Edinburgh West	Burgh	106	Moray	County	2,257
Dundee West	Burgh	120	Orkney and Shetland	County	2,743
Paisley and Renfrewshire North	County	131	Na h-Eileanan an Iar	County	3,268
Paisley and Renfrewshire South	County	138	West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine	County	3,271
Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath	County	154	Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk	County	3,843
Dundee East	Burgh	159	Perth and North Perthshire	County	3,861
Inverclyde	County	174	Dumfries and Galloway	County	4,150
East Renfrewshire	County	174	Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale	County	4,376
Glenrothes	County	178	Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey	County	4,953
Falkirk	County	181	Argyll and Bute	County	7,164
West Dunbartonshire	County	183	Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross	County	8,752
Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East	County	191	Ross, Skye and Lochaber	County	12,768
Airdrie and Shotts	County	229			